

In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Autumn Edition

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL HONG KONG

Diocese of Hong Kong Island Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

香港聖公會聖約翰座堂



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CELEBRATING 170th ANNIVERSARY



St John's Cathedral will be marking its 170th anniversary with a variety of services and events, on the theme of 'Faith in the City'. The celebration kicks off with a photo course given to students from HKSKH schools. The official launch will be held in December 2018.

The photo at the top is taken by Felix Chan, a form four student from St Paul's College. The photo at the bottom shows Dean Matthias welcoming the students and giving them a guided tour around the Cathedral. Read the full story on page 4 to page 7. (Photos by Felix Chan and Olddog Wai)

In Touch

Get ready for the exciting year ahead! St John's Cathedral is celebrating its 170th anniversary on the theme of 'Faith in the City', starting from Advent Sunday of 2018. A planning committee, chaired by Rita Chan and John Li, has been working on special projects and organising celebratory events for the occasion. In our lead story, we find out more details about the celebration and mark the important dates.

To grow deeper in faith, members of St John's Cathedral and the daughter churches, together with Fr Will and Fr Robert, will make a 'Cursillo' journey on a three-day weekend in October. It is indeed the first Cursillo course to be held in Hong Kong. Thirteen members of the Anglican Church of Australia will fly to Hong Kong at their own expense to deliver this course. What is Cursillo Hong Kong all about? Don't miss Fr Will's article on Hong Kong Cursillo #1.

On the 27th of October, we will see the annual Michaelmas Fair in the Cathedral grounds. Excitement. Fun. Laughter. Good bargains. This year will be no exception. In this issue, we capture the joyful moments at the Michaelmas Fair Family Fun Night, a prelude to the Michaelmas Fair.

While we are trying to look ahead and plan, we are also tracing the Cathedral's roots back to its early days. In the 170th anniversary special, we present part of the Cathedral's history by outlining its milestones between 1849 and 1892. In the following issues, other parts of the history will be covered.

The new feature, 'Cathedral in The Review', finds the link between history and today. The link for this issue is the welcome pack. By looking at its old versions and the latest design, we learn from the past and prepare for the future.

Back to the present: This year, Fr Dwight has been with us for 24 years. Dean Matthias, Mrs Li, and our parishioners celebrated the 40th anniversary of Fr Dwight's ordination in May. In an interview with Fr Dwight, Stuart Wolfendale writes about the victories and frustrations in Fr Dwight's ministry. Enjoy reading!

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

We Need Your Help to Save The Environment

A little step by all of us can make a sea change to our environment. The Joint Ministry Committee of St John's Cathedral has recently decided that St John's will use less plastic in the cathedral grounds, and to stop using plastic utensils is the first target.

In response to the appeal, In Touch would like to invite our readers to join us in protecting the environment. There are two ways to get involved:

1. Pick up the magazine at the Cathedral

The Cathedral Office keeps a subscription list of In Touch and mails hard copies of the magazine to readers and parishioners quarterly. If you choose to pick up the magazine at St John's Cathedral, less plastic bags will be used for delivery. Please inform us by filling out and returning the form below to the Cathedral Office if you would like to unsubscribe from the mailing list.

For those who wish to continue receiving In Touch by mail, we wish to assure you that the Cathedral Office uses biodegradable plastic bags, and the bags are 100% degradable.

2. Read the magazine online

Starting from 2017, the In Touch editorial team has been exploring the possibilities of digital publishing. In 2018, we have started publishing In Touch on Issuu, an online digital publishing platform, which provides readers with a more convenient reading experience, regardless of the mobile devices or computers they are using.

The link to the online version of In Touch is posted on the cathedral website. For more details, visit the cathedral website: <http://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk/>.

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THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

What a great joy it was for me to attend the concert held on 10th July, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (The Anglican Church of Hong Kong), one of the 39 independent Provinces within the worldwide Anglican Communion. More than 1,000 performers took part in the event, representing the Anglican schools, the three dioceses and the mass choir and orchestra from across the Province. When the final piece of music – Handel's Messiah was performed, we all stood up, singing along with much joy praising Jesus Christ "King of Kings and Lord of Lords", I was so moved by the enthusiasm of the audience and the performers. We gave thanks to God for his love upon us, and for this church of which we are proud to be part. This echoes how I felt as well at the Development Day for Anglican Parishes, Schools and Social Welfare Services held on 23rd May at the Asia World-Expo. More than 7,000 staff, teachers and parishioners from our Anglican social service agencies, schools and parishes across Hong Kong participated in this half-day programme. On most Sundays, while we worship at our local congregations, we can easily forget that we are part of a much bigger family, and that many remarkable Christian witnesses known and unknown to us are being carried out throughout Hong Kong.

Anglican ministry here started when the first colonial chaplain, The Revd Vincent Stanton, came ashore in 1843. At first, a temporary location was used for worship services and, in 1847, construction of our Cathedral was begun, and completed two years later in 1849. From this humble beginning, the Anglican Church has faithfully walked alongside the people of Hong Kong in times of prosperity and hardship. Today, the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (in literal translation Hong Kong Holy Catholic Church) carries out God's work through 50 parishes/mission churches, more than 130 schools and 400 social services agencies. Every day, thousands of Hong Kongers are engaged with the Church, experiencing the love of God through our presence. Praise be to God!

But what lies ahead of us? What is God calling the HKSCH to be and to do? At the General Synod in 2016, a Church Policy Paper entitled "For Better Tomorrow" was approved. Subsequently, the pamphlet "Our Faith, Our Way" presenting the key summary of the Paper was widely distributed. Four major points about our future were listed:

1. To build a faithful and relevant Church for today's society.
2. To strength discipleship training so that we can effectively witness Jesus Christ.
3. To foster a strong partnership among churches, schools and social service agencies for the betterment of Hong Kong.
4. To be a Church for the city and with the city, reflecting the incarnational nature of Christ's presence.

We should be very proud that St John's Cathedral was there at the very beginning. What is more important is, that after 170 years we remain strong and faithful, for the Church and for the city of Hong Kong. As the needs of our society continue to grow by the day, our yearning to serve God and his people should become stronger and stronger. Let's learn from the pioneers like Vincent Stanton, who had the vision and courage to boldly witness Jesus and extend God's kingdom.

God bless.

Dean Matthias +



各位：

香港聖公會教省（普世聖公宗的三十九個教省之一）成立20周年音樂會於7月10日順利舉行，超過1,000名來自聖公會學校、三個教區及教省的表演者參與音樂會，實為我近來的一大樂事。當最後一首樂曲 — 韓德爾的《彌賽亞》奏起，全場觀眾站立，一同頌唱「萬主之王，萬主之主」（原文：King of Kings and Lord of Lords）讚美耶穌基督，我也深受觀眾及表演者的熱情感染。我們為上帝對我們及教會的愛獻上感恩，為我們作為教會的一份子感到自豪。

我在5月23日出席於亞洲國際博覽館舉行的堂校社區發展日時，同樣有深刻的感受。超過7,000名香港聖公會的社會服務機構、學校及牧區的職員、教師及教友，從港、九、新界各區而來，參加為期半日的發展日，場面盛大。每逢主日，我們在自己所屬的堂會崇拜，往往較易忽略我們背後有一個更大的家庭 — 在香港聖公會的大家庭中，實在有許多我們知道或不知道的蒙恩見證。

早於1843年，史丹頓牧師成為首位來到香港擔任殖民地牧師的聖公會牧師，自此聖公會便於本港扎根。起初，聖公會崇拜的地方是臨時的聚會點，1847年，教會開始興建聖約翰座堂，兩年後，座堂落成。由踏出這一小步起，聖公會在往後百多年間，陪伴香港人走過或繁榮或艱辛的日子，時至今日，香港聖公會共有50個牧區／傳道區、超過130所學校及400個社會服務單位，為上帝作工，數以千計、萬計的香港人每日與聖公會同行，透過我們經歷上帝的愛。感謝上帝！

然而，香港聖公會的明天將會如何？上帝對香港聖公會的心意如何？對教會有何呼召？《香港聖公會教會政策文件》於2016年在教省總議會通過，其後，教會向各堂派發〈如此信 如此行〉的宣傳單張，簡介《文件》的重點，以下是其中四個重點：

1. 在身處的時代與處境中找到自己的使命，成為忠心履行上帝使命的門徒群體
2. 強化門徒的生命，重視門徒訓練，令我們得以見證耶穌基督
3. 加強教會內外、學校及社會服務機構的溝通及合作，為使命共同努力，讓香港的明天更美好
4. 讓香港聖公會成為與這城市同在、為這城市存在的門徒群體，讓人從中看到基督道成肉身的臨在

聖約翰座堂從聖公會在香港的早期發展史開始已佔一席位，這一點足以讓我們自豪。更重要的是，經過170年的歲月歷練，我們依然在信心之中，為教會及香港作出貢獻。當社會的需要與日俱增，我們渴望服侍上帝及其子民的心也愈來愈強烈。且讓我們一同效法先賢如史丹頓牧師，勇敢見證耶穌，擴張上帝的國度。

願上帝祝福你！

座堂主任牧師
謝子和 謹啟

— FAITH IN THE CITY —

Celebrating 170th Anniversary of the Cathedral



TEXT BY / MAGGIE CHAN
PHOTOS BY / BILLY LEUNG, STEPHEN LEE

2019 will be a year of celebration. St John's Cathedral will be marking its 170th anniversary with a variety of services and events. Highlights of the celebration, on the theme of 'Faith in the City', include a public lecture series on faith, an entertaining and informative carnival, and the 170th anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Gala Dinner.





Since its completion in 1849, St John's Cathedral has witnessed Hong Kong's evolution from a small village into a cosmopolitan city. The church, as well as the building, has also been through many ups and downs over the past 169 years.

On 2nd December 2018, Advent Sunday, St John's Cathedral will hold a special service to launch the 170th anniversary celebration. Through the year-long celebration, the Cathedral intends its anniversary to be a blessing for both the church and wider community, celebrating faith and having faith in the city.

The launch will be followed by St John's Carnival, which is scheduled for 24 February 2019 (Sunday) in Chater Road. It will be a unique opportunity to showcase the Cathedral's ministries and connect the Cathedral with the wider community. There will be information booths, game booths, and performances for congregation members and members of the public to learn more about the Cathedral's work, or simply have fun.

For people who have an interest in spirituality, the St John's Public Lecture Series is not to be missed. The series, which will take place in early 2019, will explore 'faith' in different aspects, with 'Faith in the City' as the main theme. More details will be announced by the Cathedral nearer the time.

The grand finale – the Thanksgiving Service and the Gala Dinner – will be held on 24 November 2019, Christ the King. St John's Cathedral will invite guests from other Christian denominations, government officials, and friends of the Cathedral to the occasion. It will be a

time to give thanks to God, pray for the church, and enjoy the fellowship with each other.

The Cathedral has set up a planning committee for organising the celebration. The Chairs of the committee are Rita Chan and John Li, and committee members include The Very Revd Matthias Der, The Revd Robert Martin, Rachel Cartland, Patrick Fung, Vincent Leung, Stuart Wolfendale, and Maggie Chan.

In addition to organising the services and events, the planning committee is also working on several projects, including an anniversary hymn, an anniversary logo, and a photo book project.

The Cathedral Organist Peter Yue has composed a new hymn for the 170th anniversary. The English and Chinese lyrics will be penned by the Cathedral Sub-Organist Jonathan Yip and Pastoral Assistant Adam Mok.

St John's Cathedral Choir is going to release an exciting album for the 170th anniversary. Choir members finished recording some hymns on 18th June 2018. The repertoire is structured as a choral reflection of the sacramental part of the Cathedral's life, so it includes a Mass (Louis Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*), canticles by Stanford and Walton, and a wonderful newly composed piece *Christus Factus Est* by one of the choir Basses, Lau Yik Long.

Meanwhile, the planning committee commissioned a professional designer to design a new logo for the 170th anniversary. The anniversary logo will be unveiled soon, and it will be printed on different promotional materials for the anniversary.



In July and August 2018, over 20 students from HKSKH schools took some good photos of kneelers and other features of the Cathedral after attending tutorial classes given by Conrad Yu, who takes photos for a living. An editorial team will select the best photos from the students' work, and design a photo book for the 170th anniversary.

In the coming editions, *In Touch* will publish a series of special reports on the 170th anniversary celebration events, and recapture the historic moments over the years. Don't miss it!

170th Anniversary Celebration Diary

2nd December 2018

Advent Sunday
Launch of the 170th anniversary celebration

24th February 2019

St John's Carnival

March 2019 (TBC)

St John's Public Lecture Series

24th November 2019

Christ the King
Thanksgiving Service & Gala Dinner

History of St John's Cathedral

PART ONE

TEXT BY/ STUART WOLFENDALE

1849

First Service

A subscription committee of merchants and officers to raise funds for a Church of England place of worship was set up in spring, 1840. Reverend Victor Stanton arrived in 1843 as the first colonial chaplain, and the project picked up pace after the Treaty of Nanking secured Hong Kong. On Thursday 11 March, Governor Sir John Davis, laid the foundation stone of St John's, now lost to view, somewhere under the nave. It took precisely two years to build the church, but not yet the tower, and on Sunday 11 March 1849, the first Divine Service was held, conducted by Stanton, assisted by a Royal Navy chaplain.

1852

Consecration

St John's was consecrated on 19 September 1852 by the bishop, with colonial chaplain Samuel Steedman and four military and missionary clergy. The delay was caused by a wrangle over payment for the tower between the British government, who said they never approved it, and the trustees, who said it was necessary. Only when the government gave way and paid the debt could consecration happen. The total cost of the church was 8,673 pounds, of which 4,136 pounds was from subscriptions, and the government paid the rest.

1850

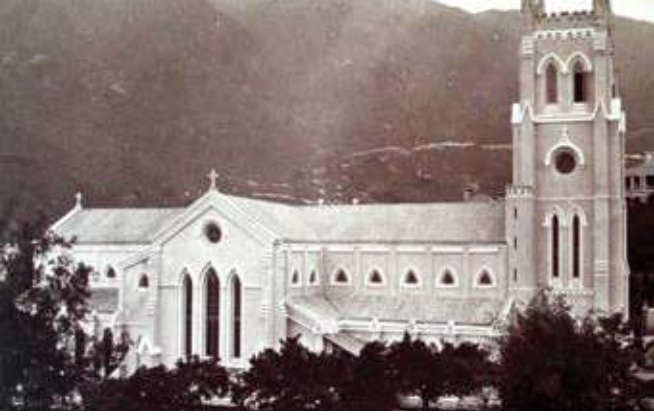
Becoming a Cathedral

St John's was just a church for less than a year. In February 1850, Hong Kong was made a colonial bishopric and it was elevated to cathedral status. The first bishop, George Smith, arrived on 27 March and preached his first sermon in his new Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist on Easter Day. The Cathedral was governed by 8 trustees including the bishop and the chaplain, four laymen appointed by the government, and two laymen elected by the original subscribers and seatholders; people who rented pews.

1854

The Early Choir

There was a choir at St John's from at least the mid-1850s. The 1854 accounts mention a platform for 'the Choir', and the trustees' minutes of 1858 called for more lady members. In 1864 the choirmaster, Charles Sangster, asked for better seating which seems to establish the choir's existence but it was fragile. In 1875, there was mention of disbandment but by the turn of the century, the choir had found new strength.



1860

First Organ

In May 1858 an order was placed with Bryceson and Sons in London for an organ with 25 stops and 1124 pipes at a cost of 425 pounds. The organ arrived in December 1860 and was installed in the West Gallery. Four years later it was malfunctioning. By 1868 it had been repaired and moved to the North Transept. In 1883 it was past service. A new organ was obtained from J W Walker & Son, and inaugurated at the thanksgiving service, Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

1872

Chancel Extension

Originally St John's ended in the east a few yards beyond the chancel steps. In June 1869, plans were submitted to extend the chancel to its present length to cope with an increase in the garrison. The foundation stone was laid by the then Duke of Edinburgh in November 1869. It was completed by November 1872 and the whole congregation hurriedly moved into it when it was discovered that the nave roof was about to fall in from white ant infestation.



1863

First Chinese Deacon Ordained

Lo Sam Yuen was the first Chinese to be ordained in Hong Kong. The ceremony was performed in the nave of St John's by Bishop Smith on 21 December 1863 in front of forty people including the wives of the acting governor and the attorney general. Lo assisted the bishop at holy communion on Christmas Day and went on to serve in St Stephen's Church, although he was never priested.

1892

Disendowment and Independence

This was a turning point in the congregation's history. Up to now, the government had employed the 'colonial chaplain' and paid for half of the Cathedral's major non-recurrent expenses. The British government now directed that St John's be cut loose and take care of itself, as the other treaty port churches were doing. An ordinance of 1892 incorporated a Church Body of subscribers and seatholders, who elected all the trustees, paid the 'senior chaplain' - and found its own funds.

HONG KONG *Cursillo* #1 EXCITING FAITH!

TEXT BY / FR WILL NEWMAN

On a three-day weekend in October, members of St John's Cathedral and the daughter churches will make a journey, together with Fr Robert and Will and 13 members of the Anglican Church of Australia. The journey is to a Retreat House on Cheung Chau Island, but it's also a journey which will hopefully continue for the rest of our lives.

'Cursillo' is a Spanish word meaning a short course, but Cursillo is a worldwide movement for spiritual renewal in the Church. Cursillo started in the Catholic Church in Spain after the Civil War in the 1930s, when people desperately needed to rediscover the gospel to help recover from years of conflict and suffering.

From those beginnings Cursillo spread around the world and to other Churches, including the Anglican Church. Subsequently it developed into a way of rekindling the spark of faith for people who have been Christians for a while, (maybe for many years), but whose faith perhaps has become a bit tired, a bit jaded, and who are seeking fresh inspiration, encouragement and energy on their Christian journey.

So why are 13 Australian Anglicans coming here, flying to Hong Kong at their own expense, to deliver this Hong Kong Cursillo #1?

The way Cursillo spreads is that one diocese 'gifts' Cursillo to another. For us, Anglicans from all over Australia are joining together to gift Cursillo to the Anglican Church of Hong Kong, and we are deeply grateful for their generous giving of their time and themselves. Two of them are clergy, including a bishop, Bishop Ian Palmer, and the others are all lay people, members of Anglican Cursillo Australia.

Cursillo is a movement within the

Church. It is authorised by the bishop of a diocese (our own Archbishop Paul went on Cursillo many years ago in the United States), and people who have been on Cursillo are encouraged to share what they have experienced with others back in their own churches.

I had heard of Cursillo but never experienced it until last year in England, when I had the chance to go on a Cursillo weekend in Ely. I found it spiritually refreshing myself, and I saw how the others on the course, all from different parishes in Ely Diocese, grew in faith even during those three days. As Fr Robert says, it's an experience of living in Christian community. It's a residential course, and for those three days you are living, breathing and sleeping the Christian faith in the company of others. There are 15 short talks on different aspects of faith, each given by a different member of the organising team, together with prayer, services, and discussions in small groups. And if that sounds seriously overwhelming, it's not! There's plenty of fun, enjoyment and laughter on the way, as well as a number of wonderful surprises!

But Cursillo is more than the three-day weekend. What really attracted me to Cursillo is the 'fourth day' – which is the rest of your life. Unlike courses which begin and end and then you move onto something else, there's an expectation that after the course you will continue to meet regularly – maybe monthly – in



small groups with others from Cursillo, to support, challenge and encourage each other in three aspects of Christian living: Study, Prayer and Action.

Study is not only reading the Bible or spiritual books, or attending courses in church. Study can be anything that raises issues of faith. Novels, newspaper or magazine articles, movies, TV, even conversations, may not be overtly religious, but they can all provide an opportunity for us to think more deeply about our faith.

Prayer doesn't need too much explanation. It's the way we bring ourselves and our concerns before God, opening ourselves to listen to what God may be saying to us in our hearts and minds.

And then – Action. Putting our faith into practice among the people around us.



Sometimes this may be doing something big, but often it's the small things we do day by day to show kindness and compassion that reveal our Christian faith and shape who we really are.

For this first Cursillo we have invited members of our congregations to become the first Hong Kong Cursillistas – people who are part of Cursillo. We intend to run Cursillo again next year, and hopefully annually, opening it up to you, if you think this could be for you, and also to the rest of the HKSKH, the Anglican Church of Hong Kong. In future, we expect that there will be a Chinese language Cursillo as well as English.

If you're excited by the idea of going on Cursillo in future, talk with Fr Robert or me about it. Bear in mind that to go on Cursillo you will need a written letter of support from your own parish priest.

‘Cursillo’ is a Spanish word meaning a short course, but Cursillo is a worldwide movement for spiritual renewal in the Church.



JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN

TEXT & PHOTOS BY / FELIX YEUNG

*'I know not, O I know not
what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.'*

These beautiful lines written by John Mason Neale, taken from the famous hymn *Jerusalem the Golden*, rang in my ears as the group of 33 pilgrims, under the leadership of Dean Matthias and Fr Robert, embarked on an exciting journey from Ben Gurion International Airport to the 'centre of the world': Jerusalem. This hour-long journey was accompanied by our guide and beloved friend, the Revd Canon John Peterson, who also gave us a very warm welcome as we stepped into the arrival hall.

After settling ourselves at St George's Guesthouse in Jerusalem, we began our journey with our briefing session, also meeting our local guide, Canon Iyad Qumri. We were all given a 'prayer partner' for this whole pilgrimage as we drew names from the basket. As we were about to leave the Guesthouse, Canon Peterson emphasised again, 'HAT and WATER'. We obedient pilgrims of course obliged every day as we heard this caring command.

On our itinerary in the first four days, places we visited included Herodion (the palace fortress built by Herod the Great), Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Bethlehem, the Western Wall and Israel Museum. Canon Peterson's profound knowledge and his love for the Holy Sepulchre gave us a comprehensive view



of its history and significance. Our first encounter of this holy place was rather unconventional; rather than entering the church from its 'normal' entrance, we traced the steps of the Constantinian entrance to the church. After lunch, we entered the current church; however, we did not queue for the famous rotunda, as Canon Peterson told us that it was more likely for Jesus to be buried in the rolling stone tomb, which is now situated in the Syriac Chapel of St Joseph of Arimathea.

People do not usually associate Bethlehem with 'shopping'. But that was the first thing we did as we approached the birthplace of Jesus. How could a group of pilgrims from Hong Kong resist the temptation of spending thousands of shekels at the Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative Society? With our hands full of souvenirs and gifts, we approached the Church of the Nativity. The usual queue to the grotto where the manger

once laid was as long as usual. As we approached the narrow entrance to the grotto, enthusiastic pilgrims from all over the world struggled their way into this tiny space. As we stood by the drinking trough (the manger) carved out of stone, we sang 'Away in the manger'. It was indeed a bizarre experience: the manger was just there.

Visiting the Western Wall could be a rather nervous experience. The high level of security simply added to the smell of tension in the air. After we all had a chance to pray by the Western Wall, we were going to ascend to the Temple Mount (Haram esh-Sharif). A group of young and zealous Jewish men were blocking the only entrance for non-Muslim to the Haram esh-Sharif. As we decided to drop that out of the itinerary, a group of soldiers carrying machine guns approached them. Perhaps, tension would never leave the holy place.





As we left Jerusalem for the region of Galilee, we caught sunrise on the horizon at Wadi Qelt. After Dean Matthias had celebrated the Eucharist with us in the desert on this St Matthias' Day, we made our way to Nazareth via a hike to the Mount of Temptation. Nazareth was not only the place where the Holy Family lived, but also where the archangel Gabriel brought the good news to the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we did not have the chance to visit the Church of the Visitation, we sang the Magnificat in honour of the Virgin Mother in the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. We then visited the Latin Church of Annunciation, where the house of St Anna and St Joachim, parents of the Blessed Lady, is situated.

Our memory in Nazareth would be incomplete without the Sisters of Nazareth. We did not only receive very warm hospitality at the Sisters'; we were

given a chance to visit the excavation at the site under the convent and guest house. The ruin has a first-century house, some traits from the crusader period, and a rolling stone tomb. Canon Peterson hinted that there is a possibility that the ruin might be where the house of the Holy Family lived. If that is really the case, we were extremely blessed to be able to spend three nights there!

Before returning to Jerusalem, we visited numerous places, including Sepphoris, Ceasarea Philippi, a boat trip in the Sea of Galilee, renewing our baptismal vow at the bank of River Jordan, a Eucharist on the Mount of Beatitudes, as well as a swim in the Dead Sea. On our return to Jerusalem, we traced the path of Jesus's last week, first the Palm Sunday journey from Bethphage, and on the last morning, the Stations of the Cross. We took turn to carry the wooden cross and to lead the prayers on our way.

I guess the reason I am writing this cover article for the pilgrimage is because of the extraordinary musical gift that we brought to the Holy Land in this pilgrimage. Besides myself and Peter, our Cathedral Organist, we also had three other members of the Cathedral Choir in the group. We sang in the Eucharists on Ascension Day and on the following Sunday at St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. And for our fellow pilgrims, a departing gift, a setting of 'An Irish Blessing' by James Moore: 'and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.' The pilgrimage to the Holy Land lasted only ten days; however, the changes that this wonderful journey has given each of us would be life-long.



THE HOLY LAND: PILGRIMS PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

PHOTOS BY / FELIX YEUNG

Caius Ng:

I truly didn't know what to expect when I signed up for the pilgrimage. I simply had a strong desire to discover more about the faith that I have believed in for more than 40 years.

Once the group arrived in Israel, the Bible came alive everywhere we visited as biblical stories flashed back to my mind, day and night. Of all the sites that we visited, the Jordan River and the Judean Desert made the strongest impression on me.

The renewal of our baptismal vow at the Jordan River reminded me of the fact that Jesus came to us as the Messiah, and gave us the grace of the forgiveness of sin (Mark 1:4) and that each of us gave God a vow all those years ago. Being able to renew my baptismal vow strengthened my own faith and reminded me of the importance of upholding that faith in my daily life.

The group also had the privilege of seeing sunrise one early morning in the Judean Desert and we had the Eucharist in the desert. The sunrise in the Judean Desert is a reminder of how powerful God is and His Creation. We are merely a small part of this world and the problems that we face in our daily lives do not matter as much as they seem in God's plan. We all have our ups and downs in our life, and when we go through a trough, it might seem to be dark and unbearable at times. But those moments often represent the darkness before dawn, when we are then able to see the brilliance of sunrise and the beautiful day ahead. It was comforting for me to remember that God promised to walk with us through such dark and difficult times (Isaiah 42:16) and, in my own life, God has led me through many of these challenging periods.

I want to thank Dean Matthias, Fr Robert and Canon John Peterson for a truly spiritual and inspirational journey. The pilgrimage has renewed my faith, helped me to 'recalibrate' and focus on things that truly matter to me at this stage of my life.



Fay Pang:

When we were sailing on the Sea of Galilee, we admired the waves glimmering under the sun against the perfect blue sky – it was a beautiful day. I thought to myself, 'This is where Jesus spread the words of the Gospel and this is where many miracles took place'. Geographically, the Sea of Galilee is surrounded by mountains in a low-lying rift valley, where thunderstorms would often occur on the lake.

In one story, Jesus and his disciples boarded a boat. During the journey, a furious storm suddenly attacked the lake and the waves swept over the boat. Jesus fell asleep. The disciples hurried over and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" Jesus replied, "You have such little faith... why are you so afraid?" Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and the waves – immediately the surroundings settled and the lake was completely calm.

When we encounter ups and downs in life, where do we put our faith? Challenges in life are like the winds and waves on the lake; we're fearful, we worry, we become upset, and we want to give up. However, once we overcome them, our faith is strengthened, we become stronger, wiser, and better in many ways. Most importantly, we are reminded once again of the fact that God is always with us.





David Chong:

The late spring wind was dancing through the warm beams of sunlight, and the birds were chirping their morning prayers on the tall almond trees. A shepherd was grazing his flocks on a rather rough pasture. Not far from the sheep, there was an opening in the field to a cave large enough to hold 30 or so people – just the right size for us pilgrims who had just travelled from the Far East.

The cave was once used by the early Christians as a chapel, according to the findings of the archaeologists. It's not difficult to reckon how harsh the

circumstances must have been over the various periods of time that had forced those devout Christ followers to find a gathering and worshiping place underground to avoid persecution. Standing on this piece of land called Tekoa – the home of Prophet Amos, I remembered God's will in restoring "David's fallen tent" (Amos 9:11), as well as how He considers behaving justly to be far more important than ritual (Amos 5:21–24). Our impression of the Holy Land during the pilgrimage was that it is still in trouble – high separation walls and young soldiers with machine guns on the streets. God's Promised Land is obviously still not in peace. As Christians, I think we need to keep praying as King David once did (Psalm 25:22): Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.



Tiffany Cheng:

The Jerusalem trip was a stark reminder of life in digression. When we journeyed through the land, its tribulations acted as an unsettling light on human folly. We can all see a bit of us in that biblical drama. Who would we have been if we lived at that era? How would we identify our icon among the cacophony? If a similar situation is taking place now, will we, being Christians, give way to hegemony for immediate gains? Maybe the answers have inhabited the testaments for centuries; human nature

without Grace is beastly. Icons which represent gratification and comfort aren't easily ignored; "The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak." What we are is what we have already been, but the Jerusalem trip has crystallised what we can be, which puts a clearer focus on a better being.

We are mere mortals and it may be ironic that, from this trip, we may have to admit to "Because you have seen me, you have believed..... (John 20:29) No, we did not see our ultimate icon, but we have seen Jerusalem, we have visited Nazareth. During that 10 days and thereafter, His presence was massive.

A FUN NIGHT OUT

TEXT BY / MAGGIE CHAN
PHOTOS BY / STEPHEN LEE

The Michaelmas Fair Family Fun Night went with a swing and brought members of St John's together. Over 140 parishioners and their families enjoyed a night out at the Hong Kong Country Club on 27th June 2018. It was an evening filled with fun, laughter, and music, with the Hand Chimes Team of HKSKH Li Fook Hing Secondary School, The Pelicans, and Isabelle Ng performing on the stage.

A charity auction held during the Family Fun Night reached an impressive sale total of \$73,000. Topping the list was the 'Helicopter Tour of Hong Kong with John Li', realising \$38,000 after strong and competitive bidding. Other auction items 'Dinner for Four hosted by Dean Matthias', 'Chinese Dinner for Six hosted by Adam Mok', 'Private Yoga Class for Eight donated by Jeannie Chan', and 'Ferrari Ride with Edward Ng' also generated enthusiastic bidding. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Cathedral and its various ministries.





FATHER DWIGHT DE LA TORRE

40 YEARS OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

TEXT BY / STUART WOLFENDALE
PHOTOS BY / OLDDOG WAI

There was never any question in Dwight de la Torre's mind or anybody else's that he was going to be a priest. His grandfather was a bishop and his uncle was a priest. As a boy and young man he was a server at nine years old. 'I grew up in the Church. My family encouraged me. There was never any doubt that was what I would be. Except for a short while during secondary school, when I thought of something else.' He does not elaborate. The thought passed.

He was selected for training in a system where he studied theology in St Andrew's Theological Seminary in Quezon City along with an associate degree in Classical Arts at Trinity College (now Trinity University of Asia), which was just across the compound. It was to Trinity that he would return as a priest to study for his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He enjoyed his studies. 'It was a very liberal seminary, with no fences,' Dwight recalls. 'Until martial law was declared in '72 and then they screened us off from Trinity, literally.' It was because Trinity students had been joining anti-Marcos demonstrations and seminarians from St Andrew's had been going along too. Dwight had been one. 'My theological training was framed by martial law and its abuses.' It was the beginning of a ministry which he is happy to have described as 'radical'. 'If I see my work as seeking the redress of injustice, then yes it is a radical ministry,' he concedes, quietly.

On Holy Trinity, the 21st May, 1972, Dwight was ordained into the Philippines Independent Church – the PIC, widely referred to as the Anglipayan after Gregorio Aglipay, revolutionary priest and nationalist who took it into schism from Rome, in reaction to Spanish and



American colonialism. Fr Dwight served as a priest in the Diocesan Cathedral in Cagayan de Oro City and later in rural parishes in Mindanao and Luzon. At his fishing community parish in Luzon, he was profoundly influenced by the example of his bishop there, Alberto Ramento, 'a very pastoral bishop' who would just drop in on Dwight and drive round his diocese with him all day. Later Bishop Ramento became the Obispo Maximus of the PIC and, after that, he was assassinated.

Dwight tells of how dangerous ministry

in the PIC can be. Two workers have recently been arrested in the south. He had heard that morning that two priests in the north had been threatened ('Want to go the way of Ramento?') and one bishop has had to be moved for his own safety. The PIC is particularly drawing to it the wrath of government and corporations with its Accompaniment Programme, which helps indigenous peoples, who would otherwise lose their land to development or mining. 'In the countryside, there is an undeclared war going on,' he observes.

Dwight saw this role as a call to action. There were migrant workers in distress who needed justice pursued. “It’s in so many small ways that you are needed.”



Fr Dwight’s intellect was valued by the Church. He became involved with a project for the continuing education of the clergy and then was called to be executive assistant to the Obispo Maximo, serving two archbishops in that office. He says he does not remember how he got the job but everything that the Obispo Maximo saw, struggled over and dealt with went through his hands and, after 4 years, the stress became too much.

It was time for a change and Hong Kong presented the opportunity. He knew that the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) needed a priest and his name was put forward. The then Dean, Chris Phillips, and the Cathedral Council accepted him as Chaplain to the Filipino Community. It was later that he was appointed as a chaplain to the Cathedral, with his time apportioned between the Cathedral and MFMW, a distinction which proved cheerfully impossible to maintain.

Dwight saw this role as a call to action. There were migrant workers in distress who needed justice pursued. ‘It’s in so many small ways that you are needed.’

he says. ‘It is not just the labour issues. It is the extensive hospital visiting I need to do. I am also a prison chaplain; licenced for all the prisons in Hong Kong because, sadly, there are migrant workers at all levels, even maximum security.’ He finds it can be intimidatingly claustrophobic, with doors closing and locking behind you as you go but he has relaxed in there now. ‘Once I’ve even had my hair cut by prisoners.’

He agrees that in Hong Kong too, his has been a radical ministry. ‘I have sought redress for injustice. I have joined Filipinos in their marches.’ He acknowledges that has attracted criticism from some in the Cathedral congregation. ‘Still, I have always had full support for what we stand for from the Deans – all of them – and St John’s.’

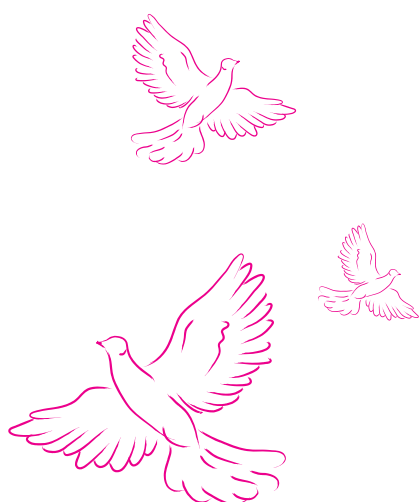
After 24 years in St John’s, he is still frustrated that, from its base, the mission to migrants cannot reach out further from Central. He is also frustrated by the attitudes of migrant workers. ‘They may be abused and disrespected but they are so docile, they just leave it to God’. Fr. Dwight is sad about that. “You can do

something about it here and now. Why do you have to leave it to judgement day?” The fatalism in it makes him smile a little. ‘The main problem is fear. They are frightened of losing their jobs and that the money for the family will dry up.’

He fears that the government is closing the space available for migrants to bring cases. If the police are involved, the practice now is for the Labour Department to do nothing about a claim until the police case is finished. This will inevitably take much longer time. ‘For those seeking redress, time is the worst enemy,’ says Dwight.

He is buoyed up by the fact that more and more people are now aware of their rights and that the migrant workers’ groups here have achieved so much. At 62, he has no definite plan for how long he will stay in Hong Kong but he says that he would like to serve again in the PIC before he retires.

‘I feel happy in my ministry here. It is so fulfilling. You can almost count your victories – and your frustrations.’



OUTREACH SUNDAY

TEXT BY / STAFF REPORTER
PHOTOS BY / ELIJAH FUNG

As an important part of St John's Cathedral's ministries, the outreach ministry units were commissioned by the church on Outreach Sunday this year. Representatives of the Counselling Service, HELP for Domestic Workers (HELP), the HIV Education Centre, Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW), and the Bookstore presented their work over the past year to congregation members.

Outreach Sunday was held at St John's on the sixth Sunday of Easter, 6th May. Inside the Cathedral, the outreach representatives 'preached' at the altar during the services throughout the day. Outside the Cathedral, booths had been set up for congregation members to learn more about the outreach ministries.

More information of the outreach ministries is available on the Cathedral website: <http://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk/Page.aspx?lang=1&id=55>



Scan the QR code:



MATERNAL JUSTICE

TEXT BY / STAFF REPORTER, HELP FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

Sri* has worked as a domestic worker for the same employer in Hong Kong since 2013. She has been through two contract renewals and received verbal confirmation from the employer that she would soon sign a third contract. However, last autumn she became pregnant and she realised that her maternity rights were not safeguarded. She was persuaded to quit the job after the employer was informed of the news.

In 2017, after knowing herself to be pregnant, Sri immediately submitted a copy of the medical certificate to her employer. Unexpectedly, the employer took her to an agency. A representative of the agency tried to persuade her to quit her job. Sri was told that the employer had found a new domestic worker. She insisted that she wished to return to her job after taking her maternity leave, but was told that the employer could dismiss her any time after the baby was born.

Following the meeting at the agency, things quickly deteriorated. The employer demanded that Sri perform strenuous tasks such as heavy lifting, and denied her access to a reasonable amount of food. The employer also withheld her passport.

Sri was subsequently referred to HELP for Domestic Workers (HELP) for advice and support in dealing with both the emotional toll and legal issues related to her employment situation. HELP reached out to the employer on Sri's behalf to explain what Sri's rights as a pregnant domestic worker were. HELP also advised Sri that although the employer might press her to resign from her job, she was well within her legal rights to refuse.

Following the birth of her child and her maternity leave, Sri informed her employer that she was ready to return to work. However, much to her disappointment, upon her arrival at the employer's home, she was greeted with

a termination letter. Sri contacted HELP in no time and was advised of her rights. She did not sign the letter and returned to HELP for guidance on the next steps in claiming what was rightfully owed to her. She filed a complaint about sex discrimination to the Equal Opportunities Commission, as it was clear to her that her dismissal was on account of her pregnancy. Additionally, she lodged a claim with the Labour Department of Hong Kong for unreasonable dismissal.

By this time, Sri was tired of the prolonged legal battle and decided to accept a settlement, of which the sum was lower than what she originally claimed. Later on, she returned to Indonesia to reunite with her family. HELP congratulated Sri for the courage she had shown in enforcing her rights throughout this ordeal.

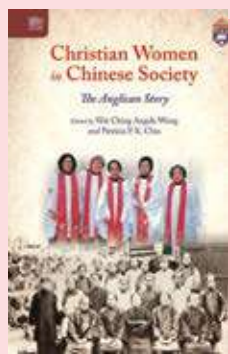
**The client's name was changed to protect her privacy.*

WHAT ARE WE READING?

Book recommendations from St John's Cathedral Bookstore and the In Touch editorial team

Christian Women in Chinese Society: The Anglican Story

1



Christian Women in Chinese Society: The Anglican Story is part of the same series as the cathedral history book *Imperial to International: A History of St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong*.

This book provides a rounded and nuanced picture of the role of women in the history of the Anglican Church in China by approaching it from multiple perspectives. Professor Judith Berling of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley recommends it as a 'must-read for those interested in Asian Christianity, or the role of women in the history of the church.'

Women have played an important role in the history of Chinese Christianity, but their contributions have yet to receive due recognition. This book expands on the long-standing debates about whether Christianity is a collaborator in or a liberating force against the oppressive patriarchal culture for women in Asia.

Single women missionaries and missionary spouses in the 19th century set the early examples of what women could do to spread the Gospel, yet they might not have intended to instil the same free spirit into their Chinese converts. The education provided to Chinese women by missionaries was expected to turn them into good wives and mothers, but knowledge empowered the students, allowing them to become full participants not only in the Church but also in the wider society.

Together, the Western female missionaries and the Chinese women whom they trained explored their newfound freedom and tried out their roles with the help of each other. These developments culminated in the ordination of Florence Li Tim Oi to priesthood in 1944, a singular event that fundamentally changed the history of the Anglican Communion.

At the heart of this collection lies the rich experience of those women, both Chinese and Western, who devoted their lives to the propagation of Anglicanism across different regions of mainland China and Hong Kong. Contributors make the most of the sources to reconstruct their voices and present sympathetic accounts of these remarkable women's achievements.

Publisher:

Hong Kong University Press

Edited by:

Wai Ching Angela Wong and Patricia P. K. Chiu

2



The Bible from Scratch

The Bible from Scratch is a handy guide to the Bible. The book offers a sketch of the Bible that clearly explains the essential meaning of every book from the Old and New Testaments, providing helpful guidance in understanding the motives and messages behind each of the Biblical writers. It introduces all the famous people and events from key Bible stories. Lively, witty and entertaining, this book is an ideal starting point for all who want to be better acquainted with the Bible, but don't know where to start.

Simon Jenkins is the author of the bestsellers *England's Thousand Best Churches* and *England's Thousand Best Houses*. He is the former editor of *The Times* and *Evening Standard*, and a columnist for the *Guardian*.

Publisher: Lion Books

Author: Simon Jenkins

STUDENT FILMS SHINE IN HIV EDUCATION CENTRE'S CONTEST

TEXT & PHOTO BY / STAFF REPORTER

Form five student Solomon Yu Pui-chung and his classmates Bosco Chin Ching-cheung didn't have a clue about people living with HIV until they teamed up with four classmates for the Short Film Contest organised by St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre. Theirs turned out to be one of the winning teams, and helped promote the idea of 'zero discrimination against HIV-positive people' among their schoolmates and friends.

The team's winning short film 'Love, Forgiveness' is about the crisis a man faces after it is confirmed that he is HIV-positive. To make matters worse, his wife is pregnant and he has no idea how to handle the situation. He has to rebuild his life and find a way out.

'We enjoyed the process of making the short and experienced a change of attitude towards HIV. I'd never dared to approach people who are HIV-positive. However, after researching the topic, I gained knowledge of HIV and realised that it'd do us no harm to have social contact with an infected person,' said Solomon.

Bosco found the competition a good chance to sharpen his filming skills. The professionals from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts helped take his skills to the next level. He said, 'It is such a pleasure for us to participate in this competition.'

The results of 'Stand Up for HIV Zero Discrimination' Short Film Contest were released in July 2018. The award presentation ceremony was held on 7th July, followed by a screening of the entries at Sheung Wan Civic Centre in mid-July. The contest was sponsored by the St John's Cathedral Endowment Fund (2004) and Hop Yuen Charitable Foundation Fund.



TRINITY 101: A 10-POINT SUMMARY

TEXT BY / FR MARK ROGERS



FR MARK

HERE ARE THE BASICS OF THE TRINITY:

- 1** The doctrine of the Trinity arose from the life of Jesus and the mission of the Church.
- 2** The word Trinity is not found in the bible.
- 3** Proto-trinitarian beliefs are found in the New Testament, especially in the writings of John, and occasionally in the writings of Paul. (For example, 1 John 5:20: He is the true God and eternal life. John 1:3: All things came into being through him. John 8:58: Before Abraham was, I am. Colossians 1:16: He is the image of the invisible God, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created.
- 4** The doctrine of the Trinity evolved over three centuries.
- 5** The doctrine of the Trinity is grounded in the church's belief in salvation that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, humanity, indeed creation, is reconciled to God. The early church theologians summarised this: God became man so that man might become God. This belief was called divinization: humanity has become divine. Inherent to the doctrine of the Trinity is the doctrine of the Incarnation. The doctrine of the Trinity sought to resist two beliefs that undermined this core Christian belief. First, if Jesus was not fully human, then God has not truly entered all of our existence. Secondly, if Jesus is not fully God, then God has not divinized our humanity. In the former, Jesus is like a tourist to earth, but not really one of us. In the latter, Jesus is a great hero, but not really God. The doctrine of the Trinity holds together the divinity and the humanity of Jesus.
- 6** If you think you understand the doctrine of the Trinity then you are misunderstanding it. It is not comprehensible. There is one God. God has one unifying 'essence'. Yet God has three 'underlying substances', the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each 'person' of the Trinity is distinct. So it is three. Yet it is one. The Son is not in any way secondary or lesser to the Father, nor is the Holy Spirit in any sense 'below' the Son and the Father. There is no hierarchy in
- 7** God. And all three of these 'underlying substances' have been 'consubstantial' for all eternity.
- 7** The doctrine of the Trinity was not an invention of Emperor Constantine. Constantine presided over the church councils in the years 325 and 381, which wrote what has become known as the Nicene Creed, and remains the foundation of church belief.
- 8** The creeds set the boundaries of Christian belief inclusively by affirming both Jesus' humanity and Jesus' divinity.
- 9** The doctrine of the Trinity says equality, mutual respect, and compassion is the essence of God. God is not unmitigated power. God is a community that is in a dance-like relationship, eternally and mutually loving one another. Humanity, and all creation, now participates fully in this 'dance' because of the self-giving love of the Trinity, through the reconciling and salvific action of the three persons of the Trinity. The Greek Church fathers described this as 'Perichoresis': a rotational, dynamic relationship of eternal, self-giving love.
- 10** The doctrine of the Trinity not only models egalitarian, cooperative action, it sanctifies it. Anything that is coercive and domineering is unholy, against God's nature and purpose.



WELL DONE 'TWO BY TWOS'

Discovery Bay Church's dragon boat team 'Two by Twos' was led by Sara Shaw on the drum. The team name comes from the animals going into the ark, two by two, and from Jesus sending out his disciples, two by two.

the day of the Dragon Boat Festival, the team relaxed on the beach. Although the team didn't win any trophies this year, it was a happy boat with strong bonding and fellowship.

After completing five races on

Proud team with their medals. Well done 'Two by Twos'!

DEEPENING OUR FAITH

TEXT BY / ANDREW ASHLEY
PHOTOS BY / RITA CHAN

In preparation for our 170th Anniversary next year, St John's 2018 mission theme is 'Deepening Our Faith'. At a splendidly social Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, 'Deepening Our Faith through Hospitality', Dean Matthias explained how the mission is designed to help us grow our relationship with Christ, making us ready for the anniversary. Since then, two workshops have covered different aspects of faith.

'BEYOND SMELLS AND BELLS' — LITURGY THE ANGLICAN WAY

On 5th May, Fr Robert and Felix, the cathedral's irrepressible Director of Music, conducted a workshop on 'Deepening Our Faith through Liturgy and Music'. Despite the tongue-in-cheek title, this was a serious look at Anglican liturgy and its strong musical tradition, and how they are a fundamental part of our life in Christ.

Starting with Quaker theologian Richard J Foster's definition of worship as 'our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the father', Fr Robert gave an enthralling historical overview of Anglican liturgy. There were distinctively English services even before the Reformation, with the Sarum rite, very different from contemporary Roman ceremonies, being the most common rite in pre-Reformation England.

A uniquely Anglican liturgy emerged after the Reformation, with the publication of Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer. Anglican doctrine is found in our services and for a long time these were all contained in the Book of Common



Prayer. Churchgoers would carry their own prayer book for all services, so the liturgy was much the same throughout the Anglican Communion. Various provinces have developed their own prayer books and liturgies but there is a common DNA running through them all.

But liturgy is about more than words and music, however beautiful. Why is this aspect of our faith so important? Fr Robert explained the ancient Christian principle of Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi – the laws of praying, believing and living. 'As we worship, so we believe and so we will live', showing that liturgy provides us with a vital practical understanding of our faith.

The origins of liturgy are biblical, going back to God telling Moses in Exodus how He was to be worshipped. Deriving from the ancient Greek for work, liturgy is the work of the people when they gather together. Its role is to order the life of the believing community following the text of Holy Scripture and it must be active and participatory. This does not happen



in a historical vacuum. All major concepts of liturgy, including Eucharistic prayer, have their origin in Jewish, Biblical or very early Christian worship.

Turning to the musical aspect of liturgical expression, which is so important in the Anglican tradition, Felix began by insisting that 'I'm no theologian!' and that he was going to steal from the work of Pope Benedict XVI to discuss the role of music in worship. Stealing or not, he presented a fascinating overview of the music of worship.

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments and as part of the Church's tradition, music is a vital part of worship.

The psalmists regarded singing to the Lord not as a duty but as something instinctual. The epistles admonish us to sing songs to God and the gospels of Matthew and Mark contain the same words about the first eucharist: 'when they had sung the hymn, they went to the Mount of Olives', providing a basis for the singing of hymns at eucharist.

The Bible is full of songs. Not just the

Psalms but many others, including Hannah's Prayer, Deborah's Song, the songs in Lamentations and the Benedicite in the Old Testament, while the New Testament contains the Magnificat, Benedictus and Nunc Dimittis, among others.

The workshop ended with a practical session in which Felix demonstrated his choirmasterly skills. He introduced us to

Dan Schutte's Mass of Christ the Saviour and after a quick – and very lively – demonstration had everyone singing the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. Even I managed something and I really can't sing a note, alas. It may not have been music to soothe the disturbed heart, as David provided for Saul, but it was splendid to put something of what we had learned into practice.

GOD'S CALL FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE

The second workshop was on 23rd June, when Fr Mark led an exploration of Deepening our Faith with Outreach. Far more than a discussion of St John's existing poverty alleviation programme, the workshop set outreach in its biblical context, showing how we are called to love God and serve our community.

Fr Mark defined outreach as going out to help people in need, facing problems and trying to resolve them. Our already very busy lives make this difficult when there is so much distress around us and compassion fatigue can be hard to avoid. We must balance our prayer life, which connects us with God, and our efforts to deal with the world's problems.

Emphasising the tradition of combining faith and works, Fr Mark showed how much of the Bible is concerned with outreach. In the Old Testament this includes Moses freeing his people from misery in Exodus, God's laws on providing for the poor, the oppressed and the unloved in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, and admonishments on communal righteousness in Joshua and Judges.

The New Testament builds on this, with Christ showing that the Kingdom of God demands compassion, service and even an inversion of the customary ways of organising and valuing things. We are frequently enjoined to show our faith by doing good works for those among whom we live.

Small groups discussed how we should love God, love our community and love the 'other', foreigners and those whom we find difficult to deal with. This is a major challenge in 21st century Hong Kong, a prosperous city but one with some significant problems, including a

huge wealth gap and a serious housing shortage. In 2017 over 1.5 million Hong Kong residents - nearly 25% of the population - were officially considered poor. Another key issue is mental health, for which there is not enough available help. People often wait two years for counselling services and even then receive inadequate support.

We cannot solve all of our community's problems but we should be aware of the impact on our faith and the potential effect in our lives of trying to serve that community. There is a religious basis for everything we try to do.

These were two apparently very different workshops but liturgy and outreach are actually closely connected. As the liturgy workshop made clear, our worship defines how we will live. Fr Robert summed it up when he stated that 'Liturgy gets us into church – and then out into the world'.

TAIZÉ COMES TO ST JOHN'S

TEXT & PHOTO BY / STAFF REPORTER



Over 2,000 pilgrims from more than 40 countries gathered in Hong Kong for the Pilgrimage of Trust and Reconciliation: An International Meeting of Young Adults. St John's Cathedral and the Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception hosted Midday and Evening Prayers in the style of Taizé from 8th to 12th August. In the photo, it was a peaceful evening with beautiful music, conducted by St John's Director of Music Felix Yeung, on 8th August, at St John's Cathedral.

FLAVOURS OF MYANMAR

IN THE DIOCESE OF TOUNGOO

TEXT BY / DEBBIE MCGOWAN
PHOTOS BY / CATHERINE GRAHAM

Some readers may recollect that in February 2016, The Dean led a small delegation comprising Mother Catherine, Rita Chan and Debbie McGowan to spend five days in and around Toungoo, a small yet vibrant city of around 120,000 people, a five-hour drive north of Yangon.

The objective was to look beyond our own Cathedral family, in an attempt to 'broaden our pastoral vision' and establish whether a Partnership between us and the Diocese of Toungoo might lead to beneficial learning, sharing and outreach on both sides.

After meeting many Christians amongst the 25 Parishes within the Diocese, visiting pre-schools, a Theological College, a Bible School, greeting Sunday School children, being serenaded by teenagers from one of the Youth Hostels the Church has built, witnessing villagers come together to build their own village hall and generally being warmly welcomed into homes and communities, it was clear that inaugurating a Partnership between St John's Cathedral and the Diocese of Toungoo really had no downside!

Since then, there have been several achievements to measure the success of the Partnership:

- Special prayers are exchanged regularly and there is usually

special mention of our link with Toungoo in the weekly pewsheet.

- Through the generosity of private donors, St John's Cathedral has been able to sponsor two Toungoo students through education at the Holy Cross Theological College.
- Bishop John Wilme and a small delegation visited St John's Cathedral in October 2016 to witness and experience life as Christians in Hong Kong
- Our parishioner and choir member, Debbie McGowan has been back to Toungoo for a total of 10 weeks in 2017 and 2018 to teach English
- St Stephen's, Stanley parishioner, Chris Hall spent four weeks teaching English earlier this year
- Mother Catherine led a group of parishioners to visit the Diocese in March 2018 – they all returned feeling blessed and amazed by their experiences.
- With significant contributions from the Cathedral, parishioners and many family and friends worldwide, Debbie has been able to present the Bishop with enough funds to build their 6th Youth Hostel.

In early January 2019, the Diocese will

celebrate its 25th Silver Jubilee and also mark the retirement of Bishop John. This will be followed by the Consecration and Installation of a new Bishop. It also coincides with the 3rd anniversary of our Partnership, so a few people from the Cathedral will be joining the celebrations. The group will include The Dean and Felix Yeung (Director of Music) who will be leading a small choir to participate in this joyous occasion.

To mark these milestones in the Diocese of Toungoo, celebrate our Partnership with them and continue building on the huge goodwill already generated, there is a fundraising effort underway at St John's between now and the trip in January to enable the Diocese to continue its noble and challenging efforts to build and develop a better future for its own parishioners.

With this in mind, on **Saturday 15th September at 7.15pm in the Li Hall, there will be a fundraising event 'Flavours of Myanmar'** which will include a dinner, serenading by the Cathedral Choir, an auction and some other interesting insights into life in the Diocese of Toungoo!

Intrigued and want to learn more? One way is to buy a ticket for the Myanmar evening. But if you're not free that day, and feel you might like to further support this Partnership, the Cathedral Office is pleased to accept donations.



CATHEDRAL IN THE REVIEW: NEW WELCOME PACK AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL



New Welcome Pack at St. John's Cathedral
by Timothy Zee

One of the topics of discussion during a meeting of the Cathedral Church Committee on November 17, 2005, was the need for a new welcome pack for St. John's Cathedral. This is a subject matter which has been discussed a number of times at past meetings without much action (except that it was noted).

The old welcome pack was full of information in an A4 sized blue folder. This old welcome pack was highly informative, but almost too much so, and proved to be clumsy, cumbersome and even unappealing for a new comers to take away with them. Anecdotal evidence led us to believe that people felt either uncomfortable or embarrassed or could not be bothered to carry such a large folder around with them after visiting St. John's Cathedral or attending one of the services to read the information later or to learn more about St. John's Cathedral. As such, it was an ineffective welcome pack.

With the Christmas season fast-approaching, which meant the greater number of visitors at the Cathedral, it was decided to be the ideal time for a new welcome pack to be rolled out ahead of the Christmas services in order to effectively welcome as many people to St. John's Cathedral during its peak season. However, this was thought to be impossible given that it was already mid-November, which would require designing the welcome pack, getting it printed and printed all within a period of five weeks or so. As such, it was either to postpone the production of a welcome pack or to use the deadline as an impetus to accomplish our goal. The Cathedral Church Committee chose the latter and decided to rise to the occasion and meet this challenge.

A small committee was formed to complete this task, which consisted of Ronald Lee, who is a regular member of the Cathedral's 9:00am service and a fourth year EEM student, Shirley Pui, who is a prominent member of our choir, and me. In fact, Ron and Shirley had already been working on re-designing the welcome pack and had in mind what the welcome pack should look like. In their roles, we met at a table and agreed on the design and the content. The design was to be a three-fold welcome package, which essentially is taking an A4 paper and folding it in three. The contents would include a short welcome, a list of the design, a list of the service times at St. John's Cathedral throughout the week along with information on Sunday School, Creche and Baptisms and Confirmation, an introduction to the daughter churches and service times, and an overview of the other ministries on offer at the Cathedral. The other ministries described were the Cathedral Bookstore, CAREEN and Catechists, Counseling Service, Education, HEH, HIV Education Centre, MFMW, Music, Parents and Toddlers Group, and Unaffiliated Groups. Lastly, there would also be a self-addressed return slip to allow us to send in or to provide their contact details to any one of the clergy or laymen.

After eight days, we successfully completed the task and met the deadline to provide the new and improved Welcome Pack just in time for the Christmas services. It was one of the best experiences to work with both Ron and Shirley and certainly rewarding to read to see the finished product and to have produced it in time. The new Welcome Pack also allowed for additional items, either on the daughter churches and other ministries along with other pamphlets printed about the Cathedral. Please take a look at the new Welcome Pack and share it with your friends and colleagues, who may be interested in learning more about St. John's Cathedral, but were afraid to ask. ☺

St. John's Cathedral
Welcome!

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As an international church standing in Hong Kong, St John Cathedral is visited by thousands of tourists, returning old friends, or new friends every year. Those attending St John's services who are looking for more information or making St John's a regular part of their religious life, will be handed a welcome pack by the Welcomers.

Have you noticed the latest design of the welcome pack published in 2017? It is a revamp of the old versions, outlining St John's ministries and worship services, with colourful pictures and graphics that bring a strong visual impact. The welcome pack is available at the Cathedral, and it comes with a form for newcomers to fill in their personal details and return to the Cathedral.

Could you recall the old versions of the welcome pack? In St John's Review (Lent 2006), it said, 'The old welcome pack was full of information in an A4 sized blue folder. This old welcome pack was highly informative, but almost too much so, and proved to be clumsy.' At that time, with the Christmas season fast-approaching, the Cathedral Church Committee decided that there was a need for a new welcome pack.

At the end of 2005, the special committee set up for producing the welcome pack met the deadline successfully and rolled out an improved welcome pack just in time for the Christmas service. The new welcome pack was 'a threefold welcome package, which essentially is taking an A4 paper and folding it in three. The contents include a short welcome, a list of the service times at St John's Cathedral throughout the week, along with information on Sunday School, Creche and Baptisms and Confirmation, an introduction to the daughter churches and service times, and an overview of the other ministries on offer at the Cathedral.'

St John's Review
Lent 2006

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
聖公會聖約翰座堂

A place of God's grace, welcoming all, following Christ and changing lives in the heart of Hong Kong.

Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican)

WELCOME!

St. John's Cathedral is an Anglican (Episcopal) cathedral, located in Hong Kong for over sixty years. We are an international church with services in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Filipino. All baptized members of any church are welcome to join us in receiving Holy Communion.

Standing in the city's financial downtown district, St. John's Cathedral is a place of God's grace, deeply rooted in the traditions of Anglicanism, yet at the same time exercising ministries which reach out into the wider life of the community.

We welcome people from all walks of life to the Cathedral to walk with us in following Christ.

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Anglicans trace their Christian roots back to the early Church, and their specifically Anglican identity to the post-Reformation expansion of the Church of England and other Episcopal or Anglican Churches.

The worldwide Anglican Communion has more than 80 million members in 38 Provinces spreading across six continents. Located on every continent, Anglicans speak many languages and come from different races and cultures. Although the churches are autonomous, they are also uniquely united through their history, their theology, their worship and their relationship to the ancient See of Canterbury.

Welcome Pack,
2017

CATHEDRAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DEANS' AND RECTORS' CONFERENCE

For 12 years, St John's Cathedral has been part of the annual International Deans' and Rectors' Conference which brings together cathedrals and historical parishes around the Anglican Communion for a time of mutual learning and fellowship. All the participating churches are located in the financial districts of an international city with strong liturgical and musical traditions and carry some civic services responsibilities.

This year's conference was held in London from 29th May to 3rd June, hosted by St Mary's Le Bow Church, a parish which has been in ministry for almost 1000 years. Deans and rectors from New York, Paris, Cape Town, Sydney, Hong Kong, Auckland, Edinburgh and London were in attendance. Some of the highlights included a private tour of St Paul's Cathedral led by the Dean followed by a discussion about their ministry, visits to local churches, and meetings with the new bishop of London, the Lady Mayoress of London and some local business leaders.



Participants also had ample opportunity to talk with each other about the joys and challenges in their respective cities. .

Though their churches are thousands of miles apart, it was remarkable to learn how similar the issues they face are, such as redeveloping the church facilities, installing a new organ, ministering to the marginalised, and pastoral care in an unstable political milieu. Dean Matthias found the conference enriching and educational and looks forward to next year's gathering in Auckland.

CANON DAVID'S VISIT



The Reverend Canon David Pickering and his wife Christine join Fr Robert Martin for his birthday lunch at Emmanuel on a visit back to Hong Kong. David, retired from his ministry in the Church of England, accompanied Christine on her teaching job and volunteered his services to the Cathedral as interim priest-in-charge at Emmanuel between Fr Matthew Vernon and Fr Nigel Gibson. He later did the same for St John's as a whole as Acting Dean between the departure of Dean Andrew Chan to become Bishop of West Kowloon and the arrival of Dean Matthias. The couple finally made it into retirement in France.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Thomas Li
Account and Administrative Officer

On 1st July 2018, Thomas Li joined the Cathedral Office in the full-time role of Account and Administrative Officer. He currently assists in the financial management of outreach ministries, and he is also learning more about their operation and activities.

Thomas has been a member of the Cathedral Choir since 2010. He is also the treasurer and archivist to the choir. He graduated from the University of Sheffield with a master's in Intercultural Communication and a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Management. After returning from England in 2010, he gained experience as an auditor and bookkeeper at an accounting firm in Hong Kong.

As well as singing with the Cathedral Choir, Thomas is a member of Die Konzertisten and performs with them regularly. He is a keen long-distance runner and blogs on concerts and operas, arts appreciation, cooking and travelling. He has also been a volunteer in the project called 'elements', in association with The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, which supports the quality of gay life, especially for young adults. Thomas is grateful for the opportunity to serve St John's further and looks forward to meeting and knowing more of the wider cathedral community.

Forthcoming Services at St John's & Daughter Churches

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2018



St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 2523 4157
www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

14th September (Friday) Holy Cross Day

7.30PM Sung Eucharist

15th September (Saturday)

7.15PM Flavours of Myanmar

9.30PM

16th September (Sunday) Dedication Festival

9.00AM Sung Eucharist

6.00PM Choral Evensong

29th September (Saturday) Michael and All Angels

12.00PM Sung Eucharist

7th October (Sunday)

11.45AM Blessing of the Animals

14th October (Sunday) Harvest Thanksgiving

9.00AM Sung Eucharist

27th October (Saturday)

10.00AM Michaelmas Fair

4.00PM

2nd November (Friday) All Souls' Day

7.30PM Sung Requiem Eucharist

4th November (Sunday) All Saints' Sunday

9.00AM Sung Eucharist

9th November (Friday) - 10th November (Saturday)

10.00AM Charity Christmas Card &
Handicraft Fair

5.00PM

11th November (Sunday) Remembrance Sunday

5.00PM Remembrance Service
for the Centenary of the
ending of the First World
War

25th November (Sunday) Christ the King

9.00AM Sung Eucharist

**Emmanuel Church
Béthanie Chapel
139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam**



Further information Tel: 2523 4157
www.emmanuel.org.hk

Every Sunday

10.15AM Sung Eucharist

**St Stephen's Chapel
22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley
St Stephen's College**



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

Every Sunday

9.30AM Sung Eucharist

**Discovery Bay Church
SKH Wei Lun Primary School, Lautau**



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

Every Sunday

10.00AM Sung Eucharist

St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (+852) 2523 4157

Fax: (+852) 2521 7830

Email: general@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

Website: www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

Dean

The Very Revd Matthias Der

Cathedral Chaplains

The Revd Desmond Cox (Associate Chaplain)

The Revd Dwight dela Torre

The Revd Catherine Graham

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 Wu Wai-ho

Cathedral Honorary Chaplains

The Revd John Chynchen

The Revd Jenny Wong Nam

In Touch Editorial Team

Maggie Chan - Editor

Stuart Wolfendale

John Twist

Wendy Nesbitt

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Executive Administrator

Viola Ip

Director of Music

Felix Yeung

Assistant Director of Music

Alan Tsang

Organist

Peter Yue

Sub - Organist

Jonathan Yip

Communications Officer

Maggie Chan

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Ho Tat Hoi

Head Server

James Choo

Head Sidesman

Roger Cole

THE CATHEDRAL ORGAN – A NEW CONSOLE



TEXT BY / DEBBIE MCGOWAN
PHOTOS BY / FELIX YEUNG

Whilst you may not have heard the difference in sound, some of you will have seen the different organ console that arrived at the end of July and may have been wondering what is happening with the organ.

In 2001, our esteemed Organist Emerita, Mrs Cecilia Kwok, generously donated an Allen organ which has served us exceptionally well over the years. However, unfortunately, it has been out of action for some time and when it stopped working in late 2015, there was an immediate impact on our daily and weekly worship. Our readers may remember that, as a temporary measure, an organ was placed in front of the pulpit “to keep the music playing”. Soon after, another console was rented and placed in front of the original Allen organ, which is why you may have noticed 2 organs near the choir stalls for the past few years. In the meantime, the possibility in the longer-term of installing a pipe-organ in the Cathedral continues to be discussed, but due to structural challenges, this debate will need more time for consideration.

But now the original manufacturer, Allen, has provided a new replacement electronic console which is very exciting! It arrived at the end of July and took around six days to configure, voice, tune and be integrated with the current speakers. They have upgraded the supporting computer-system and with four manuals (keyboards) and 89 stops (switches which create different sounds), the Cathedral is delighted to restore the Allen organ back to its rightful position! There was a Dedication and Blessing of the new organ by Father Robert, the Choir Chaplain, at our rehearsal on Friday 27th July.

The Director of Music, Felix Yeung told me ‘The Cathedral Organists and I are very pleased with the arrival of the new Allen organ and hope that our congregations will indeed notice a difference in tone and texture when we play. I am particularly excited about the addition of a 64 foot stop, called “Resultant” as I believe this will be the only organ in Hong Kong with this sound.’ I wonder if any of our readers have noticed a change in sound – please do let us know what you think!

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