

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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PRAYING FOR HONG KONG



Hong Kong has entered a period of immense conflict, division and tumult. During this troubling time, St John's Cathedral has strived to be an open and sacred space for all people, for quiet reflection and for seeking peace and strength from God. St John's also held a series of special services to pray for the city, and shared gatherings to encourage participants to listen, respect and support each other. Read the full story from page 4 to page 6. (Photos by Conrad Yu & Echo)

In Touch

Many of us are saddened by what is happening in our beloved Hong Kong, carrying a tremendous sense of anger, frustration, worry, and anguish over the current situation. All that is happening is probably one of the most difficult topics one could imagine writing about for *In Touch*.

In the lead story for this issue, we cover some of the work that St John's Cathedral has done amid the events that have happened in Hong Kong. The special services, evening prayers and shared gatherings organised by St John's over the past three months were intended to bring peace, healing and comfort to a sad and difficult situation. During this troubling time, the Cathedral has strived to be an open and sacred space for all people, for quiet reflection, and for seeking peace and strength from God.

As Dean Matthias writes in his message, we need to hold on to our faith in Jesus Christ in this time of uncertainty. Christ is with us in our struggles, grieving with us over the brokenness in our city. It is in darkness like this that Christ's light shines the brightest. God calls us to be ambassadors of peace. We need

to walk closely with Him and seek His strength and grace to sustain us.

While we have faith in Christ, please do not lose hope. Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. 'And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13.13). Let us walk with each other in love. Let us find a way forward as a community.

In this issue, we also bring to you articles on the 70th anniversary of St Stephen's Chapel, the pilgrimage to Shandong province, the clergy's study tour in South Korea, and a letter from the Cathedral Council, to name a few. We hope you will enjoy reading the magazine.

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 contact 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 decided that St John's will use less plastic in the Cathedral grounds. 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 plastic bags that are 100% biodegradable.

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 that 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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card, or direct deposit. Please contact the Cathedral Office for details. Tel: (852) 2523 4157 Email: general@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hong Kong has entered a period of immense division, animosity and tumult, and it is with a heavy heart that I write this message. At the beginning, millions of passionate but peaceful law-abiding citizens took to the streets to express their opposition to the government's proposed extradition bill. Hong Kong was admired by the world for our civility, order and the show of unity for the concern of the city's future. Sadly, in the following weeks, violence and vandalism caused by a minority occurred across Hong Kong. The situation has been continuously escalating and the future seems uncertain. The sharp divisions have gone beyond the tension between the government and protestors, and have jeopardised countless relationships among friends, colleagues and even loved ones. All of us carry a tremendous sense of anger, frustration, worry and anguish over the situation.

We need to hold on to our faith and hope in Christ in this time of uncertainty. Jesus Christ has not abandoned Hong Kong. Christ is with us in our struggles, grieving with us over the brokenness in our city. He not only sees our pains and worries, but also the injustice and inequality that the community has suffered over the years, which have led to many of the issues we face today. In our cries, our loving Heavenly Father comes to us with understanding, care, and love. This is a time in which we need to walk closely with Him, and to seek his strength and grace to sustain us. We need to allow the peace that he can bring us to calm our worries and fear. We need to remain hopeful because Christ is here for us and with us.

While God gives us his grace to encourage us, He reminds us that we are his people in this broken world. We may think there is little that we can do in this troubling time, but God calls us to be agents of hope and ambassadors of peace. A listening ear to a worried soul, a show of understanding to someone even though we may disagree with each other, and a refusal to spread mean-spirited thoughts in our conversations and social media exchanges, are ways that we can be an instrument of God's peace. Our faith in Christ compels us not to give up and to carry on with gentleness, patience, and love. It is in darkness like this that Christ's light shines the brightest. Yes, Hong Kong will be a different city from now on, but it is my prayer that through this crisis we will be transformed to become a greater city than before!

May God bless us all and may God bless Hong Kong!

Dean Matthias +



親愛的弟兄姊妹：

香港社會的矛盾、分裂及衝突日益加劇，執筆之際，我的心情無比沉重。最初，數以百萬計的市民走到街頭，熱切、和平及守法地表達訴求，反對政府修訂《逃犯條例》。市民在關心香港的未來時所表現的克制、守秩序及團結，受到國際社會的稱譽。但在接下來的多個星期，很可惜地，暴力和破壞公物的場面不斷出現。隨着局勢繼續升級，香港的前景變得不明朗。不止政府及示威者存在巨大分歧，人與人的關係亦然，不少人與朋友、同事甚至親密的人處於膠着狀態，我們對現況愈來愈無奈、憤怒、憂傷及痛苦。

前景未明，我們更要持守信仰，對基督存有盼望。耶穌基督沒有離棄香港，當我們面對種種困難時，祂與我們同在；當我們為城市的破碎而憂傷時，祂與我們同哀。祂知道我們的痛苦及憂慮，看見香港社會因多年來不公義及不平等的情況，導致今日種種困難。慈愛的天父聽見我們的呼喊，祂臨到我們中間，明白、關顧及愛我們。現在正是我們緊緊地與祂同行的時候——讓我們向祂尋求力量及恩典，得着向前走的力量；讓我們擁抱從祂而來的平安，平復內心的憂慮及恐懼；讓我們抱持盼望，因基督看顧我們，與我們同在。

上帝賜恩典鼓勵我們，祂又提醒我們，在這破碎的世界中，我們是祂的子民。在此艱難的時刻，我們或許覺得，我們可做的事情有限，然而，上帝呼召我們作祂的和平之子，為他人帶來盼望，例如聆聽憂傷的人傾訴、諒解別人與我們的想法不同、拒絕在對話中或社交平台散播負面的思想及說話等。因着對基督的信心，我們不放棄，繼續溫和地、滿有忍耐及愛地向前走。愈黑暗的時候，就如此刻，基督的光愈能照亮我們。無疑，香港將不再是以前的香港，但我祈求，經歷這次危機後，香港可以成為更美好的城市！

願上帝祝福我們、祝福香港！

座堂主任牧師
謝子和 謹啟



Blessing Hong Kong

TEXT BY/ STAFF REPORTERS
PHOTOS BY/ CONRAD YU, OLDDOG & ECHO

The response to the government’s extradition bill, proposed, suspended and withdrawn, and the church’s role in all that is happening is one of the most difficult topics one could imagine writing about for *In Touch*. What does one even call the upheavals and deep divisions that are coming to overshadow both Hong Kong’s public places and its private thoughts and conversations?

As so often in English, perhaps we should look to French for *le mot juste*. The civil unrest in France in May 1968, which became so serious that at one point President de Gaulle fled the country, is always known simply as *les événements* – ‘the events’. An intentionally neutral term is perhaps the best way to refer to what is now happening in the city in which St John’s has been a beacon of the faith for 170 years. The events are becoming so grave and far-reaching that even the way they are spoken about can be seriously divisive.

respond to rapid and radical change. The United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union in the 2016 referendum, and the United States presidential election later that year are often cited as examples of unforeseen political dislocation. But many other countries are also experiencing uncomfortable periods of realignment as citizens from all parts of the political spectrum react to what they see as an establishment unconcerned with the aspirations of the people.

However the events are referred to, they are increasingly all-pervasive. We are living in a society in ferment and there is probably no one in Hong Kong who is untouched by what is happening. People have different opinions, which often leads to dissent – in families, among friends and, inevitably, within congregations. Churches, including St John’s, find themselves embroiled in the events and must respond with love and understanding.

On Sunday 16th June, Dean Matthias preached three times, one of which was during a special evening prayer in Taizé style, specifically to address the first protests. He admitted

4 Hong Kong is not alone in its bewilderment about how to

that he had been struggling with what he could say when the city was grieving and many people were in a state of disbelief. The Dean talked about how people were feeling unsettled, angry and disappointed and recognised that there had to be room for a wide diversity of views and reactions.

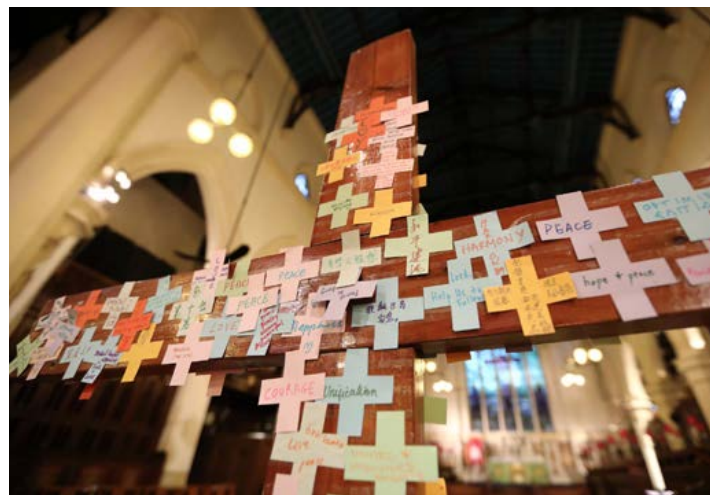
Things continued to escalate in the city, with the events becoming both more frequent and much more intense: the incursion into the Legislative Council chamber, the Yuen Long Incident and increasingly bitter standoffs between police and protesters are just some examples of what Hong Kong is learning to live with.

St John's Cathedral has responded with various events intended to bring peace, healing and comfort to a sad and difficult situation. Designed around the theme of 'from brokenness to hope', the well-attended Blessing Hong Kong Service on Sunday 30th June was a powerful statement of the church's approach to the troubles. There was a moving act of penitence for the responsibility we all share for the brokenness of Hong Kong, followed by prayers for everyone involved, including our leaders, those seeking justice in the face of oppression, the police who have the difficult task of maintaining order, and all those who find themselves in disagreement with people they love and respect. The congregation were also invited to write a word of hope on paper crosses and attach them to the Good Friday cross in front of the altar. The cross and the words it bears give expression to people's feelings about the events and look forward to a better Hong Kong.

Three sessions of 'Listening to God, Listening to One Another' have been held on Sunday 21st, Saturday 3rd August and Thursday 5th September, with the aim of discerning God's will for each one of us to help build His kingdom of peace and justice. In these sessions, participants were encouraged to listen, meditate, share and pray with respect and openness. They have provided a valuable opportunity for people to reflect on the events with others, and try to come to terms with them.

As always for Christians, prayer is our most valuable resource. In a message to the St John's family, Dean Matthias exhorted us to pray for all those involved, the influencers and the injured, that there might be justice, reconciliation and peace. 'The Cathedral is still learning how to respond in the most appropriate manner at different times as things develop,' the Dean told *In Touch*.

To provide an opportunity for praying together, Evening Prayer for Our City, with the theme of 'seeking God in a time of trouble', took place on most Thursday evenings during July and August. This event, which provides us with an opportunity to pray together, is still being held on most Thursday evenings during September.



Blessing Hong Kong Service

TIPS FROM ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

If you have been disturbed by the recent protest situation and it has affected your emotions, relationships with others and your daily life, you may find the following tips useful.

- Apply self-care strategies, purposely arrange time to practice self-care, e.g. yoga, meditation, listen to music, reading, exercising, etc. Avoid using counterproductive and escapism approaches, e.g. alcohol, smoking, drugs, excessive gaming, etc.
- Put relationships first, accept different opinions and avoid

interminable disputes between family members and friends.

- Avoid spending excessive time following the events online and/or watching and reading related news, try to replace your focus with self-care activities.
- Use prayer to confide in God your concerns and follow God's plan. Seek counselling and help from professionals. You can contact St John's Cathedral Counselling service at **2525 7207** or by email (**info@sjcshk.com**).

PRAYING FOR HONG KONG



Let us pray for Hong Kong and the people in the city

Lord God, we ask for your blessing on the people of Hong Kong: at this time of divided opinions, strengthen those who work for mutual understanding; make our hearts open to hear and embrace those who hold different views to ourselves; and may our leaders work together to seek the common good. We pray in the name of one who spread healing and reconciliation among all people, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

O God our Father, keep us passionate with our hope and dreams, with calm strength and patient understanding; grant us the heart to pursue justice, with the courage to keep and promote peace; give us a sense of rationality, with the wisdom to discern the changes and chances of this mortal life; and help us to develop our strengths and abilities while having the humility to learn from one another.

We pray for your mercy on our home City of Hong Kong and bring comfort and healing to those who have been hurt and traumatised by the recent distressing episodes in our society. Amen.

Almighty God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the Prince of peace: accept the fervent prayers of your people, and preserve our city in your safekeeping. May your holy and life-giving Spirit move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in love and harmony. Enable us to eliminate poverty and prejudice, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order. Send down upon those who are in authority the spirit of wisdom and charity, that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, friend and companion. Amen.

Letter From The Council



Have you seen the new gates on either side of the Celtic Cross? It's OK if you haven't, they're designed to be as unobtrusive as possible when they're open, folding out of the way rather than swinging open, which, given the driveway is round, would mean they still block traffic. So why did we install them? We're trying to strike a balance between maintaining as open as possible access to the Cathedral and its surrounds while retaining the ability to show clearly where our boundaries are. All too often in the past, we've had to deal with construction waste or other garbage being dumped on the Cathedral grounds. Our hope is that when we shut these gates at night, it will be clearer to everyone where the boundary lies, and perhaps people will be a little more respectful. Meanwhile, the gates are painted in the same colours as the gates on Garden Road to provide continuity.

PHOTOS BY / CONRAD YU & STOCK PHOTO

This is an example of the kind of balance we try to strike between protecting our Cathedral and ensuring it's not only an inspiring place of worship equipped for modern times. In the same way, we were very careful when we installed WiFi early this year and stained glass Clerestory windows this spring. We continue to evaluate carefully and scientifically the possibility of redeveloping the administration buildings, which are about 60 years old and too small for our purposes. Nothing happens quickly in Cathedral administration in large part because we are so careful not to disturb what's important. Council members have to learn to be patient!

The Council has met three times since the Annual Church Meeting at the end of April. We have three new lay members, (a 16% turnover), that is both healthy and manageable. Much of what we do is business-like: discussing our finances, approving budgets and insurance policies, and trying to give our staff the tools needed (like WiFi) to manage a large complex organisation. We still have a large task ahead to modernise our administration IT as well. For much of that work, we have a Finance and General Purposes Committee that meets each month, whose members have the requisite professional experience.

Likewise, the Fabric and Furnishings Committee (F&F) has members with engineering and construction experience to help guide us through the redevelopment project, if it goes ahead, and help take care of the Cathedral itself and the grounds. The idea of installing the gates originated with them and the Council tasked them with their design and installation – but the Council approved everything. This committee also deals with more mundane matters, such as fixing the roof after a typhoon or fixing the plumbing when pipes break. The Council spends a good part of each meeting discussing F&F concerns and proposals, and most of our second meeting in June was dedicated to this committee's work.

However, the Council is responsible for more than the business of managing the Cathedral. We are the governing body of the

Cathedral and are equally concerned to nurture the spiritual life, pastoral care and ministry of the Cathedral. Our role is to help the Dean ensure that our Cathedral reveals itself as an instrument of God's grace, serving not just its parishioners but acting in the broader community, changing lives in the heart of Hong Kong.

Ensuring proper financial stewardship and taking care of the fabric of the Cathedral, the Li Hall, the Administration Building and the grounds is part of supporting the work of God. In recent years, the Council has also spent a lot of time meeting with and discussing the future of our different outreach ministries, and forging closer governance relationships between them and the Council. You will have read in pew bulletins and In Touch how last year we repositioned the HIV Education Centre as a Life Enrichment Centre (LEC). That was the result of nearly two years' deliberations in the Council. The HIV Education Centre was a gem and we did not consider lightly the idea of redirecting the work of its staff. However, we felt the needs of the community were changing and we are trying to address those needs. We are pleased with how the LEC has emerged in its first year. The Council devoted most of our July meeting to our outreach ministries to migrant workers. We were joined by representatives from HELP for Domestic Workers and the Mission for Migrant Workers, both of which have served the migrant worker community in Hong Kong for many, many years.

Lastly, this letter is itself a result of Council discussion on how better to communicate to you, the Cathedral community. We are your representatives and we agreed that I would write a letter in each issue of In Touch to inform you of the work we are doing on your behalf. We hope you find it useful. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any one of us.

Michael Spencer

Hon. Secretary, St John's Cathedral Council



Council members

Tom Bispham

John Breen

Joseph Chan

Rita Chan

(Events)

T. K. Cheung

James Choo

Dolores Dayao

Julianne Doe

Patrick Fung

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May Ho

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Natalie Kwok

June Li

Leo Li

Craig Lindsay

(Hon. Treasurer,
Finance and General
Purposes)

Ron Lye

(Fabric and
Furnishing)

Edward Ng

Martin Rowe

(Emmanuel Church)

Margaret Sang

Michael Spencer

(Hon. Secretary)



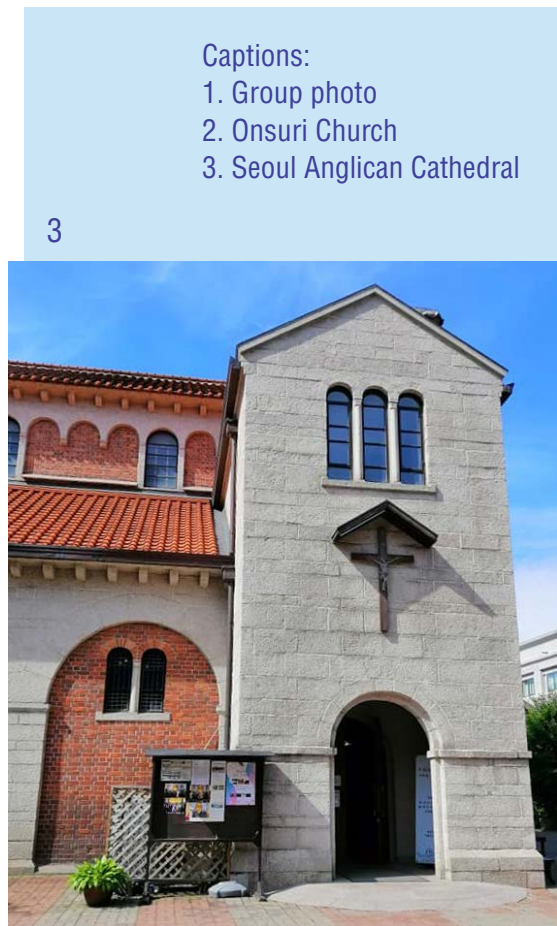
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CATHEDRAL CLERGY VISIT THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KOREA

TEXT BY/ THE REVD WILL NEWMAN PHOTOS BY/ THE CATHDRAL CLERGY



2



Captions:
1. Group photo
2. Onsur Church
3. Seoul Anglican Cathedral

3

Each year the Cathedral clergy take a study tour for a few days to visit churches outside Hong Kong. In recent years we visited Guangzhou and Nanjing to learn about the Church in China. Last year we visited the Episcopal Church in Taiwan, and in June this year we visited the Anglican Church of Korea.

Staying at a hotel close to Seoul Anglican Cathedral, our schedule included a daily morning Eucharist at 7 am. In place of bells at the elevation of the host, we heard the lovely singing sound of a Korean musical bowl. We were impressed to learn that the cathedral played a key role in bringing democracy to Korea in the 1980s, as the democracy leaders first met there.

Unlike Hong Kong, South Korea was never colonised by a Western country, and the Anglican Church feels very indigenised. I was reminded of John Kater saying that Anglicanism is a way of expressing Christianity in your own context. At Onsuri Church, the oldest Anglican church on Ganghwa Island, we noticed a Bodhi Tree, and the church was built by local craftsmen in Korean style, showing that the missionaries wanted to connect with the local culture.

Compared with South Korea's mega-churches, the Anglicans are small in number, yet their love, care, and courage in translating the gospel into action impressed us all. We visited a church-run Social Justice Centre, which provides education for the children of immigrant workers, including undocumented immigrants. The priest rings the church bell, not only for services, but also as a warning for migrants when immigration officers arrive. He sees his ministry as being on the side of the migrants, taking action to help them, even at some personal risk.



Another visit was to a community simply called 'Our Village'. It was established by a retired bishop for the handicapped, especially people with Down syndrome, where they could live, work and socialise together in a caring and supportive environment. 'Our Village' is partly funded by an enterprise where the community members can work growing and selling bean sprouts.

The Anglican Church of Korea has small communities of religious brothers and sisters. We enjoyed a relaxing afternoon at the Anglican Franciscan Monastery and Retreat House, peacefully nestling in the hills far from the city, and we danced (liturgically!) with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who have a house next to the cathedral.

On the last afternoon of our trip, we visited the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone). From an observation tower, we could look across the estuary and see the villagers working in the fields in North Korea. It was a reminder of the dangerous challenges the world faces, the helplessness of ordinary people who are victims of political forces beyond their control, and the longing of the South Koreans for reunification with their relatives across the border.

Our visit was greatly enriched by our guide, Thomas, a senior Anglican layperson. One of our groups compared him with the apostle Barnabas, a passionate servant of God who gave such great support to St Paul, yet worked quietly behind the scenes. Thank you, Thomas!



Onsuri Church

AN EIGHT-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO SHANDONG PROVINCE

The Revd Dr Philip Wickeri, The Revd Wu Wai Ho, Adam Mok and 17 other pilgrims visited Shandong Province from 10th to 18th May 2019. *In Touch* invited one of the pilgrims, Faye Yee, to share her reflections on the eight-day pilgrimage.

PHOTOS BY / FAYE YEE & S Y LI



Within the eight days visiting some of the churches under the Shandong Provincial Council, I was completely overwhelmed by the extreme diversity of our Chinese Christians in this province and how they expressed their faith. Much visionary foresight has been invested in the planning, with great expectations for future generations to be benefited, and continue the ministry of the Word.

Our meeting with the Shandong Provincial Council Executive Board, led by the Revd Gao Ming, provided us with a broad insight into the different organisations already in operation. There is an immediate need to build a new seminary to train more pastors to serve the 1.5 million Christians in the province.

We attended the Sunday service at **Shandong Theological Seminary Church**. It was a charismatic emotional service celebrating Mother's Day. The service began with a continuous buzzing noise as the whole congregation offered individual prayers in unison. The students led the hymn singing, to the accompaniment of organ, guitars and drum. The congregation, mostly of elderly people with a small proportion of younger people, enjoyed the music. A sermon and intercessory prayers were offered. Flowers were distributed to all mothers in the congregation.

Our visit to the rural district of **Ping Yan** gave us an interesting view of a very basic grassroots church in operation. It is in the process of waiting for the authorities' approval to build a new modern church to accommodate their thousand-plus worshippers. Their dedicated and passionate lady pastor gave us a comprehensive and tearful account of her struggles to acquire the surrounding land from various organisations. At present, separate congregations of 200 worshippers attend Sunday worship in a number of adobe huts scattered in the district, sitting on long hard benches strapped with padded cushions. Their pastor also holds services in her home on Sunday evenings. There is a heavy reliance on volunteers who are enthusiastic and willing to take the responsibility to prepare the venue for services.

At the **Tai An Youth Road Church**, we were greeted by the lady pastor, who outlined the organisation of the church. The interior design of the church was plain and simple. It was a basic arched structure, with the word 'Emmanuel' in Chinese script decorating the east wall. In the sanctuary was the lectern on the left with the altar table setting against wall. We visited Tai On City Christian Centre nearby, a residential seminary where a short-term intensive course was held for volunteers.

After getting qualifications, the volunteers would return to their respective villages to teach local Christians.

Qing Street Church is an ultra-modern contemporary church. On arrival, we were directed to a modern canteen and served a buffet lunch. The church has a dedicated team of volunteers who work full-time, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, to keep the church open. There is a double chapel which opens into an enormously tall and wide interior. The east wall is decorated with a brown wooden cross and on either side are variegated lengths of silver pipes reaching to the horizontal bar of the cross.

An overhead spotlight illuminates this sanctuary area. The west opens out into an extended paved area, overlooking a beautiful country park, with patches of trees surrounding an oblong waterway, equalling the size of a swimming pool in length and width.

Our final visit was to a German-designed church left behind from the German occupation. We were greeted by the lady pastor of **Qingdao Christian Church in Jiangsu Road**. This German Lutheran church was completed in 1908 in western medieval style. Today, its original stained glass windows have been replaced with floral decorations.





The red ceramic tiled roof houses a bell tower with a large mounted on three sides. The church was formerly called the Gospel Church, and later renamed the International Church, with a capacity of 1,000 people. Religious services began again in November 1980. This whole church site is under the protection of the Shandong Government historic relic department.

We received an unexpected invitation to visit St Michael's Catholic Church, another German-designed church in Gothic and Roman style. It was built between 1932 and 1934 and left behind from the occupation. It is in superb Germanic architectural style, with opulent interior decorations culminating in a magnificent pipe organ, occupying the whole width of the west end of the building. Individual side altars and confession cubicles with stained windows of St Gabriel and St Michael decorate the walls. Situated at the entrance is an altar dedicated to St Thérèse of Lisieux, the French Catholic

Discalced Carmelite nun widely venerated today. She is also popularly known as 'The Little Flower of Jesus'.

In conclusion, this pilgrimage opened my eyes to the tolerance and the freedom the present Chinese government has toward Christians in China, enabling them to practice their faith within the prescribed regulations of the CCC movement. Although separate denominations is not encouraged, the broad separation of Roman Catholics and Protestants are acceptable. I was most impressed by the enthusiasm and energy that the leaders of these Christian churches devoted to their calling and vocation. The population of church attendance has radically changed over the past ten years. Over 75% are elderly women worshippers, plus more middle-age worshippers and an increasing number of young people. With the planning, vision and foresight of the Shandong Provincial Council Executive Board, the future looks bright for Chinese Christians in this province.

TEXT BY/ THE REVd WILL NEWMAN
PHOTOS BY/ STOCK PHOTOS



70th

ANNIVERSARY,
1949-2019

HAPPY BIRTHDAY — — — — — — ST STEPHEN'S!

10th
DECEMBER

1949

Bishop R O Hall, the legendary Bishop of Hong Kong from 1938-1966, laid the foundation stone for St Stephen's Chapel Stanley.

7th
DECEMBER

2019

Our Archbishop Paul will lead the 70th anniversary celebration with a Thanksgiving Service and Dinner.

St Stephen's Chapel is one of Hong Kong's hidden treasures. It is located in the beautiful grounds of St Stephen's College, with lovely views out over hills, sea and islands. The Chapel is a happy blend of Chinese and Western, with a red-tiled Chinese-style roof and a light, spacious interior. Large arched windows with clear glass let in the light so that the church has a sense of looking outwards to the world, and at the same time drawing creation into our worship.

But St Stephen's is more than a beautiful church; it's also a living, thriving Christian community. St Stephen's began life as the school chapel, and that continues. Twice a month I take an Evening Prayer Service in the chapel for the school boarders, and the chapel is a house of prayer used by Christian Fellowships of students, parents and teachers. Since 1977 it has also been home to one of the daughter churches of St John's Cathedral, attracting a mixed congregation of Chinese and expatriates. Most of the congregation live on the southside of Hong Kong Island, but others come to us from the city and even from Kowloon and the New Territories.

What attracts people to come to St Stephen's? For some it may be the beauty of the church and its lovely surroundings. It may be our style of worship, traditional Anglican, not too formal, and the welcome sound of a real pipe organ accompanying our hymns. Perhaps it's the teaching and preaching. For some it is the Sunday School, and for some of the children it's also the famed quality of our refreshments after church. One of our attractions is that there's plenty of free parking in the school grounds during services! Whatever the reason, many people come to St Stephen's and find here a Christian family they can join, a community of friendship and care, and a spiritual home.

7th

DECEMBER

SATURDAY

2019

70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

6.00 PM

Thanksgiving Eucharist in St Stephen's, with Archbishop Paul as the Celebrant and the Revd Will Newman preaching

7.30 PM

Celebration Dinner under the stars outside the Chapel



OTHER GROUPS ATTACHED TO ST STEPHEN'S USE THE CHAPEL ANNEX, OUR CHURCH HALL

St Stephen's Playgroup for Mothers and Toddlers meets on Monday and Thursday mornings. The enclosed space around the Chapel is a lovely safe playground for small children. The 150th St Stephen's Scouts meet on Saturday afternoons. Each year in February we welcome the Scouts into church to celebrate Scout Sunday.



ST STEPHEN'S AND STANLEY PRISON

Visiting Stanley Prison has been part of the life and work of St Stephen's since 1977. Each Friday morning we walk the short distance to the prison, where we hold a Eucharist with prisoners on long-term and life sentences. Volunteers from the congregation and St John's Cathedral join these visits. We sing hymns in Chinese and English, accompanied by prisoners playing the guitar. We take a break of around 40 minutes in the middle of the service. This is when we talk with the prisoners in small groups and have a chance to build life-giving friendships. New volunteers are always welcome, so if you can sometimes be free on a Friday morning, get in touch.



ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL PRAYER

God our heavenly Father,
make the doors of this chapel wide enough
to receive all who need love and friendship,
and narrow enough to shut out all pride and lack of love.
Here may the sorrowing receive comfort,
the penitent be assured of your mercy,
and may all your children renew their strength
and go on their way in hope and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

In 2018, St Stephen's donated some \$200,000 from the proceeds of our Christmas Fete to four charities we regularly support:

- Bethune House, a Women's Refuge for Foreign Domestic Helpers, closely related to MFMW at St John's Cathedral
- Christian Action, supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong
- Pathfinders, supporting pregnant migrants and the babies of migrant workers
- The Leprosy Project, working in Leprosy Villages in Sichuan Province, China

ST STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS FETE



TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL



www.ststephen.org.hk



[f](#) | St Stephen's Chapel Stanley Hong Kong

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF ST STEPHEN'S



1903

St Stephen's College was founded as an Anglican school for boys, originally located in Western District.

1928

As the school had outgrown its original home, the government gave land in Stanley for the college. The oldest school buildings date from this time.

1938

St Stephen's College Preparatory School was established.

1941

The Japanese invaded Hong Kong in the Second World War. On Christmas Day St Stephen's became a battlefield as the Japanese fought their way towards Stanley Fort. The colony surrendered at the end of that day.

1942-1945

The school became the Internment Camp for civilians of the Allied nations. This was their home for three and a half years. There is now a museum in the school with exhibits showing the history of those years.

1945

At the end of the war, the Camp was liberated on 30th August, an event celebrated in the stained glass above the door of the Chapel.

1949

The foundation stone of St Stephen's Chapel was laid on 10th December by R O Hall, Bishop of Hong Kong.

1950

The Consecration Service was held on 4th March. Bishop Hall dedicated the Chapel to those who suffered and died in Stanley 1941-45.

1967

During the Cultural Revolution in China, a window was broken by a student throwing stones at what he saw as a symbol of Western imperialism. It isn't!

1968

St Stephen's College became a co-educational school as girls were admitted for the first time.

1977

St John's Cathedral was searching for a place where congregation members living on the southside of Hong Kong Island could worship. At that time it took an hour each way to travel to the cathedral. The school gave permission for a congregation to meet in the Chapel, and the first priest seconded from the cathedral was the Revd Hugh Stevenson. Fr Hugh was also the first of the priests in charge at St Stephen's to start visiting Stanley Prison.

1988

The Chapel Annex was built as a church hall to provide a vestry and facilities for the congregation.

1996

The stained glass above the door was installed, recalling the wartime history of St Stephen's.

2000

The Chapel Bell, donated by the Marsden family, was installed.

2003

Our lovely pipe organ, donated by the family of Sir Kenneth and Lady Fung, was installed.

2018

The Christmas Fete, famous for Santa flying in by helicopter, celebrated its 40th anniversary.

PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE

1977	Hugh Stevenson
1980	Michael Simpson
1985	Michael Phillips
1988	Peter Frowley
1993	Chris Briggs
1997	Jan Joustra
2004	Will Newman

How well do you know Castaways?

TEXT & PHOTO BY / STAFF REPORTER

Castaways Charity Shop provides a good selection of used items for affordable prices. The shop has been located within the Cathedral grounds for years, but how well do you know Castaways and the women's group CLARES that is running the shop? *In Touch* talks to Stella Carter of CLARES and find out some facts that our readers might want to know.

1. Weirdest things donated to Castaways

'If a crime happens at the Cathedral, you might find the weapons here.' Stella was making a joke of the weirdest items ever donated to the shop, including a gun (replica), a pair of handcuffs without a key, a ball-peen hammer, a knife, and a wooden rod. Another amazing donated item is a 'Cinderella shoe' – a shoe that came alone while the other one was missing. The CLARES ladies waited for the other shoe to appear, but it never came.

2. Popular items in Castaways

Women clothes, novels and non-fictions are very popular. Newly received items can fly off the shelf in a short time. The two Designer Label Sales in spring and autumn are well known among customers. They love finding good quality clothing, handbags or other items with designer labels in the sales.

3. What items are good for donation?

Castaways always welcomes seasonal clothing, including bags and shoes, in clean and saleable condition. It is very difficult for the shop to sell coats in summertime and tank tops in wintertime, and they have no storage space for non-seasonal items. The shop does not accept any book donations at the moment, as they have nowhere to store the books. All are welcome to bring donations to the Li Hall, St John's Cathedral on Wednesday mornings.



4. How to become a volunteer of Castaways?

Castaways is a child of CLARES, an outreach ministry of St John's Cathedral founded in 1963. In 1969, they began Castaways to raise funds through selling used clothes. CLARES is a women's group, diverse and multi-national, made up of faith and non-faith, Cathedral and non-Cathedral members. It offers friendship and support to all whilst sorting and pricing donated goods for sale. Committed volunteers are welcome to help sort donations on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon in the Li Hall.

5. What are the opening hours of Castaways?

Castaways opens on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12.00 noon to 2.30 pm, Saturdays from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, and Sundays from 10.00 am to 11.45 am.

OUTREACH SUNDAY

TEXT & PHOTOS BY / STAFF REPORTER

On Outreach Sunday this year, 2nd June, Dean Matthias commissioned the Cathedral outreach ministries. Representatives of the Counselling Service, HELP for Domestic Workers, the Life Enrichment Centre, Mission for Migrant Workers, and the Bookstore presented their work to congregation members during the services throughout the day. The outreach ministries also set up booths in the garden to promote their activities.

Through the day, the Cathedral gave thanks to God for changing lives of thousands of people and engaged the congregation members, so that they may learn more about the outreach ministries and get more involved in the ministries.

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



Goodbye, Mother Catherine

TEXT BY/ ANNA COLES-GALE PHOTOS BY/ STAFF REPORTER



Eight years ago, surrounded by friends, parishioners and ordained friends from all over the world, the Revd Catherine Graham became an ordained priest at St John's Cathedral, and with it a valued member of the clergy. Since that time, she has made an incredible contribution to the life of the Cathedral, and a profound impact on countless members of the congregation. It is thus with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to her as she starts a new journey into further study, having decided to pursue a Master's degree in counselling.

This choice of Master's is a natural step, considering all her work as coordinator of pastoral care. In her daily work she was able to show God's love in action as she met people both from the congregation and the wider community, be it at homes, hospitals or at the Cathedral itself, providing support and care at what were often extremely difficult times in their lives. In addition, in her work as coordinator of funerals, Mother Catherine met with the families of the bereaved, helping to organise and officiate services, with many remarking that she had a particular gift for making these services feel really personal. As well as being there for people in times of great sadness, she was also able to minister at times of great joy; she was involved in many weddings, including travelling to the UK to preach at the wedding of two parishioners who had met through her introduction at St John's. In her words, she said it has been a 'privilege to accompany and minister to people in the journey of life'.

Alongside these numerous acts of personal ministry, Catherine has also been involved in ministry services to the wider community. She has been chaplain to both CLARES and the Parent and Toddler group, but her biggest role has been as vice chair of HELP for Domestic Workers (HELP): an outreach ministry offering paralegal support to domestic workers, which celebrates 30 years this year. Her work here reflects her passion for aiding those in need, and for causes of social justice. She was able to pass this passion on as she mentored and supported the participants in the Young Adult Service Corp Programme from

the US Episcopal Church, who have worked at HELP over the years.

The liturgical life of the Cathedral has been another important aspect of Mother Catherine's time here. Key events which stand out in her memory are the 'Light Up a Life' Christmas Concert (organised by a society which cares for those with life-limiting illnesses and their families); officiating at the crib service at the Cathedral and regularly preaching at the Sunday services, helping to enable disciplines to live faithfully as God's people. This work has been furthered in her running of the Friday Fellowship Group, where Catherine described how it has been a 'joy to be with welcoming, hospitable, and faithful people'.

Mother Catherine has also accompanied and represented the Cathedral on both the provincial and global stage. Provincially, she has enjoyed taking part in the Annual Clergy Conference and also the 'Hong Kong Network on Religion and Peace' as a committee member. Going further afield, she will treasure memories from both the Holy Land pilgrimage in November 2015 with the Revd Canon John Peterson, Dean Matthias and parishioners, as well as participating in the life of the Diocese of Toungoo and seeing the church at work in Myanmar, which she described as a 'humbling and learning experience'. In addition, she was able to represent the Archbishop of Canterbury at the 7th World Congress for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, a cause she is clearly passionate about.

Her lasting legacy at St John's and the daughter churches will include leading a task group and getting Council approval of a policy on child protection. However, her legacy clearly goes beyond this: she will be remembered for her compassion and commitment to the St John's community. Catherine, you will be sorely missed, and we all wish you nothing but love and God's blessings on your new path.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF SJC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



TEXT & PHOTOS BY / STAFF REPORTER

On 6th July 2019, the St John's Cathedral Women's League (Chinese-speaking) held its inaugural meeting at the Cathedral. The group aims to strengthen members' friendships and relationships with each other, encourage women to grow in their faith, and provide them with opportunities to serve the church community.

The inaugural meeting was well attended. Guests and attendees included Sarah Chan, Bishop Andrew Chan's wife, representatives of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Women's League, and congregation members of St John's. The opening prayer was led by Fr Wu Wai-ho, and Dean Matthias gave a blessing to all at the end of the meeting.

Members of the SJC Women's League, led by Chair of the League Caren Chan, gave a 'Praise Dance' performance during the inaugural meeting. 'Praise Dancing incorporates hymns and body movements as a form of worship rather than as an expression of art. It is not that easy for us to perform with set choreography and sing at the same time,' Caren told *In Touch*.



Another highlight was the sharing session by Simmy Woo, a congregation member of St John's. Simmy was a little child when the Second World War broke out. After the war and the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, she worked hard to become one of the early female architects in the city. She recalled how she faced unequal pay and other types of gender bias in the workplace. Looking back on her work and married life, she is very grateful for God's blessings and guidance.

The SJC Women's League is planning a series of special events and talks for the coming months. May Ho, a committee member of the League, said that the League would like to engage more parishioners and help them enrich their spiritual lives through these meaningful events. Other committee members of the League include T. Y. Wong, Sandra Wong, and Amy Hau.

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

STAFF NEWS

THE NEW IN-LAWS

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Lauren Der and Isaac Dunlap, and the new in-laws! Lauren, the elder daughter of Dean Matthias and Rachel, was married to Isaac, the son of James Dunlap and Geraldine, in a beautiful ceremony a few weeks back at the Chapel of Girton College, University of Cambridge.

It was a day of joy and happiness, shared with wonderful family members, who showed so much love and support for each other. Dean Matthias preached at the wedding ceremony while James Dunlap and his daughter Chloe sang the anthem with the choir.

The Dunlap family have been members of St John's Cathedral for 30 years. James was a dedicated and very knowledgeable member of the Cathedral Choir, and a Cathedral Council member for a spell in the 1990s. Isaac sang with the Cathedral Choir for years. James and his wife moved back to North Vancouver in July 2015.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ADAM MOK

Congratulations to Adam Mok, our former Pastoral Assistant. Adam has been recommended as a postulant for training for the priesthood in the Province of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. He will start his priestly training at Ming Hua Theological College in autumn 2019.

Adam had served in St John's Cathedral as Pastoral Assistant for the past three years before he left the position in August this year. His ministry focused on the youth community, prison visiting and other pastoral work, and extended through various cathedral congregations. He had contributed greatly to the life of the cathedral parish, and has been a fantastic colleague to the clergy pastoral team.

'An old friend of St John's', as described by Fr Robert Martin, Adam started worshipping at the cathedral in 2012. Two years later, he did a pastoral placement at St John's. Since then, he has been a member of the Cathedral Servers' Guild.

Adam will be sorely missed by clergy and staff, and we wish him every blessing as his journey to ordained ministry continues.



WELCOME NEW STAFF



ALAN LI@LEC

Alan Li joined St John's Cathedral Life Enrichment Centre (LEC) in May 2019 as a full-time Programme Officer. He is assisting the Centre Manager in delivering the best practice across their services, which include mentorship programmes, community programmes, and fundraising initiatives. Welcome on board!



On behalf of St John's Cathedral, Director of St John's Counselling Service Dr Elda Chan attended the 6th International Conference on Behavioural Addictions in June 2019, which took place in Yokohama, Japan. She also attended the Second World Health Organisation Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours at the WHO headquarters, Geneva, in June.

Forthcoming Services at St John's & Daughter Churches

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2019



St John's Cathedral

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

1st September (Sunday)

9.00 AM Sung Eucharist
(Commissioning of Servers & Music Ministry)

6th September (Friday)

7.30 PM St John's Family Night,
Michaelmas Fair

8th September (Sunday)

9.00 AM Worship for All
(Commissioning of Sunday School)

14th September (Saturday): Holy Cross Day

9.00 AM Said Eucharist

15th September (Sunday): Dedication Festival

9.00 AM Sung Eucharist
11.45 AM Responsorial Eucharist

22nd September (Sunday):

11.45 AM Responsorial Eucharist
with Children's Baptism

28th September (Saturday)

10.00 AM – 2.00 PM
CLARES Designer Sale
Stylish clothing for the cooler weather

29th September (Sunday): Michael and All Angels

9.00 AM Sung Eucharist

6th October (Sunday)

11.45 AM Blessing of the Animals

13th October (Sunday): Harvest Thanksgiving

9.00 AM Worship for All
11.45 AM Choral Mattins

26th October (Saturday)

10.00 AM – 4.00 PM
Michaelmas Fair

2nd November (Saturday): All Souls' Day

12.00 PM Orchestral Requiem
Eucharist

3rd November (Sunday): All Saints' Sunday

9.00 AM Sung Eucharist

8th November (Friday) - 9th November (Saturday)

10.00 AM – 5.00 PM
Charity Christmas Card &
Handicraft Fair

10th November (Sunday): Remembrance Sunday

9.00 AM Worship for All
6.00 PM Evening Remembrance
Service

12th November (Tuesday)

8.00 PM Life Enrichment Centre
Annual Concert

24th November (Sunday): Christ the King Celebrating 170th Anniversary

5.00 PM Thanksgiving Service
(Celebrant: Archbishop
Paul Kwong)
(Guest Preacher:
Presiding Bishop
Michael Curry of the
US Episcopal Church)

7.30 PM Gala Dinner
(Venue: Metropol
Restaurant, Admiralty)
(Tickets available at the
Cathedral Office)

28th November (Thursday)

12.30 PM US Thanksgiving
Service

**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 Canon Dwight dela Torre

The Revd Canon Peter Koon

The Revd Sharon Langbis

The Revd Franklin Lee

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 Chaplain

The Revd Jenny Wong Nam

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

Vergers

Ho Tat Hoi

Head Server

James Choo

Head Sidesman

Roger Cole

In Touch Editorial Team

Maggie Chan - Editor

Stuart Wolfendale

John Twist

Wendy Nesbitt

Andrew Ashley

Anna Coles-Gale



5 YEARS WITH IN TOUCH

It is our pleasure to have had you walking with us over the past five years. The first issue of In Touch came out in the summer of 2014, hoping to engage our readers in the life of St John's Cathedral and the St John's family.

Following in our predecessor *St John's Review's* steps, *In Touch* was founded to keep as many people as possible in touch and in the know about each other's efforts. We aim at being much more than a magazine that reports the latest events and news of the Cathedral. We strive to give witness to the work of Jesus Christ in our church and the world around us. The *In Touch* magazine is published quarterly; in March, June, September, and December.

As the use of mobile devices is more and more prevalent, we saw the pressing need for an online version of *In Touch*. We have been publishing the magazine on the Issuu platform since 2017. At the same time, we continue to mail hard copies to our subscribers, and welcome members of the public, visitors, and tourists to pick up copies at the Cathedral. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. If you have any feedback, you are always welcome to let us know your thoughts. Please contact the Editor on communications@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

ST JOHN'S IN THE NEWS

Discover more about St John's Cathedral, its history, ministries, and celebrations of its 170th anniversary. Check out the recent coverage of the Cathedral by some major media outlets!

Anglican Communion News Service

The official news service of the worldwide Anglican Communion covers the Cathedral's 170th anniversary celebration events.



View it online.
URL: <https://qrgo.page.link/3tEHq>



U Magazine

The popular local magazine shows the audience round the Cathedral and the Nest Café on its Facebook page.



View it online.
URL: <https://qrgo.page.link/zGmuS>



Now TV

The local television station features St John's Cathedral's architectural beauty and captures the splendid view of the cathedral building.



View it online.
URL: <https://qrgo.page.link/zpaj5>

