

In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Autumn Edition 2021



Taking up the reins

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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The Revd Canon Peter Koon
The Revd Sharon Langbis
The Revd Robert Martin
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The Revd Will Newman
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The Revd Amos Poon
The Revd Mark Rogers
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The Dean's Message

Dear Friends,

Peace be with you!

We were most thankful to God for resuming our physical services from the beginning of April, and even more grateful to God when we were able to increase our seating capacity for public services from 30% to 50% starting Thursday 24th June. More sisters and brothers in Christ came back to our Saturday and Sunday services and received communion. To meet up with our sisters and brothers face to face is indeed a blessing.

The Installation Service of the new Dean was held on Sunday 20th June, and I am most thankful to all members of the congregation for your prayers and support. It was a big day for our whole Cathedral family. Thanks to Bishop Matthias and Archbishop Andrew for respectively celebrating and delivering the blessings. At the same time, I must send my deepest apology to you all for not having the space for many of you to attend the Service inside the Cathedral Church. During that time we could only have 30% of the space seated. Thank you so much for taking part in the Service through the live webcast. In order to make such a large-scale service happen, our staff, church members, chaplains and trustees put in tremendous effort! I know there were colleagues who stayed working in the office almost until midnight days before the Installation Service. Words cannot convey my appreciation and gratitude. I am confident we have a solid team in the collaboration and implementation of ministries in this Cathedral family.

Life is filled with joy but there are times to be sorrowful, too. It was heart-breaking to learn about the passing of our former Dean, the Reverend Canon Stephen Sidebotham, on the night of Friday 9th July (UK time). Canon Stephen and his wife Peggy were intimate friends of many in our Cathedral community. Stephen served as the Dean twice at St John's. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. Let us keep Peggy and her family members in our prayers.

It was also sad to say goodbye to our dear colleagues, Viola Ip, our Executive Administrator, and Lester Leung, our accountant, after their long years of service in our Cathedral Office. Viola will continue to serve voluntarily as a sidesman at our 8.00am service on Sunday. May God bless both of them in their retirement life, and I wish them good health in the years to come. In the meantime, we welcome Bowie Yu (the new receptionist), and Kevin Lau (the new accountant), to our Cathedral Office.

As disciples of the Lord, we come across the coming and going of different people with hope and peace. There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance: Ecclesiastes 3.4. We all know too well that everything will be in the good hands of the loving God. We shall diligently do our part, and have faith in the timing and planning of God.

Yours,




各位朋友：

主內平安！

感謝上主讓我們在四月初開始恢復實體崇拜，更感恩的是教會自六月二十四日（星期四）起可以在崇拜中開放更多座位，由原先的30%提升至50%，令更多的弟兄姊妹可以參與我們周六及主日的崇拜，同領聖餐。能夠與弟兄姊妹親身會面，實在是一種祝福。

我就任座堂主任牧師的禮儀已於六月二十日（主日）舉行，衷心感激各位的禱告和支持。在這座堂的大日子，慶幸得到謝子和主教及陳誦明大主教親臨主禮及祝福。與此同時，我必須向各位未能親身出席的弟兄姊妹致歉，由於當天座堂內只能容納不多於座位數目30%的人士，以致大家只可以透過網上直播參與其中。大型的崇拜禮儀能夠順利進行，多得許多同工、教友、牧師以及信託人的大力支持。我知道有些同工在禮儀前幾天甚至工作至半夜。對此，我心內的感激實在難以言表。我相信，我們合一的團隊定能成就座堂大家庭的各種事工。

生命中充滿喜樂，但偶爾亦會有憂傷的時候，特別是當我們收到前座堂主任薛本德法政牧師於七月九日晚上（英國時間）離世的噩耗之時。薛本德法政牧師曾兩度出任座堂主任牧師；他和妻子Peggy都是我們的摯友。在哀悼及懷念他的同時，讓我們一同以禱告守望Peggy及其家人。

另外，我們也告別兩位在座堂服務多年的榮休同工，他們分別是座堂行政主任葉董錦玉（Viola）及會計員梁偉堅（Lester）。離開工作崗位之後，Viola將會繼續在主日早上八時的崇拜擔任接待員。願上主祝福他們的退休生活，又希望他們都身體健康。藉此機會，我們同時歡迎新加入座堂辦事處的接待員庾寶兒（Bowie）及會計員劉世顯（Kevin）。

作為主的門徒，我們懷着盼望和平安的心迎接及送別身邊的人。傳道書3章4節：「哭有時，笑有時；哀慟有時，跳舞有時。」我們知道，萬有都掌管在慈愛主的手中。讓我們克盡本分，憑信心仰望上主的時間和安排。

座堂主任牧師
陳國強謹啟



Riding the Chariot

Interview by Michael Gibb

Distanced, but not separated. That's how The Very Revd Kwok-keung Chan views the Anglican congregation at St John's as he takes up his role as the new Dean.

'Despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, nothing can break the bonds of love between brothers and sisters in Christ,' he says.

This was evident on a sultry late afternoon in June when Dean KK and his wife Emmy and son Gideon were welcomed to St John's for the Installation Ceremony. Accompanied by Pachelbel's Chaconne in F minor, the Dean-designate was greeted in Li Hall by the Cathedral clergy before being introduced by Bishop Matthias Der, who served as Celebrant. He was blessed by Archbishop Andrew Chan later during the service.

'It has been such a great honour for me and family that I join St John's as the Dean. I thank God and feel so joyful,' he says.

The Dean admits that he had been 'slightly nervous' before taking up his position, but with God's grace, he was looking forward to the exciting challenges ahead.

'St John's is much much bigger than Holy Trinity Cathedral, where I was Sub-dean and Dean. There, I knew everyone's name! But I am confident I will get to know our parishioners very well as soon as possible,' he says.

Dean KK is a To Kwa Wan lad, born and bred. He attended S.K.H. Good Shepherd Primary School and later taught English at his alma mater for nine years after graduating from The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

'If you want to know anything at all about To Kwa Wan, talk to me!' he says. It was in this Kowloon district that the Dean developed his love of football. A talented player, blessed with a decent right- and left-foot shot, he played league football for years as centre-half, a position noted as the bedrock for rallying his team.



Heeding the call

Although a dedicated teacher, SARS was a turning point. After the epidemic in 2003, his calling grew more persistent and, heeding that call, he enrolled full-time at HKSKH Ming Hua Theological College.

After graduating with his Master of Theology (MTh) degree, his career developed rapidly: he was made Deacon on 6th January 2008 and ordained to priesthood on 24th February 2009. Then followed his ministry at Holy Carpenter Church for five years, Holy Trinity Cathedral for nine years, and concurrently St. Augustine's Chapel in Diocesan Boy's School for seven years.

'Working once a month at St. Augustine's Chapel gave me the chance to celebrate and preach in English, which has been a wonderful way to prepare for my deanship here. I have been more used to preaching in Cantonese, but now I need to use both languages since St John's is a more international community,' he says.

Christian life for society

Regarding his plans for St John's, the Dean will seek to strengthen links between St John's and the dioceses and to enhance Provincial participation. He has a particular model in mind for doing so.

'I must thank God for providing us with the special mission model of "The three-horse chariot" (三頭馬車) in Hong Kong and in Macau,' says the Dean. The 'three-horse chariot' describes the cooperation of the Church, school and social services to practice the spirit of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. All three aspects have a common long-term mission and coordinate with each other to spread the love of the Lord.

'When we talk about the providential care of our Father, the three-horse chariot reminds us that our Church on the whole provides care and ministries from the cradle to grave,' he says. 'So we will be working very closely with our schools and social service units, as well as our outreach ministries.'

Social care is not only deeply rooted in the Dean's spiritual outlook. It runs in the family, too. Emmy heads a social work centre in Tuen Mun and Gideon majors in psychology at the University of British Columbia. Therefore, Dean KK does not underestimate the social challenges facing Hong Kong. However, he notes that despite recent instability, our city is strong enough to endure.

After all, we have been through major upheavals before, especially prior to the handover in 1997, when some people chose to leave the city for new pastures.

A sacred place

The Dean is keen to promote the special qualities that our Cathedral offers Hong Kong during these troubled times.

'What we offer at St John's is a sacred space to be with God, as well as a sense of history and tradition, and a place of holy

music and architecture. Our clergy, staff, servers, and our many many volunteers, as well as our vibrant congregations, welcome everyone to St John's to experience a greater sense of God,' he says.

There's no doubt the pandemic has been highly disruptive, but Dean KK insists we look for the positives, such as how St John's has harnessed the power of new technologies to reach out.

'We have learned how to connect to each other through social media networks and the live online broadcasts of our services. Though not ideal, we have adapted to this unique situation. For now, we might be distanced, but we will not be separated under God's love as brothers and sisters in Christ,' he adds.

As was said at the Dean's installation in the First Reading taken from Isaiah 49.10: 'They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for the Lord who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.'



Dean KK (standing 2nd from right) played league football for years as centre-half.





Faith Begins: Thanks be to God!

Text by The Revd Mark Rogers

Congratulations to all the adults who were baptized and confirmed on Sunday 18th July at St John's Cathedral!

After completing the ten-week preparation course, 28 adults were baptized and confirmed, and another nine adults confirmed. What's the difference? Those who were confirmed were already baptized, either in the Anglican Church at an earlier age, or in another church denomination. This is a two-fold reminder: that baptism is an unrepeatable, once in a life time initiation into the Church, and also that all mainstream churches recognise the validity of the other church's baptisms, so long as they were made in the name of the Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The course covered all the basics of the Christian faith, including both belief and practice. Each session had two equal parts: a 40-minute lecture followed by 40 minutes in breakout groups. The evening ended with the night prayer service of 'Compline'. The group sessions were led by lay leaders from St John's. The clergy are extremely grateful for the mentorship of these lay leaders.

Interestingly, this was the second adult baptism/confirmation preparation during the COVID-19 pandemic. And like the course ran last autumn, this also was run entirely on Zoom.



Twenty-eight adults were baptized and confirmed on 18th July after completing the Faith Begins course.



Bible study led by Bishop Matthias

The feedback from the participants was positive. However, Zoom has advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is in its accessibility. Once again we had a very high weekly attendance, with nearly 100% attendance throughout. One disadvantage may be that perhaps the group doesn't know each other as well as they might if they had met in person.

In fact, the participants met for the first time as a group at the whole day retreat at Tao Fong Shan held a week before the baptism and confirmation service. It was wonderful to see each other in person, and funny too. The Zoom camera gives an incomplete impression. It was amusing for people to discover, for example, the true height of others.

Following the retreat the group had two other in person sessions: first a bible study led by Bishop Matthias, and then a final wrap up session entitled 'Questions & Some Answers' with some of the cathedral clergy.

I know I speak for all my colleagues when I say what a joy it is to accompany all these adults on their faith journey. The baptism and confirmation service was a wonderfully moving celebration of trust in God and dedication of one's life in the service of God.

For all these blessings: thanks be to God!

Faith Begins Retreat at Tao Fong Shan



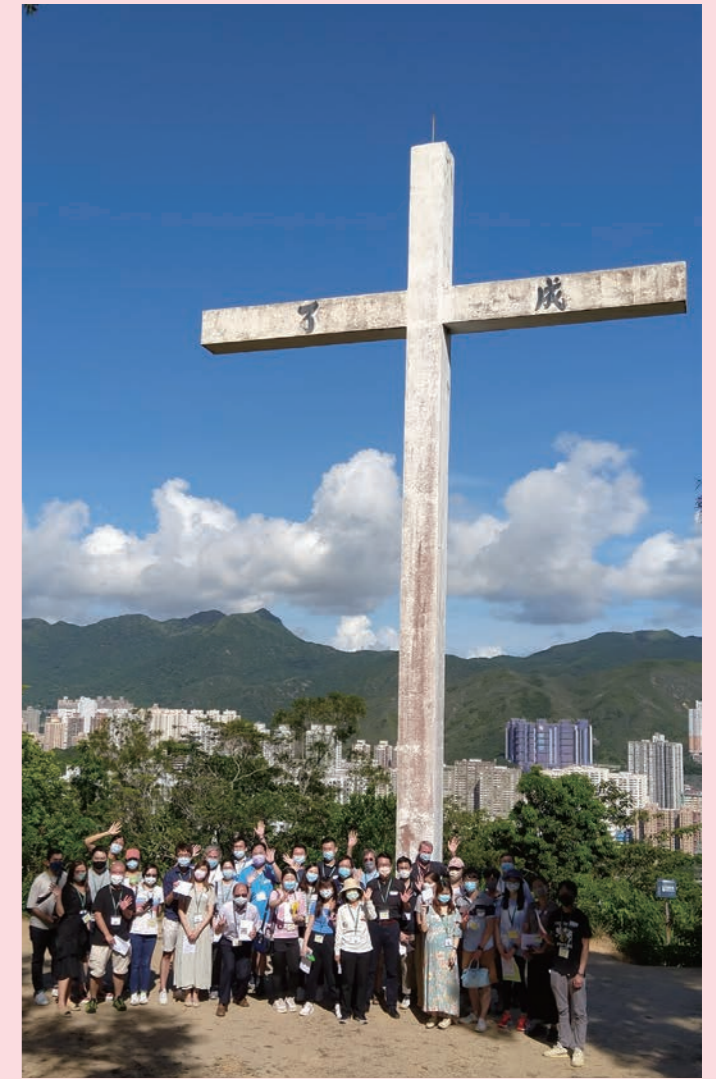
Participants met in person for the first time at the retreat.



Making the sign of the cross on the forehead of participants



Group discussion on Christian Faith



The retreat was concluded with the walk to the cross.



Participants also enjoyed quiet time walking the labyrinth.

My First Experience on Cursillo Weekend

Text by The Revd Amos Poon

De Colores! I was very glad to be invited to join the Cursillo weekend on 11th-14th June this year. It was a wonderful experience for me. Not only was it a good reminder of some of the essences of Christian Faith, it was also a time for me to become more familiar with people from the Church. I had not heard the Spanish word Cursillo until I came to St John's Cathedral. Fr Will and Fr Robert had invited me to join the Cursillo weekend before. However, due to the pandemic, this had to be delayed until June of this year.

Cursillo is a Spanish word which means 'short courses'. Originally, these short courses were preparation talks for youth who were going on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago. They walked the Camino de Santiago Trail in the 1940s. The courses were then endorsed by the Bishop, spreading from Spain all over the world, and became a force for the renewal movement of the Church. Three years ago, members of Cursillo Australia came to Hong Kong and shared this course with us.

Cursillo starts with a three-day programme, over a weekend. We started off on Friday afternoon, and went to Salesian Retreat House in Cheung Chau. Thirteen participants and nine organising team members, who were the participants of previous Cursillo HK, joined us. The participants included a chaplain and parishioners from the Cathedral and the daughter churches, members from other parishes of the Diocese, and the Bishop. We had meals together, and after supper we needed to wash our dishes! It was a wonderful chance for us to do the washing up with the Bishop, a scene that depicts the humility of Christ and the Unity of His Body, as we are to serve but not to be served.

There were a total of 14 talks within the three days. Each talk was very short and precise. They were like the espresso of the Christian faith. The talks were shared by laypeople, with a few of them shared by the priests. They started with helping us to understand the vision and mission of our Christian faith, then proceeded to



Washing the dishes with the Bishop and other participants



Final Eucharist celebrated by The Most Revd Andrew Chan



the knowledge of the sacraments and the Bible. Christian faith should not only remain in our cognition, as it is a living faith. There are ways we should practice it in our daily lives, and this is when the three-legged stool is introduced.

The Anglican way of understanding the legs of the three-legged stool is Tradition, Scripture and Reason. They are the foundations of our theological understanding. However, the legs of the Cursillo three-legged stool represent different things. They are Study, Prayer and Christian Actions. These are important aspects of how Christians should be nurtured, and how we should be witnesses in society. How much time have we spent in reading the Bible? How much have we engaged in fellowship? How many times do we pray to God every week? What sort of Christian actions have we done after our baptism? All these are good reminders.

Each Cursillo weekend has a theme. The theme for this year is 'Be ready for service, keep your lamps burning.' The image of a burning lamp reflects the Christian life. A burning lamp needs oil, which is study and prayer. Both the study of the word of God and praying to the Lord help us connect with God. As we know, it is only through abiding with Christ that we have the power to shine. The light which the lamp gives is our Christian action. We are called to be disciples, to be Jesus' followers. As Jesus is constantly witnessing God in his earthly ministry, we should also imitate him and be salt and light!

There was group sharing between talks. Cursillo was a good time for us to become familiar with people from different parishes and services. The leader also led us in singing songs of praise, and certainly there were some surprises! I will let you discover for yourself. On the last day of the programme, the Archbishop also joined us. At the end of the service, he sent us out to continue this journey of Study, Prayer and Actions.

Cursillo weekend is just the beginning of the journey. This journey for faith continued on the fourth day. After the weekend, the small groups kept meeting regularly. Not only we were invited to be in touch with God, but we need the support from people around us to keep our lamps burning. De Colores (in colour) is a greeting among people who have joined Cursillo. To be in colour is to be in God's grace, and for me, our life is also painted with many colours through our interactions with people around us.

Not everyone of us has the chance to go on the pilgrimage in Spain, at least not in 2021, yet our journey of faith is certainly a pilgrimage for life. May your life be also blessed with many colours, De Colores!



Participants making origami in one of the group activities

Sai Kung 100km Hiking Challenge

Text & photos by Thomas Li & Greg Wheele

After completing the 95km hike in Lantau Island, I thought that Sai Kung Country Park would be a good choice for another challenge. The route planning was not straightforward because of limited access to public transport, accommodation, and the layout of the trails. Eventually a possible route on the map became clear. Greg Wheele, the Chair of Cathedral Choir, and I decided to complete the challenge at the end of April to raise funds for the Michaelmas Fair Virtual Walkathon. Since Greg had a flying duty scheduled for the beginning of May, we aimed to hike 100km over four days.

The forecast of torrential rain on the first day was initially a concern. We began our hike from Pak Tam Au on 28th April 2021 at 9.30am. It did not rain but was misty on our way to Ngau Yee Shek Shan (The Rocky Hill of Cattle Ears). We reached the signal tower on Shek Uk Shan (The Stonehouse Peak) at 480m high in thick fog. We then discovered that our route next to the tower was very close to a razor wire fence. Luckily we did not get hurt, but huge spider webs were scattered all the way down the hill. I used a twig to clear the webs as much as possible but still caught quite a few. Eventually the visibility improved enough for Ma On Shan and Plover Cove Reservoir to come into sight. The next hill to climb was Mount Hallowes (372m), which was probably named after a British naval officer surveying the New Territories at the end of 19th century. A group of cows grazing on the lush grass seemed bothered by our sudden appearance on the hilltop. We then went down to the bay of Hoi Ha and detoured to the nearby Wan Tsai peninsula. Finally, we reached the village of Ham Tin (Salty Bay) at 7.30pm after hiking nonstop for 31km. Luckily the owner of the village store cooked us dinner, and we met up with my friends David and Ziv, who were camping on the beach. The weather worsened after midnight, and Ziv's tent was nearly blown away by the strong wind. We took shelter in a nearby farmhouse and had very little sleep.

The second day was very tiring and without Greg's company I would have nearly given up. We continued the journey to Tai Yue Ngam Teng (The Peak of Fish Watching Stone) via the beautiful Sai Wan Beach. Spectacular sea caves and fine sandy beaches dotted around the coast. However, we



Camping on Ham Tin Beach



Luk Wu Valley



Tai Tun Peak



got lost on the way to Long Ke while finding a way out of the thick forest to the beach. We then had to climb a near-vertical sea cliff in search of the hill path. The visibility was outstanding, and we could even see as far as Tai Mo Shan. Yet the scorching sun made for a gruelling, long climb up to Sai Wan Shan. The last part of the journey was to return to Pak Tam Au by the Luk Wu Country Trail. The sunset reflection on Luk Wu Valley was a beautiful sight to behold. Yet the way up to Pai Ngak Shan (The Banner Hill) at 400m was a very tough climb to end the day. In total we covered 23km and were desperate to go home for some good rest.

The third day of our hike started with a steep climb up to Tai Tun Peak, where we were rewarded with one of the most outstanding views to be found in Hong Kong. The visibility was exceptionally good and the water surrounding the numerous small islands glistened in the early morning sun. After taking many photographs, we made our way down a steep, treacherous path to the Sai Kung Country Park Visitors Centre. The remainder of the day's hiking route was to take us along the spectacular coastline towards the east dam of High Island Reservoir. This turned out to be far more difficult than expected, with a total distance of 26km on infrequently used tracks with dense vegetation. In a couple of places we were forced to scale steep cliffs as the trail disappeared completely.

The coastal walk took us past the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, where we were able to visit restored traditional village houses with many interesting features from a bygone era. We encountered abandoned villages along the trail and we reflected on how life in Hong Kong had changed in recent years as a result of government initiatives. As we progressed along the path towards the east dam, we were astounded to see many amazing geological features, with the rocky coastline punctuated by deep caves. Our final climb was to the top of the spectacular cliffs near Kim Chu Wan, where organ pipe-shaped rock formations rose effortlessly out of turbulent coastal waters.

The final day was without doubt the most arduous, as we were now very tired. We started with a relaxing journey by boat to Ko Lau Wan via Grass Island. This allowed us to climb Sharp Peak from a more unusual direction and we were rewarded with exceptional views of the mountain. The climb up Sharp Peak was very difficult as we were struggling against fatigue and heat stroke up a very steep, rocky path. We finally reached the top, having completed 88km of our challenge; now there were only three headlands and a couple of beaches to go before journey's end. The majestic high cliffs at Wo Sheung Chau were truly amazing and the path took us scarily close to the edge of the cliffs. We finally reached Ham Tin Village, having completed exactly 100km at around 5pm. Now it was time to celebrate our achievement with a swim in the ocean and a nice cool beer!



High Island Reservoir



Ham Tin and Sharp Peak

Creativity Sparkled: Walkathon in the Pandemic

The coronavirus has brought so many changes to our daily life. Yet created in the image of God, many of us are taking up the challenges with creativity, reflected in novel ways to sustain our ministry. One of the examples that we found at St John's was the Michaelmas Fair Virtual Walkathon, which took place in May 2021.

When talking about how the idea of hosting the event came up, Mrs Natalie Law, Chair of the Michaelmas Fair Organising Committee 2021, recalled that the Walkathon was cancelled due to COVID-19 in 2020, and the Committee was eager to bring it back this year. 'We didn't want to cancel this meaningful event again,' she said.

They began searching for ways to ensure that the Walkathon could be done in a safe and feasible manner. Putting together the creative minds of the Committee members, (as well as references from similar events held by other organisations), the Committee decided that the only option to hold the Walkathon was to go 'virtual'. Promotion and logistics arrangements were planned and rolled out in the first quarter this year. The congregation and friends of St John's were invited to take part in this first-ever Virtual Walkathon as they contributed to support the Cathedral's ministry. Over 460 participants did their walks in the event.



Natalie gives thanks to God for the event, which came to a fruitful close in May. 'The process went smoothly, and all Committee members were really helpful in executing the idea. This would be a good reference for the event next year, as people who cannot physically participate will still have the chance to support the Cathedral,' she said.

Apart from the Virtual Walkathon, the Committee also launched a short video entitled 'Virtual Cathedral Tour' in June. Inspired by Bishop Matthias Der, Bishop of Hong Kong Island, the video was produced by talented members of the Music Department of the Cathedral. Featuring a guided tour by The Very Revd Kwok-keung Chan, Dean of St John's Cathedral, the video was tailor-made for students from schools of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and their parents and teachers, to explore the special characteristics of the Cathedral, which is an historic building in Hong Kong.

The Committee is grateful for the support of all who have been involved in the organisation of the Virtual Walkathon, as well as the production of the Virtual Cathedral Tour.



The Sanctuary for Bookworms

Text by Michael Gibb



Libraries around the world are under threat. Budgets are getting cut, reading habits changing, and e-books rising. Your mobile phone is, after all, a mini library in itself.

But it's a different tale at St John's. The Kenneth Tyson Library located on the 2/F of the Cathedral admin building is flourishing.

Fresh titles are regularly bought or donated. The latest copies of *Church Times* and *The Tablet* greet you at the door. Tatty books get repaired. Older titles are 'retired' and find new homes via the annual Michaelmas Fair. Kids from the playgroups delve enthusiastically into the Children's section.

On any day, clergy, students or researchers might be spotted rummaging around for obscure titles, and it's not uncommon during these troubled COVID times to stumble across a nervous-looking priest about to record an online message.

'The St John's library is a wonderful place to make space for yourself to read and think, away from the hectic pace of Hong Kong life,' says Ms Vanda Cole, Honorary Librarian, who has been volunteering at the library for many years as gatekeeper, manager, cataloguer, classifier, fixer, and researcher extraordinaire.

What kind of books are available? If you think the Tyson Library is packed with dusty old commentaries on lesser known books of the Old Testament, think again.

Alongside volumes on Bible studies, doctrinal matters, liturgical practice, and Christian ethics, there are books that tackle sexuality and relationships, philosophy, China studies, cross-cultural issues, world religions, and politics.

Titles written by contemporary religious commentators such as Rowan Williams, Huston Smith and Karen Armstrong mix freely on the shelves with an assortment of

writers, from CS Lewis, Jung Chang and Mitch Albom, to Lord Byron, Nikos Kazantzakis and Judith Kerr. There's even the autobiography of the crime writer PD James.

The library's origins date back to before World War II when the Women's Guild and the Church of England Men's Society began a lending library. Until the 1950s, the library led a nomadic existence, finding temporary accommodation under porches and in the former organ box in the south transept, according to Stuart Wolfendale in his book *Imperial to International*. A glance through back copies of *St John's Review* reveals that the library used to be located in 'Chapter House' behind the Lady Chapel, and for a time in the Cathedral office.

Then, in the mid-1950s, the princely sum of HK\$1,000 was set aside to fund a space for the library on the ground floor of the admin building, and in November 1956, the library became known as the Kenneth Tyson Library, named by Ms Jessie (Jasmine) Chan in honour of her late husband, an alumnus of Diocesan Boys' School.

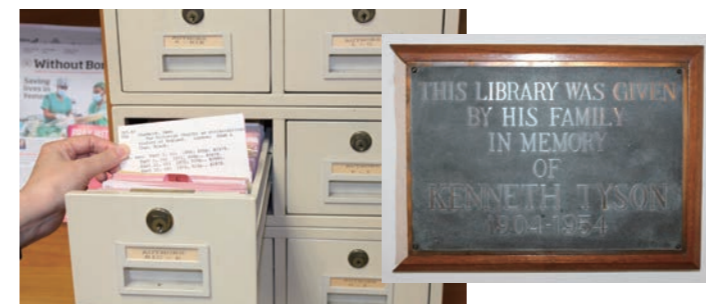
The Revd Timothy W. Beaumont, the first librarian for this new home, was a character. After serving as an Anglican priest in Hong Kong from 1957 to 1959, he became a progressive politician in Britain. He sat in the House of Lords for the Green Party as Baron Beaumont of Whitley, supporting transgender rights, and opposing free trade.

Our library is rather old-school in some ways. You have to use an index card system to find the books you need, which is much more fun than searching online. One day, the library's entire catalogue might be punched into a database. But for now, nostalgia for the gloriously old-fashioned reigns.

The Tyson Library is available for use during office hours, although closed to the public for now because of the pandemic. But once we are COVID-free, or reach herd immunity, feel free to ask for the key at the Cathedral office. Books are borrowed on a trust system—simply sign them out under your name and contact details.

Almost zero books go missing, but if they do, rest assured Vanda and her team (me) will pursue you...!

Happy reading!





Farewell and Welcome

Text by Staff Reporter

On 17th July 2021, a special lunch was held at the Hong Kong Country Club for the retirement of Viola Ip, Executive Administrator; Lester Leung, accountant; and Elisa Cheuk, Dean's secretary of St John's Cathedral. Members of the Cathedral family gathered together to pay tribute to their significant contributions to the Cathedral over the years. The Dean remarked in his speech at the lunch that Elisa would stay for another year to support his work. Being an instrumental part of the staff team, Viola and Lester will be dearly missed.

Meanwhile, the Cathedral family welcomed two young faces this summer. Bowie Yu Po Yi (庾寶兒), our new receptionist, now greets everyone who comes to the office with her friendly smile, while Kevin Lau Sai Hin (劉世顯) fills the place left by Lester as our new accountant.

'I appreciate the chance to be part of the St John's family. With such a quiet and secluded environment, I always feel relaxed when entering the Cathedral. I believe that peace comes from within.' Bowie said she's learning to fit in at this peaceful workplace.



Our new accountant also seems excited to come on board. Kevin said 'I am extremely honoured and happy to join St John's Cathedral as the new accountant. I am glad to be able to work with you all and to make a contribution. I look forward to working with our dynamic staff and continuing the outstanding work that is taking place at the Cathedral.'



Volunteers Wanted for

Care
Love
Action
Responsibility
Effort
Service

CLARES is one of the long standing lay-led ministries of St John's Cathedral. Formed on 8th October 1962 by Shirley Till, Dean Barry Till's wife, and a few ladies, the group aimed to gather volunteers together to make use of their time and talents to serve the needs of society. Their ethos is truly reflected in the name of the group: CLARES which stands for Care, Love, Action, Responsibility, Effort and Service.

As reported in *St John's Review* in November 1962, 'this is not an inward-looking group or a pious huddle, but something which is outward looking, looking in fact for responsible service in the church and in the community.' An example of their early initiatives, proposed in 1962, were a series of fund-raising activities for the purchase of a minibus that was used for promoting the diocese, and transport of poor patients for hospital visits.

Since 1969, the group has been running the Castaways Charity Shop to raise funds for different charities in Hong Kong. On Wednesdays, volunteers gather at the shop, located next to the Li Hall, to sort and prepare the donated items for sale. From designer labels to bric-a-brac, you will

find hidden treasures in a visit to Castaways. Funds raised from the sale of donated goods will be used to support local charities.

As The Revd Hugh Phillipson pointed out in his sermon for the 50th anniversary of CLARES, 'Finding members who are willing to lead CLARES is a particular problem... But CLARES has a great tradition of adapting its role to meet new outreach needs, and to tailor its work to match its resources. This has been the case in recent years.'



If you are interested in volunteering and supporting the ministries of CLARES, please contact Stella Carter or Ellen Zinke through the Cathedral office (Tel: 2523 4157).

Opening hours of Castaways:

- Wednesday 12.00 noon till 2.30pm
- Thursday 12.00 noon till 2.30pm
- Friday 12.00 noon till 2.30pm
- Saturday 10.00am till 12.00 noon
- Sunday 10.00am till 11.45am

In Memory of The Revd Canon Stephen Sidebotham

It is with great sadness that members of St John's Cathedral mourn the passing of The Revd Canon Stephen Sidebotham, former Dean of the Cathedral, who died at the age of 86 in England on 9th July 2021.

As the Dean of St John's in 1976-1982 and 2003-2005, Canon Stephen was a trusted shepherd and a dear friend to many in Hong Kong. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Peggy and his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



School Talks on the Use of Internet

From February to July 2021, St John's Cathedral Life Enrichment Centre (LEC) has provided school talks to more than 1,000 students on a variety of topics about internet addiction and puberty.



Students participated actively during Zoom talks. Some participants mentioned that due to COVID-19 pandemic, they were more likely to become addicted to the internet and could not control themselves. Some of them even admitted that they had experienced problems about social media addiction, overspending online, online security, online dating, etc.

To avoid over-dependence on the internet, several strategies were suggested:

- Set a time limit on the use of electronic devices and WiFi
- Develop healthy habits and interests, other than gaming or internet related activities
- Hang out with friends and families

To assess whether you spend too much time on the internet, please take reference from the IGDS0-SF link below and QR code. If you have further questions, please consult professionals regarding the issue.



<https://www.halleypontes.com/igds9sf>

School Projects

There are two ongoing school projects with St Paul's Co-educational College and St Paul's College.

Love without Boundary

Ten students were recruited from St Paul's Co-educational College for the Life Building Mentorship Programme. They have attended a variety of programmes, receiving support and life coaching from a group of trained mentors from the Cathedral.



Sailing with God's Words

The project, 'To the Depth of Water – Youth Sailing Project' commenced in July 2021. The project equips students not only with sailing skills, but also the ability to appreciate nature and to reflect on life. It is reminiscent of the story about Peter in the Bible and Proverbs 18:4 – 'The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.'



Future Activities

LEC Guided Tour Ambassador Scheme

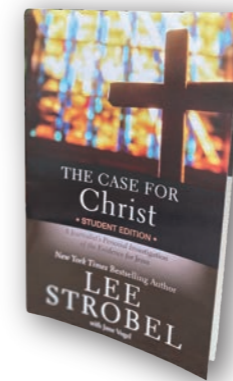
Several ambassadors of LEC have been trained to support free guided tours at the Cathedral. These tours will be promoted in schools and other organisations, to let more people know about the Cathedral. If you are interested in the tour and in knowing more about the Cathedral and LEC, please contact the Cathedral office.

Beat Drug Fund Project

The Governing Committee of the Beat Drugs Fund Association has approved LEC's funding application for an anti-drug project which runs from August 2021 to August 2022. There will be a mass programme called the 'TEENS Talk' competition to be launched this winter for international and EM schools. In addition, there will also be talks and an education programme for parents. If anyone is interested in participating in or supporting the programme, please feel free to contact Miss Vanice Chan of LEC (email: vanicechan@stjohnlec.com).

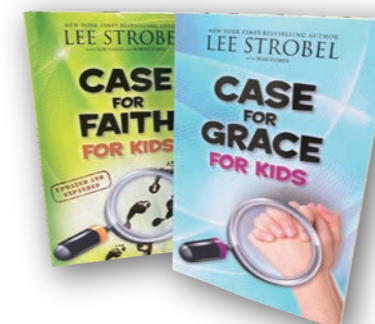
The Case for Christ

Was the bible just made up? Did Jesus actually do the things the bible claims? Was he a good man, a lunatic, or God? Former atheist Lee Strobel's initial intention was aimed to disprove his wife's Christian belief in 'God'. However, as evidence from history, science and literature is unveiled, Strobel's heart changed. Here, he presents young student readers with 'The Case for Christ'. Catered towards young readers, this edition is concise, direct and digestible. Strobel discusses the biblical accuracy and legitimacy of Jesus. He educates readers through summaries, concise points and references to specific books of the bible.



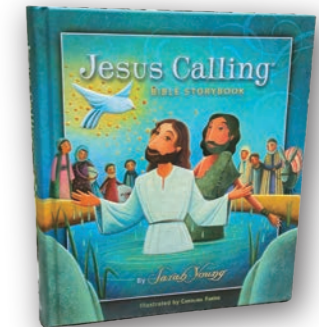
The Case for Faith and The Case for Grace

'Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.' (Hebrews 11.1). Grace is an undeserved gift from God, whereby we, as sinners, are saved through Christ Jesus. These two books, 'The Case for Faith' and 'The Case for Grace' are written in simple language, easy for young readers to understand. Author Lee Strobel addresses difficult questions that even adults struggle to answer. Will God even forgive my worst sins? Can you still have doubts as a Christian? Why does God allow suffering? Strobel unpacks these questions through stories from everyday people. Strobel provides ways to apply God's word in everyday life, and likewise, includes questions for reflection and contemplation. Both books will enrich young reader's faith and show them that God's love and grace is for all.



Jesus Calling - Bible Storybook

Suitable for ages 4 and up, this storybook bible introduces children to God's word through colourful and eye-catching illustrations. Each story is paired with children's devotions that will assist young readers in understanding Jesus and God's amazing love for us! This high quality hardback edition is a beautiful way for children to hold God's word in their hands, and for them to get to know Jesus.



Stories Jesus Told - Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen

Jesus was known to be great with and adored by children! Many of Jesus' teachings were taught by parables. This series has therefore remained faithful to Jesus' original teachings by recreating His parables as storybook illustrations for children. These short, funny and simple stories are a great way for children to access and remember Jesus' teachings. The series comprises 7 separate books, and 1 additional colouring book for children aged 4-7.

Titles of the series: Ten Silver Coins, The House on the Rock, The Little Gate, The Good Stranger, The Two Sons, The Precious Pearl, The Rich Farmer, Stories Jesus Told Colouring Book.



Reviewed by Giselle Von Huene Chan

A Sunday in the Life of... *Jeannie Chan* Subdeacon

In conversation with Andrew Ashley

A casual enquiry as to whether she 'had time to help out' at St John's one Christmas led to Jeannie Chan becoming a familiar face in the altar party, and a poised and self-assured subdeacon. 'I didn't know anything about serving then,' Jeannie says, 'but it was an honour to be asked to help on Christmas Day. I was very happy to do it.'

Jeannie attended a Catholic school, but baptism came later in the Anglican Church, when she was attending St Paul's Glenealy. Her introduction to St John's was the Education for Ministry (EfM) course, which she took while a parishioner at St Paul's.

It was at EfM that Jeannie met then Head Server, Hessler Lee, who asked her to help out at the altar that Christmas. This was Jeannie's first experience of serving and she took to it enthusiastically, spending more and more time at the Cathedral. 'I enjoyed the fellowship that developed at St John's, and I moved my church membership there around the time that Bishop Matthias arrived.'

Jeannie had already been serving at St John's for some time by then, and had quickly become proficient. 'I read the handbook, had some on-the-job training from Hessler, and learned a lot from following the others. I also started assisting at the morning services on Wednesdays and Fridays, so I learned more and became more involved.'



The COVID-19 pandemic has, of course, had a major impact on our worship, as on so many areas of life. Jeannie points out that since livestreamed services started, Marques Ng—'an excellent subdeacon!'—has been very busy with the intricacies of webcasting. As a result, Jeannie is taking the role of subdeacon much more frequently. 'Marques and James are so much more experienced but it's always me!' she says. Jeannie is clearly content with her workload, however.

As well as the demanding role of subdeacon, Jeannie is experienced in all the serving functions, except that of thurifer, which still seems to be a task for the guys. 'Evelyn and I would like to learn—one day!' says Jeannie.

When not at the altar at St John's, Jeannie works in membership sales at Pure Fitness and Pure Yoga. She is much more enthusiastic, however, when talking about Jake, her Shiba Inu, a breed of hunting dog native to Japan.

'Shiba Inus are usually compact dogs,' Jeannie notes, 'but Jake is humungous. I thought he must be mixed with another breed, he's so big.' A DNA test established that Jake is indeed a thoroughbred. Apparently Shiba Inus of substantial size are often found in Japan, though they are less common elsewhere.

Jeannie talks very affectionately of her canine companion. 'I often call him Jakey because he's such a cutie, despite his huge size.' Walking with Jakey is Jeannie's way of winding down and relaxing.

When asked if she might one day seek ordination to the priesthood, Jeannie's response is both immediate and very definite: 'Well... of course not!' She adds, recalling the EfM course that brought her to St John's, that she loves to serve the church and that every one of us, priest or lay, has a valuable contribution to make.



Major Services at St John's & Daughter Churches

St John's Cathedral

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

- 14 SEP** **Holy Cross Day**
7.30pm Sung Eucharist
- 19 SEP** **Dedication Festival**
9.00am Sung Eucharist
5.00pm Festal Evensong
- 29 SEP** **St Michael & All Angels**
7.30pm Sung Eucharist
- 03 OCT** **The 18th Sunday after Trinity**
11.45am Blessing of Animals
- 10 OCT** **Harvest Thanksgiving**
9.00am Worship for All/
Responsorial Eucharist
- 25 OCT** **HKSKH Anniversary**
7.30pm Sung Eucharist
- 31 OCT** **All Saints' Sunday**
9.00am Sung Eucharist
- 02 NOV** **All Souls' Day**
7.30am Sung Eucharist with Requiem
by Alfred Desenclos
- 14 NOV** **Remembrance Sunday**
9.00am Worship for All/
Responsorial Eucharist
5.00pm Remembrance Day Service
- 21 NOV** **Christ the King**
9.00am Sung Eucharist
5.00pm Festal Evensong
with Eucharistic Adoration

Discovery Bay Church

SKH Wei Lun Primary School
Lantau
Tel: 2987 4210
URL: www.discoverybaychurch.org.hk

Every Sunday
10.00am Sung Eucharist

Emmanuel Church

Béthanie Chapel
139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam
Tel: 2523 4157
URL: www.emmanuel.org.hk

Every Sunday
10.15am Sung Eucharist

St Stephen's Chapel

St Stephen's College
22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley
Tel: 2813 0408
URL: www.ststephen.org.hk

Every Sunday
10.00am Sung Eucharist

The Cathedral is closely monitoring the pandemic situation. Please visit our website for the latest updates about service arrangements.



ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
聖公會聖約翰座堂

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