



# St John's Cathedral Stewardship Campaign 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
May the peace of our Lord be with you.

Every year, the Cathedral plans for various gatherings and activities to nurture and develop our congregations in terms of our spirituality and Christian faith. One of the most difficult things to plan for is always related to our finance or donations to the church. As a clergy graduated from theological college and ordained to priestly ministry, we try to avoid talking too much about money. And we will designate these secular monetary tasks to the Trustees, Honorary Treasurer and Council members.

This year, as the Cathedral is planning to re-launch the Stewardship Campaign after not organising it for seven years, we found a heart-warming fact that stewardship is not just about money, but about growth in spiritual lives, knowing about and belonging to the Cathedral community, and devoting our time, energy, talents as well as our resources to our loving God. As we prepare for the Stewardship Campaign 2023, may I invite all of you to join this meaningful and life-widening activity? By this, we can all contribute to this Cathedral and the

three Daughter Churches in a way that this place we call our home can be continually growing and developing by our concerted efforts.

We believe that God blesses all our lives and gives what is needed in our daily life, including clothes, food and drinks, residences and all other basic necessities. Like caring for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field in Matthew chapter 6, our Heavenly Father has always been providing all that we need for each one of us. How can we give thanks to him? For sure we can never thank him enough. My humble suggestion is to join in this year's Stewardship Campaign of the Cathedral and to serve him in all the various possible scenarios. So, this is the time for us to take action and respond to the gracious love and gifts of God. May the good Lord bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours,



**DEAN'S  
MESSAGE**

**Generous, loving God,  
you call us to be good stewards  
of your many gifts to us:  
Open our hearts and minds  
to a deeper appreciation of your countless blessings;  
Transform us by the power of your Spirit  
to live lives of generous sharing,  
and service to our neighbour,  
and may we give back ten-fold the gifts entrusted to us.  
We pray through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

慈愛的上帝，  
你呼召我們作好管家，  
善用你給我們的眾多恩賜：  
求你敞開我們的心思意念，  
讓我們更能以感恩之心，  
領受從你而來、數算不盡的祝福；  
又求你藉聖靈的大能改變我們，  
教我們活出慷慨分享、服侍鄰舍的生活，  
以期將所託付給我們的恩賜加倍地回饋社群。  
奉我們的主耶穌基督而求，  
阿門。

**Mapagpala at mapagmahal na Diyos,  
tinatawag N'yo kaming maging mabuting  
tagapangasiwa  
sa marami N'yong kaloob sa amin:  
Buksan N'yo ang aming mga puso at isipan  
upang higit namin na pahahalagahan ang Inyong hindi-  
mabibilang na mga pagpapala;  
Baguhin N'yo kami sa pamamagitan ng kapangyarihan  
ng Inyong Espiritu  
upang kami ay mamuhay na bukas ang palad  
at naglilingkod sa aming kapwa,  
at nawa'y ibalik namin sa Inyo nang ilang-ulit ang mga  
kaloob na ipinagkatiwala sa amin.  
Sa pamamagitan ni Kristo na aming Panginoon.  
Amen.**

**STEWARDSHIP  
PRAYER**



## Discovery Bay Church

Discovery Bay Church serves the people living in and around the resort. The congregation is a mix of short- and long-term internationals and local people. The church worships in the local Anglican School, Wei Lun Primary School hall. Also present in Wei Lun School is our sister Chinese congregation, Church of Incarnation. Founded in October 1983, it is the oldest church in the resort. It began as a non-denominational church served by a rota of priests and ministers from various denominations. In 1989 it became a daughter church of St John's.

Today the church has an average attendance of about 60 people. The average age of a congregant is probably mid 40's. There is a vibrant children's ministry. Some extremely talented musicians and singers enhance the Sunday worship and enrich the life of the church.



## Emmanuel Church, Pokulam

Emmanuel Church is an English speaking Anglican community serving the western district of Hong Kong Island. We pride ourselves on being a friendly, inclusive community firmly rooted in the Anglican tradition. We welcome visitors as well as permanently residents from all over the world.

In December 2006 the community moved to the beautifully restored neo-Gothic George C. Tso Memorial Chapel at Béthanie, a heritage building built by the French Mission in 1875.

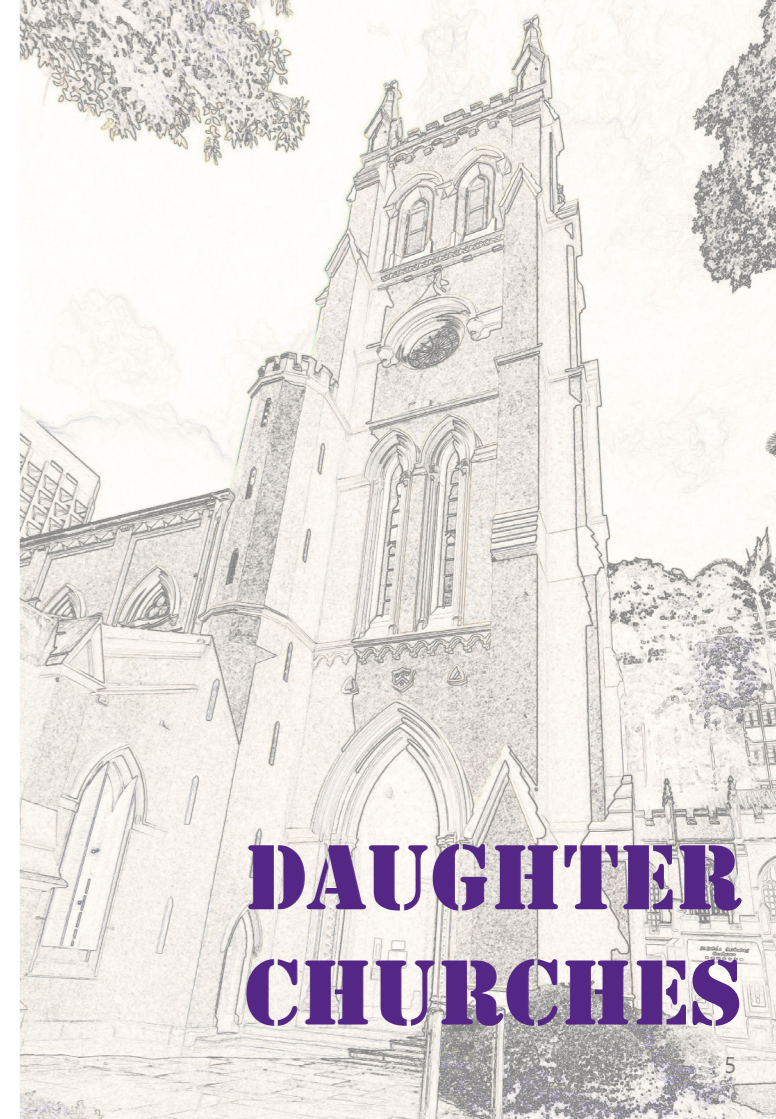
Every Sunday we celebrate a Sung Eucharist and many who come have young families. We encourage all Emmanuel kids to join our Sunday school.



## St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley

St Stephen's is one of the three daughter churches of St John's Cathedral. We meet in the lovely school chapel of St Stephen's College, Stanley.

Built in 1949, the chapel is exactly 100 years younger than the Cathedral. Inside it's beautifully light, with large clear glass windows with views over the sea, hills and islands revealing the beauty of God's creation. The chapel is a wonderful acoustic space for concerts, and on Sundays our worship is enriched by our lovely pipe organ. People come to St Stephen's from all over the Southside and from the city, drawn by our middle Anglican style of worship, and a community where it's easy to make friends.



# Stewardship and the Business of God

*The Revd Will Newman*

St John's Cathedral and the daughter churches need you!

Will you be a good steward, aware of the love of God that surrounds you, thankful for all that God has given you, and willing to give back to God through the Church?

## God's Business

The Church is in business. We're in God's business, the business of holiness. Our work, the business of the Church, is to bring God close to people and people close to God.

- How do we do that? What does God's business look like? What does God deal in?
- Here are three of Jesus' parables that illustrate the qualities that are the business of God.

## Compassion

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10*), the Samaritan sees the man beaten and left for dead by robbers, and he has compassion. While others ignore the man's suffering and pass by on the other side, the Samaritan takes the wounded man to an inn and pays the innkeeper to take care of him, loving the stranger – at a cost to himself.

## Forgiveness

The Prodigal Son (*Luke 15*) wastes his father's money and is reduced to misery and starvation, until he decides to return home. When his father sees him, instead of anger at his son's wastefulness, he forgives and welcomes him back. It's not the way of the world, but it's God's way. God doesn't hold sin against us, his nature is to forgive.

## Generosity

Many people don't like the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard (*Matthew 20*). Those who work only for an hour are given the same wage as those who work all day. It's not fair, and it doesn't make good business sense – but it's how God runs his business. God's priority is generosity.

Compassion, Forgiveness, Generosity – that's our business too.

## Stewardship

How does this relate to Stewardship? In many of Jesus' parables the Steward is a Manager. The Steward takes instructions from the Master, manages the Master's business and puts his plan into operation.

We are Stewards, Jesus is the Master. The plan is for each of us to grow God's business with compassion, forgiveness and generosity.

## God loves a cheerful giver

This is true in whatever way we are giving to God and the Church. At St John's Cathedral we don't tell you how much to give. We encourage generosity. Generosity gives freely. Let's give what we feel good

about giving! St Paul wrote, 'God loves a cheerful giver' (*2 Corinthians 9.7*)

Glad generosity was a hallmark of the first church in Jerusalem:

'Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.'  
(*Acts 2.46-47*)

## Stewardship is...

giving back to God in gratitude for all that you have received. It includes the many ways you can use your Talents, Time and Resources for God.

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

As an international church and mother church of the diocese, we bring together different nationalities and races, and work with our congregations, daughter churches and outreach ministries to spread God's compassion, forgiveness and generosity. Join with us!





## SJC Counselling Service

St John's Cathedral Counselling Service as an outreach ministry provides affordable counselling services to individuals, couples, and families in need. Our calling is to offer safe and confidential support and guidance for our community in Hong Kong.

We offer a wide range of services including individual, couple and family counselling, pre-marital counselling, psychoeducational and Special Educational Needs

assessment, onsite school counselling, Employee Assistance Programs, crisis intervention and family mediation.

With a team of committed and highly competent counsellors and psychologists who speak over 14 languages and dialects, we are experienced in working with a range of issues including emotional and mental health problems, relationship/marital and family therapy, trauma, addiction, and work stress, etc. For more information, please visit: <http://www.sjccs.hk>.

## SJC Life Enrichment Centre

LEC was established in 2018, dedicated to promoting the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of young people. As stipulated in our slogan, 'Aspire to Inspire, Together we Thrive!', we strive to 'Lift up the spirit of youths; Empower and uncover their hidden potential; Console and be their refuge.'

Our services fall into three categories, including:

1. Individual/ coaching services
2. Developmental/ supportive services, and

### 3. Community education services

Another area of our work is the Cathedral youth ministry called 'Among Us'. The group meets every Friday evening. We encourage participants to explore more about faith and to lead a committed life by becoming more involved in different church activities.

The number of our beneficiaries increases every year. In 2022, we served more than 4,000 attendees through various life education programmes. We count on your support to serve the needs of the young people.







## Mission For Migrant Workers

The Mission For Migrant Workers (MFMW) believes that migrant domestic workers (MDWs) are integral in our society and they deserve care, respect and protection. We provide comprehensive services to migrants in distress, empower their communities, promote harmony in households and work for a more multicultural and inclusive society.

We provide welfare assistance, guidance and support to more than 10,000 migrants in distress every year.

Our innovative Give Care to Caregivers service fair mobilises local and expatriate volunteers to cater to health, leisure and social needs of MDWs.

We continuously work to improve social relations of employers and domestic workers believing that Christians hiring migrants have the foundations rooted on Christian faith and values, thereby building harmonious households; as we ensure that both parties are adequately informed about labour laws and are culturally sensitised promoting understanding, mutual trust and respect.

## SJC Bookstore

Our Bookstore serves as the welcoming and visitors' centre for many who come to the Cathedral:

- for some, we are the first stop in their hunt to find one of the other Cathedral's ministries;
- for others, the first stop in tracking down their family histories;
- and yet for a few - people who need someone to talk to - we offer a listening ear.

Prior to the COVID-19, we had nearly 100,000 visitors

every year. We open 363 days all year round except for the two days stock-taking.

We are not just a shop full of religious books. Over 1,000 titles can be found on our shelves, while numerous liturgical items, together with over 8,000 greeting cards and some 35,000 gift items, are also available for our church community. Besides, we sponsor a Charity Christmas Card and Handicrafts Fair in November each year, and hold book fairs in schools and churches to show our supports to the wider-community commitment to **Welcome, Nurture, and Inform.**



# OUTREACH

## Filipino Ministry

St John's is a welcoming church. People of various nationalities come to the Cathedral to worship, to pray, to spend time with God, or even just to rest their weary bodies and minds from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Filipinos are among those who come. Most of them are foreign domestic workers. They visited their parish churches before leaving for overseas work. Many of them sought a church on their first day-off: to thank God for their safe arrival, to pray for their families, and for themselves, as a new chapter in their lives open. Their search led many of them to St John's.

In 1982 the Filipino Fellowship of St John's Cathedral, composed of Filipino Anglicans, was formed. By 1983,

the Cathedral adopted the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) as its outreach ministry, to assist migrant workers in distress.

In 1994, a Filipino priest, the Revd Dwight Q. dela Torre was appointed Chaplain of MFMW, and the first Pilipino Eucharist was celebrated. The Iglesia Filipina Independiente HK Fellowship (IFI-HK Fellowship) was formed later that year. Twenty years on, the Saturday Pilipino Eucharist was introduced. In 2019, the second Filipino priest, the Revd Sharon Langbis was appointed.

Both the Filipino Fellowship and the IFI-HK Fellowship are not only involved in the life and ministry of St John's but also in the wider migrants' community in Hong Kong. The Filipinos who regularly worship at the Cathedral, consider St John's as their spiritual home.

## 中文傳道事工 (Chinese Ministry)

聖約翰座堂在八十年代開始舉行普通話崇拜，之後又加入廣東話崇拜，並藉着查經班及團契等活動牧養本地教友，進一步將福音傳遍華人的社區。弟兄姊妹積極投入教會生活，令座堂事工得以穩定發展。

談及教會的「管家計劃」，有些人會把它與籌款掛鈎；然而在聖經中管家所強調的，不單是金錢上的奉獻，更是才能和

時間的奉獻。就如我們在教會中，有許多人參與主日學的事工，亦有弟兄姊妹擔任侍從、詩班員、獻捐員和招待人員。在教會，這些工作都是需要大家支持，以及出一分力的事工。而「管家」到最後，所述說的是你與教會的關係，如果教會是你的家，我們自然而會為這個家去出一分力，奉獻自己。願意我們都能讓教會成為家，讓我們成為這個家的一份子。

# HONORARY TREASURER'S MESSAGE

St John's Cathedral opened for divine service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1849, and will be celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. Together with its daughter churches and outreach ministries, the Cathedral has been a place for worship, community service, education and fellowship for the Hong Kong community, and it continues to stand out as an anchor for both the community and our personal lives.

In the seven years since our last Stewardship Campaign, we have seen protests, pandemic, inflation and many other difficult events, but we remain strong in our faith and we have been striving to continue to serve our parishioners and the wider community.

Besides having over 20 services every week in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Tagalog, the Cathedral is operating four Outreach Ministries serving the community in all walks of life: St John's Cathedral Counselling Service, the Life Enrichment Centre,

Mission for Migrant Workers, and the Cathedral Bookstore.

Currently it costs around HK\$80,000 a day to keep St John's Cathedral's operations running. In addition to your support of our religious and outreach programmes, we also need to constantly maintain and upgrade our Cathedral building and its necessary facilities. We have been prudent and well-controlled with the spending of your donations, and we ask for your continuous support.

We would appreciate it if you would make a Stewardship pledge during this campaign.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Sang  
Honorary Treasurer



## STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Amount and frequency (please tick as appropriate)

I pledge to contribute HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly     Monthly     Quarterly     Annually

### I would like my contribution to be designated to

St John's Cathedral     Discovery Bay Church

Emmanuel Church     St Stephen's Chapel

### Method of payment

Envelope(s)     Banker's Standing Order

*The envelope(s) or banker's standing order with your stewardship reference number will be mailed to the registered address above.*

Commencement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please return this form to the Cathedral attention to the Stewardship Secretary at  
4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong*

## LEAVING A LEGACY IN YOUR WILL TO ST JOHN'S

If you believe that St John's Cathedral should be conserved, protected and accessible for future generations to enjoy, you can help secure our future by leaving a gift to the Cathedral in your Will. Legacies of all sizes are a valuable source of funds for us, and there are many ways your selfless and long-lasting gift will help and support our ministry.

St John's is a place of historical significance in Hong Kong and remains a steadfast destination and sanctuary for pilgrims, learning, music and quiet contemplation. Our generation has a responsibility to ensure that the tradition of excellence in worship and choral music, Christian education, pastoral care and outreach ministry begun by previous generations are continued here at St John's now, and for the future.

In leaving a gift in your Will to St John's, you pledge your support to this major landmark of human achievement in the heart of the city, thus contributing to the eternal legacy of this great place.

The priorities of our work and planned projects will evolve over time, subject to the changing needs of the building, the local community, and our visitors - therefore you may like to consider simply leaving a gift to St John's for its general purposes. This will allow us to make the best use of your gift at the time we receive it. However, if you have an interest in

a specific area of our work that you would like to support, we suggest the following wording:

I give to St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, (state the % residue or sum of money you wish to give) and request without obligation that it be used by St John's Cathedral:

- To support St John's Cathedral's many ministries
- To conserve the fabric of St John's Cathedral
- To support the St John's Cathedral's worship and music, including the organ
- To advance the St John's Cathedral's education and training programmes


**SPECIAL NOTE:** Should you be a UK or USA taxpayer interested in leaving St John's a gift in your Will, it may be possible to make your gift even more efficient for tax purposes through special arrangements.

If you require more information about how you can support the Cathedral, either with a gift in your Will or through a regular pledge, please contact our Executive Administrator, Thomas Li, at the Cathedral Office - Tel: 2523 4157

*St John's Cathedral is registered with the Government of HKSAR as a charity under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.*







**Each of you must give  
as you have made up your mind,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.**

*(2 Corinthians 9.7)*