

In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Winter 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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MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER



The Michaelmas Fair 2017 was a great day out and a fundraiser *par excellence*. The fair is a wonderfully visible - and audible - expression of St John Cathedral's mission to be a place of God's Grace in the heart of Hong Kong. Read full report on page 4 to page 8.



Seeing the growing need for the Prison Ministry Scholarship Fund, the Cathedral hosted a fundraising concert and raised over \$1,000,000 in September 2017. Learn about the concert on page 10 to page 11.

In Touch

The Michaelmas Fair has been with us forever. Along with the Council and the Sidemen's Guild, it must be one of the oldest institutions in St John's, and every year the magazine runs a big photo spread featuring the day. This year though, we thought we might literally revisit the Fair. We asked Andrew Ashley to spend much of the day there and see as much as he could. Appropriately, though Andrew has been coming to the Cathedral for some time now, this was the first time he had actually been to the Michaelmas Fair, so his account is the fresh view of a new visitor. We hope it informs those who have never been, and reminds those who have not been for a while of what they are missing. There are those, like the late, great Bishop R.O. Hall who for some reason disliked church fetes, who will remain reluctant to eat into a precious Saturday. Yet it's not like a party congress. You don't have to buy into the whole day. Andrew's article makes it clear that it's a wonderful event for popping into and cherry picking between books, burgers, bands and face painting.

We record two other joyful events; the ordination of Walter Lau as a deacon and Harry Ching as a priest. Both men are closely associated with the Cathedral, and yet the ceremonies took place at opposite ends of the world. Walter was admitted to the diaconate on the balmy evening of All Saints' Day in St John's. Harry had gone on to test his vocation further in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and was priested in Dubai, as described by Father Robert who attended, along with other members of our congregation.

Closer to the beginning of the journey of faith is St John's new course, which we feature in this edition. It is simply and appropriately titled 'Faith Begins'. It aims to be a fuller and more discerning successor to the 'Genesis' course. Whilst the latter mixed the curious and the committed throughout, just the first part of 'Faith Begins' an introduction to Jesus, is

available for all. Part Two is for those who have decided they are ready to go on to baptism and confirmation.

We feature faith in action with an article on the Prison Ministry Concert held to raise funds for prisoners' learning materials. The Prison Ministry is remarkable for its directness. Ordinary free men and women of the parish walk through a gate into a daunting world which is the obverse of what they know, and sit with and listen to people whose circumstances are the stuff of bad dreams. Our article records the gratitude of the prisoners. From what the volunteers say, they are grateful for the opportunity to do this and bear witness in a tough place.

It's more than a year since Maggie Chan was appointed as Communications Officer at St John's. We decided that it was time for Maggie to explain what is being done on that front. Since the Communications Officer is also editor of 'In Touch', that was not difficult to arrange.

Communications strategies are not magic wands. They are an accumulative process. One initiative builds on another. The article reports on the Cathedral's increased exposure to online, print and TV media. It is careful, (and some Cathedral members may not have seen it at all), but it does make an impact on the wider world.

'In Touch' does as well, so we are told. Over the last three years, we have even caused the odd moment of mild controversy, it seems. Forgive us that. It comes from giving the fullest coverage we can manage and it shows there is breath in us.

Have a thoughtful Advent and may it lead you to a joyful Christmas.

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

Mission Statement, St John's Cathedral

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

One of the great privileges of belonging to a historical community like St John's Cathedral is being allowed to share in its history and continuity. We had a wonderful Michaelmas Fair on 21st October, with several thousand visitors enjoying a fun-filled day. The first Michaelmas Fair was held nearly 80 years ago! A couple of months ago, we welcomed back the Revd Frank Roe, chaplain from 1960 to 1964. He talked about welcoming 300 young people to the newly built New Hall, which is now the administration building. About a month ago, I joined several dozen parishioners and family members to celebrate Mrs Cecilia Kwok's 96th birthday. Filled with joy and energy, she recited Psalm 103 with a loud voice praising God at the party. She was the choirmistress at St John's from 1954 to 1978, who led our music standard to a new horizon. In my recent trip to the UK, I had a wonderful visit with our former dean The Very Revd and Mrs Stephen Sidebotham (served as chaplain in 1964-69, and dean in 1976-82, 2003-2005) as well as Canon and Mrs Christopher Hall, son of Bishop R. O Hall who was bishop of Hong Kong 1932-66. And then, of course, there are people like Mr Fook Hing Li and Mrs June Li, who have been active at the cathedral for about 70 years. They could all tell you plenty of colourful stories about this community. I find meeting these people a humbling experience.

On All Saints' Day, it was of great joy taking part in the ordination of Walter Lau to the sacred order of diaconate. Walter came to the faith and was baptised at St John's and now will be one of the next generation of clergy in the church. Along with many, he will carry the faith baton for many more years to come. They are all part of the cloud of witnesses, and part of the catholic community of the church, who have carried the love of God and the faith of the church in whatever era and circumstances they found themselves. We give thanks to God for all those who came before us and will come after us. One thing worth remembering is that their faith and witness were not just human endeavours. Their Christian love and service were rooted in their relationship with the living Christ, the incarnate God.

Soon we will enter Advent, and Christmas is also fast approaching, a time to remember and celebrate the coming and the birth of our Lord. I find it a great comfort that this loving God is not only a God of the past, but one who lives among us today through the work of the Holy Spirit. The incarnation of our Lord is alive and present, and each generation of Christians, including those within the cathedral community, are witnessing Jesus and serving our God deeply rooted in that. God is here and we live and move and have our being in him, through him and with him.

During the busy weeks coming up, I encourage you to pause and reflect the following:

Remind yourself that God is here and he loves you. Thank God for precisely that.

Jesus is love and he is here. Give thanks for his birth and his incarnational presence in your life.

The Holy Spirit is alive. Ask him how he would empower you to further God's kingdom and transform the world around you.

Have a spirit-filled Advent, blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Dean Matthias +



各位:

我們作為聖約翰座堂的一分子，得以見證座堂的歷史，肩負歷史的傳承，甚感榮幸。回顧剛剛過去的日子，聖約翰座堂賣物會於10月21日圓滿結束，數千人來到座堂與我們同樂，第一屆賣物會舉行至今將近80年！就在同一月份，我們歡迎Frank Roe牧師重遊香港，他於1960年至1964年曾任聖約翰座堂聖品，言談間，他向我們提起當時在新建的禮堂接待300名年輕人來青少年聚會，新禮堂就在現時座堂的行政大樓。

近一個月前，郭鄭蘊禮女士渡過96歲生日，數十名教友及親友為她慶祝，我也有份參與。在生日會上，她高聲誦讀詩篇103篇，以稱頌上主，與我們分享她的喜樂及力量。於1954年至1978年間，她是聖約翰座堂的詩班長，帶領座堂的音樂水平邁向另一層次。最近我到英國工作時，探訪了前座堂主任牧師薛本德（1964-1969年擔任聖約翰座堂聖品，1976-1982年、2003-2005年擔任座堂主任牧師）及其太太，也探訪了何明華會督（1932-1966年擔任會督）的兒子何基道法政牧師及其太太，彼此享受一段美好的相交時光。

數算起來，還有許多其他熱心的教友，包括李福慶伉儷，在過去70年來，他們一直積極參與座堂的崇拜及活動，關於座堂的事務，這些教友可以如數家珍，把其中一些經典的片段娓娓道來。三人行，必有我師，每逢與這些教友相聚，都讓我看到自己的渺小。

香港聖公會香港島教區按立聖職聖禮在諸聖日舉行，劉偉倫弟兄獲按立為會吏，讓人深感欣慰。劉偉倫弟兄於聖約翰座堂領洗，現在他成為新一代的聖品，在往後的日子中，他將與其他人一起接棒事奉上帝。這許多的見證人就如同雲彩，是大公會的一分子，無論身處何種境況，他們都帶着上帝的愛及教會的信仰。

我們為前人及後來者感謝上帝，值得記住的是，他們的信仰及見證並非只靠人的努力，他們的愛和服侍植根於他們與耶穌基督的關係，那位活着、道成肉身的上帝。

將臨期將至，轉眼便是聖誕節，在這段期間，我們警醒、記念及慶祝耶穌基督的降生。叫我感鼓舞的是，充滿慈愛的上帝並非只掌管過去，祂更透過聖靈工作，活在我們中間。上帝道成肉身，祂正存在於此時此刻。每一代的基督徒，包括座堂的教友，也在見證及服侍耶穌基督。上帝是昔在今在的上帝，我們生活、行動、存留，都在乎祂，祂與我們同在。

在未來數星期忙碌的日子裏，我鼓勵你稍作停頓，按以下步驟反思：

提醒自己上帝的同在，祂愛你，並為此感謝上帝。

耶穌是愛，祂與你同在。為祂的降生感恩，為祂在你生命中道成肉身的臨在感恩。

聖靈是永活的，求問祂可以怎樣為你加添力量，使你進深追求上帝的國，並為你的周遭帶來轉變。

祝你在將臨期被聖靈充滿、聖誕節滿有祝福，新年有喜樂平安！

座堂主任牧師

謝子和 謹啟

Michaelmas Fair 2017

TEXT BY / ANDREW ASHLEY

PHOTOS BY / BILLY LEUNG, HERBERT TAM & STEPHEN LEE



‘Being Chairman of the Michaelmas Fair is one of the most humbling experiences in my life. My hearty thanks to Patron Mrs June Li for her guidance and support. Special thanks to the late Mr Derek Too from whom I have learnt a great deal. I thank the committee members for their tremendous help and support – we had a lot of fun together. My sincere gratitude to the Guest of Honour Mrs Anne Hsieh Kwan and to kind donors who so willingly made remarkable contributions to the Fair, the Guard of Honour the 36th HK Scout Troop, Mr Gareth Williams and his band, the principals, teachers and students of schools who organised and helped at stalls, the Cathedral Café, and those who provided live entertainments, and brothers and sisters from various ministries of the Cathedral. Many thanks to Dean Matthias and all the clergy of the Cathedral and the daughter churches for their prayers and moral support. Last but not least, my sincere thanks to Mrs Viola Ip and her team of staff, whose unfailing support is very much appreciated and the friendship developed will be long valued.’

Margaret Sang, Chairman of the Organising Committee



When Dean Matthias commissioned the Michaelmas Fair Committee at St Michael and All Angels, he referred to ‘this act of witness and outreach... .. to those within our community and beyond’. Those words tell us what St John’s Michaelmas Fair is all about. It’s a great day out and a fundraiser par excellence. But it’s far more than that. The fair is a wonderfully visible – and audible – expression of the Cathedral’s mission to be a place of God’s Grace in the heart of Hong Kong.

This year’s fair was a triumphant affirmation of this role. From the start of the festivities, when the 36th Hong Kong Scouts, proudly bearing their new flags, formed a Guard of Honour as the Platform Party processed to the North Lawn, to a brass fanfare and a spirited rendition of Scotland the Brave, there was an air of suppressed excitement ready to burst forth into a day of fabulous fun.

Committee Chair Margaret Sang gave a splendidly multilingual welcome and thanked her amazing committee for all their hard work, while Patron June Li reminded us of the year-round activity that makes the fair possible.

A sadder note was struck when heartfelt tributes were paid to Derek Too, the former Principal of St Stephen’s College Stanley, a St John’s stalwart and tireless supporter of the Michaelmas Fair, who passed away this year. As Margaret said, ‘I hope Derek is watching us today and smiling’.

Flowers were presented – (the stunning floral bowl for Mrs Li completely obscured the two Sunday School members bearing it) – and it was time for Guest of Honour Anne Hsieh Kwan to open the fair. Mrs Kwan gave a charming speech, there was a joyful burst of sound – cheering, cathedral bells, Jeremiah Clarke’s Trumpet Voluntary, Auld Lang Syne on the bagpipes – and the Michaelmas Fair 2017 was underway.

A feature of this year’s fair soon emerged: the price on the Dean’s head. No, no one’s hired a hit man but some mischievous members of the Emmanuel congregation were inspired by their face painting stall to offer a bounty of \$1000 if Dean Matthias had his face painted. Always ready to support a good cause, the Dean agreed but he was determined to make it pay. When told that the

bounty had reached \$2,000, he replied “It needs to go up!” Dean Matthias finally succumbed at \$3,000 and allowed face painter Aggie to decorate his forehead with Batman. It seemed appropriate for a priest to identify as a caped crusader.

It’s impossible in a short article to cover every aspect of the Michaelmas Fair and everyone who so cheerfully gave their time and energy. There was a kaleidoscopic array of activities and performances, plus almost endless scope for shopping and eating. Perhaps the day can be summed up as a fabulous festival of fun, food, and foraging for bargains.

Fun came in many forms – especially for the younger fair goers. Squeals of delight from the Bouncy Castle suggested that the kids were getting their money’s worth at \$20 for 10 minutes, and the Emmanuel face painting stall was perpetually occupied. Spiderman, Batman and tigers were popular for boys, while girls were adorned with flowers, rainbows and unicorns. The creations at BIG Idea balloon sculpture included flowers, puppies, and ladybirds, as well as characters such as Ariel (the Little Mermaid) and Spiderman.



Games ranged from traditional fete diversions to some imaginative new ideas. To mention just a few, punters could win candy at the Grasshopper Ping Pong Challenge, \$5 for five balls, or try their luck with St Stephen's Crazy Cans – knock 'em down and win a prize. They could go for the innovative Smart Nose, requiring the identification of a range of aromas, or play mini basketball and test their knowledge of different food groups.

Speaking of food, it was everywhere. The Food Zone offered many tasty options, from Chinese delicacies such as siu mai and curry fish balls to Singapore noodles, plus chocolate flapjack and bubble waffles for those with a sweeter tooth. The Cathedral Café did a brisk trade in tea, coffee and sandwiches, while the Scouts' hot dog stall showed the cosmopolitan nature of the Michaelmas Fair. The hot dogs were joined by Cumberland sausage, Nürnberger bratwurst and even a veggie dog.

The Wine & Beer Garden was busy throughout the day, as people relaxed

and caught up with friends. The homemade produce stall did a roaring trade in irresistible treats such as Seville orange marmalade, Christmas puddings and fabulous cakes – chocolate, mango pumpkin, fruit, and many more.

This brings us to foraging for all sorts of wonderful bargains. This year's Michaelmas Fair was a shoppers' paradise. Li Hall was transformed into an Aladdin's Cave packed with stalls offering Christmas decorations and presents, bric a brac and a wide range of household goods and toys. An impressive display of stamps and coins attracted a lot of attention.

Other buying opportunities included Hong Kong's biggest secondhand book sale, made possible by months of work sorting thousands of books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and even jigsaws. The Cathedral porch hosted a plant stall full of gorgeous orchids, handicrafts included gift bags and Christmas stockings decorated with cute felt animals, and the Cubs' secondhand toy stall clearly made many children very happy.

A non-stop programme of performances in the North Garden provided a break from playing, eating and shopping. Instrumental ensembles of every description, choral groups, all kinds of dance shows – ballet, Filipino and North Korean folk dances, Morris dancing, even a dance by a cute green and silver lion, and a kung fu display provided both excellent entertainment and a reminder of the Michaelmas Fair's gloriously multicultural nature. Heartfelt thanks and congratulations are due to all the performers.

Now, back to the Michaelmas Fair being a key part of the Cathedral's mission. As ever, this year's fair was a huge community event, truly cosmopolitan and a marvellous combination of tradition and modernity. The overall impression was one of sheer numbers, variety, fun, good humour – and above all, an infectious joyful atmosphere. This is why both Fr Robert and Fr Des reported fair goers asking for information about St John's and its services. The Michaelmas Fair was helping the Cathedral fulfill its mission.





Michaelmas
Fair 2017



HIDDEN MINISTRY

THE MAN WITH THE BADGE AND THE BAG

TEXT BY / ROGER COLE

It's not always the man who appears with the collection bag during the Offertory hymn. It can sometimes be a lady and that's not all that either of them do.

Members of the Guild of Sidesmen, (and there are 43 of us at present), all have an important and particular role to play in any service at the Cathedral on Sundays.

Apart from offering a welcome to the congregation and new comers at the west door and distributing the pew sheets, we are responsible for the smooth running of the service, ensuring that everyone, where possible, has a seat and we are ready to assist people during the service, if required.

A head sidesman is rostered at all services to organise the other sidesmen to collect the offertory and usher the congregation at communion. This is an important part of our duties, because it ensures that the distribution of communion is carried out in a dignified and orderly way. Another important, (and not always easy aspect of our work), is crowd control at large services at Christmas and Easter. Following the directions of the sidesmen, as the order of service sometimes asks, is necessary for safety and comfort when numbers are large and we are sometimes put in

the position of quietly but firmly having to tell a worshipper that no, this is not an area where they can sit or stand or walk through.

At the end of the service the sidesmen on duty retire to the administrative offices to count and record the total amount of money collected during the service, and swap sidesmen's tales. Though much of what we do is regular and sensible as are the congregations we serve, there are amusing diversions from the normal, which require attention or can be let go. At Midnight Mass one year during a pause in the sermon, a member of the congregation who was quite over full of Christmas cheer asked the preacher to 'Give us a song!' It was his only request of the evening and was let go.

In any normal month a member of the Guild can expect to be called upon to serve at two services, and possibly more when there are Feast Days and special services.

We are always looking for new members to join us in this important work, and if you feel that you would like to contribute to the life of the Cathedral as a member of the Guild of Sidesmen then please let Elisa, the Dean's secretary know.





FUNDRAISING CONCERT TO BENEFIT PRISONERS

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY / MAGGIE CHAN

For years the Prison Ministry Scholarship Fund set up by St John's Cathedral has been supporting prisoners to further their study. Seeing the growing need for the fund, the Cathedral hosted a fundraising concert for the Scholarship Fund and raised over \$1,000,000 in September 2017.

The previous fundraising concert for the Prison Ministry Scholarship Fund was held at the Cathedral in 2012. This year's concert featured Dr Moses Cheng, Ms Nancy Loo, The Pelicans, and Die Jungen Konzertisten, joined by St John's Cathedral Choir, St John's Cathedral Children's Choir, and St Stephen's Chorale.

Hundreds of guests attended the concert. Amongst them were the Commissioner of Correctional Services Mr Lam Kwok-leung, and General Manager (Industries & Vocational Training) of Correctional Services Mr Ma Ka-kit. Mrs Christine Chan, Chairperson of the organising committee, and the Revd Will Newman expressed their gratitude to the donors and audience at the opening of the concert.





During the concert, an ex-prisoner Andrew Lee was invited to share his past experience with the audience. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990 and spent nearly 25 years in prison. When he felt almost hopeless in life, he met Will Newman and other Christians during their visit to Stanley Prison years ago. Later, he became a Christian and devoted his time to studying.

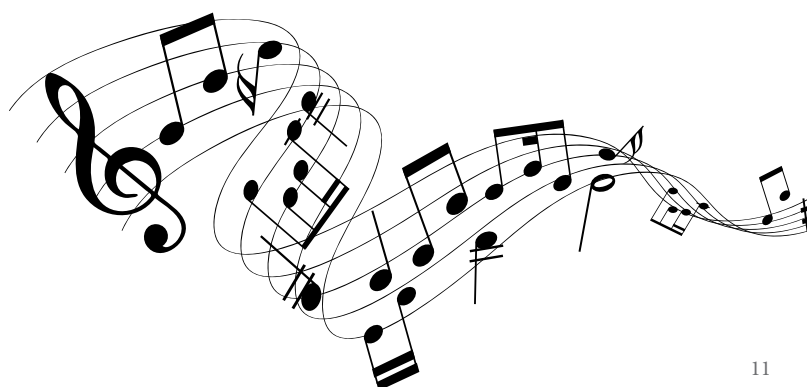
'To study in prison is not easy, especially when it comes to the courses that are really expensive. Thank you so much for supporting us to pursue our dreams,' Andrew said. He was released in 2015. Now he is a student in a divinity school, hoping that someday he may serve God in prison ministry.

Other prisoners shared similar feelings to Andrew's. In their letters written in prison and mailed to St John's, they extended thanks to the donors, brothers and sisters of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, and the organising committee.

One of the prisoners, Jerry, wrote, 'Study in prison is not an easy task, especially when one encounters financial

difficulties. Luckily, with your generous help, I can continue my study and have a chance to achieve higher academic standards: an MBA programme in a local university.' Another prisoner Raymond promised that 'I will study hard, and hope that someday I can have a chance to repay society'.

The proceeds of the Fundraising Concert will go to the Prison Ministry Scholarship Fund. The organising committee included Mrs Christine Chan, Mrs Betty Cheng, Mr Ronald Yuen, the Revd Will Newman, Mrs Viola Ip and Mr Felix Yueng.



TAKING THE STEPS INTO PRIESTHOOD

PHOTOS BY / ECHO, LOIS MAK

Autumn 2017 saw the ordinations of Walter Lau and Harry Ching, two familiar faces to congregation members and friends of St John's Cathedral. Representatives of the Cathedral celebrated with the duo as they took their steps into the priesthood.

In their articles, Fr Desmond Cox and Fr Robert Martin extend warm congratulations to Walter and Harry, and write about the spiritual journeys of Walter and Harry from lay ministry to ordained ministry.



ORDINATION OF WALTER LAU TO THE DIACONATE FROM SENIOR POLICE DETECTIVE TO ORDAINED MINISTRY

TEXT BY / FR DESMOND COX

St John's Cathedral's congregation, together with the clergy and people of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, witnessed the Right Revd Andrew Chan ordaining Walter Lau Wai-lun to the Diaconate in the Church of God on All Saints' Day, 1st November 2017.

Walter comes from the congregation of St John's Cathedral, where he heard God's call to test his vocation to the ordained ministry. After working twenty years in the Hong Kong Police Force (and as a senior detective of the Drug Squad when he resigned), Walter offered himself to the ordained ministry and enrolled in a three-year discernment programme. He then spent another three years studying at Ming Hua Theological College, as well as Trinity College Dublin.

In the Service of Ordination at St John's Cathedral, Walter was ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate. God willing, he

will be ordained Priest after he has served his curacy at HKSXH St Stephen's Church at Bonham Road, Hong Kong Island.

Walter is one of our own who came to faith and was baptised at St John's. Many of us recognise Walter from his serving in public worship as a crucifer, an acolyte or a sub-deacon at the Eucharist.

Members of the Mandarin and Cantonese congregations would have known Walter as their fellowship and study leader, whilst the Cathedral's Council members know Walter from serving with him on the Council. Members from the parish will have met him as one of the coordinators of the Cathedral Parish Team at the annual Provincial Sports Day.

As his home parish, let us offer our warmest congratulations to Walter, and continue to pray for him and his ministry.



回應呼召 承行使命

文：劉偉倫會吏

感謝上帝的呼召和帶領，讓我有機會加入教會、並委身作眾人的僕人，以回應祂的恩典。從蒙召、辨識開始，之後回應、接受裝備，直到現在開始事奉，這刻回頭細看，整個過程都充滿着上帝的福祐，上主一直在我身邊陪伴着我、帶領着我，我深深的感受到，祂那份無限的愛，一直不停地澆灌着我，讓我從心底裏感到被愛，從而更懂得去愛。

記得數年前的一個晚上，我在家中祈禱，在那時候，主呼召了我。當時我只答允主我會追隨祂。我起初的理解是我會盡心盡力事奉祂，並以我有限的能力和時間去服侍教會，及以公餘時間參與事奉和學習。其後的一個中午，我與牧師共晉午膳後，牧師忽然問我有没有想過成為牧者，當刻我便知到這是主奇妙的恩典，一切都是祂的恩典安排，因為在那之前，牧師並未知道我蒙主呼召。

當時我從事警務工作，讓我接觸很多不同的人與事，有喜樂有哀傷、有鼓舞有沮喪、有順境有逆境。當中讓我體會到，在社會上的每個人，都面對着不同的挑戰和困難，大家實在需要主耶穌基督的帶領及幫助，讓哀傷的得安慰，喜樂的存感恩。身為基督徒的我，希望更多的人獲得這份救恩，讓主臨到我們的生命當中。自那刻開始，我積極

回應了上帝的呼召、牧者的邀請，並開始讓牧者帶領我去辨識召命，學習回應主的呼召。

在主的豐盛恩典下，我獲得許多的事奉機會，除了在母堂聖約翰座堂事奉外，我還參與教區的事工以及到其他牧區體驗。這不但讓我認識了很多弟兄姊妹，更從多方面加深了我對教會的了解。另一方面，我亦開始在明華神學院進修學習，神學知識有所長進。其後，我獲得教會的支持，進入明華神學院接受牧職培訓。在這三年的訓練中，我感謝學院裏的每一位導師，為我們神學生提供全面的栽培。在神學知識、靈命建立及牧職實習三方面的裝備下，我更清晰上主交予我的使命，實是任重道遠。在當中我特別要感謝教省及學院的安排，讓我有機會到愛爾蘭作為期半年的交流學習，得以拓闊視野，獲益良多。

每個階段，我都感到上帝的同在，因為身邊的每一位牧者、老師、弟兄姊妹以及與我接觸的人都如上帝差派來的使者，在這條恩典的道路上伴我同行，一起實踐使命。但願主的恩光繼續在我的事奉路上照耀着，並帶領我履行祂所差派的使命，使我常能事主愛人。

ORDINATION OF HARRY CHING



‘Sending down the Holy Spirit upon your servant for the office and work of a priest in your Church.’

TEXT BY / FR ROBERT MARTIN CMP

These are the traditional words of the Ordination Service used when ordaining new priests in the provinces of the Anglican Communion. They were also the words used on Saturday 23rd September when the Reverend Harry Ching Hin-lai was ordained to the priesthood in Dubai UAE.

Fr Harry was ordained by the Right Reverend Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, in Christ Church, Dubai in the presence of family and friends, and the local Anglican congregation. The preacher at the ordination was an old friend of St John’s, the Venerable John Holdsworth, Archdeacon of the Gulf. The Archdeacon spoke movingly about the difference between vocation and ambition in the life of a priest. Fr

Harry will continue to serve as curate in Christ Church under the guidance of his training incumbent, the Reverend Tim Heaney.

Many of you will remember Fr Harry from his time as Youth Officer at St John’s, and the Cathedral was well represented by Fr Robert Martin, Jeannie Chan, Silvia Lai and James Choo. The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui was officially represented by Dr Gareth Jones, Principal of Ming Hua Theological College, where Harry completed his theological studies.

The ordination was a wonderful witness to the international nature of the Anglican Communion with priests and people gathered from the United Kingdom, Cyprus, the Gulf States and

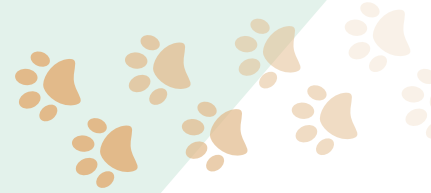
Hong Kong to join in the celebration. The service was also graced by the presence of Dubai’s ‘Minister for Tolerance’ as a gesture of inter-faith co-operation.

Our celebrations continued the next day when Fr Harry celebrated his First Eucharist as a priest. It was a simple celebration, with members of St John’s and the local congregation present. At the end of the service, following an old tradition, Fr Harry gave individual blessings to members of the congregation to send us on our way.

We wish Fr Harry many blessings in these first years of priestly ministry, and look forward to seeing him at the altar in St John’s Cathedral.

ALL GOD'S CREATURES

TEXT & PHOTOS BY / STAFF REPORTER



St Francis saw the wonder of God in all of creation, and many of the parishioners experience this through their pets. On 1st October 2017, an impressively large number of these humble creatures were blessed at the Service for the Blessing of Animals at St John's. Let all creation praise God!





CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

AN INTERVIEW WITH MAGGIE CHAN, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE CATHEDRAL

TEXT & PHOTOS BY / STAFF REPORTER



There has been an ongoing discussion on how to improve St John's Cathedral's communications and publicity within the congregation and in the wider community. Being more than one year in the position of the Cathedral's first Communications Officer, Maggie Chan shared with In Touch the highlights of the work that has been done, and the latest moves regarding communications and publicity at St John's.

Positioned as a quarterly magazine, In Touch comes out four times a year now, in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter editions. The editorial team of the magazine would like readers, whether members of the congregation, old friends of St John's or newcomers, to be informed of what's happening at St John's and keep in touch with us.

'In every edition, we try to recap special services or events that take place during the season, as well as conduct in-depth interviews or write features that are of interest to our readers.' Maggie explained, 'And we wouldn't want to miss out news about our daughter churches and outreach ministries.'

When parishioners or visitors come to the Cathedral, some of them stop and glance at the posters on the bulletin boards and banners on the Cathedral



ViuTV's 'Arts on Religious Architecture'

grounds, and take one or two flyers when they leave. To Maggie, this is one of the encouraging moments. 'We are delighted to see the Cathedral posters, flyers and banners, most of which are designed by the Cathedral Office, help us convey messages and attract people to join us on different occasions', she said.

Many prefer visiting the website instead. In Year 2016/17, millions of hits on the Cathedral website were recorded. On average, over 900 visitors view the website every day. The most active users come from Hong Kong, mainland China, the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom and Singapore. The rest of them are in over 40 countries around the world.

Nearly 30% of the visitors browsed the website by mobile Safari, while around 25% browsed by Google Chrome. Only 8% used Firefox and 6% Internet Explorer as their browsers. 'The figures showed that about one-third of the visitors viewed our website by their mobile phones. As digital communications are becoming more popular locally and globally, maybe it is worth us exploring more online platforms to communicate with different audiences', Maggie noted.

Over the past year, the Cathedral has reached out to the wider community through the media as well. Four newspapers with wide circulation (Ming Pao Daily, Apple Daily, Sing Tao Daily and Headline Daily), and an online media (HK01) covered the Celebrating Hong Kong Service hosted by the Cathedral in July 2017.

Earlier in the year, when the first-generation Bishop's Throne of the Cathedral was shown at the exhibition 'Reminiscences: Life in Hong Kong's Built Heritage', organised by the Antiquities and Monuments Office, there was wide



Dean Matthias was interviewed by ViuTV

coverage of the Bishop's Throne as an exhibit by local newspapers.

'We are keen to maintain a good relationship with the local media. In addition to pitching news stories to the media, we also receive and handle media enquiries from time to time,' Maggie said, naming ViuTV as one of the examples. In March 2017, ViuTV featured St John's Cathedral in a 30-minute episode of its 'Art on Religious Architecture' series. Dean Matthias and our Director of Music Felix Yeung were interviewed in the programme.

In June 2017, an online news platform 360°Asia, a project funded by China Daily, invited the Cathedral to be featured in its 'Sanctuary' series. The 360-degree video of St John's Cathedral was published on Facebook and YouTube in the following month, attracting over 19,000 views and 230 likes on Facebook.

'Hopefully through existing channels, like In Touch, the Cathedral website, weekly pew bulletin, bulletin boards, and other promotional materials, the congregation will be well informed about our services, events and fundraising activities,' Maggie said. 'However, there is still a lot of work to do, and the participation of congregation members



A brief introduction to St John's by the 'Brand Hong Kong' Facebook page



Coverage of St John's by the Mid-Levels magazine

means so much to us. We would like to hear from everyone and understand how we may meet his or her communication needs."

'Of course, volunteering in the Cathedral's communications is welcomed. If you are interested in becoming a contributor of In Touch, a photographer or a supporting volunteer for our events, please do not hesitate to write us an email or give us a call,' Maggie added.

Do you have any comments on our communications or publicity work? Please let us know. Be assured that your thoughts and suggestions will be gratefully received.

Email:
communications@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

Tel:
2523 4157

MFMW HOLDS RECOGNITION CEREMONY OF HAPPY HOMES PROJECT



**TEXT AND PHOTOS BY /
THE MISSION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS**

The Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) held the first Happy Homes recognition ceremony in Chater Road, Central, on the 17th of September 2017, acknowledging ten families as 'Happy Homes' for both employers and workers.

The MFMW's 'Happy Homes' is a social advocacy project which aims to promote mutual understanding, fair treatment, and respect between workers and employers, so as to educate the public with these values. Through nomination by the workers, employers and their families were recognised as a 'Happy Home' and were awarded a 'Happy Home' Seal of Approval.

In the recognition ceremony, the Community Relations Officer of MFMW, Ms Johannie Tong Hiu-yan explained the ideas and the mechanism of the Happy Homes Project. She explained that the MFMW encouraged employers and their family to recognise domestic duties that foreign domestic workers have performed, while at the same time, workers are encouraged to nominate employers' families who make efforts to recognise them.

There are ten criterion points of the 'Happy Homes Project' and the MFMW is encouraging workers to nominate their employers if they both agree that the criteria are fulfilled. These criteria from the worker's point of view include:



1. I feel that I am respected in the family.
2. I am treated as a human being with dignity.
3. I am provided with freedom to connect with my community and social support.
4. My basic human needs are satisfied.
5. I feel included in the family that I work with.
6. I feel that the family that I work with makes an effort to understand me when there is a difference of opinion.
7. I can voice my opinions and I feel that my ideas and needs are heard.
8. I feel that the family I work with gives me care and love.
9. My work is recognised.
10. I feel that the family I work with is sensitive to our cultural differences and willing to accept them.

The Happy Homes Project was launched for a month. Ten families and their workers were awarded the 'Happy Homes' Seal of Approval. Representatives of eight families attended the recognition ceremony, and some brought the elderly

and the children with them to share the happiness.

The Seals of Approval were awarded to the nominated families by Cynthia Tellez, the General Manager of MFMW, and The Very Reverend Matthias Der, Dean of St John's Cathedral. Dean Matthias addressed the participants and expressed his support for the Happy Homes Project. He encouraged the migrant community and Hong Kong society to actively promote Happy Homes as this project positively changes society, where conflicts and arguments are widespread.

The Happy Homes Project appreciated the efforts of employers who maintain healthy and equal relationships with their workers. MFMW believes that acknowledging the existence of 'Happy Homes' will positively influence society, as they believe that more happy homes mean a happier Hong Kong. Identifying and promoting the philosophy of Happy Homes could further educate the public to respect foreign domestic workers and to recognize domestic work as work, which is both important for migrants and locals.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE CULTURAL EXCHANGE EVENT COMES TO A FRUITFUL CLOSE

TEXT & PHOTOS BY /
ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL HIV EDUCATION CENTRE



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. To commemorate the International Day of Peace and promote world peace, St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre offered a variety of cultural exchange activities with its partner organisations at St John's Cathedral on 23 September 2017.

The International Day of Peace Cultural Exchange Event attracted hundreds of visitors, including local teenagers and ethnic minorities. Highlights of the event were dance performances by various ethnic groups, skipping and band performances.

The event was sponsored by the Hop Yuen Charitable Foundation Fund, with Professor Samuel Leong, Former Director of UNESCO-RLCCE Observatory, as the Guest of Honour. Amongst the guests were representatives of consulates-general, the representative of UNESCO Hong Kong Association, representatives of NGOs, and The Very Revd Matthias C. Der, Dean of St John's Cathedral.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Professor Samuel Leong said, 'As we commemorate the UN International Day of Peace, we should be reminded that peace is something humans have dreamed about but failed to achieve. I believe everyone wants to do something that will make a difference for the world we live in.'

'It would do us good to cultivate the different aspects of peace, including individual, social, cultural, political, and environmental peace. Let us join our hearts, minds and hands to co-create peace and safety for every human being, for all the animals, for nature, for everything on this planet.'

Dean Matthias Der also addressed to the guests and participants at the opening ceremony. He noted, 'Our gathering is making a statement to the society around us. Through dialogue, relationship-building and engagements, people with diverse backgrounds and views can work together for the betterment of our world. St John's Cathedral is a place that promotes and advocates peace. May God empower us to love peace, seek peace and live peaceably with each other.'

The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared the International Day of Peace as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme for 2017 is 'Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.'

Since its inception in 1995, St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre has been conducting education programmes for the community, including the disadvantaged, women and young people.



BOOKSTORE'S NEW LOOK

The renovation of the Cathedral Bookstore was completed in August 2017. A reopening celebration was held on 22nd October with 20% off on all items. All are welcome to visit the bookstore and view its new look!

FAITH BEGINS *A TWO-PART INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY*

TEXT BY / STAFF REPORTER



St John's Cathedral will offer a new course named 'Faith Begins' starting from December 2017. Anyone who is already regularly attending services at the Cathedral or its daughter churches, and is considering baptism and confirmation, is welcome to join the 'Faith Begins' course. In Touch finds out more details about the course.

The 'Faith Begins' Course at St John's Cathedral is a two-part introduction to Christianity. Part One is an introduction to Jesus. Part Two is a baptism and confirmation course. As advised by the Cathedral clergy, candidates for baptism and/or confirmation are expected to complete both parts.

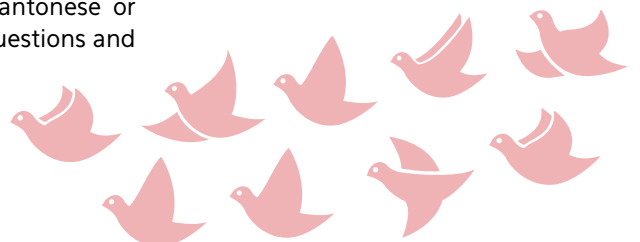
'Faith Begins' is rooted in the Anglican tradition which values the bible, tradition, and reason, and interprets them in the light of a modern understanding about life and the world we live in. The course will explore the Christian faith in a relaxed atmosphere with a meal and informal discussion.

Part One 'Jesus Encounter' covers the birth, teaching, work, death and resurrection of Jesus and the meaning of following Jesus. Part Two 'Living the Christian life: Prayer, Study and Action' examines the essentials of Christian teaching, and explores some of the questions of faith, which are often the big questions of life, such as 'What happens when we die?' 'Why does God allow evil and suffering?' 'How can I live my life better?' and 'What gives meaning to our life?'

This year, the 'Faith Begins' course starts on 6th December, and is expected to end in late May 2018. Meetings start with supper at 7.00 pm, and the talks start at 7.30 pm. Each week, the topic for discussion will be presented by a priest in English (with Chinese interpretation). The topic is then informally discussed in small groups (in English, Cantonese or Putonghua), with time for questions and insights.



The registration deadline was on 22nd November 2017. For more information, contact the Revd Robert Martin at: rpm@stjohnscathedral.org.hk



ST JOHN'S CELEBRATES 168TH DEDICATION FESTIVAL

St John's Cathedral celebrated its Dedication Festival on 17th September 2017. It was the Sunday of the year when the Cathedral clergy and the congregation offered thanks for the dedication of the Cathedral Church and its ministries to Hong Kong and its people over the past 168 years.

Dean Matthias was the main preacher for the day. After the 9.00 am Sung Eucharist, Mrs June Li and members of the congregation joined the Dean for the cake-cutting ceremony at the Li Hall. Share the happiness and joy!



TIANA CHAN AWARDED CECILIA KWOK CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Tiana Chan, a member of the Cathedral Choir, was awarded the Cecilia Kwok Church Music Scholarship 2017. The Cecilia Kwok Church Music Scholarship Fund offers scholarships of up to \$100,000 to help young people pursue studies relevant to church music, and help develop their potential to become choirmasters or organists at the Cathedral, or its daughter churches in future years.

Supported by the Scholarship Fund, Tiana is currently training to be an organist under Madam Elizabeth Hung Wong. Tiana aspires to be a professional and accomplished musician. She has won a number of competitions in piano, violin and vocal, though she is only 14 years old. At the age of 13, she attained the LTCL Performance Level 6 Diploma with distinction in Vocal.

Congratulations to Tiana!

WELCOMING THE FILIPINO DELEGATION

The Most Revd Godofredo David and the clergy of the Diocese of Rizal and Pampanga visited St John's Cathedral during their trip to Hong Kong, and they received a warm welcome from Dean Matthias, Fr Dwight dela Torre, and the Cathedral. They were here to study the working and living conditions of Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong, meet with the workers, and integrate their observations into their plans for ministries in the Diocese. (photos taken by Jezalie K. Gamora and Tara Fung)



LOOK FOR STORIES

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

Advent and Christmas Services and Major Events at St John's & Daughter Churches



St John's Cathedral

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

3rd December (Sunday) The First Sunday of Advent *(Sunday Services as normal)*

6.00PM 'Looking for the light'
A service for the beginning of Advent

10th December (Sunday) The Second Sunday of Advent *(Sunday Services as normal)*

6.00PM 'Blue Christmas' Eucharist
A service for those mourning a loss this Christmas season

16th December (Saturday)

6.00PM Cantonese Carol Service with Eucharist

17th December (Sunday) The Third Sunday of Advent *(Sunday Services as normal)*

6.00PM Nine Lessons and Carols

23rd December (Saturday)

3.00PM Crib Service
4.30PM Christingle Service
6.00PM Holy Eucharist *(Cantonese)*

24th December (Sunday) The Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve *(No Evening Service)*

8.00AM Said Eucharist
9.00AM Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Nativity
10.30AM Sung Eucharist *(Mandarin)*
11.45AM Responsorial Eucharist
2.00PM Sung Eucharist *(Filipino)*
11.00PM Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib
(A seat in the Cathedral for Midnight Mass is by ticket only. Further details will be published on the Cathedral website)

25th December (Monday) Christmas Day *(No Evening Service)*

8.00AM Said Eucharist
9.00AM Sung Eucharist
10.30AM Sung Eucharist *(Mandarin)*
11.45AM Responsorial Eucharist with Carols
2.00PM Sung Eucharist *(Filipino)*

31st December (Sunday) New Year's Eve

(Morning Services as normal. No Evening Service)

11.00PM Watchnight Eucharist
A service to welcome the New Year



Discovery Bay Church SKH Wei Lun Primary School, Lautau

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

3rd December (Sunday) The First Sunday of Advent

10.00AM Nine Lessons and Carols at Wei Lun School Hall

17th December (Sunday) The Third Sunday of Advent

4.00PM Nativity in the Discovery Bay Plaza
6.00PM

24th December (Sunday) Christmas Eve

6.00PM Christingle with Nativity Play at Wei Lun School Hall
(No Midnight Mass)

25th December (Monday) Christmas Day

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

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



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

10th December (Sunday) The Second Sunday of Advent

7.00PM Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

17th December (Sunday) The Third Sunday of Advent

10.15AM Sung Eucharist

24th December (Sunday)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

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

25th December (Monday) Christmas Day

10.15AM Family Eucharist with Carols

31st December (Sunday) Christmas 1 & New Year's Eve

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

2nd December (Saturday)

11.00AM **St Stephen's Chapel Christmas Fete**
(on the School Playing Field at Wong Ma Kok Road, Stanley)

4.00PM with games, stalls, bouncy castles, food and drink, marching bands, Chinese lions and acrobats, and a field for children to run around all day. Santa arrives by helicopter at 12.30!

All proceeds to the charities we support

10th December (Sunday) The Second Sunday of Advent

6.00PM Christmas Lessons & Carols by Candlelight with
St Stephen's Chorale

24th December (Sunday) Christmas Eve

(No Morning Service)

5.00PM Christmas Crib Service for young families, with Carols

11.00PM Christmas Midnight Mass

25th December (Monday) Christmas Day

10.00AM Christmas Eucharist with Carols

St John's Cathedral

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The Revd Dwight dela Torre

The Revd Catherine Graham

The Revd Canon Peter Koon

The Revd Robert Martin
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of
Emmanuel Church - Tel: 2523 4157)

The Revd Will Newman
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of
St Stephen's Chapel - Tel: 2813 0408)

The Revd Mark Rogers
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of
Discovery Bay Church - Tel: 2987 4210)

The Revd Wu Wai-ho

**Cathedral Honorary
Chaplains**

The Revd John Chynchen

The Revd Hugh Phillipson

The Revd Jenny Wong Nam

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BACK AFTER

50 years



TEXT & PHOTOS BY / STUART WOLFENDALE

The Reverend Frank Roe stood in Arrival Hall B in dog collar, windcheater and sailor's cap with a golden anchor at 8 am on 30 September to begin 48 hours of a weekend in Hong Kong and his first visit here for around 50 years. The focus of his brief stay was the Cathedral and that was hardly a surprise.

Father Frank was an assistant chaplain at St John's from 1961 to 1964, serving under Deans Barry Till and John Foster. He had served in the Royal Navy and been a curate in Essex before coming to Hong Kong. A feature of his popular ministry here was an Evensong Fellowship which ran a highly successful youth club with up to 300 members. The Fellowship survives and it was from one of its biennial reunions in England that Fr Frank was stopping over on his return home to Western Australia.

After his chaplaincy at St John's, he went on to be Chaplain to the Hong Kong Seamen's Mission. He then took a spell away from the Church, running a riding school and doing social work in London. He resumed the priesthood in the archdiocese of Perth where he has worked and lived since. His associations with the sea never forgotten, he raised a million Australian dollars for the establishment of a Mission to Seafarers in the Western Australian port of Esperance.

At St John's, Fr Frank preached at the 9 am Sung Eucharist and met some of his parishioners from the 60s at a dinner hosted by the Dean on the Saturday evening and Fook Hing and June Li, who hosted him for lunch on the Sunday.