

In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Spring Edition

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL HONG KONG

Diocese of HK Island Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

香港聖公會聖約翰座堂

Distinguished scholar and church diplomat inspires pilgrims in the Holy Land

By Nigel Gibson

A group of 27 pilgrims from St John's left Hong Kong last October for a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Canon John Peterson, a world authority on the region, and Canon Iyad Qumri, a Palestinian Christian and seasoned local guide, led the pilgrims through some of the most poignant and spiritually uplifting places in the Holy Land, such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, the River Jordan, Capernaum and Jerusalem.

For some of the pilgrims, it was not the imposing shrines devoted to Jesus' birth and death that made the deepest spiritual significance. Rather, it was the wilderness and many high places they visited, like the Mount of Beatitudes or the high hills overlooking the desert between Jericho and Jerusalem. It was here that many were able to find peace and moments of grace.

After arriving back in Hong Kong, the Dean of St John's, the Very Revd Matthias Der said, "It was a privilege to have been on this pilgrimage. We walked where Jesus walked. We visited where he was born, where he was baptised, the places where he preached, as well as walking the Via Dolorosa and Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem. Our group gelled together really nicely, and everyone came away feeling richly blessed and spiritually renewed".

Read John Li's full report on the pilgrimage on pages 14-21.



The Revd Catherine Graham, Fr Nael Abu Rahmoun and Dean Matthias Concelebrating at the High Altar in Christ Episcopal Church, Nazareth

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HDH walkers raise a record-breaking \$106,000 for Hong Kong domestic helpers

By Nigel Gibson

Over 70 people took part in the 2016 fundraising walk organised by Helpers for Domestic Helpers (HDH), a non-profit organisation that provides legal advice and support to foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong.

Speaking after the event, HDH manager Holly Allan said, "This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and we are absolutely thrilled with the result. The challenge was to visit St John's Cathedral and her three daughter churches all on the same day, and because of the lengthy 26km route, many participants joined the walk at various stages along the way".

Supporters gathered early at Discovery Bay in time to catch a ferry to Central and head to St John's for a blessing. Next stop was Emmanuel Church, Pokfulam for worship, a welcome rest and lunch. Then it was up to the Peak and across Hong Kong Island, ending the day with evening prayer as the sun went down over St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley.



HDH walkers resting at Béthanie Chapel with Emmanuel parishioners at the halfway stage of their annual walk.

This was the 13th annual HDH walk and, as in previous years, the walkers were a diverse bunch that included this year some of the 36 Hong Kong Scouts and their leaders, members of the clergy, parishioners, HDH volunteers and a large group of helpers.

In Touch

An important part of this magazine's role is being carried out in its seventh edition. We are keeping you in touch with the St John's schedule for Holy Week and Easter by publishing a list of all the services taking place in the Cathedral and daughter churches. We exhort you to attend as much of this as you can, since bearing witness to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord is the bold signature of the Christian faith.

In his Message, the Dean draws a striking comparison between Lent and Easter and the present renovation of the North Garden; Lent being the time of digging up and pulling down and Easter the season of new plantings and hopes in those who have seen the risen Lord.

Of the new garden, we are publishing the very latest architect's impression of what it will look like, and what you will see with your own eyes very soon.

For the most part, this edition gets out and about in a travel and food mode. Shepherded by the Dean and Catherine Graham, we feature the recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which, by all accounts, was a profound and joyful experience for all the pilgrims. We publish John Li's thoughtful account of the tour, alongside a series of personal reflections from some of the pilgrims.

Robert Martin tells us about a recent Cathedral clergy visit to Guangzhou to learn more about Christianity and other faiths in China.

Rachel Der gives an account of a delightful Christmas tea party for seniors in a local hotel. Organised by parishioners from St John's and daughter churches, the initiative was part of the Cathedral's recent poverty alleviation initiative.

In another spirited act of mission, members of Discovery Bay Church journeyed to Chungking Mansions, a foreign land in

Tsimshatsui, where they cooked and served curry to refugees. Wendy Tung describes how, if you have never cooked strange dishes for strangers before, it can have its tensions.

We feature Discovery Bay Church again by recalling Christmas there with pictures of the Church's Christmas services. The pastoral situation in DB is quite special and not widely known. The image of the gathering in the Plaza shows how many people in that community across a spectrum of belief will come and worship in an informal way, and what an important part the Anglican community plays there.

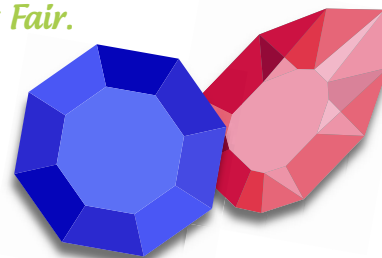
The Chinese congregations look very relaxed with each other in their day out to the countryside, and the Cathedral staff are seen enjoying a fun-filled dinner at their annual Chinese New Year get together.

Mark Gandolfi of the St John's Counselling Service continues his valuable advice on relationships with a thought provoking piece on how to actually 'work' on a marriage.

Finally, Nigel Gibson takes a personal look at Christian stewardship ahead of the Cathedral's upcoming campaign in May. The stewardship campaign is just one of many duties Nigel will be fulfilling before he leaves St John's, Emmanuel Church and this magazine, which he founded. The pages that follow contain many encouraging farewells to him, edged with sadness.

We wish all our readers in Hong Kong and around the world on the Internet every good wish and blessing for Holy Week and Easter.

*His arms are rounded gold,
set with jewels.
His body is ivory work,
encrusted with sapphires
(Song of Solomon 5:14 NRSVA) is how the
Dean's masseur described working on him at
the last Michaelmas Fair.*



THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



By the time this edition of *In Touch* arrives in your hands, the major renovation of our North Garden at St John's Cathedral should be near completion. What a transformation it has been! Over the decades, the Garden at St John's has been blessed by having been widely used by congregation members on Sundays and the general public on weekdays alike. It is always my joy to see people enjoying lunches under the shade, chatting among friends, enjoying a picnic on the lawn, praying at a corner and young professional in business suits walking the labyrinth. The new garden will continue our fine tradition of providing an oasis both physically and spiritually in the midst of the concrete forest of Hong Kong in which people will find refreshment and inspiration. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked so hard and who have donated generously to make this long-standing project possible.

Upon reflection, what we have been seeing in our Garden coincides well with our spiritual experience from Lent to Holy Week to Easter. In a sense, Lent has been a time of digging up and pulling down, a time of removing "junk" in our lives and re-prioritising where we should be under the guidance of the Spirit. Lent is a time we put intentional effort to heighten our spiritual disciplines of prayers, worship, study, fasting and service and to resolve to "re-build" and "re-plant" as the prophet Jeremiah reminds his people in scriptures. It is only when we are willing to go through the difficult process of removing our sins followed by re-planting of the goodness, mercy, justice and the love of God, that a new "garden" can appear in our lives for the benefit of our own well-being and for the glory of God.

In the Easter story, new beginnings and new hopes were planted in those who have seen the risen Lord. Darkness has now been shattered. The chains of sins and evils were conquered through Jesus Christ's victory over death. The impossible is no longer the impossible. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. And the seed of new hope continues even today as Christ lives in us. Despair can be overcome. The bondage of sins can be overturned. The faith and hope in Christ can triumph over what we face.

As we walk through Holy Week and Easter, let us reflect upon the agony and pain that Christ has endured for us for the sake of digging up and removing darkness in our lives. When we celebrate the joyous Day of Resurrection, take heart in the amazing power of the risen Lord for re-planting new hopes and joys in us. Christ is here. Alleluia!

Before I close, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and sad farewell to Fr Nigel Gibson, the priest-in-charge of Emmanuel Church, one of our daughter churches, who is also the founding editor and producer of this successful Cathedral magazine *In Touch*. He has accepted a call to serve in a parish in Switzerland after serving a remarkable ministry here at St John's for the last 6-years. His unique gift on communication and publicity has led the Cathedral to a new level of professionalism in this regard, of which this magazine bears testimony. Thank you, Fr Nigel, for the tremendous good work you have done in our midst. God be with you as you journey on to serve him.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to all of you.

Dean Matthias

在您收到這最新一期座堂通訊之際，我們座堂花園的美化及改善工程應已接近尾聲，一個全新面貌的休憩空間即將跟大家見面！過去多年，座堂的花園為教友及公眾人士提供了一個優美的公共空間，不論主日或週中都吸引不同人士前來使用，有孩子在上面追逐嬉戲、有長者在一旁休息乘涼、也有野餐的、祈禱的，更有西裝筆挺的上班族趁午膳時間作明陣默想。這花園實為繁囂鬧市中的一片綠洲。全新面貌的花園將繼續保留這方面的特色，祈望能為使用者提供一處活化身體、淨化心靈的土地。在此，我再一次感謝一直為這工程盡心竭力的弟兄姊妹，也感激善長的慷慨贊助，願主藉這花園祝福更多的人。

當花園竣工啟用之際，正好提醒我們大齋期與復活聖週的重要意義。事實上，大齋期正是一個讓我們破舊立新的時期，藉聖靈的幫助洗清我們的內心，將之打掃乾淨，好迎接救主基督的復活。在大齋的期間，信徒每透過讀經、祈禱、禁食和默想，來重建靈修的新生活，重整屬靈的新方向。先知耶利米便曾提醒以色列民，要不畏「拔出，拆毀」的艱苦，決意除去那些窒礙他們生命成長的罪，並以上帝的慈愛、憐憫及公義去「建立，栽植」。如此，「新的花園」才能於他們生命中落成，使自己與別人得造就，並榮耀上帝的名。

同時，復活節的故事也提醒我們，救主的復活粉碎了撒旦的權勢，生命戰勝了死亡，光明勝過了黑暗，所有曾與復活的主相遇的人，生命重燃了新希望，生命從此變得不再一樣。因着基督的復活，萬物都有了新景象，一切皆變得有可能。今天，這希望的種子仍發揮着其奇妙的效用，在絕望之處散播希望，在憂傷之處播送安慰，在仇恨之處播種復和。因着主基督，我們終能克勝一切罪惡的權勢。

當我們參與本年復活聖週各項崇拜、活動時，願意我們能再次思想基督為除去我們各人內心的黑暗而在十字架上為我們所承受的痛苦，當我們慶祝祂榮耀的復活時，不要忘記祂已將這新生命的盼望和喜樂，植入我們的心坎。基督已經復活！阿利路亞！最後，我謹在此向紀立壯牧師致以最衷心的祝福及謝意，紀牧師行將離開此座堂及分堂以馬內利堂的工作，往瑞士繼續他的牧職事奉。憑着他的獨特恩賜及經驗，紀牧師在過去六年不但帶領以馬內利堂有長足的發展，更領導着座堂的溝通及傳訊工作，在網站管理及本通訊的創辦及製作方面均有卓著的貢獻。願上帝繼續保守紀牧師，讓他在彼邦的事奉能祝福更多的人。

願復活的平安與福樂，常與你們同在。

謝子和+
座堂主任牧師

Stewardship is Coming! Are you Ready?

It will soon be time again to start thinking about your pledge and support to St John's Cathedral, her daughter churches and outreach ministries.

All of us know the value of stewardship. Properly managing God's blessings can significantly increase congregational participation and unleash radical generosity.

Stewardship is life-giving to individuals and to the church as a whole. When a church lives and breathes stewardship its vision becomes reality. Such is the power of stewardship and we are all in it together.

The Cathedral stewardship committee is working hard behind the scenes making plans for an exciting campaign launch on **8th May** (Sunday after the Ascension) followed by Stewardship Commitment Sunday on **15th May** (Pentecost).

More details about the campaign will be published in the weekly pew sheets as well as on the website in April, so do watch out for those. References to the campaign will also be made during the Sunday Notices from mid April.

Still not sure what stewardship is about? Then hopefully the following article will help clear the fog and prepare you well for the coming campaign.

Cherishing our Past Believing in our Present Investing in our Future

A personal view of Christian Stewardship

By Nigel Gibson

Looking back on my childhood I can still remember my parents' involvement in our local Anglican church. Dad was the parish treasurer and Mum seemed to run just about everything else. My brothers and I sang in the choir, and we always had a lot of fun running the frequent parish BBQs.

Not for a second back then would any of us have thought we were engaging in ministry or service. We were just doing our bit to keep the church going. Now, years later, I look upon those days as my family's humble attempts to serve God and to embrace at least something of the Christian way of life. Today there's a wonderful word that describes such service and commitment - **Stewardship**.

Many people think stewardship is all about money. Well, partially it is. All of us pay bills to keep our home going; we budget for food, clothing, education and healthcare for our families. Not much is different when it comes to running a church and through our donations we are supporting our spiritual home.

Whenever we come to St John's we expect the lights to be on, the fans and air-con to be working, and that at least one priest will be present on Sundays. We also expect the place to be clean and tidy, as well as candles on the altar and sufficient bread and wine available for everyone.

Just like at home, this takes a financial commitment to remain consistent. We should feel a responsibility to the collective whole of the Cathedral and not just think, "Oh well, others are supporting it," or worse, just expect it all to be there.

All our contributions, whether great or small, help make our spiritual home a living reality and whenever we come to church we should feel a connection to this our house of prayer, partially because we are actively supporting it financially. But this is not where our commitment should end because stewardship involves much more than money.

At its heart stewardship is a deep personal commitment to God and a pledge to lead a Christian way of life. By participating in services and the sacraments we nurture our individual oneness with Christ. When we offer to help arrange church flowers, serve at the altar, sing in the choir, lead intercessions, teach Sunday School kids, or volunteer in any of our outreach ministries, we are showing a reverence and a responsibility to God. Simply put, volunteering for any ministry in the church is serving God.

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that bears fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (John 15:1-2).

As Christians we are branches of the vine and to abide in this vine is to abide in Christ and his church - surely the primary task of every believer.

The wonderful image of the vine and the branches shows our deep relationship with Christ. The energy given through

the vine to the branches is representative of his vitality, and the beautiful fruit that is born of the vine is the good work that we do as Christians. To see stewardship then purely in monetary terms is a rather narrow view of what it actually is. Think bigger.

Embracing stewardship is also about becoming good caretakers of what God has given us - our health, family, opportunities, intelligence and talents - and putting them to good use to accomplish God's purposes in our lives and his church. God has given each of us unique gifts.

The Bible teaches us that all that we have is on loan from God. 'Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand' (1 Chronicles 29:14). And as St Paul reminds us, 'each of us shall give an account of himself to God' (Romans 14:12).

This begs the question: How are you using your gifts? Despite our busy lives, St John's needs every one of us more than ever. Extend your hand to those in need through our many ministries, all of which will be explained in a new stewardship brochure that will be available on launch day.

Whether you have lots of time or very little time, whether your financial resources are great or small, you too can make a big difference not only to St John's but also to your own spiritual life. By embracing a Christian way of life we will bear exquisite fruit on all our branches. We will also be demonstrating just how much we cherish our past, believe in the present and how much we are prepared to invest in our future.

I commend the following prayer for daily use before and during the coming campaign.

A Stewardship Prayer

Generous and loving God, you call us to be disciples of your son Jesus and good shepherds of all your many gifts.

Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.

Transform us through the power of your Spirit to nurture a stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbour, and generous sharing.

Teach us to be faithful servants of your abundant gifts, and return a generous portion of the gifts you have entrusted to us.

Bless our Cathedral Church of St John's with a deepening devotion to prayer, a growing commitment for service, and increasing levels of generosity, as we work to advance the mission of both our parish and diocese.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORK SMART, NOT HARD, FOR A HEALTHY MARRIAGE

“Quotes that show a relationship between work and marriage abound. There’s Lori Gordon’s “love is a feeling, marriage is a contract and relationships are work.” The Jar of Quotes says “it’s so easy to grow apart; marriage takes work,” and various anonymous sources have it that “marriage is lifetime employment” and “marriage is like riding a bike, you have to keep working at it to keep it going.” And as you can imagine, there are more books, workshops, videos, websites and relationship practitioners who have the “recipes to a successful marriage” than can be tallied but one theme is constant; marriage is never effortless.”



Mark Gandolfi

So what should a couple actually work on? Is it how they manage conflict (a popular approach by many marriage counsellors), is it how they parent their children (one of the most common reasons for relationship counselling), is it financial planning strategies (how much should we save versus spend) or is it how do we create a work-life balance in today’s busy lifestyles? The potential topics to work on are many and all have importance! If there is one topic in my over 30-years of relationship counselling that I believe couples should work on, it is how to enhance the four wonderful chemicals in our brain (see my article Heroes and Romance in the Dec 2015 – Jan 2016 edition) that allows all of us “to go from good to better;” the intimacy world.

The American Psychological Association said it well. Resilience is “the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress – such as family and relationship problems...” Resilience is now a critical focus for the men and women who give service in high risk professions such as law enforcement, the military, sea and land rescue and firefighting and equally so for those who have been traumatised. Resilience is now even being seen as a key topic for schools and children as more research is showing how children with developed and sustaining levels of resilience can work through bullying, academic stress, testing, and social challenges with fewer negative consequences. In short, a key predictor for success in the relationship and work worlds for our children in the future is not how high are their IQ or IB scores, but how deep is their reservoir of resilience skills.



At the Counselling Service ministry we employ a positive psychology model with five intimacies to enhance both the resilience reservoir and the healthy brain chemicals for couples who care to work at making their relationship a lasting and happy one. The five intimacies we help all our clients and couples work on are: social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual. We have seen, year after year, that when couples work on their five intimacies and a life challenge arises, their energy levels to engage, communicate and problem solve in an effective peaceful manner are heightened.

Social intimacy is where couples work on setting a date night for the husband and wife, time for family meals, holidays that are family and couple focused and on seeking opportunities for couples and families to socialise with others. The focus here is “doing things that are good for you, your health and your relationship world.”

Emotional intimacy is not only about sharing the feelings you have about yourself, your partner or life events so that one can feel better (“wow, I feel better now that’s off my chest”). Emotional intimacy is also helping couples improve on how to “listen to better understand” instead of “let me hear what she is saying so I know what to say.” It takes a bit of work to learn to be silent and listen but so much arises from this simple learned behaviour for all marriages. Work on listening more to understand, not to criticise.

Intellectual intimacy is a place where more and more couples find wonderful opportunities to share their knowledge they have on subjects of interest but it is also a place where couples can learn from each other. We encourage couples to have a regular “let’s share what we learned this week” with each other to strengthen their intellectual capital for their marriage.

Fun work if you will. Physical intimacy on the other hand is a place where couples can work on how to better understand how sexual and sensual activities celebrate the special bond between two partners. As we teach our couples in premarital counselling, physical intimacy is not about performance work, it is about connecting work!

Spiritual intimacy is that special time in which couples can come together and build their faith in our loving God and in our wonderful Cathedral. It is also a time when couples can seek support from our clergy and Counselling Service ministry to work on their spiritual intimacy. God’s work is never done and we should continue to work on our spiritual intimacy as well, in our Cathedral, homes and community.

These five intimacies are work that cannot only increase our physical and emotional well-being, but it is work that can actually be fun. Learning new things, doing things together, sharing feelings, connecting and building faith is work I believe will make our brains smile when received and our hearts rejoice. Keep working on these lessons learned today and see how soon you may sign up for more work!

Editor’s Note: St John’s Cathedral Counselling Service is a charitable ministry led by Dr Mark Gandolfi. It allows over 55% of Cathedral members and Hong Kong residents who cannot afford mental health in the private practice mental health sector to receive high quality, very affordable, safe and professional services for individuals, couples and families. If the Counselling Service wasn’t a charity with St John’s then the needs of many thousands of people who visit the service would go unmet. Through In Touch, Dr Mark would like to offer his personal thanks and heartfelt appreciation to the army of counsellors and volunteers who work at the Counselling Service.

Christmas Tea with Seniors

by Rachel Der



In December, partnered with the HKSKH Welfare Council, and under the leadership of the Revd Mark Rogers, friends from the Cathedral and her daughter churches joined a wonderful Tea with Seniors from the Western district area at the Island Pacific Hotel.

On the day we gathered at the venue in advance and waited anxiously for our honoured guests. Led by the social worker staff, 50 senior friends arrived looking just as excited as ourselves about our time together.

Other than delicious food, we enjoyed singing, playing fun games and drew lucky prizes specially prepared for our guests. During the party, we chatted with the seniors and got to know more about their lives.



Having fun: Rachel and Mark naming lucky draw prizewinners

Chinese New Year Staff Party



The St John's Cathedral family gathered together for dinner in the Chariot Club, Central to celebrate the 2016 New Year of the Monkey

Refugees at Chungking Mansions served Cathedral Curry

By Wendy Tung

One fine day in early November, a few of us from Discovery Bay Church and St John's went to Chungking Mansions to serve lunch to some 30 refugees. We were all excited about this.

Someone found a chicken curry recipe online. Perfect! That's exactly what they will like, we thought, even though most of us had never cooked a curry.

As team leader, I refined the recipe, organised the cooking into stages, constructed and printed a table of tasks so that every team member knew exactly when and what to do. Thinking that I had a brilliant plan, I walked in feeling calm and well-prepared. As we organised our ingredients in the kitchen, I began observing the environment.

It was a small kitchen and the cooking area wasn't large enough to take us all. Outside it, there were 3 benches designated as the eating zone. At once, I realised that we would have to use that space as food preparation islands so my original plan had to be slightly altered. I began to think how could we ever cook for 30 people in such limited space with only 2 stoves and to the time limit? All of a sudden, I was rendered helpless. Why did I ever sign up for this and on top of that, volunteer to be the team leader! Team members started raising questions. What were they supposed to do now? How could they contribute? My heart began pounding, a humongous headache was coming on. We were giving each other silent glances knowing something had gone wrong. My one panicking thought at that moment was that we really needed a miracle to fix this.

Out of nowhere, someone broke the silence, "Where are the ingredients for the curry? We need to start with the curry sauce." Looking at the recipe, I had to reply that there was no curry sauce, "We are going to chop and cook up some vegetables first and make curry along the way when we load those spices into the pot". I said. She reassured her view. "But the first thing we need to do is to make the curry sauce." Though her point made absolute sense to me, I insisted on my approach because I could think of nothing else but to follow the online recipe. In my heightening panic, a thousand thoughts raced through my mind. Others' conversations faded away and the lights were dimming. Just when I was about to faint, I heard the words, "Trust me, I am a curry chef."

Amazingly, the ceiling lights were coming back on for me. I replied with relief and joy, "That's great! You take over the curry sauce and I will handle the rest." In an hour or so, we smelled the sweet scent of curry, and everything was riding on so smoothly and comfortably. As I looked around the room I thought to myself - wow, this is really God at work in us.

We finished cooking in time for the refugees' arrival and celebrated our accomplishment by posing for a few photos. We shared the serving tasks and took care to serve each person with a smile, a good portion, and conversation. They were delighted with the amount and quality of the food.

At the end of the day, we praised one another and agreed that we had great teamwork. It is the brotherhood and sisterhood in Christ binding us together, the patience we have with each other, and the love we share for the less privileged that brought us together to experience such grace, such harmony, and so much blessing in feeding the minds and souls of those we humbly served.



New Territories Picnic Draws Chinese Congregations

By Wu Wai Ho



In early November, 110 brothers and sisters from the Chinese congregations participated in an annual picnic at Lau Fau Shan, New Territories, a place noted for its fine seafood.

Upon arrival, we enjoyed a delicious seafood lunch of shrimp, abalone, BBQ goose, veggies and fresh fruit. Then, before boarding tour buses to continue our day, we walked through a myriad of stalls that were selling dried seafood.

Next we visited Wetland Park in the northern part of Tin Shui Wai. This 61-hectare park demonstrates the diversity of Hong Kong's wetland ecosystem and highlights the need to conserve this precious resource. Everyone was captivated by the beauty of the park with its rich variety of wetland life, ranging from birds, butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles and fish. Wetland plants were also featured - mangroves, freshwater plants and shrubs and herbs - all alongside the beautiful green landscape, stream walk, mangrove boardwalk, theatre and exhibition galleries.

After two hours, many of the participants were hungry and thirsty and were keen to enjoy an unlimited supply of freshly made hot tofu desserts and cold soybean milk, which gave everyone a sweet ending to a great outing.





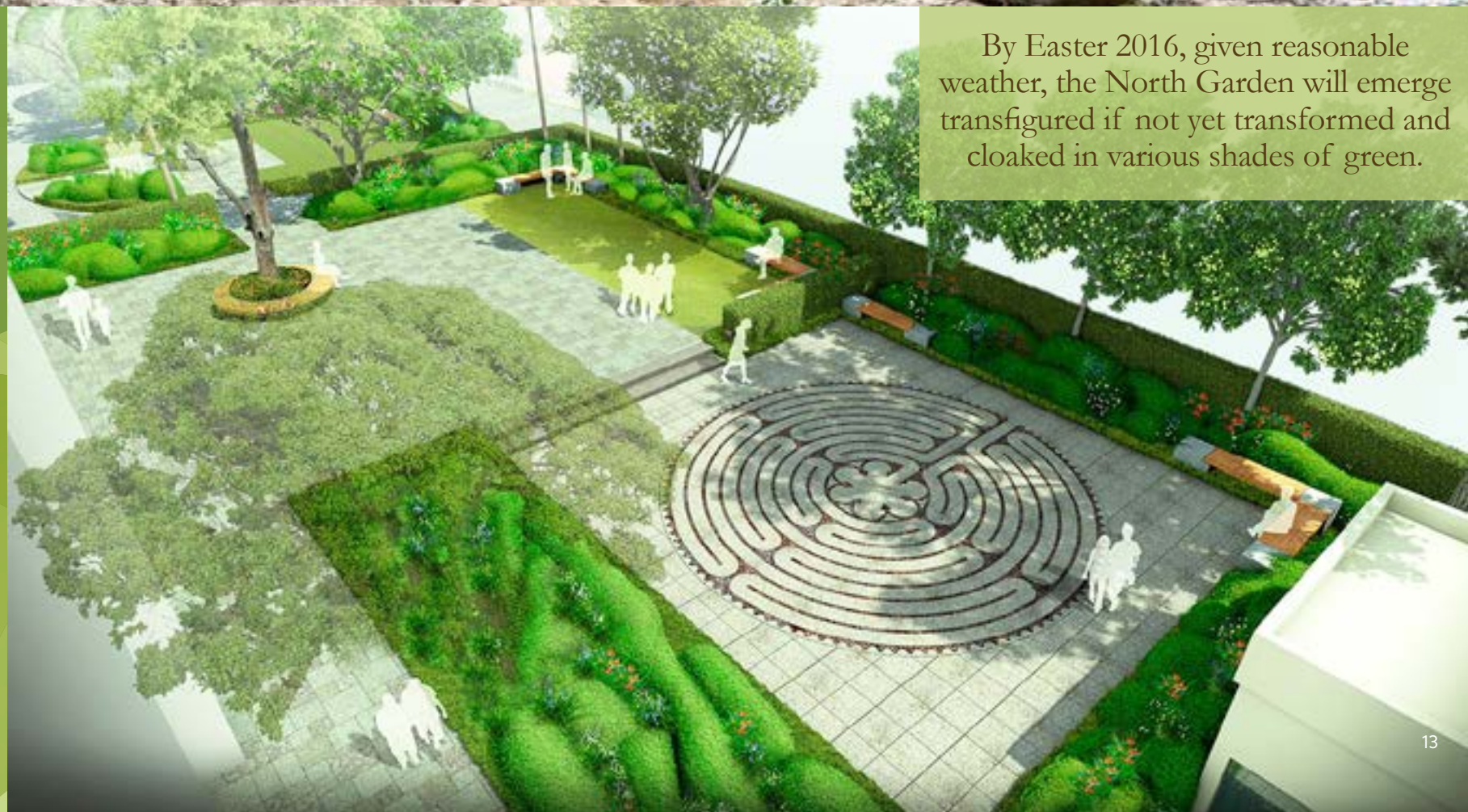
Digging and discarding the dirt!

GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE

By John Chynchen

The site formation phase of the Garden Project, involving earthwork and construction of an improved drainage system, is largely completed and the re-paving of the 'hard' surfaced areas for pedestrian traffic is in progress. The planting phase, involving several new trees and curvilinear shrubbery, will follow in the ideal 'Spring' season, namely April and May of this year.

The coil-like pattern known as a labyrinth (popularly in English: maze) came from the story of Daedalus, the legendary artificer of Greek mythology. The labyrinth is being fashioned in stone, at a cost approaching HK\$1m, and provides the principal artistic embellishment in a garden enthused with the green beauty of God's creation. In both literature and the fine arts, labyrinths have featured in the works of Jorge Luis Borges, Umberto Eco, Pablo Picasso and Piet Mondrian.



By Easter 2016, given reasonable weather, the North Garden will emerge transfigured if not yet transformed and cloaked in various shades of green.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

by John Li

The prospect of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land first came about when Dean Matthias Der returned from the Deans' Conference in Jerusalem in May 2014. The opportunity was confirmed in January 2015 and I think I was the first to sign up. I eagerly anticipated the trip. The days leading up to our departure coincided, however, with what many feared would be the third Palestinian intifada (uprising) and there were daily communications with our partners in Jerusalem to consider our safety. Most pilgrims made the decision to go ahead and we found ourselves in very safe and careful hands. Although the political tensions were apparent throughout the trip, most visibly in the form of the security checkpoints and the separation wall, they did not defeat its purpose: a religious experience offering the chance to walk in the places where Jesus walked and to be absorbed into the historical and political context.

During the trip, we also benefited from talks given by speakers coming from different perspectives, including both Palestinian and Jewish Israeli. One speaker stressed that there was a lot of unhappiness on both sides and, as this was not a football match, he urged outsiders to let them deal with the conflict and not take sides and fight their fight from the sideline. I agree wholeheartedly with this sentiment.

Like an open air synagogue, the *Western Wall*, the remnant of the ancient Temple complex in the Old City of Jerusalem, is one of the holiest sites in the Jewish faith. Behind it is the glorious *Dome of the Rock*, the city's most recognisable landmark and one of the oldest works of Islamic architecture.



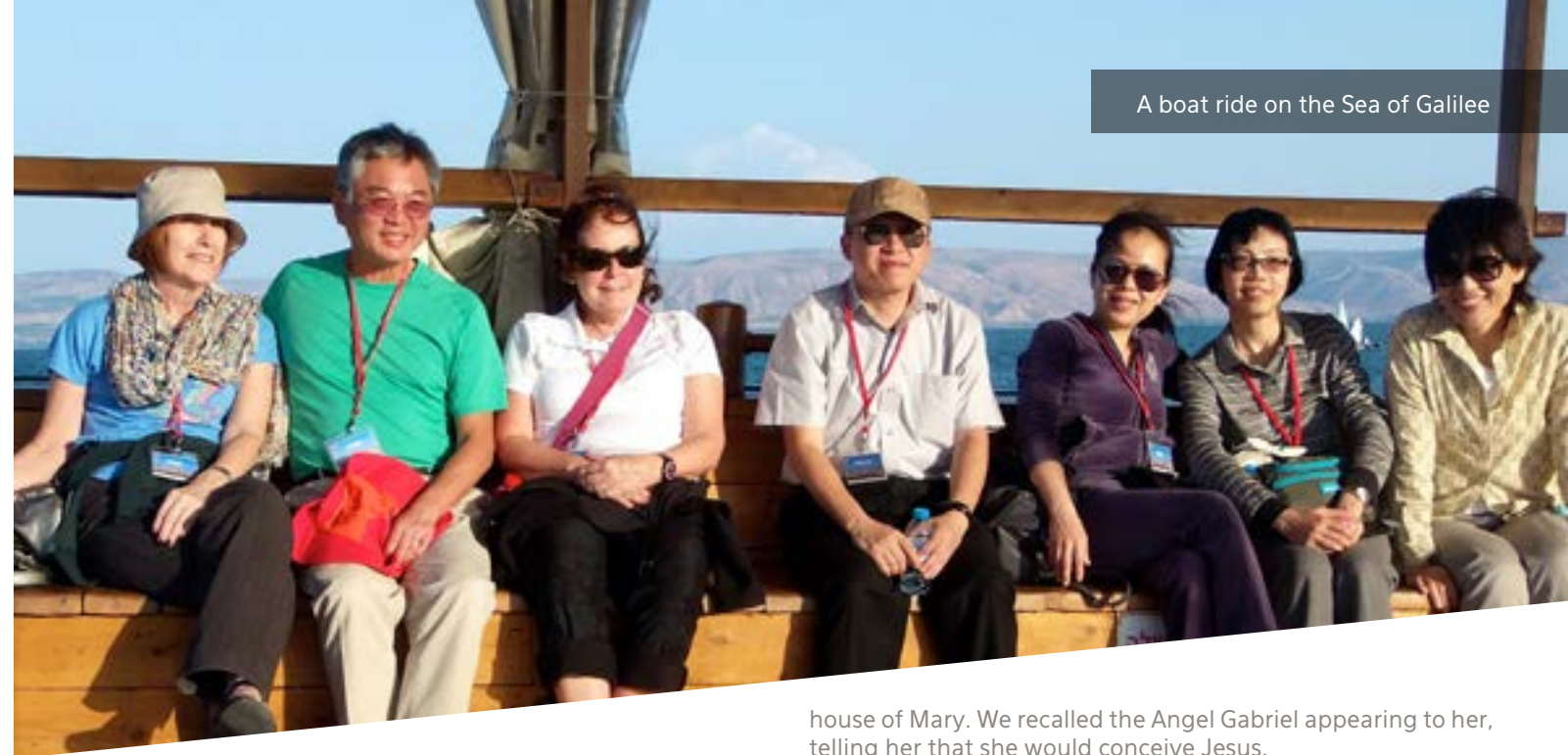


The Team

A team of five people looked after the whole group. Dean Matthias and the Revd Catherine Graham were essentially our shepherds, making sure we all had what we needed and that we did not get lost. They travelled with most of us from Hong Kong to Tel Aviv via Istanbul. Indeed, everything went like clockwork.

On arrival in Tel Aviv, Canon John Peterson and Canon Iyad Qumri, our local guide, greeted us. Iyad is the only legally registered Anglican Palestinian tour guide in the Holy Land. The Revd Mark Stanger, working for Iyad, joined us later.

John was our main guide for the whole trip. He was for 10-years Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem. He was also an archaeologist. It was John's background and experience that made this pilgrimage so attractive. Iyad was as lively a tour guide as one might find and at the end of the trip we enjoyed a wonderful meal with his family.



A boat ride on the Sea of Galilee

Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee

Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee: From the airport, with our driver for the trip, Omar, at the wheel, we drove north towards Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. We were first taken to the excavated site of Sepphoris, a centre of Roman administration and Jewish scholarship in the 1st Century. John explained that Sepphoris was only an hour's drive from Nazareth. That would have been within a day's journey on foot. The amphitheatre seated 4,000, telling us that there had been a population of 40,000 as amphitheatres were designed to seat 10% of the population of the town or city. It is highly likely that Joseph was involved in the construction of Sepphoris. He may have been a building contractor rather than a carpenter, the meaning having probably become twisted in translation. This would have meant that Joseph was in the higher echelons of the social and wealth structure, probably one tier below the politicians.

In Sepphoris we saw a house with a large room with square mosaic paving. John explained this was a triclinium where people would have had their meals lying on cushions laid along the sides. This was probably how the Last Supper was held and would be consistent with the reference made in John 13:23 "now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples ...", in stark contrast to Leonardo da Vinci's depiction of the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples seated at a long table.

We stayed in Nazareth at the Sisters of Nazareth Convent, a guesthouse for pilgrims. But dinner did not come until we had celebrated the Eucharist at Christ Episcopal Church next door. We appreciated the warm hospitality of the Anglican priest there. Across the street from the Christ Episcopal Church is the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation built over the

house of Mary. We recalled the Angel Gabriel appearing to her, telling her that she would conceive Jesus.

Old Nazareth is very small. To put things in context, the width of Old Nazareth from east to west would be no more than from Queen's Road to Connaught Road, Central in Hong Kong and its length from north to south no more than from Hutchison House to Pedder Street.

The next morning we renewed our baptismal vows at the River Jordan under a bright clear blue sky. The Dean sprinkled us with water from the river using olive branches from near the riverbank. We took commemorative photographs or else meditated in silence.

We then travelled to the Mount of Beatitudes. To read again the Beatitudes where Jesus taught is some experience. Mount Eremos, a short distance away, encompassed the area where Jesus Christ spent much of his time teaching his disciples. From there, we wandered in meditative silence down the hill beside the Sea of Galilee. We arrived at a white stone wrought in the form of a cube under a tree. Catherine and Matthias prepared an altar and we celebrated the Eucharist. Everyone found this an extremely moving experience and many later recalled it as one of the spiritual highlights of the trip. The walk together in silence gave us a chance to be with God and to ask him to speak to us during our pilgrimage.

In Capernaum, where the Holy Family went after Joseph died, we saw the modern church built over Peter's house. The stunning circular design with glass windows all around gave a beautiful view of the Sea of Galilee from behind the altar. We then went to Tabgha, where the multiplication of loaves and fishes took place, before taking a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

A surprise awaited us on our last night in Nazareth. After dinner, we were taken in small groups to the excavated site in the basement of the guesthouse. There, we discovered a small house dating back to the first century. We went further down into the basement and found a rolling stone tomb. Archaeology tells us that rolling stone tombs were only in use for a hundred years of human history (50 BC to 50 AD). The surprise was that this was probably Joseph's house; he would have been able to afford, or else would have had the skills to construct, such a tomb. The site had always been referred to through the oral tradition as 'the house of the just'. With reference to Matthew 1:19: "then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily".

Bethlehem

Bethlehem: On our way southward towards Bethlehem, we spent the night at Taybeh, the only 100% Christian town in Palestine. In the village are the ruins of the 4th Century Church of St George where we saw evidence of a recent animal sacrifice and learned that some Christians still practice this on important occasions such as weddings.

Next on our way was the cave John found at Tekoa (the home of the Prophet Amos). John explained that inns were not like modern hotels with individual rooms but just a one-room building where everybody brought their own bedding and laid it on the floor. He argued that the scenario of the inhospitable innkeeper was unlikely; rather it may have been a very hospitable innkeeper who offered Mary the privacy of the cave below the inn to allow her the space to give birth to Jesus. We also saw an example of a manger; a hollowed rectangular piece of stone the perfect size to contain a newborn child.

This was an enlightening prelude to our visit to the Church of the Holy Nativity in Manger Square in Bethlehem, where we stood and sang in the cave below the church marking the place where Jesus was born.



Jerusalem

This fascinating city is perhaps the key place most people will think of when contemplating a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This city is so significant because the last week of Jesus' life unfolded there and his resurrection took place nearby. In preparation for our pilgrimage we read *The Last Week* by Marcus J. Borg, to understand the history, politics and philosophy surrounding Christ's crucifixion.

Here in Jerusalem, we visited the Western Wall, the retaining wall of the ancient Jewish temple and saw the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which at the time of our visit we were not allowed to enter. Jewish people do not visit the mount itself in case anyone should step upon the place where the Holy of Holies, containing the sacred Ark of the Covenant, used to be located. However, we witnessed the tensions, which spill over at the site when groups of settlers defy this and enter and process around, accompanied by police.

We undertook the Palm Sunday walk at Bethphage and went to the Garden of Gethsemane to reflect on Jesus' suffering shortly before his capture. Some of the olive trees there date back 1,700 years and may have been offshoots of those under which Jesus Christ prayed.

Later we celebrated the Eucharist in the Byzantine Church at Emmaus, where Jesus Christ first appeared after his crucifixion. Here, one of our pilgrims, Simmy Woo, sang a song that was a poignant experience for everyone.

At dawn next day we began to walk the 14 Stations of the Cross through the Old City. Taking turns, we carried our own cross, pausing at each Station for silent reflection and a short scripture reading and homily by John. This was a particularly spiritual experience, which I found one of the most profound of our pilgrimage, and there was hardly a dry eye amongst the pilgrims.



St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem

The last morning was spent at Wadi Qelt for silent reflections on our experiences. We sat on top of the hills overlooking the wilderness between Jericho and Jerusalem, an area Jesus must have travelled over many times.

Each pilgrim will recall different meaningful and touching moments. For me, Christmas and Holy Week will never be the same.



Following a silent walk from the Mount of Beatitudes, Dean Matthias celebrates a Eucharist overlooking the Sea of Galilee.



The Dome of the Rock



Church of All Nations (Roman Catholic) and the Church of St Mary Magdalene (Russian Orthodox) nestle peacefully together on the Mount of Olives

Nothing can quite prepare you for the chance to stand in front of the doorway of what was quite likely the Holy Family's residence in Nazareth, to imagine the infant Jesus running over the threshold, or to bend down and put one's whole hand on the place which commemorates the very spot where he was born. And to learn too that he was born not in a stable but in a cave.

Our wonderful guide, Canon John Peterson, took the time to show us a similar cave so that we could understand our surroundings when we visited the Church of the Holy Nativity. Otherwise, it is not always possible to appreciate, once in the Church, that you are in fact standing in a cave. I also appreciated John's argument that, contrary to the usual bad press in the standard school nativity show, the innkeeper was actually very hospitable, offering Mary the cave under the inn as a private place to give birth. These were wonderful things to take back to my 5-year old child, who was excited to hear that I had seen the place where Jesus was born and even sailed on the Sea of Galilee, just like the fishermen.

Kate Olley

Early November 2015. The deserts, wilderness and holy cities of Israel invoked in me the biblical stories and hymns that kept me company in my harsh, strenuous childhood: Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. God, the creator of all things, so distant yet so near, acting through teachers, so redeemed a hard-headed, cold, outwardly removed, rebellious teenager.

After growing up, I was baptised, yet seldom attended church and often found excuses to justify this. As a pilgrim, and unaccustomed to revealing emotions then and there, I did not shed tears pressing myself against the Wailing Wall, did not speak to the Holy Spirit on the silent walk to the Sea of Galilee, and did not still myself to meditate upon the mountain when beholding the boundless sky and the vast endless valleys.

A quiet afternoon in late November, bowed before the image of Christ crucified in St John's Cathedral, all that should have been said but was left unsaid, the many things neglected, the chances missed, and the old hymn verse "nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling", all pierced like a sword through the soul. At that moment, finally, uncontrollably ... On the rainy night of 9 December, leaving behind everything familiar, bidding farewell to the beloved land where I belong, so as to honour a promise made twenty-four years ago, suddenly, an epiphany - why the children of Israel yearned unquenchably for the Promised Land.

Nothing happens but by God's will, so let my heart turn unto him.

Geraldine To
(Ed. Translated from Chinese)

The day before we were to walk the Stations of the Cross on Via Dolorosa, it was raining. John Peterson briefed us on the walk and challenged us, "Did Jesus have a choice?" He said we would go ahead irrespective of the rain. Next morning, some of us carried the cross in light rain, read out meditation material and prayed at each station. Back at the guesthouse, something came to my mind: Jesus did choose to love us despite all those sufferings leading to the Cross. Thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love.

When we were at the Dome of the Rock one Jewish settler came with a company of police. John explained that the settlers' purpose was to hasten the building of the third temple and the Messiah's second coming. The story of Hagar and Ishmael came to my mind. Men always want to help God a bit but "is there anything too hard for the Lord?"

The pilgrimage enriched me a lot, especially the Bible passages. Now, when I read the Bible, I can visualise the places like Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. The pilgrimage has brought so many of the scenes to life.

Evelyne Yeung

One of the most poignant experiences for me was during our visit to the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives. We had learnt that the olive trees growing in the garden for the past 1800 years had been grafted on to older roots, possibly dating back to the time of Jesus. We had prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Church of All Nations - the rock that sits in front of the altar surrounded by a wrought iron rail twisted to form thorns. During prayer, I was left with the sentence 'broken for him', something of both Jesus' sacrifice for us, and the change wrought in us as we try to serve our Lord. It was dusk when we exited the church. The Kidron valley was in front of us, the Jewish cemetery in the near ground and small patches of yellow light visible further through the mist. On the other side of the valley was the Temple Mount of Jerusalem's Old City, crowned by the Dome of the Rock. A sole minaret stood out as well, showing green lights, adding to an otherworldly setting. At that moment, the Muslim call to prayer came across the valley. Father Mark, one of our guides put it simply to us. It was embodying something common to everyone across the Holy Land prayer.

To me, the pilgrimage will stand out for years for giving me a new historical perspective on scripture as well as Jesus' life, a deeper understanding of the nature of his ministry and as a spiritual experience, and a glimpsing insight into the contemporary challenges in the region. It was made even more special by the opportunity to learn from and share fellowship throughout with my fellow pilgrims.

Edward Coles-Gale

Pilgrim Nicolas Yeung surveys vast the Judean Desert

PILGRIMS' REFLECTIONS

It has been a true pilgrimage and for me was the most memorable and beneficial trip of my spiritual life. No words can describe how blessed we were throughout the tour and I continued to feel the blessings right up to Christmas and New Year.

Family and friends questioned me on the timing of a visit to the Holy Land, given the circumstances. But like all others in the group I never doubted or worried about the trip. I knew that God would bless us, keep us and guide us on our journey, and he did. We felt peaceful, safe and loved in places we visited; always greeted with warm welcome, even on the street.

I waited for more than 10-years to visit the Holy Land but could never work out a time with my family, and I did not want to join a "holiday tour". I heard about the SJC pilgrimage one evening at a bible class, and was granted a place 3 weeks before the trip. God has a plan for all of us and sometimes we just have to be patient and trust in his plan.

The experience has been overwhelming. It's unforgettable; the history and cultures of the Orthodox Jews and the Palestinians and walking through sites that have made my reading come alive. Reading the bible since the trip has been more interesting as I can now picture the sites I have visited.

I shall always remember when we walked the Stations of the Cross - right through the Damascus gate. It was so moving and everyone in the group was thoroughly overcome and touched throughout the walk. There was not a dry eye amongst any of us.

I hope you enjoy reading our thoughts and perspectives on our trip. It has been overwhelming to know that we walked some of the same paths that Jesus walked. I hope you will be blessed the same way we were, on your pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Sharon Yih

This was my third pilgrimage to the Holy Land - a last minute rescue mission for me - and one that in many ways completed my spiritual journey.

I take away from this Pilgrimage two memories I shall have for the rest of my life. The first was our visit to the Wadi Qelt area or the Mount of Temptations for silent reflections. We were told to walk anywhere and meditate privately. Being a mountaineer in my younger days I immediately attacked the fairly steep ridges, to reach the highest point and capture the view of the area. I was well rewarded with the sight of a huge expanse of complete wilderness and emptiness. The land stretched out as far as the eye could see. It was breathtaking. I felt like the size of an ant standing there. My mind went back to Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. I was close to the edge of a cliff and looked down at the valley below, being very careful to keep my balance. These words came into my head, "All these will I give to you, if you will fall down and worship me." "It is written, worship the Lord your God and serve only him." (Matthew 4:9b)

The second memory is of being challenged by Canon John Peterson's homily on the Emmaus Road story in Luke's gospel. "Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked to us on the way, while he opened to us the Scripture?" I have come away with the message that Christians are privileged to have the opportunity to break bread, but how do we in our daily lives invite others to share at our table? Every day I ask myself this question.

Faye Yee



OVERFLOWING WITH THANKS

As they have for many years, Americans gathered in St John's Cathedral in November for an annual ecumenical Thanksgiving Service that, as evocatively as any event on the calendar, nurtures countless home thoughts from abroad that are a staple of expatriate life.

Participants at the 2015 service included from left: the Revd Mark Rogers, the Revd Desmond Cox and the Revd Robert Martin (St John's Cathedral), the Revd Marybeth Asher-Lawson (Methodist International Church), the Revd Steve Gaultney (Community Church), the Revd Dr Judy Chan (HK Christian Council), the Dean (St John's Cathedral), the Honourable Consular Section Chief of USA Robert Settje and Mrs Settje, the Revd Wade Wollin (Community Church), Mrs Shannon Hilliard and the Revd Brett Hilliard (Island Evangelical Community Church), the Revd Dr Greg Anderson and the Revd Matthew Fredericks (both from Union Church, HK Island).



Readers may not know that this year it is 10-years since the Children's Choir was first established in May 2006. To celebrate this achievement, St John's Cathedral will be presenting an Anniversary concert at 3pm on Saturday 14th May 2016. We will have a walk down memory lane, see how the Choir has developed over that time, and hear contributions from the 50 children who now sing with the Choir or play with the Instrumental Ensemble.

As 14th May is a Public Holiday, we do hope that as many people as possible will be able to join in the fun. The tickets will be free and light refreshments will be served in the Li Hall after the concert.

Please do make a note of the date in your diary and invite your family and friends to join us for this unique occasion.

SAVE THE DATE



**St John's Cathedral
Children's Choir**

DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH CHRISTMAS



This is the second year we have had a Nine Lessons and Carols service. The choir and musicians are all from Discovery Bay Church.

The Nativity-in-the-Plaza has been held annually for about eight years. It is an ecumenical service with Discovery Bay Church, Discovery Bay International Community Church, Church of Incarnation and Holy Trinity Chapel. About 300 people attend.

The Christmas Eve Christingle/Nativity Play is the best-attended service of the year drawing about 350 people. It is a well-loved community event and its organisation involves many church volunteers. The nativity play is highly participative; children arrive and can choose to be lambs/sheep, angels and shepherds. The Discovery Bay Church children play the main roles.





Lake Lugano by Night



The Lakeside Promenade

Addio, Padre Nigel

By deputy editor Stuart Wolfendale

Anyone whose WhatsApp name is Boxing Kangaroo was always going to be difficult to pin down. We should probably be grateful that we managed to do it with Father Nigel Gibson for as long as six years, but now Nigel is going and is almost gone. Soon after Easter, he will leave us and head off to the Italian-speaking Swiss Canton of Ticino to become priest-in-charge of the church of St Edward the Confessor, Lugano – an Anglican parish that is part of the Diocese in Europe.

We took Nigel from Europe in the first place, from the Anglican community in Milan. If you had expected one of those softly spoken, E.M. Forster clerics who had been lotus eating in an English expatriate haven then you would have been jolted by Fr Nigel. An Australian from a hard-working inner-city parish, and a padre to nearby NATO troops, Nigel hit the ground running in Garden Road.

Short, wiry, highly articulate, with a directness that could disarm, and a generous enthusiasm that could be winning, he left some people delighted, some thoughtful and not a few puzzled. No one has ever been in any doubt about his skills and his energy, though nobody could ever be quite sure what he would turn up wearing next.

Nigel started his working life as a broadcast radio journalist in Sydney. Even after he had become ordained and moved to England, he took time out from being a priest to run a retail furnishing and interior design company. His experience from secular business and his artistic flair have brought great benefits in communications and visual impact to St John's. His straightforward and sure footed theology, his firm and calm pastoral skill, his abhorrence of empty piety and long meetings and his terrific sense of humour gave us a priest with whom we knew where we were, on whom we could always rely for an honest view and a professional outcome, and who was always stimulating to encounter.



Father Nigel's worldly business and marketing sense have contributed invaluable form and impact to recent Stewardship campaigns. He has always been there to give our many ministries and publications posters that actually get their message across. He has been the coordinator of the newly formed Communications Group and has been moving more and more into the role of the chaplain who watches over the complex web of Cathedral communications. Capping this has been his founding editorship of this magazine, which he has navigated through seven editions to considerable acclaim, contributing editorial sense, photographic skill, design flair and exhausting hours with the production company.

Above all though and best of all, he has been a marvellous priest-in-charge at the Emmanuel daughter church where his going will be felt the most. He took over at a difficult time for that congregation which was in some contortion. He faced criticism, garnered support, refreshed its Anglican identity and helped the congregation to a calmer situation and sense of community.

Behind his vigorous approach, many people will remember Nigel for his discreet pastoral care and the time he gave individuals to console, encourage and improve. Scores of couples in Hong Kong have begun married life with Nigel's counsel and a well-conducted wedding. He will be remembered too for his vividly coloured trainers and jeans, his highly unclerical and often woolly headgear and the mischievous half smile underneath it. He did 'box' but that was kept outside the Cathedral, except for the occasional heavy gloved-thump he would give to his office wall with language so rich that it is not even found in the Book of Common Prayer! ➔



St Edward's Anglican Church & Vicarage



Piazza della Riforma in the city centre

A memorable contribution from Nigel was his organisation and leadership of the recent Rome and Assisi pilgrimage where his Hong Kong parishioners were treated to his flair for Italy. He is returning to that Italian-speaking world he is so fond of, only an hour up the road from his beloved Milan, and many of us here have sincere happiness for him in that, mingled with regret at his leaving.

Father Nigel would say, to use one of his favourite expressions, that he and his work here will be fish 'n chip paper in a week's time. You will be remembered and missed for a few days longer than that, Nigel, and by some of us, always. In the meantime, may God go with you.



Holy Week & Easter Services at St John's & Daughter Churches



St John's Cathedral

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

20th March: Palm Sunday

- 08:00 Said Eucharist
- 09:30 Palm Procession & Solemn Eucharist (Combined bi-lingual service)
- 11:45 All Age Worship
- 14:00 Sung Eucharist (Filipino)
- 18:00 Tenebrae Service

21st March: Monday in Holy Week

- 08:00 Said Eucharist
- 18:00 Stations & Eucharist

22nd March: Tuesday in Holy Week

- 08:00 Said Eucharist
- 18:00 Stations & Eucharist

23rd March: Wednesday in Holy Week

- 08:00 Said Eucharist
- 18:00 Stations & Eucharist

24th March: Maundy Thursday

- 09:00 Chrism Eucharist Blessing of Holy Oils & Renewal of Ordination Vows
- 13:15 Said Eucharist
- 20:00 Solemn Eucharist with the Washing of Feet & Watch until Midnight

25th March: Good Friday

- 09:00 Morning Prayer (said)
- 10:30 Liturgy of Good Friday (Mandarin)
- 12:00 All Age Worship
- 13:30 Liturgy of Good Friday

26th March: Holy Saturday

- 09:00 Morning Prayer (said)
- 20:00 Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter

27th March: Easter Day

- 08:00 Said Eucharist
- 09:00 Sung Eucharist & Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- 10:30 Sung Eucharist (Mandarin)
- 11:45 All Age Worship
- 14:00 Sung Eucharist (Filipino)
- 18:00 Festal Easter Evensong



Emmanuel Church
Béthanie Chapel
139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pokfulam
Further information Tel: 2523 4157
www.emmanuel.org.hk

20th March: Palm Sunday

- 10:15 Sung Eucharist with the blessing of Palm Crosses

25th March: Good Friday

- 10:15 Last Hour of the Passion

27th March: Easter Day

- 10:15 Sung Eucharist for the Resurrection of our Lord (Fr Nigel Gibson's farewell service at Emmanuel)



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

20th March: Palm Sunday

- 09:30 Holy Eucharist & the Dramatic Re-enactment of Holy Week

24th March: Maundy Thursday

- 20:00 Eucharist of the Last Supper

25th March: Good Friday

- 10:00 The Easter Garden: an active service retelling the Easter Story for young children
- 11:00 Stations of the Cross

27th March: Easter Day

- 09:30 Easter Family Communion celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus



Discovery Bay Church
SKH Wei Lun Primary School
Further information Tel: 2987 4210
www.discoverybaychurch.org.hk

20th March: Palm Sunday

- 10:00 Eucharist with blessing of Palm Crosses (Bi-lingual service)

27th March: Easter Day

- 06:00 Ecumenical Sunrise Service on the beach in Discovery Bay
- 10:00 Eucharist of the Resurrection in Wei Lun School



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FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP: A CLERGY STUDY EXCURSION TO GUANGZHOU

By Robert Martin



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Guangzhou

'Are there still churches open for worship in China?' This is a common question asked in Hong Kong and further afield. The answer is a definite 'Yes' and some of the Cathedral clergy journeyed recently to the city of Guangzhou to find out more under Dean Matthias' leadership and guided by Cathedral server, Adam Mok.

From the early 1950's all Christian denominations in China were dissolved and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement or TSPM, which promoted a strategy of 'self-governance, self-support, and self-propagation' was formed. It was primarily to see these churches that our visit was planned. We started our visit with a lunch to meet local leaders of the TSPM and the China Christian Council, who introduced the Church to us and answered our preliminary questions.

Visits were arranged to Dongshan Church, a former Baptist building and two former Anglican Churches, Shamian Church and the Saviour's Church. All are now vibrant TSPM churches with growing congregations and enthusiastic pastoral teams. Each church was quite unique, partly reflecting the original denomination it had come from, but also the different ministry style of each community.

We also visited some other religious sites in Guangzhou including the beautiful Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Guangta Mosque and the Guangxia Buddhist Temple, each reflecting something of the varied religious history of Guangzhou and her people.