

ISSUE 038



IN TOUCH

175 years of grace and glory

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

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Central, Hong Kong

September 2024†

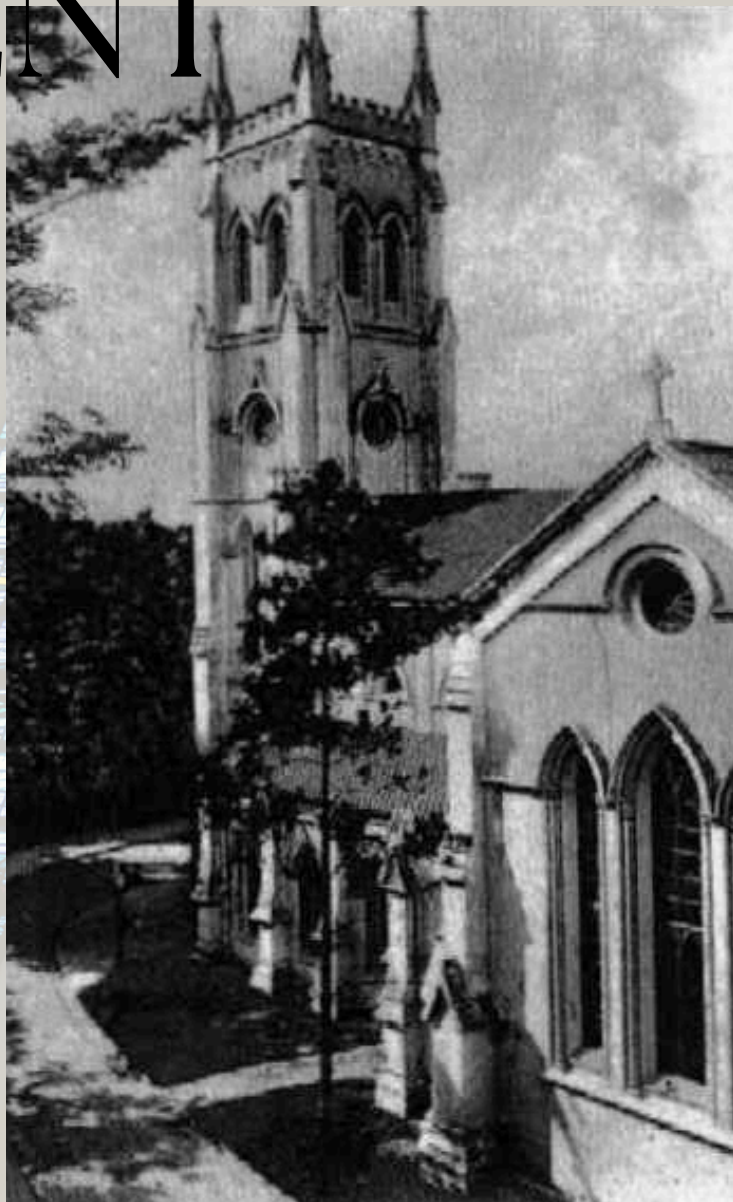
Cathedral Magazine
Autumn Edition



Read Online

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Peace be with you!

Summertime is always a time with fewer people staying in the Cathedral community. This year, to my surprise, I became one of those who are not present in the Cathedral grounds after an accident in late June.

On Sunday 23 June, I was playing badminton with my family after finishing three services in the morning. Suddenly, I heard a clear 'pop' from my right ankle, followed by sharp pain. I fell and was unable to walk. Later, I was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with a ruptured Achilles tendon. Surgery was arranged to fix the rupture, and I was told that 2 months of sick leave would be needed for rehabilitation.

Thank God that the surgery was smooth and successful and I was discharged from the hospital 5 days after the accident. The unexpected homebound holiday was not easy to adapt to at the beginning. Thankfully, different sisters and brothers in Christ of St John's Cathedral and the Province sent me caring messages, prayers, greeting cards, flowers, books, and presents to cheer me up. I am most thankful to all these angels sent from God.

I am now steadily recovering. It has been a great opportunity for meditation and reflection. With this unforeseeable injury, I thank God for giving me a pause in my hectic schedule in the Cathedral office. I promise Bishop Matthias and the Trustees that I return to the Cathedral community stronger and healthier.

This year, we celebrate the 175th Anniversary of St John's Cathedral. After the successful UK Choir Tour during the summer (credit to our marvelous Music Director, Felix Yeung, and his team), we had the Thanksgiving Eucharist and Gala Dinner on Sunday 15 September. I am most grateful to Martin Matsui, the chair of the organising team, and his dedicated committee of sisters and brothers in Christ for all the time and endless efforts contributed to preparing for the dinner. I am also greatly appreciative of all the donors who offered their generous contributions for the celebration of this joyful occasion.

Right now, the Cathedral is at the end of the process of recruiting a new priest-in-charge for Discovery Bay Church, as well as a new Director of our Counselling Service. We pray for God's will to be revealed and for the most suitable candidates to fill these two posts. Please continue to pray for the Cathedral.

May God guide us and be with us.

Love to you all,
Dean KK



各位朋友：

主內平安！

夏季的座堂一向比較安靜，但今年我也意外地成為缺席的人之一。

6月23日的主日，在完成三場堂崇拜後，我和家人一起打羽毛球時，右腳踝突然傳來「啪」的一聲，隨即劇痛襲來。我倒在地，無法行走。隨後被送入醫院，檢查後確認為阿基里斯肌腱斷裂。醫生立即安排手術，並告知我術後需要休養兩個月。

感謝上帝，手術順利成功。我在事故發生後五天就出院了。最初，這種意外的居家假期不容易適應。不過，聖約翰座堂和教省的許多主內弟兄姊妹送來了關懷的信息、禱告、慰問卡、鮮花、書籍和禮物，讓我倍感鼓舞。我非常感謝這些上帝差遣的天使。

如今，我正穩步康復中。這是一個很好的默想和反思的機會。感謝上帝透過這突如其來的意外，為我的忙碌座堂生活帶來了暫歇的機會。我向謝子和主教及信託人承諾，以更強健的狀態回歸座堂。

今年是聖約翰座堂175周年堂慶。我們的音樂總監楊欣諾和他的團隊在七月帶領座堂詩班成功完成英國巡演，我們亦於9月15日主日的舉行了感恩崇拜和晚宴。我非常感謝負責組織的主席松本馨弟兄和一眾籌委的主內兄弟，感激他們為籌備晚宴付出的時間和努力，也感謝所有慷慨奉獻的姊妹們，他們為這個歡欣的時刻作出了重要貢獻。

目前，愉景灣堂主理聖品和輔導服務新主任的招募已接近尾聲。我們祈求上帝的旨意得以彰顯，並找到最合適的人選來擔任這兩個崗位。請繼續為座堂祈禱。

願上帝引導我們，與我們同在。

主佑！

座堂主任牧師
陳國強謹啟

There and back again:

St John's 175-year Journey with Hong Kong

Text by / JOHN TANNER

I moved to Hong Kong in 1996, but it wasn't until early 2014 that I first set foot inside St John's Cathedral for worship purposes. I'd just returned to the faith after a 30+ year hiatus, and I was trying to decide which church to attend. I chose St John's because I'd originally been baptized and confirmed in the American Episcopal Church, so an Anglican church would be familiar territory for me.



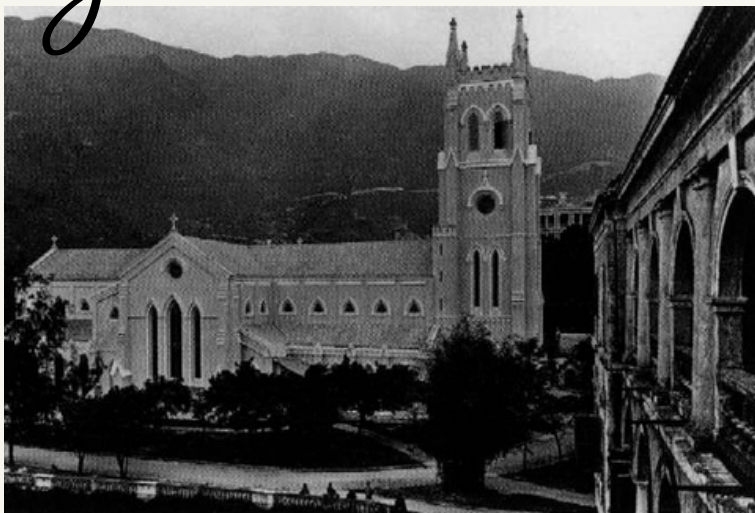
Restoring Community

That sounds slow by modern standards, but it's important to remember that all of Hong Kong was struggling to get back on its feet after the war, and faced enormous issues with housing, poverty, illiteracy, and social welfare.

This was also happening within the context of the swelling population due to the waves of refugees from mainland China fleeing its civil war, the Japanese invasion of Guangdong province, and the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

This meant that in addition to rebuilding the cathedral and its congregation, St John's was also busy helping to restore the community it served. Ronald Owen Hall, who was appointed Bishop in 1932, was instrumental in starting social welfare programmes to help those in need at a time when few such organised programmes existed in Hong Kong.

For example, Bishop Hall established an orphanage (now known as St Christopher's Home) in Tai Po in 1937, and after World War II, the church became actively involved in housing and youth work projects, such as St James Settlement in Wan Chai, which Bishop Hall founded in 1949.



I knew very little about St John's, except that it was one of the oldest churches in Hong Kong. This year, in fact, marks the cathedral's 175th anniversary—which makes it one of the oldest church buildings in the city. One thing that struck me on that first visit was that it didn't look old—or at least what I thought a 175-year-old church ought to look like.

One key reason for this, of course, is that the cathedral had to undergo major renovations after the end of the Japanese occupation in World War II. Infamously, the cathedral had been converted into a social club for Japanese residents in 1944. By the end of the war, the building interior was a shambles.

In her book *A Short History and Guide: St John's Cathedral Hong Kong*, Doreen King quotes a local resident who described the scene: 'There were no stained-glass windows, a ruined organ with a few remaining pipes, which looked as though they had been targets on a rifle range. No mural tablets or monuments, no altars, no choir stalls, no Lady Chapel, a desecrated font, and a shell hole through the tower.'

St John's was able to raise funding from the community to start renovation work. The first stage of renovation was completed in 1947, but the stained-glass windows weren't replaced until the late 1950s, along with the Lady Chapel.



Photo by / MICHAEL LUU

Human Origins

This is just one of many examples of how the history of St John's is a reflection of the history of Hong Kong, from the start of its colonial era under Britain in 1842 to today.

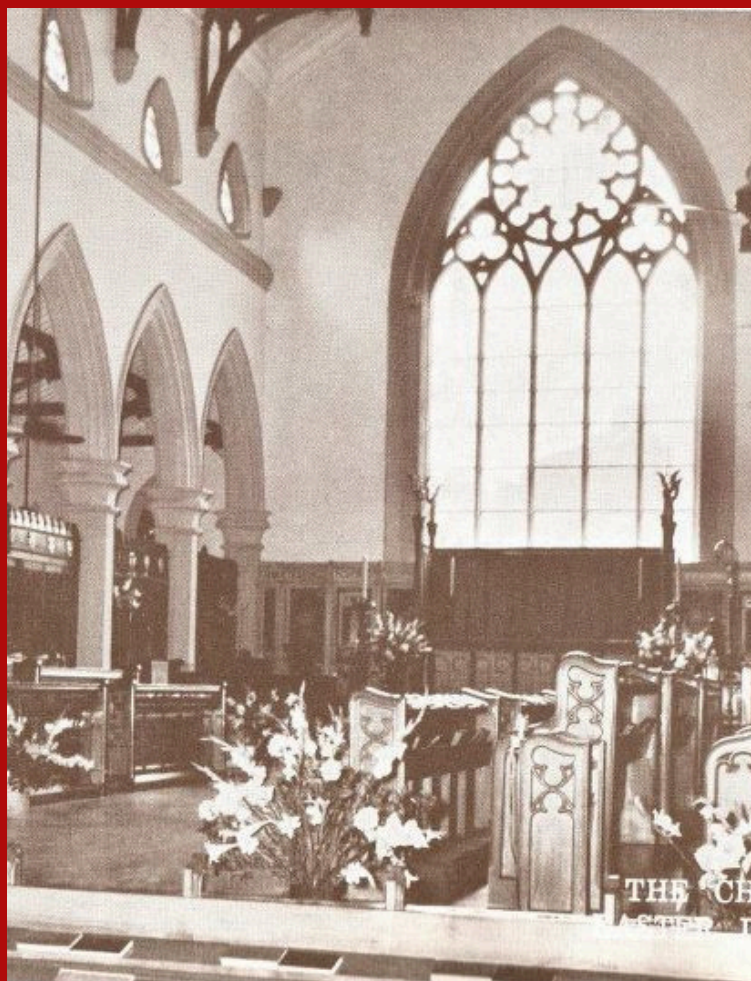
St John's had the humblest of origins, with the first services in 1842 held in a shed, according to *The Story of St John's Cathedral* by Steven Vines. After the appointment of the Revd Vincent John Stanton as Colonial Chaplain in 1843, plans were made to build a cathedral. After a long struggle over funds and architectural design, the cornerstone of the cathedral as we know it was laid on 11 March, 1847. The first service in St John's Cathedral was held exactly 2 yearsth later in 1849, which is the starting point for the cathedral's 175th anniversary.

Much can be (and has been) said and written about the physical changes over the last 175 years, but what's perhaps most striking is the changes in the church's congregation and its relationship with the community.

In the early days, St John's was very much a product of its colonial origins, writes Vines: 'When the Church was founded, it catered primarily to the needs of a non-Chinese, mainly British population numbering no more than 3,000 people, plus a relatively large military garrison, which insisted on having 250 of the church's 640 seats reserved for its use.'

This changed after World War I and the rise of a Chinese middle class, after which St John's had 'come to be seen as a place of worship open to more than the elite of colonial society'. One indicator of this shift was the abolition of the practice of pew ownership in 1928.

Today, St John's is a highly inclusive church, with the most numerous groups of worshippers representing the Philippines (most of whom are also Roman Catholic) and Hong Kong Chinese. Services are held in Tagalog, Cantonese, and Mandarin, as well as English. '[St John's] can therefore be rightly described as Hong Kong's parish church, a description which does not belittle its status as a cathedral, but reflects its wider role in the community,' Vines writes.



Enduring Outreach

As mentioned above, St John's outreach programmes for the poor and disadvantaged, and those suffering from social injustice, have also evolved and expanded over the last 175 years. Several have also been pioneering, such as the establishment of the AIDS Counselling Centre (later the HIV Education Centre) in the mid-1990s—a brave move at a time when AIDS was a very taboo subject.

Mission For Migrant Workers (MFMW) was established in 1981 to provide services for foreign domestic workers, who have long had to deal with discrimination and ill treatment by employees and society in general despite providing essential services to Hong Kong families. MFMW set up Bethune House in 1986 as a shelter for foreign domestic workers suffering from abuse. Both services raised eyebrows when they first launched, but both remain active today.

There are many more examples than this article has space for, so I would direct the reader to the Kenneth Tyson Library, which provided the resources informing these pages, or the Cathedral Bookstore. (You may also ask any available clergy or staff members. If all else fails, try your preferred search engine.)

Suffice to say that from its colonial origins to the 1997 handover from British to Chinese rule and the subsequent changes since then, St John's has proven to be one of the most enduring institutions in Hong Kong—not just the building, but the parish and its mission to be servants of Christ and bring his light to the world.

Wars, poverty, political turmoil, economic crises, pandemics, and social change—St John's has witnessed it all. And throughout, it has remained as resilient and relevant as ever.



What do we do at Sunday School?

Text by / TEACHER JESSIE

WE WORSHIP

We always start our class by singing *Light the Candle* to remind us that Christ is the light and Christ is among us. We follow this with a confession prayer to bring our minds close to God.

Adapting from the church's liturgy, we sing songs of praise such as *Gloria*, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, and *Give Thanks*. This year, under the guidance of Teacher Rochelle and Teacher Maria, the children have mastered the song *The Lord is My Shepherd*, a song based on *Psalms* 23. Through music, we hope that children can embrace the serenity of God's presence and rejoice in the excitement of being a little friend of Jesus's.

WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP

Each week we invite birthday boys and girls to come forth and be blessed with our birthday songs and wishes. Birthday children are responsible for collecting the offerings, as the offering collection is the time when we learn to be grateful for the abundant blessings we receive from God, and to be able to give back generously to others in need.

*During the major church festivals, we hold special activities to build children's character and enhance their Christian values. For example, at Christmas, children take part in the Nativity Play. Sharing different roles and costumes, as well as attending rehearsals, helps reinforce characteristics of leadership and teamwork. On Palm Sunday and Easter, children share a special worship holding palm leaves, demonstrating their respect for Christ the Lord and embracing the responsibility of sharing the Good News of Easter with their families and friends.

WE SERVE

Sunday School children are encouraged to go out to serve the world.

Each year at the annual Michaelmas Fair charity event held at St John's Cathedral, children offer their talents and abilities to serve in musical performances, games stores, and charity sales.

At our Summer Sunday School, children from all the Sunday School classes come together to knit scarves for charities. This is an initiative conceived by Timothy from the 'Joy' class, and was enthusiastically received by the whole Sunday School. Under Rita's guidance and arrangement, knitting machines, yarn, and other resources were prepared in no time, and our weekly 'knitting factory' has been running ever since. Immense teamwork and friendship have manifested in this project, progressing from the chaos in Week 1 to an orderly production in Week 5, with the older children teaching the younger ones. We are blessed to have Ariella and Archie from the 'Joy' class contributing their homemade cardboard pom-pom makers. Parent volunteers are of tremendous help too. By God's grace, we successfully made 20 adult scarves and 20 scarves for dolls and pets. Each scarf is unique in terms of colour and design. Undoubtedly, these handmade scarves will pass on the LOVE from our Sunday School children to their new owners.

WE LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

In September 2023, we kickstarted a 'Reading the Bible in a Year' project, which was completed in June 2024. Each week we structurally went through the Bible book by book, discussing the writers and backgrounds of each book, the relevant places on the maps, the different periods of tribal leaders, judges, kings and prophets, different events happening in those periods, the relevant main characters of interest and the lessons learned from these characters and their stories.

The children did amazingly in our 24 weeks of learning, covering the following topics from the Old Testament:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Noah | 9. Samson | 16. Proverbs |
| 2. Sarah and Abraham | 10. Ruth | 17. Hezekiah |
| 3. Rebekah, Isaac and Jacob | 11. Hannah and Samuel | 18. Elijah |
| 4. Joseph | 12. Saul and Jonathan | 19. Daniel |
| 5. Moses | 13. David | 20. Nehemiah |
| 6. More on Moses (The Tabernacle) | 14. <i>Psalms</i> 23 | 21. Jeremiah |
| 7. Joshua | 15. Solomon (and The 1 st Temple, 2 nd Temple, Herod's Temple) | 22. Esther |
| 8. Gideon | | 23. Jonah |
| | | 24. Job and other Poetries |

For the coming school term, we plan to focus on the New Testament, with highlights on the life of Jesus, his parables, and miracles.

WE PRAY

We pray The Lord's Prayer according to Jesus's teaching. Our children can all recite this prayer, which is good guidance on how we pray and what we pray for. By casting this prayer in children's minds at a young age, they always have a prayer handy whenever they are in need, and wherever they go. It is one of the best gifts we give to our Sunday School children.



We hope you now have a better understanding of St John's Cathedral Sunday School. We are very blessed to have all the Sunday School children here growing up together in the love of God.

'Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.' Proverbs 22. 6 (NRSV)



Focus on what is happening around you. What do you see, hear, smell, taste, or feel?



Take deep breaths and count each breath you breathe.



Show yourself some compassion by thinking kind thoughts about yourself.



Think of a person or place that makes you happy. What brings you joy?



Find an activity that makes you feel calm and allows you to focus on yourself.

LEC TIPS TO *find peace*

Text by / VANICE CHAN
Centre Supervisor of LEC

This year's theme at St John's Cathedral is 'The Year of Peace: The Peace that the World Cannot Give'. John 14. 27 says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

We all would like to find our own inner peace, as well as the love from God. Feel free to join LEC programmes to motivate 'Among Us'! Let's 'Aspire to Inspire, together we thrive!'

What is **inner peace**?

Inner peace is a state of tranquility where we feel at ease within ourselves, and from there with our peers and the world around us. It's about being fully present in and comfortable with our varying conditions.

The recent movie *Inside Out 2* tells us that emotions are natural and are meant to be felt. To therefore experience inner peace, we need to accept who we are—our strengths, weaknesses, desires, or even dreams, everything that makes us unique. By learning to feel and accept the world around us, which inherently encompasses ever-unfolding challenges, we also begin to learn how to cope with anxiety, worry, and stress. In essence, inner peace is essentially equanimity in action.

Cultivating a positive mindset is important. Life Enrichment Centre (LEC) is one of the outreach ministries of St John's Cathedral. Through a wide range of life education activities and programmes, we seek to inspire youths to appreciate different aspects of life, identify their potential, and pursue their dreams for the purpose of developing positive and fulfilling relationships, and thus a meaningful life. Our programmes include Life Building Mentorship Project, 'Between' social service projects, drama project, internship project, and many more.

Our minds are powerful organs. They can be our greatest ally when put to good use. Through regular attendance of these programmes, we hope that our youths are able to develop healthy habits and inner peace.

Stay close to the Life Enrichment Centre for updates



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK



WEBSITE

New Faces

in Life Enrichment Centre



Michelle Ngai
Part-time Assistant

Hi all, this is Michelle Ngai from LEC. I am a Year 3 student, studying counselling and psychology. I enjoy walking around Hong Kong and capturing photographs of this beautiful place with my camera.

At the moment, I am working as a part-time assistant at LEC, assisting in the playback theatre project of ONCE drama team. Playback theatre is a unique form of performance and it is very exciting to make connections with everyone throughout the process. I look forward to seeing you all in our upcoming shows at the Cathedral in November.



Ray Wong
Project Officer

Greetings, everyone! This is Ray Wong. I have been working as a Project Officer at LEC since May 2024. Looking back at my days at the university, I studied counselling and psychology, which has greatly aided me in my current role. I started attending church when I was 2 years old, and now I serve as a council member and server at St James Church.

Currently, I am in charge of the Teens Smart project, which offers internship opportunities to teenagers facing internet addiction issues. I am passionate about board games and family-oriented activities. Feel free to approach me to play games at LEC. I look forward to seeing you!

Engaging **Migrant Domestic Workers** & Building Harmony Across Communities



Text by / JOHANNIE TONG
Community Relations
Officer of MFMW

Celebrating our 43rd Anniversary with Give Care to Our Caregivers (GCC) to promote harmony

The Mission For Migrant Workers (MFMW) held its first Give Care to Our Caregivers (GCC) Service Fair for 2024 on 26 May on Chater Road, Central. It was also the celebration of MFMW's 43rd anniversary with its grassroots migrant partners.

GCC started as a concept in 2010. Back then, we challenged Hong Kong society to recognise the good work of its domestic workers—truly Hong Kong's caregivers. We asked: 'Given that they care for our households 6 times a week, why not care for them back'?

The GCC Service Fair had to be suspended for more than 2 years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are happy we were able to resume this large-scale event last year.

This year's GCC Service Fair offered 16 different types of free services for migrant domestic workers, from massage and chiropractic services to mental wellness and dental health. The event also offered information dissemination on the new policies of Hong Kong.

On the day of the fair, it was overcast in the morning, but it did not dampen the spirits of those involved with setting up for the event, nor the 1,500 migrant workers lined up for free services. Indeed, a bit of rain cannot stop migrant domestic workers from queuing for these services, which they really need, but usually cannot access due to the lack of resources. It's an unfortunate fact that the governments that send migrant domestic workers to Hong Kong deprive them of such services.

MFMW has considered what kind of services the community needs, and so we gathered good-hearted people around Hong Kong who are willing to share their professional skills and knowledge with migrant domestic workers for free at the fair.

'Coins for Bethune House 2024' was also launched at the event, encouraging the public to save their coins and notes to put in cans. As a community-run shelter, Bethune House survives through fund-raising efforts by the migrant community and its supporters.

There was also a Happy Homes booth to promote harmony in the household. The booth had games and also invited participants for a colouring contest.

By providing these services to migrant domestic workers, we aim to bridge the gap between migrant workers and caring employers. With the help of kind-hearted people in Hong Kong, MFMW successfully accomplished this.

For more than 13 years, we have been supported by many local and overseas charitable foundations and churches so that we may reach out to more Hong Kong professional service providers from the private sectors, migrant-serving institutions, and migrant associations, enabling us to effectively offer free and meaningful services to Hong Kong's caregivers.



Social Night with SJC Youth Ministry

The MFMW, as an outreach ministry at St John's Cathedral, plays a vital role in supporting migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong. The MFMW has been actively engaging in joint initiatives in collaboration with the Youth Ministry of the Cathedral, known as 'Among Us', since 2022 to foster understanding and solidarity between the youth and migrant workers.

One such collaboration took place on 24 May, where 15 youths from the Youth Ministry visited the Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge, a temporary shelter supported by the MFMW. During the visit, the participants engaged in various activities aimed at promoting integration and empathy. The evening commenced with a community dinner featuring a traditional Filipino dish, Adobo Chicken, prepared by shelter residents.

Ice-breaking games followed, allowing the youths and migrant workers to interact and learn more about each other. A highlight of the event was the exciting House Chores Competition, where migrant workers showcased

their skills in tasks like folding clothes and sewing buttons, ultimately winning the friendly competition.

The visit also included a tour of the shelter spaces, providing insights into the challenges faced by migrant workers living in Hong Kong. Small group discussions allowed the youths to hear firsthand accounts from shelter residents, shedding light on the hardships and resilience of the migrant community.

Overall, the Social Night was a heartwarming and enlightening experience, fostering mutual understanding and support between the local youth and migrant workers. The event not only brought joy and laughter but also inspired the participants to continue advocating for and assisting vulnerable groups in Hong Kong.

By strengthening partnerships and collaboration within the Church ministries, the MFMW and the Youth Ministry are making a meaningful impact on the lives of migrant workers, promoting inclusivity, recognition, and care within the community.





MY SOUL DOT H MAGNIFY THE LORD

Text by / FELIX YEUNG
Photos by / MICHAEL LUU

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of our Cathedral, the Cathedral Choir embarked on a remarkable musical journey across the United Kingdom this summer.

To fulfil our 'ecumenical' goal on our checklist, we began our tour by participating in the Benediction Service at the London Oratory Church on Tuesday 23 July. Having previously served as the first Pettman Organ Scholar there in 2011, I (perhaps selfishly) chose this as our choir's first singing engagement. Nestled along the busy Brompton Road near the renowned Victoria and Albert Museum, the London Oratory is a hidden gem among London's churches. This late-Victorian Roman Catholic church provided a truly enchanting setting for our performance, complete with a stunning 6-second echo. The choir loft is situated directly above the altar dedicated to St John Henry Newman, featuring the Walker organ, designed by Ralph Downes, who served as the organist from 1936 to 1977. To enhance our experience, my teacher and Director of Music at the Oratory, Professor Patrick Russill, accompanied us as we sang the music for Benediction, including his edition of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck's *O sacrum convivium*. Our organist, Jonathan Yip, also performed Sweelinck's *Echo fantasia in D Ionian*. Our first evening closed with a party hosted by Edward Ng with the lovely scenery in East London.

The following afternoon, we returned to the Oratory Choir Room, where a piece of Chinese calligraphy by the Revd Allan Ho hung on the wall. This artwork, featuring the opening verse of Psalm 95, 'O come, let us sing unto the Lord', was my farewell gift to the Oratory when I completed my organ scholarship in 2013. Professor Russill led us in an inspiring workshop, sharing insights into the musical traditions of the London Oratory and his interpretations into the musical traditions of the London Oratory and his interpretations of Sweelinck's motet. We were also

thrilled to sing our own choir member-composer Lau Yik-long's piece *Ubi caritas* in the nave of the Oratory Church, concluding our afternoon there on a high note.

Thursday 25 July, was another exciting day as we gathered outside King's Cross station (not for Platform 9¾) for our coach to Ely. Less than 2 hours later, we arrived at the West Door of Ely Cathedral, greeted by familiar faces: our former Dean and current mayor of Ely, Chris Phillips, and our former choir member, the Revd Mike Banyard. The Choir enjoyed a brief but enlightening tour of the Cathedral, and we were privileged to sing in the renowned Lady Chapel, where I encouraged Mike to join us! We performed William Byrd's *Ave verum corpus*, William Harris's *Faire is the heaven*, and Erik Ešenvalds's *Salutation*. As a parting gift, we sang *An Irish Blessing* by James Moore for Chris and Mike: 'Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.'

Our characterful driver then whisked us away to Cambridge for lunch before visiting the Chapel of King's College (sadly without singing). We next headed to St Botolph's Church to prepare for our Choral Evensong in celebration of the Feast of St James. We were warmly welcomed by the Revd Philip Stewart, Assistant



The London Oratory



Curate, and parishioner Margaret Widdess, who treated us to an indulgent feast of cookies and refreshments. Our Choir Chaplain, the Revd Amos Poon, officiated the service, during which we sang a beautiful evensong featuring music by Gabriel Jackson, Charles Villiers Stanford, and Ernest Bullock. It was particularly special that one of our own parishioners, Aron Yuen, who has relocated to the UK, read a lesson during the service. We were also honoured by an unexpected guest in the congregation: our former Associate Organist, James Thomas! The day concluded with an exciting coach journey back to London, where we attended the farewell recital of Jeremy Ng, our former choir member and outgoing Organ Scholar at St Paul's, Knightsbridge.

After two restful days (which included attending a BBC Prom concert of Elgar's *Second Symphony*), the Choir sang at the 1.30pm Cantonese service at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Sunday 28 July. On that lovely Sunday morning, we had a quick rehearsal in the music room in the crypt, followed by lunch at the Crypt Café. After practising in the church, the Eucharist was celebrated by Fr Amos, during which we sang the communion setting composed for St Martin's by David Bednall, along with the world premiere of Chan Kai-young's anthem in Cantonese, *愛是永不止息* (*Love Never Fails*). Jonathan concluded the service with Bruhn's *Praeludium in E minor 'the Great'* on the Walker organ. The congregation then treated us to a delightful banquet at the St Martin's Hall in the crypt. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Andrew Earis, their Director of Music, as well as Regina Law, Anne Chow, Joseph Lam, Wilson Yu, Yen Leung, and Ruly Tsang, for making our time at St Martin's so memorable.

The choir tour culminated in Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday and Wednesday, 30 and 31 July. The hospitality team provided us with a tour of the Cathedral, including the Dean's Staircase, a notable filming location for various movies, including *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. After practising in the Choir Room, we rehearsed in the Quire with their Associate Priest, the Revd Tessa Bosworth, who led us through the responses by Bernard Rose. During our first Even-

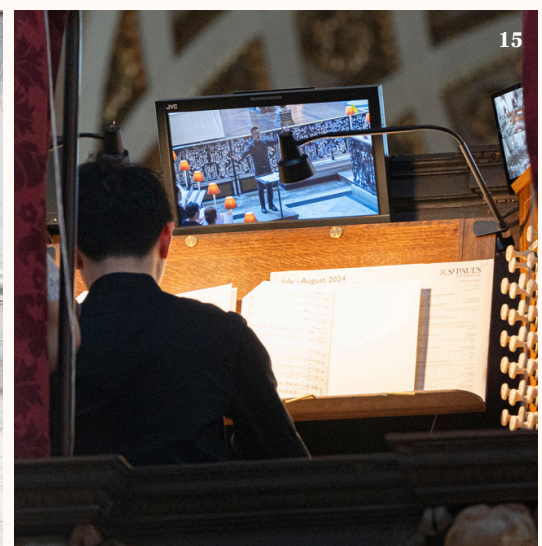
song, we performed the Evening Canticles in D by Edward Bairstow, as well as the UK premiere of Lau Yik-long's *Ubi caritas*.

The following day began with a surprise: we were granted complimentary access to the dome of St Paul's. Most choir members made the climb of 528 steps to the Golden Gallery (and back down) before another round of rehearsals for Herbert Howells's glorious Evening Service written for St Paul's, along with Chan Kai-young's *詩篇廿三篇* (*Psalms 23*). The Revd Tessa had informed us the previous day that the Succentor, Fr Robert, would be singing office with us on Wednesday; however, we were delighted to see her again while practising in the Quire for Gabriel Jackson's responses. We even persuaded her to announce the anthem in Cantonese, and she did so effortlessly!

I was unaware of the large congregation awaiting us as we processed into the Quire; stepping away from the podium after conducting the Psalm at both Evensongs, I was greeted by a sea of eager worshippers extending into the middle of the Nave. It is safe to say there were at least 400 people each evening, including many of our current and former parishioners who came to support the Choir. After a group photo on the grand steps outside the West Door of St Paul's, the Choir celebrated with a party at Madison, overlooking the dome of St Paul's, enjoying good food, wine, and, most importantly, the fellowship in Christ that binds us together through the music we offer to God.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Choir Chairman, Greg Wheele, for his leadership in making all the arrangements for the tour possible; to Jonathan for his wonderful playing (despite very limited preparation time on each instrument), without which the Choir could not have sung; to Michael for capturing beautiful photos and footage, as well as for handling numerous errands before and during the tour; to each choir member for their dedication and commitment to the tour; to the Cathedral Council for their support; and finally, to our heavenly Father for keeping us safe throughout this journey.





Voices of Reflection

Greg Wheele



From indulging in the glorious acoustic of the London Oratory to experiencing the warm hospitality of the St Martin-in-the-Fields congregation, the St John's Cathedral Choir had the joy of bringing our music from the choir stalls on Garden Road to the UK this summer. The tour—with a packed schedule of services—also included performances at Ely Cathedral and St Botolph's Church in Cambridge, marking our first overseas tour in 5 years. The trip marked a rare reunion, where choir members, old and new—including those based in the UK—came together in our shared passion for music-making, culminating in two evensongs in the grandeur of St Paul's Cathedral in London.



Thomas Li



This year's Cathedral Choir tour to the UK in late July was particular special for me. It was my first time singing at St Martin-in-the-fields and St Paul's Cathedral. This landmark occasion also marked the Cathedral's 175 years of history, with the choir touring Europe. The 9-second echo that resonated throughout St Paul's Cathedral at the end of singing Howell's evening canticles was an awe-inspiring experience. Chan Kai Young's beautiful anthem of *Psalm 23* in Cantonese also made an emotional impression on my friends listening under the great dome of St Paul's. It was also great to see many former choir members, now residing in the UK, joining us for the singing and fellowship. We were blessed with the beautiful British summer, which uplifted our excitement and sense of achievement from this memorable occasion.



Debbie McGowan



When I received the invitation to rejoin the Choir for its summer tour, I felt honoured to be asked. But it was followed by a slight feeling of panic—would my voice be good enough to participate?

I should have had more faith. Some hard practising and an in-depth familiarisation with the music restored my confidence! It felt completely natural to sing with the Choir again, almost as though I had never left (even though it's been 4 years!). It was a fantastic time together, for which I thank the Lord!

We will be visiting Hong Kong this November, and look forward to catching up with everyone (as well as singing again, hopefully!).



Rita Chan

Since 2020, I have truly enjoyed spending each summer in London, especially during our family reunion. Whenever I visit, I attend the regular services at St Paul's Cathedral, as the music is so uplifting—similar to what we experience at St John's in Hong Kong.

This year marks the celebration of 175 years of Christian ministry at St John's Cathedral, encouraging our church members to continue their commitment with renewed vows of faith and dedication.

In this spirit, nearly 40 choir members from St John's travelled all the way to England, at their own expense, to explore the roots of Anglicanism by singing in iconic cathedrals and touching the hearts of the people. I am absolutely honoured to have been part of this St John's group, witnessing the glory of God through his grace and love in our Music Ministry.



Experience the joy and spirit
through our highlight video!

SAVING LIVES IN MYANMAR



Text by
THE REVD WILL NEWMAN

In our Peace Prayers every Thursday evening, we pray for peace in places of war and conflict: Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and the Middle East—and also Myanmar.

The conflict in Myanmar is easily forgotten—it hardly ever reaches the news. But it is devastating the lives of people there, including our fellow Christians in the Diocese of Toungoo.

St John's link with the Anglican Church in Toungoo goes back to 2007. In happier times, members of St John's and St Stephen's Chapel Stanley made several visits to Toungoo, most recently in 2019 when then-Dean Matthias Der and cathedral choir members and friends were warmly welcomed to sing at the services for the retirement of Bishop John Wilme and the consecration and installation of Bishop Saw Sheesho. And we have also hosted the bishops and other visitors from Toungoo Diocese to St John's Cathedral.

But in the past few years, conflict has broken out between the military government and the resistance. In Toungoo Diocese, villages have been attacked, churches and homes destroyed, people killed, injured, and made homeless.

Last year, Bishop Sheesho appealed to us for support for Toungoo Diocese's humanitarian response to the conflict. By the grace of God and your generosity, we were able to provide financial assistance to aid victims of the conflict.

The Humanitarian Response project provided essential food rations such as sacks of rice for over 1,700 villagers displaced from their homes by military attacks, as well as medicines for healthcare. Some funds were also spent on sustaining church activities in this time of crisis, as well as renovating the diocesan offices which needed urgent restoration to prevent collapse.

St John's, together with the Compass Rose Society and with the assistance of the Amity Foundation (Hong Kong), raised US\$18,000 for the project—those funds have now been fully utilised. Instead of caring for 1,700 displaced people, the diocese is now supporting 3,800 villagers who have lost their homes due to the ongoing conflict. They are providing basic food and healthcare, schooling for children, and accommodation—or at least a place to sleep—in churches and church halls.

We plan to continue supporting Toungoo Diocese and the needs of internally displaced people with an Advent Appeal this year in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Look out for further details in the next issue of *In Touch*.



Hong Kong and Taiwan SKH Youth Exchange Tour

Connecting people and places – love makes the world a different place

Text by / VANICE CHAN
Centre Supervisor of LEC

The 'Hong Kong-Taiwan Sheng Kung Hui Youth Exchange Tour (SJC^4)' co-organised by St John's Cathedral and St James' Church was successfully completed from 8 to 12 August!

This was an unprecedented collaboration between the two churches, led by the Revd Amos Poon of St John's Cathedral, along with a group of 15 people from various Sheng Kung Hui (SKH) churches. The purpose of the event was to increase the youth's understanding of SKH churches and social service organisations in Taiwan, enhance their opportunities to interact with youth from these churches through fellowships, sharing, and visits, and to learn God's word in the love of Christ together with the SKH family.



The parishioners of St James' Church in Taichung have shown us their generous hospitality



Visiting Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Taipei with Taiwan youth



Visiting St John's Cathedral in Taipei

We visited St James' Church in Taichung, St John's Cathedral in Taipei, and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Taipei. We are very grateful to the Revd Chang Ling-ling, the Revd Francis Lin, and the Revd Lee Chun-sheng for their warm hospitality and for introducing the history of each church. This enabled the Hong Kong youths to learn more about the development of the SKH Church in Taiwan and its culture. Additionally, the Hong Kong youths met with local youth fellowships for dinner, sharing, singing hymns, sightseeing, and more.

The theme of this exchange trip was 'Connections'. Guided by this theme, we hoped that through the rich experience of youth pastoral ministry, we could connect with different people and with ourselves, enriching each other's faith and deepening our connection with the Lord. During the fellowship at St James' Church in Taichung, the final scene of singing 'We Love to Make the World a Different Place' was very touching.

We also connected with places and events by visiting different social service organisations and conservation sites. At the Hope Foundation for Cancer Care in Taichung, we felt the empathy of the organisation towards cancer patients and their families through its professional service team, as well as its dedication to promoting a caring environment. They enhance cancer patients' understanding of the disease and treatment while working side by side with cancer families. We also created cards to be sent to local cancer patients, linking our love and care to the Taiwanese community.

We also visited the Mustard Seed Mission, where we learned about the importance of cooperation among different churches and organisations. We saw the wide possibilities of their work with spreading the gospel through social services and walking alongside those in need.

Finally, we visited the 921 Earthquake Museum of Taiwan, where we connected with the places, stories, and traumatic experiences of the earthquake in the past. This visit allowed us to reflect on the needs of the ecology, geology, society, and the people affected by the disaster.

We hope that through the tour, we can bring the love and care of the communities back to Hong Kong communities, and humbly serve others as Christians. Therefore, apart from our youth's daily morning prayers, group activities, and evening sharing on our relationship with God in Taiwan—reminding us of Christ's love and equipping us for discipleship—we also shared our experience with the Youth Ministry Among Us of St John's Cathedral on 23 August to share these messages to other youths in Hong Kong.

We are very grateful to St James' Church in Hong Kong and St John's Cathedral for collaborating to organise this exchange tour. Special thanks to the organising committee members: the Revd Amos Poon, Chan Wing-yan, Ho Choi-yi, Wong Wai-ching, and Tam Kang-ching. We also extend our gratitude to St James' Church in Taichung, St John's Cathedral in Taipei, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Taipei, Hope Foundation for Cancer Care (Taichung), and Mustard Seed Mission! We are grateful to our heavenly Father for the arrangement, which also proves the beauty of the SKH family and the continuation of the Lord's grace.

'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' (Mark 10: 45)

A Taste of Italy

Michaelmas Fair

Wine Tasting

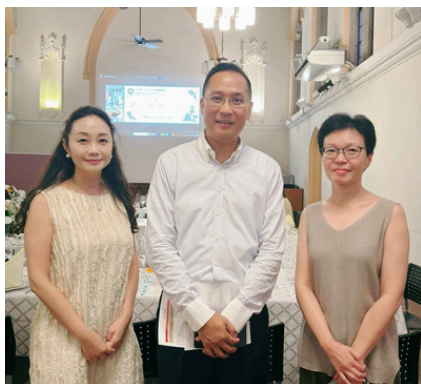


Text by / NATASHANGAN

The St John's Cathedral Michaelmas Fair Committee and 175th Anniversary Committee organised an enchanting evening of wine tasting, where guests explored the rich flavours of Northern Italy. Held amidst a warm and inviting atmosphere, the event featured exquisite wines from the renowned regions of Piedmont and Veneto.

Guests were guided through this sensory journey by Mr Thibaut Mathieu, Managing Director of Corney & Barrow Asia. Mr Mathieu shared captivating insights into the winemaking traditions and unique characteristics of each varietal.

In all, the Michaelmas Fair Wine Tasting was a resounding success, celebrating not only the love of wine but also the vibrant St John's community. Special thanks to the SJC Michaelmas Fair Committee and 175th Anniversary Committee for their impeccable organisation, and to Mr Mathieu for sharing his invaluable wine expertise. Their efforts made the evening a truly memorable experience for all.





Transforming Lives Behind Bars: The **Mission** of the Prison Ministry

Text by / NATASHA NGAN

Imagine a place where hope seems lost and the future is bleak—a place where countless lives are defined by their past mistakes. Yet, in the heart of Stanley Prison, something extraordinary happens every month. Volunteers from the Prison Ministry, led by the Revd Will Newman, break through the despair with a message of faith, love, and redemption. These visits, filled with Sung Eucharist services and heartfelt conversations, bring a piece of the outside world into the confines of prison walls. While the volunteers of course adhere to the rule ‘Do not help prisoners escape’, their work is dedicated to offering a different kind of freedom—a liberation of the spirit through faith, love, and redemption.

One such extraordinary transformation is exemplified in the story of the Revd Andrew Lee, a man who went from a condemned prisoner to a beacon of hope and faith. His journey is a testament to the power of divine intervention and the unwavering support of the Prison Ministry.

In 1994, Andrew faced the gravest of circumstances as a Category A prisoner with a life sentence. During this turbulent time, his mother fell gravely ill. In a moment of desperation, Andrew turned to prayer, seeking peace in the chaos. It was then that a priest asked him a pivotal question: ‘Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?’ This question sparked a journey that would change Andrew’s life forever.

Realising he needed someone to listen, someone who could understand his turmoil, Andrew found solace in God. Returning to his cell, he knelt down and prayed, feeling a newfound peace wash over him. However, openly expressing his newfound faith in prison was fraught with challenges, especially for someone serving a life sentence. Skepticism and distrust were common responses from fellow inmates and authorities alike.

Despite these challenges, Andrew’s faith remained unwavering. When asked if he would still believe in God even if it meant spending the rest of his life in prison, Andrew answered with a resounding ‘Yes’. His trust in God was steadfast—he believed that God would always be with him, regardless of his circumstances.



Andrew's faith led him to form a fellowship within the prison. Initially, the authorities were suspicious of their intentions. To dispel doubts, Andrew invited them to join their gatherings, demonstrating the sincerity and devotion of their group. Over time, the authorities recognised the genuine nature of their fellowship.

After over 20 years in prison, Andrew saw a glimmer of hope for release. During this period, he encountered many young prisoners serving long sentences. He prayed for guidance and felt a divine message, 'You must return to care for your brothers'. This message propelled him to a new beginning upon his release.

Andrew enrolled in seminary school, embarking on a 4-year course that took him 5 years to complete, as the seminary wanted to ensure he was thoroughly prepared. Throughout his studies, Andrew felt an even deeper sense of love and purpose. Now, as a priest, Andrew dedicates his life to helping prisoners and their families.

He understands the neglect that prisoners' families often face and strives to support them. Andrew also recognises the immense challenges that former prisoners encounter when reintegrating



into society. Often, they are not fully accepted, even by their own families or churches, leading them back to the familiar but destructive paths of gang life.

Andrew's mission is to convey to former prisoners that they are accepted and loved by God, offering them a sense of belonging and hope. His journey from a condemned prisoner to a priest is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the relentless pursuit of redemption.

Through Andrew's story and the dedicated efforts of the Prison Ministry, we see the profound impact that such ministries can have, not only on the prisoners themselves but also on their families and the broader community. His life is a beacon of hope, reminding us all of the possibility of change and the enduring power of God's love.

Make a meaningful impact with the Prison Ministry! Visit prisoners two Friday mornings a month and transform lives. Scan the QR code and message the Revd Will Newman on WhatsApp to get involved!



Andrew shared his journey of divine intervention with fellow clergy



Rest in Peace

The Revd Canon Rex Howe

1929-2024

Text by /
THE REVd WILL NEWMAN

We were sad to hear from his daughter Rachel news of the death of Rex Howe, a former Dean of the Cathedral, who passed away peacefully in England in August at the age of 95.

Rex Howe is still remembered by some of our senior members as a gentle, lovely, and spiritual man. Vanda Cole recalls how she and Roger attended Choral Evensong soon after arriving in Hong Kong, and they were immediately invited back for a homely supper by Rex and his wife, Joan. After such a kind welcome, Roger and Vanda never left the cathedral.

The Dean's Letters in *St John's Review*, the monthly cathedral newsletter, give a flavour of Rex's character and spirituality. He addressed every letter 'Dear friends of St John's Cathedral', and always signed off 'Your sincere friend and Dean, Rex Howe'.

In his first letter in 1973 he wrote, 'I shall try to be a person of action—doing things myself and helping others to get things done. But I also hope to be a person of reflection, helping others to think more deeply about underlying issues and long-term goals. Most of all, I hope to be a person of faith, helping others to build lives of faith in our secular society.'

In his report to the Cathedral's Annual Meeting of 1976, he gave a simple outline of the purpose of the Cathedral:

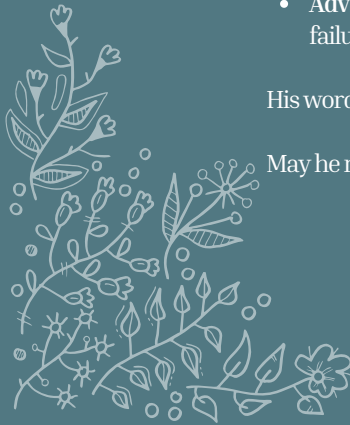
- To proclaim the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.
- To draw men and women into a life of worship and commitment.
- To create a caring community that extends God's purpose in the world.

In his final letter before leaving Hong Kong, he stated that Christians should be Accountable, Available, and ready for Adventure:

- **Accountable**, because as St John of the Cross said, 'In the evening of life, we shall be judged by love'.
- **Available**, meaning not so busy that we don't have time for love.
- **Adventure**, which implies being ready to respond to love—embracing risk, facing failure, and learning from those failures.

His words are as meaningful today as they were 50 years ago.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.





ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
聖公會聖約翰座堂

ALL SOULS' DAY

諸靈日

A EUCHARIST FOR
THE COMMEMORATION
OF THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED

紀念亡者聖餐崇拜

Music 崇拜樂章

佛瑞《安魂曲》

Requiem Op. 48 (Gabriel Fauré)

sung by Cathedral Choir with Orchestra

詩班：聖約翰座堂詩班（樂團演奏）

SATURDAY

2 November 2024

at 12:00 noon

St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central

星期六

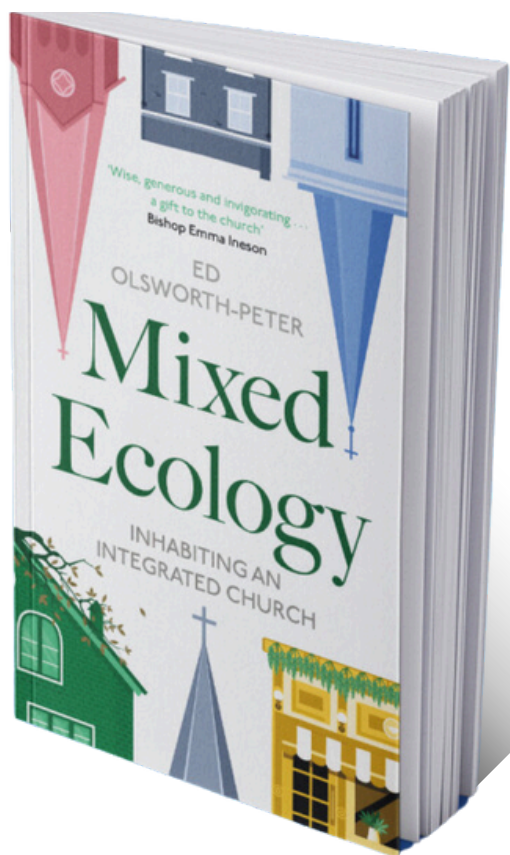
二〇二四年十一月二日

中午十二時正

聖約翰座堂

中環花園道四至八號

What are we reading?



Mixed Ecology Inhabiting an Integrated Church

Ed Olsworth-Peter

A vibrant exploration of one of the three priorities of the Church of England's new vision and strategy: that 'mixed ecology is the norm'.

'Mixed ecology' is a term used to describe how traditional parishes co-exist with fresh expressions, church plants, and pioneer ministries.

Ed Olsworth-Peter explores what an integrated mixed ecology of the Church looks like in a post-pandemic world. As society begins to come to terms with the cultural and financial impacts of the last couple of years, the way we gather as a church and how we reach out to those within our communities needs to be reconsidered.

The Church of England's new vision and strategy includes three priorities one of which is that 'mixed ecology is the norm'. Much has been written about the mixed economy/ecology of the Church over the last 15 years across a range of traditions and denominations. However, what hasn't been explored as such is the connectivity and dependency between different local expressions of the Church, and the value of 'co-growing' alongside one another for their mutual health and missional development.

This book will help church leaders and worshipping communities to understand their place within the mixed ecology, the value of growing their own local ecosystem, and how to develop a physically gathered, digital, and hybrid ecology of Church.

Bouncing Forwards Notes on Resilience, Courage and Change

Patrick Regan

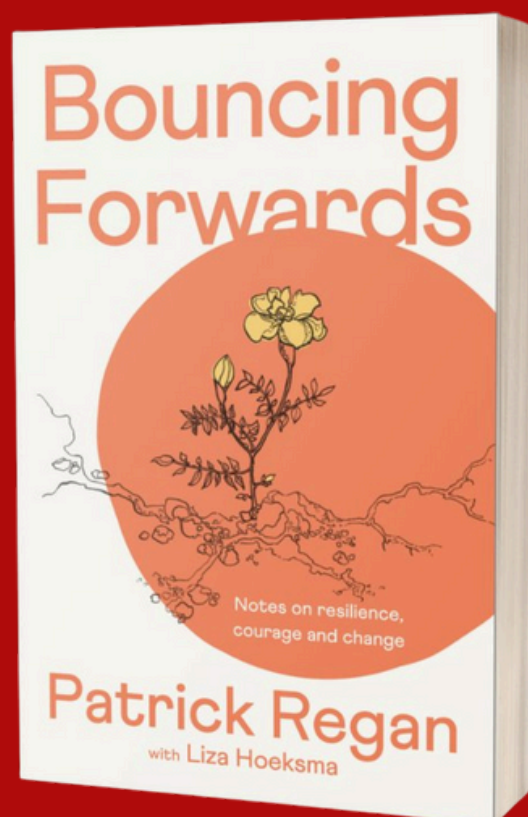
A book to help you see the strength in your scars and how hardship can become fuel for a more hopeful future.

Bouncing Forwards offers hope to those who're facing battles such as mental or physical health challenges, bereavement, the loss of cherished dreams, or recovery from trauma.

Patrick Regan reveals his vulnerability as he shares that making peace with his ongoing personal anxiety only came after a period of intense physical, emotional, and spiritual pain.

There is always the temptation to wait for the day when all will be well. Yet becoming preoccupied with the future may mean missing out on what's happening in our lives in the here and now. Is it possible to be okay even when life isn't? Can we thrive, not just once we've come through adversity, but right in the midst of it?

Exploring resilience, acceptance, and emotional agility, Patrick encourages us to believe we can find meaning in some of life's toughest moments—and the faith to journey on.



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HKD39



ACRYLIC KEY CHAIN
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175TH ANNIVERSARY
WOODEN COASTER
HKD48

175TH ANNIVERSARY MUG
HKD89



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Major Services & Celebrations at St John's & Daughter Churches

St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

**29
SEP**

St Michael & All Angels
9.00am Sung Eucharist

**26
OCT**

Michaelmas Fair 2024



**2
NOV**

All Souls' Day
12.00noon Sung Eucharist

**3
NOV**

All Saints' Sunday
9.00am Sung Eucharist

**17
NOV**

Baptism and Confirmation
5.00pm Sung Eucharist

**26
NOV**

Christ the King
9.00am Sung Eucharist

Tel: 2523 4157

Website:



Discovery Bay Church

SKH Wei Lun Primary School, Lantau

Every Sunday

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Tel: 2987 4210

Website:



Emmanuel Church

Béthanie Chapel
139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam

Every Sunday

10.15am Sung Eucharist

Tel: 2523 4157

Website:



St Stephen's Chapel

St Stephen's College
22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley

Every Sunday

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Tel: 2813 0408

Website:



St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: 2523 4157

Fax: 2521 7830

Email: general@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

Dean

The Very Revd Kwok-keung Chan
(Acting Priest-in-Charge of Discovery Bay Church)

Cathedral Chaplains

The Revd Canon Dwight dela Torre
The Revd Canon Peter Koon
The Revd Sharon Langbis
The Revd Robert Martin CMP
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel Church)
The Revd Will Newman
(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of St Stephen's Chapel)
The Revd Amos Poon

Cathedral Honorary Chaplains

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The Revd Polly Wong Heung-fong

Executive Administrator

Thomas Li

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Felix Yeung

Assistant Director of Music

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ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

PUBLIC
LECTURES

APOCALYPSE NOW?

CRISIS, CATASTROPHE, AND CHRISTIAN HOPE

by Professor
Martyn Percy



Most Christians will be familiar with the *Book of Revelation* that ends the New Testament, as it speaks of ‘End Times’ and the events that lead to the end of history. Christians throughout the ages have believed that their generation might be the last and that we are about to enter an Age of Apocalypse. With plagues, war, crisis, and collapse, what is the hope for our times? In this series of four public lectures, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy explores how

previous generations of Christians imagined the end of the world and what signs of the times they thought might indicate this. Illustrated with art, stories, and references drawn from contemporary culture, these talks examine the hopes and fears Christians have faced and also begin to explore what kind of faith prevails in a world that often seems to be on the edge of some new crisis and catastrophe.

The Series of Four Public Lectures

| <u>Date & Time</u> | <u>Venue</u> | <u>Topics</u> |
|---|--|---|
| Every Tuesday at 7.30pm in October, starting from the 8 th (8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th October) | Li Hall at St John's Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Road, Central | 1. The End of the World as We Know It (TEOTWAWKI) 2. A Plague on All Your Houses 3. The Angel of Death 4. Gloom, Doom, Prophecies—and Christian Hope |

To register, please contact the Cathedral Office at 2523 4157. Admission is free.

Professor Martyn Percy is Provost-Theologian for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, and Senior Research Associate at the James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen. He also holds Honorary Fellowships at the Universities of Edinburgh, London, and Oxford. He writes and teaches on culture, faith, values, and public life and contributes to *Prospect*, *Guardian*, and *The Times*. He is a cultural commentator and a contextual, practical, and pastoral theologian. He writes on theology and public life, cultural change, and social values. Besides his scholarly output, Martyn Percy also writes, preaches, and teaches on Christian spirituality. His sermons and meditations are published globally (several volumes with Canterbury Press, Bloomsbury, etc), and his homilies and reflections have appeared in the secular press for over three decades.



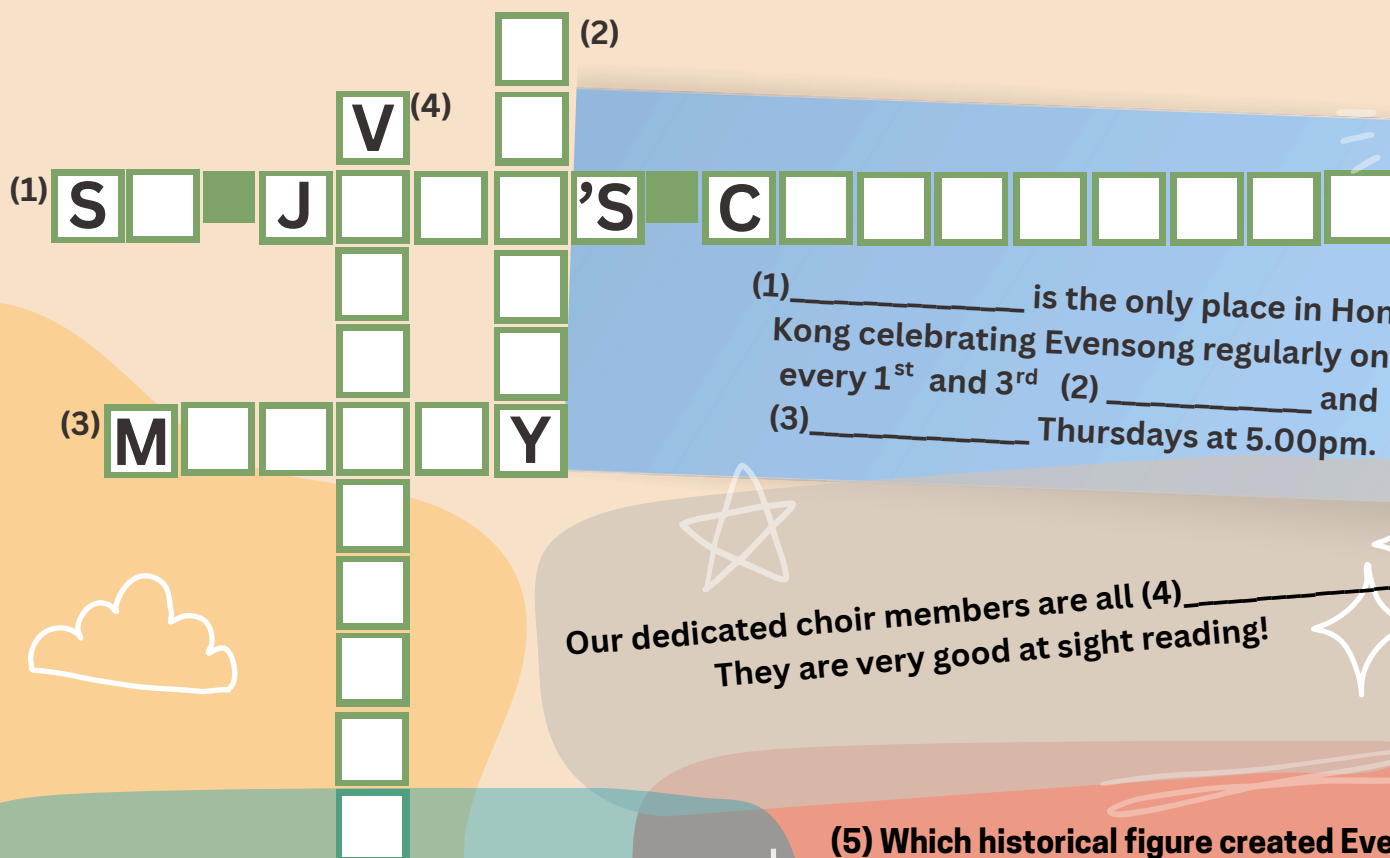
Fun Fact Among Us

SJC Youth Ministry

Evensong Showdown!

Wiean Au, Jeremy Hsu, and Jason Wong

Think you know where to find a traditional English Evensong? Oxbridge? England's grand cathedrals? Surprise! There's a hidden gem right here in Hong Kong. Try the special challenge prepared by the Youth Ministry and uncover more!



(1) _____ is the only place in Hong Kong celebrating Evensong regularly on every 1st and 3rd (2) _____ and (3) _____ Thursdays at 5.00pm.

Our dedicated choir members are all (4) _____
They are very good at sight reading!

(6) From where does the St John's Cathedral take the liturgy for its Evensong?
a) Common Worship
b) The Divine Worship: Daily Office
c) The Roman Missal
d) The 1928 Proposed Book of Common Prayer

(5) Which historical figure created Evensong?
a) King Henry VIII
b) Bishop Matthew Parker
c) Archbishop Thomas Cranmer
d) Cardinal Thomas Wolsey

(8) Which ancient monastic liturgies were combined to create the Evensong?
a) Matins and Lauds
b) Prime and Terce
c) Sext and None
d) Vespers and Compline

(7) Which century saw the establishment of Choral Evensong as a distinct service?
a) 12th century
b) 14th century
c) 16th century
d) 18th century



Photo by Michael Luu

(10) Which Elizabethan composers were instrumental in developing the musical repertoire of Choral Evensong during its infancy?

- a) Thomas Tallis + John Taverner + George Frideric Handel
- b) William Byrd + John Taverner + George Frideric Handel
- c) Thomas Tallis + William Byrd + Robert Parsons
- d) John Taverner + Sir John Rutter + Robert Parsons

(9) Which direction should we face when the Apostles' Creed is being said?

- a) North
- b) East
- c) South
- d) West

(11) Which Cantic is traditionally the first to be said during Evensong?

- a) Benedicite
- b) Benedictus
- c) Magnificat
- d) Te Deum

(12) What is Anthem in the famous Evensong liturgy instructions 'In Quires and Places where they sing, here followeth the Anthem'?

- a) A hymn from the hymn book
- b) A piece of music written specifically to fit a certain text
- c) God Save the King
- d) A solo piece for the organ

(13) What is the term describing the combination of Matins and Evensong?

- a) Common Office
- b) Daily Office
- c) Daily Prayer
- d) Holy Office



Photo by Michael Luu

(14) Which Psalms are appointed as alternatives to the usual Canticles?

- a) Psalms 98 (Cantate Domino) and 67 (Deus misereatur)
- b) Psalms 100 (Jubilate Deo) and 95 (Venite)
- c) Psalms 51 (Miserere) and 42 (Sicut servus)
- d) Psalms 43 (Judica me Deus) and 23 (Dominus reget me)

(15) Which types of Evensong are celebrated here at the St John's Cathedral?

- a) Said Evensong (aka Evening Prayer)
- b) Choral Evensong
- c) Solemn Evensong with Benediction
- d) Festal Evensong

Wasn't that fun? A BIG THANK YOU to Andrew Lim and everyone who contributed to this article. Want more fun facts about our Cathedral? Stay tuned for our next edition!

Answers:

- (1) St John's Cathedral
- (2) Sunday (3) Maundy
- (4) volunteers
- (5) c (6) d (7) c
- (8) d (9) b (10) c
- (11) c (12) b (13) b
- (14) a (15) b+c+d