

H O N G 香 港 K O N G

ST JOHN'S REVIEW

Petertide 2010



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Jazz Vespers at Pentecost

FRONT COVER: St John's Cathedral Choir. Cover 'wall paper': JSB's *St Matthew's Passion* manuscript
BACK COVER: An ecclesiastical conundrum



The Dean's Letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When you read this edition of 'St. John's Review', the World Cup Final will have been played and won.

My friends know that I'm an avid soccer fan! Well, I can tell you — I'm not alone. Many of my colleagues at St John's are enthusiastic followers of the 'beautiful game' with our individual support intensely concentrated across a clutch of famous teams. A few of us actually play the game — all of us watch it!

As I have been watching the games in South Africa, it has occurred to me that as we follow this 'great global event' every four years, we may become aware, somewhat surprisingly, that the World Cup reminds us of the Christian life!

First, there is a Prize to be won; every professional footballer dreams of holding the Cup in his hands. The common goal of every player in the team is to win. It's the same for us Christians. In Philippians 3, St Paul the apostle says, 'I press on toward the goal to win the prize...' St Peter, perhaps Jesus' senior disciple talks about this kind of thing in his letter, 'you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.' (Pet 1. 9). For us, winning means receiving grace from God and being with Jesus for all eternity because we have faith in the One who died for us and rose again.

But there is a big difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup a team has to be good enough. But to win Jesus Christ and to reconcile ourselves with God and with our neighbour, we have got to be bad enough! We have got to admit that we are weak and that our Lord can help us and strengthen us. Ironically, if you admit that you are weak — yet you trust in Christ, then you are a winner and you win the prize!

Secondly, there is a team to play with. The Christian life can be likened to football because it also is a *team sport*. We must always remember that no *match* can be won by one person alone. Football is about teamwork. It doesn't matter if it's Messi, Ronaldo, Kaka, Dempsey, Rooney or

whoever; as individuals, playing on their own, they could never win anything, let alone cup winners' medals and huge salaries. The very best of them need the other 10 players. When we put our faith in Jesus we too become part of a team. In fact, the Bible uses a different way of saying just that, when we read that we are all part of the body of Christ. St Paul says, 'We all play different parts, and we all need each other.' (1 Cor 12. 12). We must always remember, as team players, not to hog the ball but to pass it to our neighbour. Never forget that when you become a Christian you join a team!

Thirdly, any winning football team has to train hard. We may see them performing well on the pitch. But, quite possibly, we may not have spotted them training day by day throughout the year. We know what they have to do to achieve maximum stamina and fitness — build up speed, muscle endurance, strength and coordination. If they train well, they play well and enhance their ability to win.

But in the Christian life it is a little different. Our training starts after we have won grace from God. Again, just like Paul told Timothy, 'Train yourself to be godly. For physical training has some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise both for the present life and the life to come.' (1 Tim 4. 8)

Day by day we learn to say no to what is wrong. When we say no to what is wrong we build up our godly muscles! When we choose to do what is right in God's eyes we build up our godly muscles! We pray; we get together in church for Holy Communion; we study the Bible; we worship and pray. Every time we obey God our godly muscles are figuratively *toned up*. How's your training going?

Fourthly, in every team there is a Captain to follow. Off the pitch, the Coach is in charge. But on the pitch, the Captain is the leader. As Christians our Captain is Jesus Christ our Lord. In fact, we address him as 'Lord Jesus'. The word Lord is a bit like the word Captain, but even stronger! The job of Captain Jesus is to keep us *playing* well, so we have to listen carefully to his every



The Very Reverend Andrew Chan

command. We have to obey his commands. From time to time we tend to forget we have a Captain and think we can follow our instincts and do whatever we want. Sometimes the *match* is hard, we lose heart and resign ourselves to defeat. That is when the Captain encourages us and urges us on. Remember, the Captain is there for you to follow to victory.

I hope that you have enjoyed the World Cup in South Africa, which has given hope and confidence to that emerging nation's disadvantaged millions. And, in arousing your interest in football, may it also have reminded you of various aspects of your Christian life.

I wish all of you a sun-kissed and joyful summer.

Yours in Christ

Andrew Chan

Editorial

They say that whenever and wherever two English people meet they never fail to exchange platitudinous observations concerning the weather. Apparently, it is a contagious trait, which over the past two or three weeks has been transmitted by denizens from the British Isles — it's not only the English; the Scots, Welsh and Irish are also obsessed with the climate — to well-nigh the whole population of Hong Kong. Because my job description requires me to dress up rather than down, particularly on Sundays, my overall morale is hardly boosted by such well-meant comments as, "Oh! dear, you do look hot" or, "Hey, you're sweating a lot!"

The Cathedral is subject to what may be called a *greenhouse effect*, which explains why both the air temperature and relative humidity are respectively 5°C and 5–8% higher inside the church than outside. The good news — there could be some cooler air at the end of the tunnel. In this Petertide edition of the *Review* you will read of an ingenious mechanism that may facilitate the opening of the clerestory windows ... the top tier of windows that are triangular in shape but with curved sides ... which would release the risen warm air. Secondly, the contract has been let for the installation of air conditioning for the chancel, vestries and possibly, to some extent, for the Michael Chapel. It is hoped to have air conditioning, euphemistically referred to as the *temporary* system to quell any feelings of deprivation from those in the nave,

up and running in time for *The Feast of St John the Evangelist and Patronal Festival of St John's Cathedral* on 27th December 2010.

This Petertide edition takes advantage of the improved definition and colour balance achievable with the more advanced models of compact digital cameras that have become available in the last year or so. This is an invaluable development for me personally as I struggle to fill the void left by the much lamented, recent departure of our resident photographer for many years — Mary Haigh, our bonnie lassie.

Out there in Anglicanland, there has been no shortage of drama since the last *Review*, just before Easter. The understated Pentecost Letter from Archbishop Rowan Williams, which I would describe as a *rapier* thrust, was met a swing of the *ball and chain* from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori with her Pastoral Letter, and the resulting stand-off culminated in the classical, if farcical, denouement of *Mitregate* (US: *Mitergate*) when the Primate of All-England stopped the Primate of the Episcopal Church in USA from wearing her pointy-hat in London's Southwark Cathedral. 1775 re-visited!

John Chynchen

BREAKING NEWS: Odds on there will be *women* bishops in the C of E by 2014.

Worship in the Cathedral and Its Daughter Churches

CATHEDRAL

Sundays	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
	9:00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School and crèche
	10:30 am	Eucharist in Mandarin
	11:45 am	Morning Service (varies with each Sunday of the month)
	2:00 pm	Sung Eucharist in Pilipino
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship

Choral Mattins is on the 2nd Sunday of the month with the Cathedral Choir.

Choral Evensong is on the 3rd Sunday of the month with the Evensong Choir. Night Prayer (Taizé style) is on the 4th Sunday of the month. Alternative worship is on the 2nd Sunday.

ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL, ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE GROUNDS, STANLEY

Sundays	9:30 am	Family Eucharist (1st Sundays)
	9:30 am	Sung Eucharist (other Sundays) with Sunday School and Crèche

EMMANUEL, POKFULAM

Bethanie, 139 Pokfulam Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Sundays	9:00am	Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
	10:15 am	Holy Communion with Sunday School

DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH, SKH WEI LUN PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANTAU ISLAND

Sundays	10:00 am	Family Service (1st Sunday)
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist (all other Sundays: Creche, Sunday School and Junior Church)

Prayer and Study Groups

Please contact Cathedral Office 2523 4157

Sick Calls and Communion

Members of the congregation are asked to inform the clergy of those in hospital or ill at home who need visiting.

Baptisms take place at the Cathedral as follows:

One Sunday of the month at 9:00 am; one Sunday of the month at 11:30 am; one Saturday morning each month by arrangement with the Clergy

Baptisms at Pokfulam, Stanley and Discovery Bay by arrangement with the Priest-in-Charge.

Annual General Meeting 2010

Dean's Report

This year of 2009/10 was a fruitful year in which 204 were baptized and 103 were confirmed. It is the highest number among the last few years. I am especially delighted to see that all these new members of the Cathedral are devoted and eager to grow in their Christian faith. Their attitude towards Christian faith in the Genesis and Emmaus Course is impressive. Let us give thanks for the guidance and blessing God has bestowed upon us, that our family of faith has and will serve as the salt and light to the community and we can 'go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' (Matt 28.19)

First of all, I need to thank Archbishop Paul for his leadership. We are most joyous that he spends a lot of time with us and has presided over many of our Holy Week services. I trust that his God-given gifts and aptitude will lead us to an even brighter future.

Second, I must thank all members of congregation of the Cathedral parish who have expressed their commitment to our ministry. All congregation committees — Cathedral Church Committee, Mandarin Committee and Filipino Committee did their marvelous job. Our daughter churches are flourishing amidst changes, and we are most thankful for their presence and witness in their respective communities. I am truly impressed by the brilliant work of the respective congregations.

We have to thank The Revd Sharon Constable for her service at the Cathedral since 2004. She has led our Sunday School Ministry, the CLARES, evangelism and liturgical development. She was Priest-in-charge of Discovery Bay Church, ensuring a solid foundation for the ministry of DB. Sharon returned to UK to take up a post as Team Vicar in the Melton Mowbray Team Ministry in the Diocese of Leicester last February. We were sad to see her go, and sincerely wish that she will continue to bring abundant fruit in her service to God. May God bless her and her family.

I need to extend my gratitude to brothers and sisters for their support to Sharon's

ministry. I particularly thank the two church wardens' (Ms Audrey Lai and Mr Peter von Huene) help for identifying The Revd Mark Rogers as the Priest-in-charge of Discovery Bay Church. Although DB Church has experienced personnel changes, ministry work has not slowed down in any way. Discovery Bay Church is like a big family. I was most impressed by their outstanding performance in Dragon Boat Festival in which their fellowship and unity was most apparent.

We are pleased to welcome The Revd Mark Rogers to join our staff team as Priest-in-charge of Discovery Bay Church. Father Mark is a fine priest with multiple gifts. He speaks Spanish, French and rudimentary Chinese. In his 12 years of ordained ministry, he was Team Vicar and Rector, as well as Regional Dean in different areas in the Diocese of Worcester and the Diocese of Montreal respectively. Before coming to Hong Kong, he was Diocesan Mentor for new clergy. His involvement in the Church was wide; including Chair of Partners in Mission, Chair of the 150 Synod Celebrations Committee of Montreal, 'Education for Ministry' (EfM) Mentor, Theological Student Supervisor etc. It is believed that his ministerial experience, together with his dedication and willingness and involvement in local life will bring full fruition to his ministry in this Cathedral Parish.

The dedication of brothers and sisters of St Stephen's Stanley is an exemplar to us all. Their involvement in various ministries (such as school ministry, prison ministry etc) conveys the warmth of their concern towards the congregations of St John's. In their 60th Anniversary Celebration, all of us could acknowledge their vitality, creativity, deep spirituality and enthusiasm.

I must thank the two church wardens of Emmanuel Church (Mrs Colleen Nichol and Mr Jeremy Gadbury) for their selfless assistance in selecting the new Priest-in-charge of the daughter church. My gratitude also extends to the entire Church Committee for their support. We must all show our appreciation to The Revd David

Pickering for his marvelous contribution to Emmanuel Church (as well as to St John's) in the last year and a half. His contemporary input into the pastoral model has encouraged Emmanuel Church and St John's to becoming out-reaching Christian communities. Fortunately, as Christine is staying in Hong Kong for at least two more years, he will continue his service at the Cathedral Parish in the coming couple of years.

May I hereby announce that the Trustees have appointed The Revd Nigel Gibson to be the new Priest-in-charge of Emmanuel Church. Father Nigel will arrive in Hong Kong in late May. He is a very experienced priest, a brilliant musician, an expert in communications and an outstanding church worker. I believe that he would bring Emmanuel Church significant growth in the days to come.

At the Cathedral, we are happy to welcome The Revd Robert Martin, The Revd Dr. Philip Wickeri and The Revd Dr Winston Ching to join our clergy team.

Father Robert is College Chaplain to St Paul's College; however, his participation at St John's is not less than any of us. He is a very talented priest, a fine spiritual director as well as a caring pastor. Under his co-leadership with Father David Pickering, they prepared a most inspiring set of Lent and Holy week liturgies. Father Philip is an expert in ministry in China, a theologian, the Advisor to the Archbishop on Theological Studies and professor at Minghua Theological College. He conducts research studies for the Province and serves as Chaplain at St John's Cathedral. Aside from assisting the Mandarin service, he also participates in the teaching ministry of the Cathedral. We believe that he will make significant contribution towards St John's, especially our Christian nurture programme. We are also very glad that The Revd Dr Winston Ching is assisting us from this year onward. Father Winston was the Director of the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) with the Episcopal Church in the USA (TEC) and is now Chaplain of St John's College at the

University of Hong Kong. He is an experienced priest in evangelism and pastoral counselling. I have no doubt that we will benefit from Father Winston's extensive experience. Our gratitude and appreciation also go to The Revd Jenny Nam, The Revd Samuel Wu and The Revd Susan Hewitt. Their generous participation and support has indeed encouraged all of us at the Cathedral. The Revd Tony Hutchinson was ordained to the priesthood last September and is now working in Beijing and serves an international church there. Moreover, he takes up his ministerial duties at St John whenever he is in Hong Kong.

I must not forget to express thanks toward our staff clergy for the untiring dedication. May I thank The Revd Dwight dela Torre for his exceptional service to minorities and marginalized persons and his effort to bring the Filipino congregation to our parish family; The Revd Peter Koon for his selfless dedication towards the Cathedral Chinese ministry, bringing such flourish to our Mandarin and Cantonese programmes; The Revd Desmond Cox for his commendable loyalty towards the Church and his profound experience in pastoral care and children ministry; The Revd Will Newman for his work in schools, prisons and nurture, his serious approach towards the Awareness Course and Forgiveness Programme; The Revd Hugh Phillipson for his voluntarily and wholehearted pastoral care to our choir and the CLARES. Although Father Hugh is a non-stipendiary priest, his work load is not lighter than all of ours. The Revd John Chynchen's hard work in preparing all the Sunday pew sheets, making 'complicated' rota for the Cathedral and daughter churches, plus editing 'St John's Review', is much appreciated. I thank all my colleagues' dedicated service that has brought thriving spirituality to the Cathedral, and I value them heartily.

In the past year, our trustees Eric Bohm and Martin Matsui and the Cathedral Council members have carried out in-depth discussion regarding the development of the ministry of the Cathedral. There were 11 meetings and a retreat dedicated to exploring possibilities in strengthening fellowship, evangelism and laity training. Some suggestions were implemented through the work of our various committees, and I must thank the dedicated members of these committees for their hard work and co-operation. With Martin Matsui at the helm, the

Finance and General Purposes Committee analysed business matters and financial position of the Cathedral, and has steered regular giving to a steady growth, feeding and aiding our ministry. The Ministry and Mission Committee also reported their work. I am grateful for their co-ordination of pastoral, outreach and nurture events, particularly the pilgrimage tour. In the past year, the Fabric & Furnishing Committee has spent a lot of time on making notable improvements on the sound system and ventilation system in the Cathedral. We have also formed another committee — the Restoration Committee, which concentrates the renovation and restoration work of St John's while works are underway to improve the sound system. I would like to thank Mrs Christine Chan for her support towards improving the Cathedral gardens. The kneelers made by Mrs June Li were indeed appreciated by us all, so due gratitude should be directed to Mrs Li and her team.

Regarding cathedral staff, we welcome Maggie Wong, our in-house engineer, and Alan Tsang, our Music Officer aboard. Christine, who has been with us for about one and a half years, will leave the Cathedral for another job in May. We thank her for her years of service, and wish her luck for the future. The Cathedral has seen many important and public services in the past year. We have received letters of gratitude towards the support and devoted service of our staff. Let me thank my colleagues: Viola, Elisa, Ah Hoi, Connie, Kai Tai, Lester, Ah Leung, Tai Ying, Sai Ying, Ah Wai, Ah Sum and part time staff Ken and Johnny.

I am sad to announce that Mary Haigh, our Bookstore Manager has left the post. Her wholehearted service at the Bookstore has earned a lot of appreciation. She is a helpful colleague and never hesitated to give her assistance to us and to our visitors. With her dedicated efforts, our Bookstore is well recognized as one of the most welcome Christian Bookstore. I wish Mary every success in her future.

We are very fortunate to have successfully appointed a good successor to Mary, Mr Chris Everett. Chris is a parish member of Christ Church and is leading many youth programmes there. He is a man with humility and ideas. We believe that he will lead our bookstore to another new era. I take this opportunity to thank the Bookstore Committee, especially Father

Will, the chair of the Committee, and Audrey Lai, a committee member, for their efforts in searching a good manager amongst a number of good candidates.

I would like to thank all related committees and colleagues for their hard work towards our Outreach Programmes, and made it possible for the Cathedral to witness God's kindness, justice and mercy. They are: Holly and Betty of Helpers for Domestic Helpers, Cynthia of MFMW, Elijah and Debbie of HIV Education Centre, Jenny, Raymond and Maggie of the Bookstore, Mark Gandolfi of the St John's Counselling Service and Teresa of Castaways. We also thank our librarians, Vanda Cole and Felicia Chen for keeping the Kenneth Tyson Library in good order.

The Cathedral Church Committee and its members are greatly appreciated for their hard work in the development and promotion of the Cathedral's ministry. The Children ministry has left lasting impressions on us (for example, the Sunday School, Art & Props Team and multi-Talent Class) and their participation towards music, liturgy and printed matters have also brought our ministry to new heights.

When significant services took place, we received much complimentary comments, although it is God's favour we seek. On many occasions our Cathedral Choir, Evensong Choir and the Cathedral Children's Choir have continuously done their very best to praise God with beautiful singing. We thank Mr Raymond Fu the Choirmaster, Mr Peter Yue the Organist, and Miss Cherry Chan, the Sub-organist for their steadfast service, that our music ministry may be an inspiration to others. We thank Mr Felix Yeung, our Sub-organist for his music writing. Felix is now furthering his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in England. We wish him a fruitful period of studies and we look forward to his wider contribution in Church Music ministry upon his return.

Also instrumental to our services are the Servers Guild, among whom we can see many new faces. We thank Hessler Lee, the Head Server, for his diligent training of new blood, ensuring quality improvement in their endeavours. We also thank our ex-Head Server William Tam for his continued support, and his provision for a sound foundation for us to build upon.

Our Sidesmen and Welcomers are indeed loyal servants to the Cathedral. Their

Cathedral Council Members

Trustees

Eric Bohm
Martin Matsui

Council Members

Francis Batson
Tom Bispham
John Breen
Christine Chan
William Chan
Judy Chua
Roshan Colabella
Marcella Collins
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Audrey Lai
June Li
Craig Lindsay
Ron Lye
George Thomas
Tessa Walker
Stuart Wolfendale
Tim Zee

Membership of Committees and appointment of Chairs

Trustees

Eric Bohm
Martin Matsui

Committees

Finance & General Purposes (F&GP)

Craig Lindsay (Chair and Hon Treasurer)
Tom Bispham
The Revd Des Cox
The Revd Will Newman
The Revd Mark Rogers
The Revd Nigel Gibson

Mission and Ministry (M&M)

Jeff Evans (Chair), Tessa Walker, Stuart Wolfendale, Audrey Lai, George Thomas, Jeremy Gadbury, William Chan, May Ho, Marcella Collins, The Revd Will Newman, The Revd Des Cox

Fabric and Furnishing (F&F)

Ron Lye (Chair), June Li, Judy Chua, Francis Batson, Roshan Collabella, John Endicott, John Breen, Tim Zee, Christine Chan, The Revd Peter Koon, The Revd Hugh Phillipson, The Revd John Chynchen

Restoration Committee

John Endicott (Chair), Roshan Colabella, Francis Batson, Ron Lye, The Revd John Chynchen, The Revd Hugh Phillipson

welcoming greeting made everyone at home from the start. Welcomers also organize 'Let's connect' to provide opportunities for people to get to know each other better. They are indeed our "Hospitality Ambassadors".

Intercessions during services often bring us awareness of the world and the people in need. Each week, our intercessors prepare their prayers carefully to lead us in praise, contemplation and supplication. We had training sessions for intercessors last year, hoping to recruit more parishioners to share this task. We also see more than 13 new chalice bearers in the past year.

The Flower Guild has put forth unsurpassed beauty of the creation in their weekly arrangements, to praise and give thanks to the Lord. The many weddings and funerals are also completely voluntary service from this loyal group of ladies. We thank Mrs Viola Ip, Miss Grace Fung and all Guild members for their extraordinary hard work. Dealing with many who may not otherwise be in touch with the Cathedral, the Guild shoulders an important ministry to care for those who choose the house of the Lord to

witness the important occasions in their lives.

Time spent with CLARES is always full of joy. We thank Ruth Phillipson and Stella Carter for their co-leadership in the last years, enabling the group to live out their motto of "Care, Love, Action, Response, Effort and Service". The events hosted by the CLARES are always attractive. As Sharon also left her post as chaplain to the CLARES, I am grateful to The Revd Hugh Phillipson for taking up the chaplaincy work to the CLARES. Castaway continues to serve as an expression of concern to our community, we are thankful of their efforts and achievements.

The 'Christians in Central' group did a great job last year. There were totally 8 talks organized and the speakers included distinguished oversea visitors and local ones. These gatherings provide a platform for our church members to bring their colleagues, friends and relatives to come to join us and share our Christian faith.

Another ministry to the working people of Central, our Lunchtime Recitals is a welcome chance to get away from the

hustle and bustle of the city. This one-hour oasis has drawn a steady and appreciative audience to our grounds each week. The complex work of contacting the artists, arranging performance, printing programmes, preparing venue, sending out promotion and handling donations ... it is a hefty workload and we thank each and every one of the committee members for their dedication and sincerity towards this ministry.

Sunday School teachers are our treasures. We can see rising numbers among their ranks, and we are confident that their hard work has brought abundant fruit. In response to Provincial permission for all initiated Christians (including children) to receive Holy Communion, they organized a preparation course for Sunday School children. When I saw their excitement at their first communion, I was well pleased to know that this has helped tremendously in their spiritual growth.

Michaelmas Fair 2009 was again a huge success. We thank all the past Chairpersons and Patron Mrs June Li for their support and hard work. I trust that John Breen will lead us to further the tradition of the Fair,

to bring all congregations of the Cathedral together to show our support and care towards needy charities.

Harry Ching, our Youth Officer, is now engaging in theological training in Minghua Theological College. We thank Harry for coordinating a consolidation of the youth ministries of the Cathedral parish and the rapid growth of the 'New Group' of St John's. We believe that his gifts in language, youth work, academic studies and working experience will serve both St John's and the wider community of the HKSKH. In addition, three theological students, Alan Choy, Augusta Leung and Terry Cheung are serving their placements at St John's this year. We thank them for their fellowship,

inspiration and contribution to our various ministries, and wish them every blessing in their studies for the ministry.

Contemplating the future, I wish that we shall continue the good work handed

down to us by our forefathers, and shine as a light in Hong Kong. Finally, let me share the words of Timothy Dwight in "I love thy Church, O God" as mutual encouragement to you all as the conclusion of my report:

*I Love Thy Church, O God; the house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest redeemer saved with His own precious blood.
For her my tears shall fall, For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given till toils and cares shall end.
Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.
Jesus, Thou friend divine, Our Saviour, and our King.
Thy hand from every snare and foe shall great deliverance bring.
Sure as Thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given,
The brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.*

Mark Rogers

Well-travelled, he has settled in as Cathedral Chaplain and Priest-in-charge of Discovery Bay Church

Father Mark was brought up in the English West Midlands. From 1982-85 he studied at the University of Wales for a degree in Theology where he was awarded the prize for the best results. In the year before beginning theological studies and training for ministry he worked with homeless in London and was active in the Peace movement. He then went on to theological college at Queen's, Birmingham from 1986-88 and was ordained in Worcester Cathedral

Yet, despite this British start, Mark comes to St John's from Canada. For the last ten years, as Rector of St Columba & St Matthew's Church, Diocese of Montreal, he has been very active in that diocese.

He was Regional Dean 2003-2010. He chaired the Diocesan Partners in Mission from 2006-2010. He also chaired the Anglican World Festival Committee 2005, the Diocesan Pentecost Celebrations 2007 and the 150th Anniversary of Synod, 2009.

Mark was an EfM mentor, a mentor for new clergy and diocesan leader for *Fresh Start*, a programme for congregations in transition, and a member of the Diocesan Mission Standing Committee 2000-2005. He was diocesan field-supervisor for theological students and the newly ordained 2003-2010.



Father Mark in missionary mode — visiting Masasi, Tanzania

He says the work he enjoyed most was with *Partners in Mission*. He facilitated a new partnership with the Diocese of Masasi in southern Tanzania.

Mark has taken his ministry overseas more than once since ordination. His brush with the Peace Movement was followed by a spell in Nicaragua to study Base

Communities and Liberation Theology before being ordained in 1990.

After four years as Team Vicar, Christ Church, Tolladine, Mark went as USPG missionary in Belize from 1997 to 2000 He worked in Creole and Hispanic congregations, built a church and trained their first Hispanic lay readers and deacons.

The Cathedral Choir – who are we?

Every Sunday at the 9.00 a.m. service at St John's, you can see and hear a very diverse group of talented musicians, helping the congregation worship through the medium of music in the tradition of the great cathedral choirs of the Anglican Communion. But just who are these men and women singing (and in summer gently perspiring!) in their blue cassocks and surplices? Here are the thoughts and stories of some of its members.

Our longest serving member and proud upholder of that great Welsh singing tradition, having been a mainstay of the tenor section for 37 years, is retired civil servant, **GORDON JONES**. Here are his personal thoughts on the choir and what it has meant to him.

It requires a rather special kind of person, with a penchant for self-denial, to turn up regularly at the very anti-social hours of 6.00 p.m. on a Friday evening (TGIF!) and 8.30 a.m. on a Sunday morning for choir practices; suffer the sauna like conditions of the Cathedral for prolonged periods in the summer while wearing a double-layer of clothing; sing at a number of demanding choral services for several days on end, particularly at Christmas and Easter; but, despite this, still come back for more. On top of this, as these persons are amateurs and volunteers, they do all of this completely free of charge and (usually) without too many complaints! These exemplars of what can be best described as a trade unionist's nightmare are the members of the St John's Cathedral Choir.

One of the strongest aspects of the Cathedral Choir is its esprit de corps as shown by the members' very strong sense of commitment and regular participation in the choir's increasingly demanding schedule throughout the year. A second significant strength is the choir's musicality and 'intelligence' (to use the words of Hugh Phillipson). We have no room for passengers and everyone has to pull their weight. Rehearsal time is always at a premium and, increasingly, more and more has to be done in less and less time. On more than one occasion, practices have finished with literally minutes before the service at which the music has to be sung. However, thanks to adrenalin and the choir's competence (not to mention the Grace of God), the sung part of the service is (usually) up to standard! Many of the members are fine singers and musicians in their own right, and the Cathedral Choir is only one of their many musical commitments in Hong Kong. All of us have a deep love of the unique Anglican choral tradition, which is one of the world's great musical treasures, and we are the only church choir in Hong Kong which continues to sing fully choral services.

A third strength is that the choir's composition comprises a very wide spectrum of people in terms of ages, races and backgrounds ranging from school students to 'more mature' members from all over the world. Students from St Paul's Boys College rub shoulders with ex-heads of government policy bureaus and departments: everyone treats everyone else as equals and, without a doubt, all are equal in the eyes of the choir master! This generational mix is, perhaps, unique in choirs in Hong Kong but ensures that the Cathedral Choir is a choir for all seasons and, although the ages, races and backgrounds may differ, we are all united in striving for the highest possible standards.

Since joining the choir in October 1973, I have seen it developed into the finest church choir in Hong Kong and one of the best, if not the best, cathedral choirs between Europe and Australia. Much of this development over the past 30 years can be attributed to our choirmaster, Raymond Fu. Under Raymond's totally dedicated and highly professional direction

(punctuated by the occasional vocal fireworks!) and commitment to excellence, the choir is adopting an increasingly ambitious repertoire, with Cathedral-style liturgical music and anthems sung at all the major Cathedral services and many other occasions throughout the year. More and more visiting choirs from other countries, particularly the United Kingdom, sing with the Cathedral Choir and we are establishing an increasingly good reputation in church music circles.

Ultimately, the commitment and dedication by choir members is made possible because there are strong bonds between us all. Many choir members are close friends and these close, supportive, personal relationships undoubtedly help improve the choir's standards. These relationships are reinforced by good social activities including an annual dinner and Christmas party while dim sum lunches and other get-togethers are held throughout the year. And it is not unknown for Choir members to slip off to the Foreign Correspondents Club after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve for further celebrations! Above all, singing in the choir is fun and medical studies indicate that regular singing is good for your health!

When I first arrived in Hong Kong, I sang in many choirs. Now, I only sing in the Cathedral Choir which was the first Hong Kong choir I sang in 37 years ago and remains, for me, a very special choir. It is one of the treasures of St John's Cathedral: long may this continue.

FATHER HUGH PHILLIPSON, Bass, Choir Chaplain and Chairman, has also been a member for many years, while now also serving as an honorary member of the Cathedral's clergy.

Singing has always been part of my life, and over the years I must have sung in over 20 choirs: small, medium and big, secular and church choirs. But of all these choirs, without a doubt, singing in our cathedral choir gives me more fulfillment than any of the others. I know my wife Ruth, who has a similar musical background and also sings in the choir, feels exactly the same.

Why? For a start the choir is part of a vibrant Christian community in the heart of a dynamic international city. And then the choir is a small community itself, a fascinating mix: men and women, young and old, different nationalities. But all of us share a love of music and a desire to express our faith in worship through our singing.

The choir is also a friendly community. Anyone who can sing and sight read music — a necessity because of the large amount of music we sing with limited rehearsal time — is welcome with open arms! In fact an unusual feature of our choir is the big changes in membership over the years. This is because people come and go in Hong Kong and young people sometimes move elsewhere for education or work.. In the last 15? years 260 people have sung in the choir. That's equivalent to seven choirs!

We are very blessed in having a gifted choirmaster, Raymond Fu, who has been our choir master for nearly 30 years, ably supported by our talented organist Peter Yue. Raymond has an enthusiasm, energy, and passion for the music and it's spiritual message, which seem to grow with time rather than diminish. We will follow him anywhere musically, although for some of us, this sometimes means pushing us to our limits, with stressful rehearsals singing 'out of the box'! But we usually get there in the end.

The choir sings a great variety of music, and it is a great joy to sing music by composers from 1500 to 2000 who were inspired to express their faith

in choral music. Sometimes extra instruments such as violins, trumpets and clarinets are added to add colour and vitality to the music. For the very special services of Christmas and Easter small orchestras join the choir as originally intended by the composers — strings, woodwind and brass — ‘making a joyful noise’ all for the glory of God.

We sometimes take our music outside St John’s and in the past when prison regulations were not so tough, we were able to go as a choir into the Maximum Security Prison at Stanley to bring something of the joy of Christmas to those unfortunate men incarcerated for years for very serious, often violent and deadly crimes. These were moving experiences for us and hopefully for some of those prisoners.

It is always a great privilege for us to lead the cathedral music in hymn singing and in enriching the liturgy with mass settings and anthems. We hope that sometimes, we can bring to people through our offering of music some beauty, love and maybe even occasional glimpses of heaven.

Father Hugh’s wife, **RUTH PHILLIPSON**, Soprano, also has the demanding job of Wardrobe Mistress and was responsible for recent commissioning of the choir’s splendid new robes.

As a small child I can vividly remember going with my grandmother to her Anglican church and really loving the music there. From those early years church music became a passion in my life. When my husband, Hugh, suggested we might like to join St John’s Cathedral Choir nearly 20 years ago I was hesitant. It turned out to be one of the best decisions we ever made, and the Cathedral Choir has become a tremendously important part of my life.

Singing in such a vibrant, active choir with members from several continents is a huge privilege. Raymond’s leadership, energy and inspiration are surely God given, while his rehearsals are constantly challenging, informative and up-lifting. We skip, sometimes with difficulty, from early music from the 15th century to pieces written for this choir. The soprano motto is “never a dull moment”!

It is wonderful to be part of the choir community! We are a special family with a common love and purpose, and like all good families we’re pretty good at eating! Singing is elating and euphoric, and really good for keeping the brain going. For me, worship is music. I cannot imagine it being any other way.

Originally from Canada, **WENDY NESBITT**, has also been a key member of the Soprano section for a number of years, as well as the committee responsible for organising our social activities.

I have been a member of St John’s Cathedral choir for nine years, and those years have, and continue to be, a very important part of my life. The music, fellowship, and faith that we share within the choir, not only on Sundays, but also during rehearsals and performances, has sustained me through some challenging times, and given me great joy. I look forward to each and every rehearsal and service. Although we come from many different backgrounds and cultures, our mutual love of God and music links us together. Raymond Fu and Peter Yue set the standard very high, and I feel very privileged to be a part of the whole.

ROD WHITTICASE, Bass, is one of the longest serving members of the choir, having joined originally in 1985.

I wasn’t attracted into the Choir, rather I was press-ganged — by the then Dean’s wife Janet Clasper. I soon noticed that things seemed to revolve around eating and so quickly settled in.

For me two highlights stand out: what amounted to a state funeral for the governor Sir Edward Youde in 1986; and Julie Leaves’s ordination service, when processing out through the Lady Chapel suddenly the Choir saw that unbeknown to anyone Father Harold Naylor, a Catholic priest and friend of Julie, had been in attendance throughout — very moving.

Some of us in the bass section have been singing together now for almost twenty years — that makes for very good friends. And of course over so many years there are some great memories. My favourite moments have been: Father Gareth Jones interrupting a rehearsal of the Merbecke Agnus Dei with, “Stop that racket, you lot! You’re singing about the Lamb of God, not the Lion of Judah” — I should say Raymond was not conducting; but he was when, tasked with the lead entry in the Kyrie of a Byrd mass, the altos froze and made not a sound. The Dean, Chris Phillips, later said, “I sensed that something was wrong as, viewed from the congregation, Raymond appeared to be conducting in an increasingly demented manner”. However, Cinderella Lee swept in with a magisterial soprano entry and the ship of state was righted. Some say that Raymond has sung every alto entry himself ever since.

Another bass, **HERBERT AU YEUNG**, has been in the choir for nearly as long, having started while still at St Paul’s College, where so many of the male members of the choir studied, and where, not coincidentally, Raymond Fu is Head of Music in his ‘day job’.

I joined the Cathedral Choir in 1989 while I was still studying at St Paul’s College. When I was invited by Mr. Raymond Fu (my music teacher at St Paul) to join the Choir, I could never imagine at the time that my acceptance of his invitation would turn out to be one of the most important decisions in my life. Indeed, my life was never separated from the Cathedral since then: I was baptized and got married in the Cathedral and my elder son, Anton, was also baptized here. I have also known a lot of my very good friends who are regular worshippers here. My life was simply changed.

I always think it is a wonderful idea to worship God by music because feelings may be better expressed in this way. I am glad that I am able to make good use of my voice which is given by God. It is also a great experience to sing with so many talented choir members week-in-week-out. I have learnt a lot in all these years and I must say I have enjoyed every minute here.

Here is the experience of one of our most recent members, **DEBBIE MCGOWAN**, Alto. In addition to singing in the choir, Debbie also assists Shirley Fu with the St John’s Children’s Choir, playing piano accompaniment in rehearsals and services.

It’s thirty-something years since I left school — I enjoyed singing in the choir and learnt to play piano and organ. My father was a priest so I had the opportunity to sing and play in several churches including St Paul’s Cathedral and York Minster.

Since then, my pursuit of other activities, travels and a career in banking, kept me so busy that any musical skills I had acquired in the 1970s became extremely rusty.

Two years after returning to Hong Kong (I had previously lived in Hong Kong for a short time in the mid-90s), I felt confident enough to make enquiries about joining the Cathedral Choir. When I did so, the conductor, Raymond Fu and the rest of the choir couldn’t have been more encouraging.

After attending a few practices, I had a successful audition and now really enjoy the musical inspiration and social interaction that comes with being an active member of a choir.



On reflection over the time it took me to become involved, I realised there were two messages I needed to remind myself of:

- (i) It's never too late to (re)start something, and
- (ii) Don't underestimate yourself or your own abilities, nor the contribution you can make.

Another relatively recent arrival, **NICKY WILKINSON**, Soprano, is now on the Choir Committee and serves as Membership Secretary, so any aspiring choir members can approach her, as well as the choirmaster, Raymond Fu. As she describes below, she knows how daunting it can be to look to join a new choir.

I wanted to join the choir as soon as I arrived in Hong Kong four years ago, particularly because I love the Christmas choral music and wanted to have a go at singing it. However it took me two years to pluck up the courage. Raymond was kind enough to let me join and I have enjoyed each practice and service that I have sung in since. My first impressions were how welcoming everyone was, and also that I was joining a long-standing tradition of the Cathedral (black and white photos in the vestry of previous

female choristers wearing long Victorian dresses and hats in the choir stalls add to this impression).

Highlights for me include singing the wonderful early choral music, such as Tallis, Byrd and Victoria. We think our choir is unique in South East Asia in being lucky enough to sing this type of music. Funny memories include there being a loud crash during a radio broadcast service caused by the wooden music stand on top of the organ falling off at an inconvenient time before the sursum corda, and ending up on the wrong 'side' during a Choral Matins (in which we sing in two choirs antiphonally) and having to dash to the correct side during one of the readings. Typically though everything runs like clockwork and I enjoy every moment of it.

Finally, let **ERI ONAMI**, Alto and originally from Japan, express simply what we all feel about our service in the Cathedral Choir.

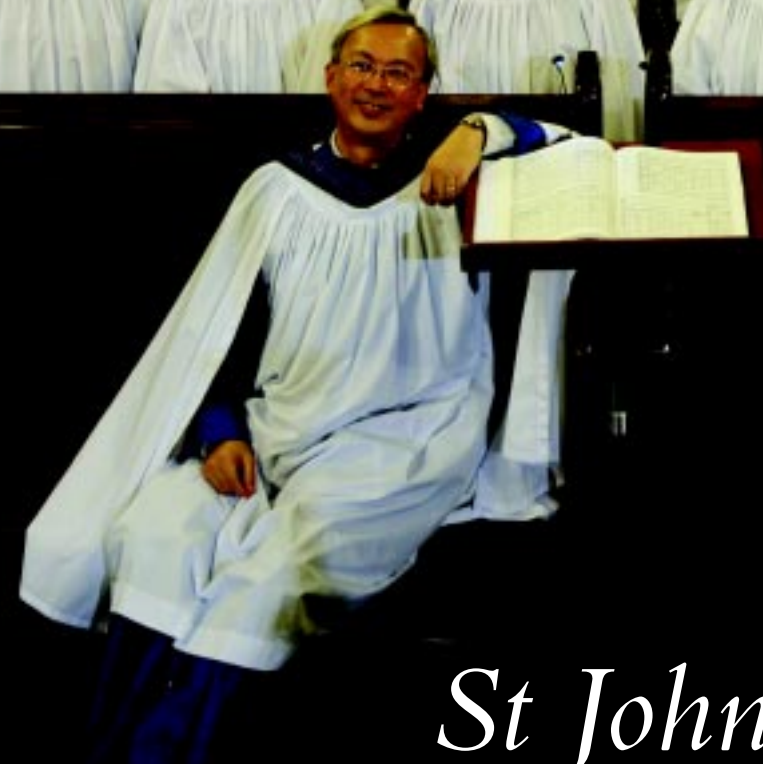
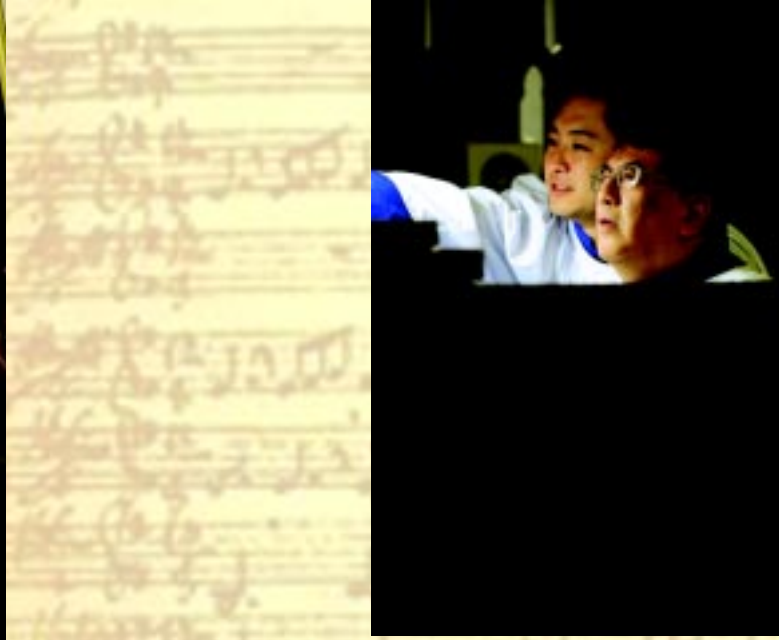
Music is part of my life. I cannot live without music and gracious musical instruments. Cathedral music is very special for me and the spiritual growth that my guardian angel gives me is an important message throughout the music.



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St John's Cathedral Choir



From the Register

BAPTISMS

3rd April 2010

Au Wai Nam, Davis
Chan Kam Chee
Law Man Yi
Chan So Kuen, Suki
Lau Wai Lun, Walter
Natalia Kalinkina
Ng Wai Hing, Michael
Felicia Ng
Rocco Yim
Chan Shing Tang, Jason
Chu King Shan, Hugo
Dong Xue, Maria
Jocelyn Huang
George Jiao
Kwei Ngok Hon
Lai Kit Ling, Christy
Florence Lai Pui Yan, Christine
Lau Kin Wing
Lau Tsz Kit, Randy
Li Ching Man
Ng Hon Kit
Poon Tsz Kin, Terence
So Ching Man, Louisa
Bell Tsia
Wong Yiu Cho, Joe
Wu Yuen Tung, Heloise

4th April 2010

Zoe Marie Cartland
Cameron Chow
Clarice Chow
Chu Ca Ho
Chu Ca Ching
Avi Daniel Du Preez
Tristan Marthinus Du Preez
Zoe Mae Fedoruk
Abigail Green
Tobias Green
Lau Tak Yan, Darren
Lau Sui Ming, Titus
Zoe Hermione Leung
Aimee Beatrice Leung
Ng Yin Nam, David
Ng Yin Chak, Daniel
Andrea Tam
Annette Tam
Tsang See Wing, Stephanie

Yu Chung Wan, Ian
Yue Gi Gi, Audrey
Yue Yuet Yiu, Julia
Jerro Pahilagao

10th April 2010

Rosalino Lily McLannahan
Albert Wong

2nd May 2010

Kay Buckley Ercil

4th May 2010

Adam Butt
Aaron Berwyn Butt

22nd May 2010

Adrian Bruce Tse
Belinda Christine Tse
Nicola Price
Cedric Man To Kwok

6th June 2010

Marguerite Lan Templeton Wintle

4th July 2010

Lee Hiu Ching, Emma

CONFIRMATION

3rd April 2010

Chan Kam Chee
Law Man Yi
Chan So Kuen, Suki
Lau Wai Lun, Walter
Natalia Kalinkina
Ng Wai Hing, Michael
Felicia Ng
Rocco Yim
Chan Shing Tang, Jason
Chu King Shan, Hugo
Dong Xue, Maria
Jocelyn Huang
George Jiao
Kwei Ngok Hon
Lai Kit Ling, Christy
Florence Lai Pui Yan, Christine
Lau Kin Wing
Lau Tsz Kit, Randy

Li Ching Man
Ng Hon Kit
Poon Tsz Kin, Terence
So Ching Man, Louisa
Bell Tsia
Wong Yiu Cho, Joe
Wu Yuen Tung, Heloise
Chui Mei Ling
Tam Sai Ho
Lam FY, Shirley
William John Papworth
Li Pui, Thomas
Ma Hing Suen
Tavis Stephen Du Preez
Fung Wai Ying, Erica
Fong Ya Nam, Annie
Lei Ying Man
Michael Ben Lin

MARRIAGES AND BLESSINGS

10th April 2010

Kwun Kwan So and Hoi Yan

16th May 2010

Tin Lok Tam and Wendy Pui Man Li

12th June 2010

Kwong Chiu Tsang and
Kit Sum Beata Yeung

12th June 2010

Oliver Richard Newton Hemming and
Sri Hartani

FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS

23th March 2010

Sue Knox Pinshow

27th March 2010

Anthony Shiu Lau Chan

17th April 2010

Anthony Gordon Eason

Parish Notebook

CATHEDRAL NOTES

Desmond Cox

When I Survey Christ's Cross and Ours' was the title of five studies in Lent, with small groups gathering at the Cathedral on Tuesdays and Fridays to discuss this challenging booklet which led us into Holy Week and Easter. The eleven weeks Genesis Course for those who are enquiring about the Christian faith or would like to be baptized and confirmed ended with an all-day retreat at Tao Fong Shan. Easter Eve saw twenty six adults presented for Baptism and Confirmation and another ten presented for Confirmation. On Easter Day, twenty three children from the Sunday school were baptized and admitted to Communion after completing an exciting six week study programme with their parents.

Several small dinners were held in the Harold Smyth Room to explain the significance of the Holy Week and Easter services to those of the last two Genesis Courses. A very successful dinner for servers and clergy followed by rehearsals for the various liturgies of Easter and Holy Week was held the Monday in Holy Week. The Sunday school excelled in its dramatic readings of The Passion as did the adults on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. The Maundy Thursday Vigil before the sacrament continued until Midnight with a constant flow of people coming to pray.

Hundreds of people took part in the HIV Education Centre's AIDS Festival focused on Universal Access and Human Rights in Chater Road Central, which had been reserved for the occasion. Following on from this, members of the HIV Centre presented papers at the Christian Conference of Asia's conference on theological teaching and pastoral care for people living with aids in Kuala Lumpur. From there Fr Des went onto Lambeth Palace in London, where he is a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's consultation on HIV AIDS Relief Development and Advocacy, for discussions on charting a way to enable the Anglican Communion to become more effective in this work in part by incorporating the model of St John's HIV Education Centre.

During the Easter Season the Sunday School presented its colorful musical *God's Creation* during the 9.00 a.m. service on Easter Day. The cast of 80 children joined the Cathedral Junior Choir, the Sunday School Orchestra and it was great to see the children being incorporated into the liturgy.

On the Day of Pentecost, there the Sunday School staged a procession of twelve decorated cakes to be shared with the congregation on this festive day. Later, in the evening, a large congregation tapped and clapped with the music as we concluded the Pentecost celebrations with a lively and uplifting *Jazz Vespers*. The carnival atmosphere continued as the jazz musicians led the congregation into the Li Hall for a fabulous Pentecost Supper.

The Sunday School ended its year with *dim sum* party at a nearby restaurant. 120 school members enjoyed great food and fellowship and collectively submitted a request for more dim sum parties. On the following Sunday, the children were presented with their books for attendance and we bid a sad farewell to our beloved Dolores who has ministered to the children at St John's since 1986.

With the summer months ahead most Cathedral ministries are having dinner gatherings to wind up the years activities and planning for the new year of 2010/2011 as we continue our faith journey as the People of God.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, POKFULAM

Nigel Gibson

I am writing these lines just a few days after my installation and licensing as the new priest-in-charge of Emmanuel Church. Archbishop Paul presided over the impressive service on Sunday 20th June and Dean Andrew preached the sermon. The occasion marked the end of a long period of interregnum and the beginning of a new chapter in Emmanuel's 30-year history.

After the service the entire congregation enjoyed a magnificent reception, which members of the congregation had so generously provided and arranged. During the festivities I was presented with a *Welcome Cake* adoringly inscribed with the words of Psalm 100 and a creatively decorated *Welcome Banner* made by my new Sunday School kids. I was deeply touched by these thoughtful gifts and the memory of them will linger for a long time.

On the photo gallery page on Emmanuel's website (www.emmanuel.org.hk) you will find a collection of photos that capture the wonderful spirit and joyous atmosphere of the whole day.

I consider it a real privilege to have been chosen to serve at Emmanuel and to be called to be part of a community that is so committed, prayerful and welcoming. It feels good to be here!



Archbishop Paul, Dean Andrew and Fr Nigel with the Emmanuel congregation

I am deeply grateful to churchwardens Colleen Nichol and Jeremy Gadbury for all their hard work and extra responsibilities they have carried out so efficiently during the vacancy on Emmanuel's behalf. I am also grateful to the church committee members for their kindness and hospitality since I arrived.

Special thanks also to Fr David Pickering for his role as locum priest-in-charge and for making the handover run so smoothly. Fr David's ministry over the past 18-months has been exemplary, and I hope he realizes how grateful the Emmanuel people are for all he achieved during his time with them.

Before the usual summer exodus got fully underway, I gathered the church committee together for our first meeting. We began by recognizing a number of our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The main issues on the agenda were the ongoing development of the Sunday School, the introduction of a *Book of Remembrance*, a revamped pew sheet, a new website using latest webcast technology, a *Harvest Songs of Praise* in October, and the need for a fresh look at Stewardship in the autumn. Throughout the meeting there was a healthy exchange of creative ideas that stimulated some lively and often humorous debate, all of which I welcomed and found affirming.

A few weeks earlier on Pentecost Sunday, the Cantata Choir made their much-anticipated annual return to Emmanuel. As usual they led the hymn singing during the Eucharist and sang numerous songs and anthems that everyone greatly appreciated, judging by the thunderous applause at the end of the service! I think everyone present was moved and spiritually stirred-up by the depth, quality and passion of the Choir's musicianship.

You'll remember that it was on another day of Pentecost that God stirred-up his people in amazing and unpredictable ways through the sending of his Holy Spirit. Well, as I begin another chapter in my life and give thanks to God for calling me here, I pray that this same Holy Spirit will lead everyone at Emmanuel forward with confidence, grace and hope for what I believe we can achieve in the years ahead.



FILIPINO CONGREGATION

Dwight dela Torre

The Filipino Congregation of St John's participated in the Philippine Independence Day celebrations initiated by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Association of HK on 13th June 2010. The main activity participated in by members of the Filipino Congregation was the street dancing from Southorn Playground in Wanchai to Victoria Park in Causeway Bay.

Clad in the costumes of the different tribes of the Philippines participants of the street dancing braved the rains. Thankfully the rains stopped when the parade arrived at Victoria Park where the different groups continued to perform dances reflecting the rich cultural diversity and historical heritage of the Philippines.

The Mindanao Alliance, representing the various ethnic groups of Mindanao was declared the overall winner.

Among other things, the congregation of St John's as well as passers-by and tourists had a taste on 20th June, of the beauty, color and rhythm of the June 13 presentations, when the Filipino congregation held its own local Philippine Independence Day celebrations on the North Lawn after the Filipino Eucharist.

In 1521 the Philippines was colonized by Spain, one of the results of its search for the Spice Islands. But over the next three hundred years, the Filipinos staged more than 200 scattered and occasional revolts and uprisings against the Spaniards. Finally in 1896, a national movement for liberation was launched. On 12th June 1898, the Filipinos, after a successful two-year

revolution against Spain, declared, "...they are and have the right to be free and independent; that they have ceased to have any allegiance to the crown of Spain, that all political ties between them are and should be completely annulled and severed..."

MANDARIN CONGREGATION

Hessler Lee

Our congratulations to the choir of the Mandarin congregation. After months of hard practices under the direction of the Cathedral Music Officer, Alan Tsang, the choir became a fully-fledged choir. They are donned in choir gown and singing at the choir stall during the Mandarin service on Sundays. We gave our big thanks to them for their efforts and time to enhance the liturgy of the Mandarin service.

The Mandarin congregation invited Dr. Alman Siu-cheuk Chan, Principal of the Christian Zheng Sheng College, to give a talk on 13th June. Members of the Mandarin congregation packed Harold Smyth Room to listen to Dr Chan about drug abuse among the youth in Hong Kong. The audience was intrigued by Dr. Chan's vivid presentation drawn from his personal experience in helping many youths to overcome the problem.

The after service tea gathering at Harold Smyth Room continued to be well attended. Many congregation members took the occasion to update themselves about other congregation members and to know more about newcomers. It has become a part of the service helped to build the congregation's sense of belonging.

ST STEPHEN'S STANLEY

Will Newman



Vivit in Aeternum Spiritus. Requiescat in Pace

Sixty nine years after Ronald Maxwell died in action, his grave 'looks good' and we have 'shown due respect to this fallen soldier'.

The Welcome

*St John's Cathedral. At the grave side.
Monday 26th April 2010 at 11.00 a.m.*

Good Morning. On behalf of the Dean and the community at St John's, I extend a warm welcome to each one of you as we have come together this morning to re-dedicate this renovated grave, to bless this new official headstone and to pay our respects and to remember again the supreme sacrifice of Ronald Maxwell on 23rd December 1941 ... just two days before the British surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day.

We particularly welcome Mrs Nancy Wong – Ronald's sister, who Providence, acting independently of His own volition, has seen fit to move from her home at Steyning in West Sussex to the Helena May, just across the road, so that she would be able to be with us today and represent the Maxwell family; also, the British Consul-General, Andrew Seaton, representing the grateful nation in whose uniform young Ronald fought and died; and Richard Kellaway, the Director-General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), which has made this happen by undertaking all the work.

When Ronald left his home in Tsim Sha Tsui to join his unit — the Hongkong Defence Force No 3 Machine-gun Company, he told the family — a talented amalgam of Sino-British qualities — that he didn't expect to return.

He was cut down by a sniper. Wrapped in tennis court netting he was brought to this spot near to St John's Cathedral by his comrades. They reshaped the beginnings of a foxhole into a shallow trench and interred the body. Fr O'Brien SJ and Mr Wood stood beside the grave and Fr O'Brien said the prayers. Then they filled the grave.

Ronald Maxwell was a devout Roman Catholic, the 'holy one' of seven siblings. He was schooled at St Joseph's and La Salle Colleges; he attended mass regularly and it is only fitting that a Jesuit priest, our very good friend of many years, Fr Harold Naylor SJ, should be with us today to 'sign' the new headstone.



Mrs Nancy Wong, Ronald's sister with Richard Kellaway, CWGC's Director-General (left) and Derek Cheung, Manager, Hong Kong (right)

Twenty-eight years ago in 1982, a predecessor of Dean Andrew, Dean Stephen Sidebotham, told the SCMP, and I quote, "...that the Cathedral's Council is now seriously thinking of renovating the grave because we want it to look good and show due respect to this fallen soldier".

With more than a little bit of help from our friends...Richard Kellaway's remarkable teams in Maidenhead and Hong Kong...we have finally delivered.

The Reverend John Chynchen

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
HONG KONG

THE BLESSING
OF THE MEMORIAL HEAD STONE
AT THE RENOVATED GRAVE OF

**3176 PRIVATE
RONALD DOUGLAS MAXWELL**

23rd DECEMBER 1941 AGE 22

IN THE PRESENCE OF

MRS NANCY WONG, HIS SISTER

MR ANDREW SEATON, BRITISH CONSUL-GENERAL

MR RICHARD KELLAWAY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

MONDAY, 26TH APRIL 2010
11.00 AM



ORDER OF SERVICE

In Attendance: THE VERY REVEREND ANDREW CHAN, DEAN

OFFICIANTS: THE REVEREND JOHN CHYNGIEN, CHAPLAIN
THE REVEREND FATHER HAROLD NAYLOR SJ

THE GREETING

THE PREPARATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you

All and also with you.

God is love and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

Brothers and Sisters,

J. John 4.16

The blessing of this new memorial headstone helps us to remember
with respect and gratitude Private Ronald Douglas Maxwell whose
earthly remains are buried in this grave.

By our prayers this afternoon we wish to commend him to God's
continuing mercy for we believe that our brother Ronald is called to
share eternal life in God's presence where he can intercede for us.

In this rite of blessing, we use Holy water in order to recall our
baptism that unites us to Christ our Saviour.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the resurrection and the life. We ask you
that Ronald, whose remains are interred here in this place, may not in
any way live eternally in your presence.

All

AMEN.

2

A READING FROM THE 1st LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those
who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through
Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare
to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until
the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
1 THESSALONIANS 4.13-17

THE LITANY

Dear friends, our Lord comes to raise the dead and comforts us
with the salve of his love. Let us praise Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Creator of the earth and the dust to which Ronald
has returned, in baptism you called him to eternal life to praise
your Father for ever.

All Lord, have mercy.

Son of God, you raise up the just and clothe them with the glory
of your kingdom:

All Lord, have mercy.

Crucified Lord, you protect the soul of Ronald by the power of
your cross, and on the day of your coming you will show mercy
to all the faithful departed:

All Lord, have mercy.

Judge of the living and the dead, at your voice the tombs will
open and all the just who sleep in your peace will rise and sing to
the glory of God:

All Lord, have mercy.

3

Blessing this memorial headstone, we ask for Private Ronald Douglas
Maxwell eternal joy in heaven.

Jesus said to Martha, "Your brother will rise."
Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."
Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me,
even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never
die."

Fr Harold Naylor may then sprinkle the memorial stone with blessed water, saying:

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

All And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.

All Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.

All Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

The Deacon delivers the BENEDICTION

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and
the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be
among you and remain with you always.

All

AMEN.

4

From the Archive

Stuart Wolfendale

In 1941, for the Hong Kong British, the prospect of the Japanese taking on the British Empire was emotionally preposterous. Yet wives and children had been evacuated in the stark face of Japanese forces massed across the Shum Chun River.

For expatriate men folk, the prospects were obviously confusing. Barely months before the invasion, they were petitioning the Home government to bring families back to Hong Kong from Australia. London was less sanguine. A request that would have turned into a lamentable misjudgement was declined.

The Cathedral was certainly feeling the loss of womanpower. The Michaelmas Fair which had truly got under way in 1938 could not be held in 1941. There was a Prayer and Gifts day instead. Volunteers manned the Cathedral to receive gifts from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Just 40 people showed up and 29 sent in items. By the lights of those days, an impressive \$4,500 was raised by just a few.

Sunday School was all but lost as were boys from the choir and practically everything requiring volunteer women. One small band that kept going was the Holy Communion Fellowship. This was the result of a long and patient struggle by clergy from the Twenties to raise the importance and frequency of communion among the Cathedral congregation. It was still a small band and its modest objective at the time was for fellowship members to make their communion at least on the third Sunday of each month.

Firm in the belief that fellowship follows on food, they held a popular breakfast after the early service. The breakfast helpers left just before the invasion were Misses Basto, Bicheno and Souza and E G Stewart and Peter Wilson. Miss Bicheno, the choir

mistress, was interned and helped provide the music for united church worship in Stanley camp. Colonel Stewart, was wounded in the First War and was about to be wounded again in this. He survived and was interned. Peter Wilson fought with the Volunteers. He was killed in battle.

Like many, they did not foresee the swiftness of what was to come. The Fellowship was concerned that the Volunteers had no provision for Holy Communion during training camps. These only lasted a week, they noted, but what would happen if they were mobilized? In the event, mobilization endured for just two Sundays.

It was the centenary of the colony's foundation but needless to say not a festive one. Dean Leonard Wilson's view was that a colony that counted only its wealth was a vulgar one. He made the point that Hong Kong 1941 had 'extravagant displays of wealth, cabarets, cinemas, racing, gambling and luxurious cars' at the same time as 'degrading poverty, slums and street sleeping.' It had few schools, no civic centre, art gallery, museum or library.

In those last months of freedom, the church was most vigorous outside its walls. In February there was a joint effort to set up a Church relief centre manned by locals who knew who to help with a dollar here and forty cents there.

The HKSPC was formed dealing with 14,000 cases of which only 1,800 were to do with actual cruelty, the rest concerned poverty and disease. In a battle against squalid slums, a Christian group actually took over three flats in Waiching Street, Wanchai and set them up properly for poor families. 'A candle in the dark' is how that was described. A boys' club was started for shoeshine boys and street urchins. The

Hong Kong Refugee and Social Welfare council set up in 1938 with strong backing from Bishop R O Hall was coordinating these efforts. They almost all breathed again after the War.

The Dean was soon to leave for the bishopric in Singapore and imprisonment and torture. P Cassidy, Trustee and Secretary of the Council bade farewell to him with fond frankness about the polar distances in their temperaments and how Wilson had to put up with Cassidy's years of Hong Kong thinking and his attitude of 'for heavens sake leave it alone!'

The Bishop ordained Lei Tim Oi a deaconess on Ascension Day 1941 in the Cathedral. Bishop Mok preached and nine other clergy and a deaconess were present. Lei went on to serve in Macau and it was for that congregation that R O Hall was to take the momentous step of ordaining her as a priest

In September, he ordained John Cheung as a deacon, preached his last sermon in the Cathedral for what was to be a long time and left for a trip to the US. The new Dean, Alaric Rose, came out of 17 days in hospital and finished his sick leave with a short holiday in Shatin, probably in the Bishop's farm house home up there.

With stolid normality, the November 1941 edition of the *St John's Review* prints the month's servers' including John Pau, George Ladd, Arthur White, George Budden, John Huang, James Reddie, David Parsons, Norman Smith and Luke Lim. You stare at the names and wonder about them a month hence.

Its last article is a book review of *The Nature and Destiny of Man* by Reinhold Niebuhr. Then there is silence.

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Father 'Cool' breezes in from Milano

From Australia Nigel Gibson moved on to serve the Church in England and Italy. He has joined us in Hong Kong, conveniently relocated betwixt Stamford (Lincs) and Adelaide (SA).

Energetic, but not frantic is one of the ways Father Nigel describes himself. Nigel joined the Cathedral as a chaplain in May and was installed as priest-in-charge of Emmanuel, Pokfulam on 20th June 2010.

He comes to the South China Sea from an interesting European location; *All Saints' Church*, Milan with St John the Baptist, Varese; the Holy Ghost, Genoa; and the Ascension, Cadenabbia, Lake Como — to all of which he was chaplain — as well as to the UK contingent at NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, north of Milan. This made him responsible for the sacramental, spiritual and pastoral care of diverse Anglican communities in Lombardia and Liguria. His conversational Italian is pretty sharp, too.

One of Nigel's many skills we are hoping to get the benefit of is his 15 years as a professional broadcast journalist and media

consultant. He was a radio news reporter and editor in his native Australia before he was ordained as a deacon in 1987.

He moved to England in 1990 and spent much of his ministry there in the Lincoln and St Alban's dioceses, improving the fortunes of parishes which had been troubled by membership, finance and building problems. For two years he operated a 'high street ministry' where he helped out four other incumbents in their parishes whilst running a small company in Stamford which imported Italian design and fashion and offered Christian hospitality in the high street.

At *All Saints Church* in Milan, Italy, Nigel implemented a new planned-giving campaign which upped giving by 55%. He formed a laity-led 'Tuesday Night Together Group' which became an effective entry point for anyone exploring faith and the



church and he made All Saints a popular venue for chamber groups, visiting choirs and solo recitals.

Musically gifted, Nigel has a life-long passion for classical music and opera. He is a keen cyclist and an enthusiastic supporter of Liverpool and Parma football clubs.

Profile: Chris Everett, Bookstore Manager

Chris Everett, the new manager of the Cathedral bookstore comes to the role with 15 years of editorial experience coupled with 12 years of hi-tech marketing. He was editor-in-chief of *Asian Electronics Engineer* and *Asian Electronics Engineer — China* before becoming the publisher and editor-in-chief of *EDN Asia* and the publisher of *Electronic Business Asia*. Chris last position was managing director of The Lightpoint Group, a nine-year-old Pan-Asian marketing communications agency headquartered in Hong Kong.

Prior to moving to Asia, Chris was in the Silicon Valley, where he marketed products ranging from \$0.15 components to \$2,000,000 IC-testers.

"At first blush, it seems to be a big jump from the electronics industry to retail book selling, but it's not really, he says: "I

understand the magazine and book-publishing industries from the other side, having published magazines and two books."

"The bookstore's mission is three-fold: Welcome, Education, and Nurture. For many visitors to the Cathedral for the first time, we in the bookstore are the first to greet and welcome them. Some visitors are only looking for directions to the Peak Tram, but others are looking for directions for everlasting life. And we are there to help point them in the right direction. It's great when your ministry is built in as part of your job description."

"My hobby — my love — is Bible study. Now, I feel like a kid in a candy store. I'm surrounded by hundreds of titles that will let me follow my study interests for years to come."



Chris' wife Patricia teaches at Yew Chung International School and they have been married for 42 years. They have three children Katy, Sara and Jonathan. On Sunday mornings, you will find him at Christ Church where he is the leader of the Sunday morning teen group. "Neat kids ... tough questions" is how he describes it.

Cathedral Restoration Programme: An update

John Endicott

Currently the work by the Government's Antiquities and Monuments Office on replacing rotted bricks inside the tower is all but finished. The AMO is preparing to repair the underground drains. They are also preparing a plan to complete painting the exterior which began with the painting of the tower. The Restoration Committee is working with AMO on developing a mechanism for opening and closing the clerestory windows. These are the rounded triangular windows just underneath the eaves and are intended to assist the ventilation by allowing hot air to escape during the hot summer months. A trial mechanism for one window was made in Australia and has already been shipped to Hong Kong.

The Restoration committee is considering how to set about restoring the reredos to the Lady Chapel. This striking

feature of the East end of the church was donated by Mrs. Anne Bowdler in memory of her husband Edward who was a considerable benefactor to St John's. When Mrs Bowdler herself died a few years later, she left the Cathedral two thousand pounds.

The marble paneling was designed and constructed by Morris and Company, founded by the great Pre-Raphaelite artist and designer William Morris. It is constructed of Derbyshire alabaster and Italian marble. The white marble figures of St Mary and St John were carved by the English sculptor Henry Pegram

It is a striking piece of work and rather special in a church in this part of the world. The marble is sound but the small inset panels of red "pietra rossa" are in a poor state and the whole has bulged away from the east wall. One small panel was removed and revealed a problem with penetrating damp.



Clerestory windows — trial mechanism

At the time it was built, this was the reredos to the High Altar and Mrs Bowdler resisted all attempts by some members of the Church Body at the time to tinker with the design to make it look less interesting. In her memory as well as her husband's, we should do our best to keep it as intact as possible.

Interfaith Day of Peace

by John Leighton

On Saturday 17th April, in the afternoon, friends from different religious and spiritual traditions and groups came to St John's Cathedral's Li Hall in the name of peace. This was in the belief that people of different faiths can celebrate peace. It was a wonderful, colourful varied and peaceful occasion.

The Li Hall had been prepared for the meeting with a labyrinth on floor at the west end of the hall, a small stage at the east end, and art from on the theme of peace formed a backdrop to the stage and decorated the hall walls.

Over the course of four hours talking, singing, dancing, prayer, and meditation of many forms took place, each person leading the various sessions took to the stage for approximately 15 minutes, with a break in the middle for tea. This was interspersed with periodic one minute silences for *peace* each half-hour or so, signalled by the ringing of a bell. There were also two discussion group sessions to allow people to meet others from different religious traditions and share their views on the afternoons events in the context of peace. The session opened and closed with litanies for peace in which all were invited

to participate. In addition, a 'peace wall' invited children to write up their own thoughts about peace and the afternoons proceedings.

Contributors included people from various Christian traditions, Hinduism (with additional Hare Krishna, Raja Yoga and Bhajan groups), Judaism, Islam, Tibetan Buddhism, Taoism, and a lady who was introduced as a humanist and animist. Whilst other religious groups were represented but did not present, there were many groups who could not be present, and it was remarked that the Sikhs from the Happy Valley temple were particularly missed as in previous years they had brought exceptionally good vegetarian food along with them! Even so, some wonderfully tasty vegetarian samosas appeared at tea-time.

Events were many and varied. John LeMond from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Tao Fong Shan gave a talk on how simple chanting and humming can bring people together. A splendidly colourful musical dance by two Hindu ladies in costumes representing Krishna



Walking the labyrinth

and Shiva earned a big round of applause. Several people carried handbells that slowly tolled as people progressed on their labyrinth walking. The Hare Krishna chanting involved a number of holy and inclusive works that were much appreciated by those present.

The event was organised by members of the Hong Kong Network on Religion and Peace, and led by Peter Lloyd from 'Holistic Asia' who reflected that he had been baptised at the Cathedral.

After the closing litany outside in the Cathedral garden, the representative from the Kowloon mosque (the Iman was ill that day) and the Rabbi were seen to exchange cards and engage in a cordial discussion about further dialogue between them — so there was at least one contact made that day for following up in the name of *peace*.

News in Pictures

Jazz Vespers on the Day of Pentecost — The Dixie Katz Band, musically augmented by Fr Hugh Phillipson and further enlivened by the dynamic preacher man, Fr Des Cox



The Trustees host a dinner for Mrs June Li, Patron of the Michaelmas Fair, in its 54th year



During May, Will Newman led a group to the Oberamgau Passion Play in Germany





A CONUNDRUM FOR LITURGICALLY INFORMED LAYPERSONS

Two priests, faced with the challenge of retraining themselves in a newly required liturgical dance for forthcoming Eucharists (The Harringay Rite), sat down over coffee and used what was to hand to sort out the steps. What does the formation in this picture represent ?

The first correct answer emailed to Elisa, the Dean's secretary, wins a dinner on the town with the Editor and a clergyperson of even greater refinement and charm.

Please note: Clerics, remunerated members of staff and MENSA members should refrain from participation. Elisa's email address: dean@stjohnscathedral.org.hk