

UK & A Newsletter

73
rd
Edition
November 2016

They have been put to the test by much trouble, but they have much joy. They have given much even though they were very poor (2Cor 8:2)

1

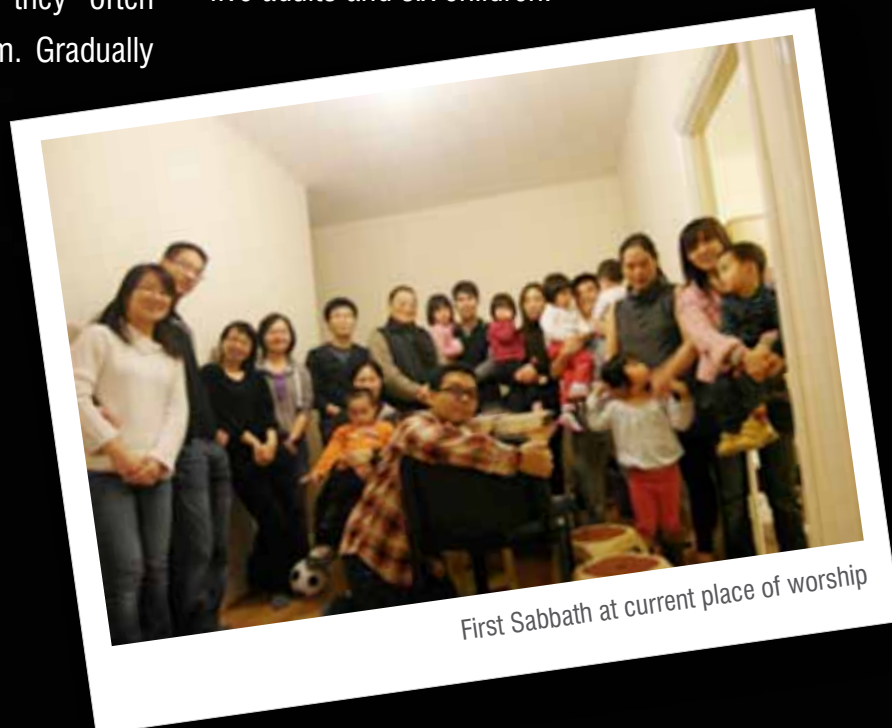
The History of Birmingham Place of Worship

Praise and thanks be to the Lord who founded the Birmingham place of worship! As early as the first half of the 1980's, many overseas students studied at the universities in Birmingham. The nearest church was in Leicester and these student believers had to take an hour's train journey to attend services there.

In the 90's two sisters and their families each settled in Birmingham. They were visited only sporadically by church workers, but for many reasons they rarely attended church services. After the year 2000, several believers who were asylum seekers from mainland China were settled by the authorities in and around Birmingham. They gradually found jobs in the area and many children accompanied their mothers to attend Sabbath services at the Leicester church. Regrettably most of the brothers had to work on the Sabbath and could not take time to attend services. Knowing this main obstacle, a group of fervent believers requested the Leicester church to lead services every other Tuesday, a day when most believers had a day off. After many attempts to find a suitable location we eventually secured a room within the St Martin in the Bull Ring Church in Birmingham town centre. From March 2009, services were held between 2 to 4pm on alternate Tuesdays. Around ten members within the vicinity initially attended the services and they often invited their friends to join them. Gradually the number increased to twenty and since then the

fortnightly Tuesday services have been on-going. Sometimes the brethren met at brother Yi-Xiang Cao's place for tea and fellowship after services and gradually this evolved as the gathering place after the Tuesday services. The service was led by the Leicester Church members to start with, but gradually some overseas students helped to lead the services as well.

Sometime in 2010, while on their train journey from Birmingham to Leicester for a Sabbath service two sisters were inspired to raise the idea of having Sabbath services in Birmingham. The arrangement would enable more believers to attend services on the Sabbath. With the agreement of the Leicester Church Board and the local members, brother Cao's family agreed to host the services at their home. With much excitement and thanks giving the first Sabbath service in Birmingham was held in October 2010, attended by eleven members including five adults and six children.



First Sabbath at current place of worship

They have been put to the test by much trouble, but they have much joy. They have given much even though they were very poor (2Cor 8:2)

2



Birmingham place of worship



5 July 2011 first baptism held for Birmingham's place of worship

The service began with hymnal singing, followed by prayer and by watching and listening to online sermon streaming and bible study. The bible study was led by the local members with some assistance from visiting members from Taiwan and Malaysia. Later on, Leicester church and London church were jointly assigned to visit and sermonise.

The membership continued to increase as the children were growing up. In November 2011, we started Religious Education (RE) classes as the children were having trouble understanding the sermons from the main service. At that time sister Iris Chan from Hong Kong was taking her Master degree studies in Education at Birmingham University; she trained some mothers on how to teach RE.

With God's providence the membership continued to increase daily and it was not possible to accommodate everyone in the original meeting place. After many discussions, we decided to rent a unit within a light industry building in June 2013. However, we received many complaints over the noise of our prayers and of the children. In addition, the rent had increased relentlessly and we decided that it was time to look for a suitable church building for our services and RE lessons, and for facilitating evangelical work. We established a building fund and started looking for suitable premises.

many other buildings but none had come into fruition. The same member accidentally returned to the website of the estate agency advertising the property we were interested in. Surprisingly the same property reappeared on the market. This member was perplexed and after further enquiry he was told that the transaction fell through because the buyer failed to secure the finance. He was told another buyer was interested and was waiting for mortgage approval. Believing that God had reserved this place for us this member sought approval of the board members and the congregation and made an offer to the estate agent. The seller decided to sell it to whoever was able to complete the transaction by the end of September that year.

We experienced many challenges and unpredictable obstacles during the purchase but we thank God for His guidance and help in response to the diligent prayers of the congregation. With a lot of help from the other UK churches and the offerings of the local members, we finally completed the purchase of this church building. Moreover we had secured sufficient fund for refurbishment. After two months of refurbishment costing £60,000, we moved into the building in March 2016.

God has been guiding us step by step over the years. We started with nothing and we

“With God's providence the membership” continued to increase daily

We viewed many places in our search but they were unsuitable, either because they were too expensive or too far away from the city centre. In 2014 we stumbled across (in hindsight, God provided) a detached church building not far from the city centre and the price was affordable. However, we were told that the sale had been agreed to another purchaser and the sale transaction was in earnest. The member responsible was discouraged because of this loss. Another year went past and we viewed

have come thus far. While the members in Birmingham place of worship remain immature, under God's continuous guidance, with a striving for perfection, and the ministers and church workers working hard to provide pastoral care, the local church will grow steadily to fulfil its mission of proclaiming the truth and shining forth for the Lord. May all glory and praise be to our beloved Lord Jesus, Amen!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Dn. Ezra Chong

(1) The annual NSSC (National Students Spiritual Convocation) was held from 25th — 29th July 2016 at the three Scottish churches. There were 117 students in total who attended this year’s convocation. Thank God for His guidance and protection. All the events went smoothly without major issues.

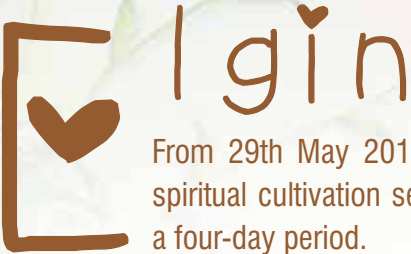
NSSC Classes	Workers	Convocation Topics	Hosting Church	Student Number
Junior Youth Class	Bro M Hsu	Baptism & Life of King Saul	Edinburgh	41
Junior Youth Class	Pr R Leacock	True Love - 1Cor 12 & 13 & The Lord’s Prayer		
Intermediate Youth Class	Pr CW Chan	Called to Serve & Eastern Festivals	Gifford	42
Intermediate Youth Class	Pr Johnny Liu	Foot-washing & Selected Parables of Jesus		
College Youth Class	Pr Steven Shek	Only One True Church; Book of Ruth & Responsibilities & Duties	Elgin	34
College Youth Class	Pr TK Chin	The End Time & Spiritual Cultivation & One True God		

(2) The inaugural National RE training seminar for RE-in-charges and class- in- charges, with the theme “Planning a Purposeful RE Ministry”, was held from 29th August — 1st September 2016 at Sunderland church. There were in total thirty eight attendees. I really thank God for His wonderful arrangement to have our sister, Patricia Chen, who came over from USA to assist in the seminar. All of us had felt that we had a long way to go before we can meet God’s requirements to work fruitfully in the RE ministry. During the three and half days we had learned so much that we felt we had “mounted with wings like eagles” (Is 40:31a) with His wisdom and strength.

Topics covered in this seminar were:

- What are you trying to accomplish
- Understanding spiritual growth
- Tools for spiritual growth (1) (2) (3) (4)
- Planning a purposeful year by monitoring Key steps & ensuring the department is moving in a healthy direction
- Building each other up
- Effective communication (1) (2)
- Practical insight to spiritual leadership (1) (2)
- Spiritual worship (1) (2)

As only some of the many teachers in UK had attended, we definitely will need to organise more sessions of similar nature in order that all the teachers in the UK are able to equip ourselves and to be ready to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. May All Glory be unto His holy name! Amen!



From 29th May 2016 was the UKGA's inaugural national spiritual cultivation seminar for ministers and workers over a four-day period.

The theme was **“To Renew our Mind”**. The speakers were Pr FF Chong and Pr Steven Shek. Dn Silas Chan, Dn Chung Pok Chan, Dn Simon Ho and Dn Stephen Shek conducted the prayer sessions. Around forty members attended the whole seminar, half of whom had come from outside of Elgin with some from as far as Cardiff and Leicester. We thank the Lord for their dedication.

3rd—6th July 2016: We held our 31st spiritual and evangelical convocation and the theme was **“Blessed are the Merciful”**. Pr Michael Chan and Pr Johnny Liu were joined by Pr Daniel Chin, an IA preacher from Malaysia. Ten truth seekers attended the event. Brothers and sisters rejoiced in serving and listening to the sermons and thanked God for His bountiful grace. God has blessed Elgin Church tremendously in the past year: six were baptised during this convocation — brother Fu Zhang, brother Ben Sery, sister Buna,

sister Nanda, sister Tia and brother Navi. May the Lord continue to guide them to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to lead them on the way of salvation and to complete the journey of faith! Eighty members took part in the Holy Communion. May all glory to the holy name of God!

Around 16th July 2016 brothers and sisters from USA, Taiwan, Hong Kong, London, Leicester, Gifford Park and Edinburgh visited our church. We were imbibed in joy, grace and love of the Lord.

24th July 2016 saw the start of the NSSC for college youth. The theme was **“One Body”** and the lecturers were Pr TK chin and Pr Steven Shek. Fifty members (students and counsellors) attended the event. Our church members, board members and deacons worked diligently in supporting it. May all glory be to our Lord!

9th—19th September 2016: Pr Steven Shek was pastoring. In addition to the routine pastoring work, he facilitated an evangelical service, gospel tea, youth fellowship and visiting. He also led the services at Aberdeen and throughout this period we thanked God for His guidance that the holy work had been accomplished.

14th September 2016: Dn Ling Tao Shek and his wife of Edinburgh church, together with bro L A Chou and his family visited us from Malaysia during the week. In addition to sightseeing they took time to visit our brethren.

<http://www.tjc.org> <http://members.tjc.org>

True Jesus Church | Boyd Street | Newcastle NE2 1AP

They have been put to the test by much trouble, but they have much joy. They have given much even though they were very poor (2Cor 8:2)

4

Edinburgh

Hallelujah! We thank God for guiding Edinburgh church in the past few months.

The church hosted the joyous holy matrimony of bro Edward Chan and sis Beverley Ho on 12th July and joyfully welcomed the arrival of baby Gabriel Shek on 14th July, born to bro Paul Shek and sis Lucy Chen.

We thank God a total of nine babies and children from both Edinburgh church and Glasgow place of worship were baptised on 6th August. Through the grace and mercy of God, these souls have been added to our spiritual family and we pray that God continues to guide them on their spiritual journey.

On 8th August, a memorial service was held for our late sister, Mei Fun Ho (née Lee) who was called to rest by the Lord. Through wonderful testimonies and sharing, the family drew comfort and peace with the heavenly hope that is before us. Towards the end of the month, sis Charissa Ho married bro Keith Cheung on 30th August and has now relocated to Newcastle.

From 11th to 13th September, we held our annual spiritual convocation with the theme of **"The Kingdom of God is at Hand"**. We thank Pr FF Chong and Pr Michael Chan who encouraged us during the quick three days and shared messages concerning the end time and reminded us to prepare ourselves and to be constantly alert.

Gifford Park

We thank God for His guidance, Gifford Park spiritual and evangelical convocation was successfully held from 26th to 28th June. The theme was **"We Reap What We Sow"** and it was jointly led by Pr Steven Shek, Pr TK Chin, and Pr Daniel Chin from Malaysia. Thank God we have two new members baptised into the body of Christ. May the Lord continue to guide the evangelical work and open the door of faith, adding to the church those who are being saved! From 24th—28th July our church held the NSSC for the intermediate youth, attended by forty four students and led by Pr Michael Chan and Pr Johnny Liu. We thank God for His guidance and for the work of love shown by the brethren which made this event a success.

After three weeks of **YTTC** (Youth Theological Training Course) in August we saw the return of

our students equipped with the word of God and spiritually refreshed. May the students continue to spiritually cultivate themselves and nurture themselves with the word of God, so that they will become God's valuable vessels, ready for every good work.

On 4th September we had our RE end of year service. We are comforted to witness the progress in faith and in spirit of the young ones in the past year. According to His promise God has also granted Holy Spirit to two of our students. Thank God, He is truly working with us! May God continue to guide and strengthen the faith of His members and perfect His Church. May all glory be unto His holy name! Amen!

Newcastle

The Literary Ministry Seminar (LMS) was a 5-day event held 18th—22nd June.

The theme was **"Come, and Let Us Go Up to the Mountain of the Lord"**, an encouragement to the attendees that they can learn and develop their skills to work for God, and also find God and spiritual nourishment during LMS. Through practicals, group work and peer-editing, the sixteen attendees learnt how to write devotionals and to transcribe audio recordings of lessons, and enjoyed many fellowships together.

On 29th June, a memorial service was held for the beloved Dn Gaius Leung. May God guide and comfort his family.

EPG (Evangelical Planning Group) held an open day on 3rd July which coincided with the nearby Ouseburn Festival.

With homemade drinks and sweet treats, we welcomed passers-by and returning visitors, and invited them to attend our regular Sabbath worship and the upcoming convocation. The Children's Choir also sang songs of praise during the festival.

A few weeks later, we held our spiritual evangelical convocation and 40th anniversary thanksgiving service 31st July—2nd August. It was a joyous occasion attended by at least 800 UK and overseas members. From the exhortations of the speakers on the apt theme of **"Arise and Shine"**, we looked back on forty years' worth of memories and courageously embrace our time now to truly arise and shine for Jesus.

The RE department made the most of the summer with an RE family fun day on 21st August where the students and their families enjoyed playing at the games stalls and heartily ate a wonderful lunch together. The following week on 28th August, there was the RE end of year service.

From 30th September—2nd October, we hosted the **NYF** (National Youth fellowship) with a record-breaking number of 118 registered attendees. The theme **"Marching to Zion"** prepared the attendees for the centenary of the TJC and to raise a strong army of good soldiers for God.

We also witnessed two holy matrimonyes during the summer months: bro Jason Shek (Newcastle) and sis Sukey Ho (Gifford Park) on 12th June, and bro Keith Cheung (Newcastle) and sis Charissa Ho (Edinburgh) on 30th August. May God guide and bless both couples abundantly.



Gifford Park RE year-end service

True Jesus Church | Boyd Street | Newcastle NE2 1BS

<http://www.tjc.org> <http://members.tjc.org>*They have been put to the test by much trouble, but they have much joy. They have given much even though they were very poor (2Cor 8:2)*

Sunderland

National events

Thank God, Sunderland TJC has had the blessing and privilege of hosting a couple of events over the summer. From 20th to 22nd June, we hosted the first national seminar for ministers' spouses. This was led by Pr Michael Chan and Pr Daniel Chin (Malaysia), and attended by forty five spouses of preachers, elders and deacons. From 29th August to 2nd September, we hosted another inaugural event—the national seminar for RE- in-charges and class-in-charges. Thank God, the UKGA arranged for sis Patricia Chen (USA) to come and train us, and to help us improve our RE ministry. Additional lessons were delivered by Pr Steven Shek and Dn Ezra Chong. The lessons were edifying and enabled us to re-evaluate the state of our RE departments back in our home churches. The central encouragement was that teachers, students and parents should all pray for one another—only through prayer do we have the power, presence and provision of God. Let us continue to pray for the growth of RE in the UK and worldwide.

Local events

From 11th to 13th July, Sunderland TJC held our annual spiritual convocation, with the theme **"Hold Fast Our Faith to the End"**. Thank God for the edifying words delivered by Pr Daniel Chin, Pr TK Chin and Dn Silas Chan. We also held two evangelistic services, with hymns presented by Harmony Choir and RE Choir, respectively. And one baby, Tabitha Rose Shek, was baptised into Christ.

On 24th August, the YCC held a summer fellowship day for the students who had



UK RE-in-Charges and Class-in-Charges

29/08 – 01/09/2016



attended NSSC at the start of the month. This was a chance for the students to gather together and share their experiences. It was the first time some had attended NSSC, and four brothers returned having received the Holy Spirit. The fellowship activities included lunch, NSSC sharing, and a BBQ dinner at church, and an outdoor activity at various landmarks around Sunderland.

On 4th September, we held our RE thanksgiving service to mark the beginning of a new RE year. Each class offered sweet hymns of praise to the Lord, and words of encouragement were given by Dn Thomas Chan, visiting from Edinburgh, and student, teacher and parent representatives. Thus we began the new RE year with a renewed mindset and a long-term plan for the growth of RE, which involves uniting teachers, parents

and students with the power of prayer.

Other news

Our beloved sister, Lin Kiu Shek, was called to rest by the Lord in 9th July. Her memorial service and burial was held on 19th July in Sunderland.

We say farewell to bro Anthony Ho, who has moved to Chester to work, and sis Caitlin Shek, who has started her studies at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge.

We welcome back bro Kieran Ho, after finishing his studies in Newcastle, and sis Dianna Ho, back from a year of working in Hong Kong.

We also welcome sis Katherine Tan from Malaysia, who is studying at Sunderland University.



1st National Ministers Spouse Seminar 第一屆全國聖職人員配偶講習會
Be A Competent Spouse 作個稱職的配偶
20-22/06/2016



Sunderland-Baptism during Spiritual Convocation

True Jesus Church | Boyd Street | Newcastle NE2 1BS

<http://www.tjc.org> <http://members.tjc.org>*They have been put to the test by much trouble, but they have much joy. They have given much even though they were very poor (2Cor 8:2)*

Leicester

Our June hymnal evangelical was entitled, **"Greatest gift of all"**.

Friends had the opportunity to join a hymnal singalong. As it worked well, the plan is to repeat the approach in October. The September evangelical service was entitled, 'It is good to know God'. Thank God, the leafleting and street preaching of the YTTC students 3 weeks prior to the event paid off, as the turnout was higher than usual.

This year, our follow up team will focus on both new friends and lost sheep. Priorities include learning to work together, to serve in a way that is acceptable to God, and to harness the power of prayer.

Through God's guidance, Sister Gabrielle Leong, Brother Vun Nyet Shen and Brother Nathanael Liu completed their university studies. In June, youths gathered to reflect on the academic year and to acknowledge that God is the only constant in our life who is faithful yesterday, today and forever, as long as we put him first.

In August, Leicester hosted the YTTC, with over eight students in the First, Third and Fourth years. In line with the **"One Body"** theme, the brethren worked in unity to make things run smoothly.

At the RE end of year Service on 4th September, Dn Luke spoke about the importance of training the next generation. Through the

class presentations, parents, teachers and the congregation were able to see the students' progress.

This year's vision statement is **"Prayer, Purpose and Passion"**. Through prayer, we ask God to:

- strengthen the RE system, the students, teachers and parents
- help us see clearly the purpose of RE and to re-align our mind-set
- rekindle our passion for the Lord

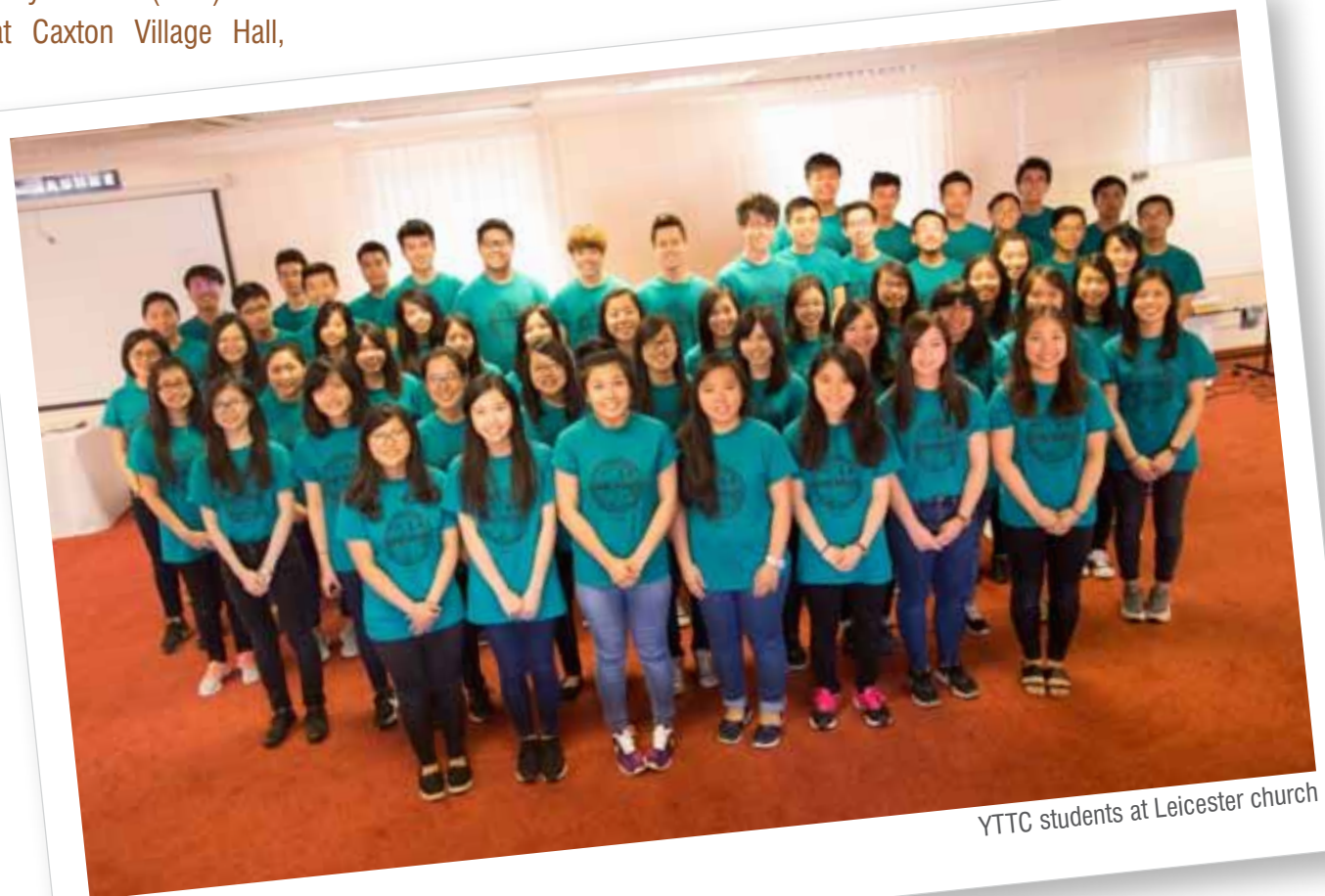
Cambridge

Thank God, Cambridge prayer house (CPH) held its annual convocation at Caxton Village Hall,

welcoming visitors from around the UK to join us in worship and spiritual cultivation. The theme was **"And the Lord added to them daily"**, an apt theme given our increase in numbers and growing evangelism.

We welcome sis Caitlyn Shek from Sunderland, who is now studying Music at Anglia Ruskin University.

CPH members have agreed to put a bid on a church building in the nearby village of Dry Drayton—we ask members to pray for God's guidance in this matter as we feel the time is now right to move location and, by God's grace, establish a church in Cambridge.



YTTC students at Leicester church



CPH convocation 2016

True Jesus Church | Boyd Street | Newcastle NE2 1BS

<http://www.tjc.org> <http://members.tjc.org>*They have been put to the test by much trouble, but they have much joy. They have given much even though they were very poor (2Cor 8:2)*

London

In June we bid a fond farewell to bro Stephen Ho and sis Ee Laine Tang as they moved to Portsmouth and held their holy matrimony at Portsmouth church. Additionally we said goodbye to bro Aaron Chin and sis Grace Ho who had moved to Newcastle. Over the past few months we have welcomed new faces, Judy Lee (New Zealand), Lydiane Ly (France) and Chris Yau (Ireland) have come to London for work.

On 30th July we held our annual Evergreen service which was followed by a special meal prepared especially for the older brethren. We hope that the youth can follow the example of our elders in their faith and service to God.

From 7th—28th August London church hosted the second year students for the YTTC. This year's theme centred on **'One Body'** which was incorporated into the discussion and activity sessions. We pray that God continues to guide the YTTC students as they continue on their journey of faith.

In September we held Church Board elections for the new term and have appointed eleven board members. We ask that God strengthens and grants them the wisdom to guide the church to prosper and bear fruit for the Lord.

In September we also held the RE end of year service. The RE students performed plays, sang songs, recited memory verses and quizzed the congregation on their biblical knowledge. Student and parent representatives

gave speeches to thank the RE teachers and to encourage students and parents of the importance of RE at church and also at home. The following day we had our RE outing at Clissold Park with a sumptuous picnic and family friendly games.

Portsmouth

Bro Stephen Ho and sis Ee Laine Tang's matrimony was solemnised on 26th June by Pr Michael Chan and Pr Raymond Leacock.

We held a hymnal evangelical service on 3rd July. The service was conducted by Pr Raymond Leacock and the theme was **"Blessed are those who Follow the Truth"**.

We held the RE year end special fellowship on 28th August.

Elder Simon Hsu pastored our church from 2nd—6th September. He conducted a seminar for sermonisers and teachers, and held a fellowship discussion sharing his experience of servitude with the church workers.

The Brothers Fellowship and Sisters Fellowship jointly organised a visit to Leicester church on 18th September. During the fellowship we introduced ourselves to one another; we had hymnal sharing, testimonies and prayers. The Leicester church had prepared a love feast for us. Members took the opportunity to get to know each other, sharing and learning



Bro Stephen Ho and sis Ee Laine Tang's matrimony

from one another. May God remember the service, love, fervency and faith of the Leicester church!



London – Evergreen fellowship



事工安排

2016年12月至2017年4月聖工

Forthcoming Events (Dec 2016 Apr 2017)

UK英國

Dec 24-26 + 二月24-26日	End of Year Special Services 年末特別聚會	London 倫敦	Pr. TK Chin /Pr. FF Chong 陳天求傳道/張福華傳道
Dec 25-26 + 二月25-26日	End of Year Special Services 年末特別聚會	Cardiff 卡迪夫	Dn Ezra Chong 張以斯拉執事
Dec 25-26 + 二月25-26日	End of Year Special Services 年末特別聚會	Birmingham 伯明罕	Dn. Luke Chan 陳路加執事
Jan 1-6 一月1-6日	Africa Ministry Training Course 非洲聖工訓練課程	London 倫敦	UKGA/IA 英總/聯總
Jan 16-17 一月16-17日	UKGA Board Meeting 總會負責人會議	Sunderland 山打崙	UKGA Board 總會負責人
Jan 18 一月18日	Truth Study Committee Meeting 真理研究委員會會議	Sunderland 山打崙	TSC Members 真研會委員
Feb 13-16 二月13-16日	National Adult Theological Course 全國成人神學訓練班	Newcastle 紐卡素	Pr. Johnny Liu/ Pr.Steven Shek/IA 廖觀煌傳道/石文彬傳道/聯總
Mar 6 三月6日	Sister Fellowship Co-ordinator Training 姊妹團契負責人培訓	Gifford Park 迦福園	Pr.Steven Shek/ Dn CP Chan 石文彬傳道/陳忠僕執事
Mar 13 三月13日	National Brother Fellowship 全國弟兄團契	Gifford Park 迦福園	Pr.Steven Shek/ Dn CP Chan 石文彬傳道/陳忠僕執事
Apr 14-17 四月14-17日	National Youth Ministry Training 全國青年事工培訓	Newcastle 紐卡素	Pr. Johnny Liu/ Pr.Steven Shek 廖觀煌傳道/石文彬傳道

Europe 歐陸

Dec 29-Jan15 + 二月29日至一月15日	Pastoral Ministry/Spiritual Convocation Services 宣牧/靈恩會	Moscow 莫斯科	Dn. Ezra Chong 張以斯拉執事
Feb 4-5 二月4-5日	RE Training 宗教教育訓練	Paris 巴黎	Pr.Steven Shek 石文彬傳道
Feb 13-16 二月13-16日	Spiritual Convocation Services 靈恩會	Salzburg 薩爾瓦茲堡	Pr. Michael Chan 陳志榮傳道
Mar 3-5 三月3-5日	Training/Special Service 訓練/特別聚會	Hamburg 漢堡	UKGA preacher 英總傳道

Africa 非洲

Nov 24-Dec25 + 一月26-十二月27日	Student Spiritual Convocation 學生靈恩會	Kenya 肯亞	Pr Johnny Liu/Volunteer 廖觀煌傳道/義工
Nov 25-Jan1 + 一月25-一月1日	Student Spiritual Convocation 學生靈恩會	Ghana 迦納	Pr. Michael Chan 陳志榮傳道
Dec1-22 十二月1-22日	Student Spiritual Convocation 學生靈恩會	Zambia 贊比亞	Pr.Raymond Leacock/ Pr. Steven Shek 理國威傳道/石文彬傳道