



1ST Anniversary Special Edition LIFE CENTRE BUILDING PROGRESS UPDATE

A bird's eye view of the Life Centre construction site in June 2013



Message from the Vicar



Rev John Menear,
Vicar, St Andrew's Church

On the anniversary of the St Andrew's Life Centre construction commencing, it is amazing how little we have to show after 12 months' work! In fact at present it is a muddy hole, with months to go before a concrete truck even appears.

When we read Luke 6:48 we can understand why it takes so long to build our building: *"They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the **foundation** on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not*

shake it, because it was well built." With two heritage listed buildings on two boundaries, many old and valuable trees on a third, and an MTR tunnel underneath, no-one wants to rush the foundations!

But in many other ways, the work of the ministry that will use the Life Centre is moving ahead rapidly. After so many years of having a "space squeeze", soon the many groups and organisations within St Andrew's and beyond, can hope to use enlarged facilities to great effect.

So St Andrew's is building by faith in more than one way. We trust and pray that we will not be found like the builder who having built the foundation ran out of resources to finish the job in Luke 14. And we trust and pray that God intends to use St Andrew's in new and exciting ways and directions in the years to come, as long as we await Jesus' return.

So, a little like Nehemiah, we build with our faith in one hand and our servant hearts in the other with the goal of seeing Jesus glorified in our ministry and this new Life Centre.



Overcoming Challenges



Since the Life Centre contractor (Ching Lee) officially took over the construction site from St Andrew's Church (SAC) on 22 June 2012, it has always been in many people's mind that what God has started, he will complete (Phil 1:6). Right from the first architectural conceptual design back in 2007, SAC has been made aware of the potential technical difficulties or challenges that we would encounter. One year on, it is time to take stock of the grace that God has granted us to overcome all these challenges.



The Blessing Ceremony for the site of St Andrew's Church Life Centre on 29 June 2012, conducted by the Rt Revd Andrew Chan, Bishop of the Western Kowloon Diocese.

Firstly, SAC sits at a higher level which is about 7m above Nathan Road. As we build this 2-level Life Centre underground, there is a 14m deep excavation 3m from the main church whereas the depth of excavation is just 7m along the Nathan Road footpath. The objective of this layout is that pedestrians can walk in from Nathan Road level as well as from church ground level, thus encouraging and welcoming people on the street to worship with us.

This layout gives great challenges to the architect and the contractor to work on the temporary support for the deep hole excavation without causing any damage to the main church and our neighbour, the Antiquities and Monument Office.



Secondly, the existing old banyan trees (rated as Old Valuable Trees by the government) planted along the Nathan Road whose branches and underground roots extended close to or into SAC territory presented another challenge for working on the site. They had affected the operation of sheet piling and the drainage pipe laying. The contractor and the architect worked together patiently to modify and revise the method and design in order to avoid damaging these sensitive trees; specially designed hoardings were installed.





Thirdly, the SAC compound is a Grade II listed site and there are government requirements or restrictions on the height (above ground), surroundings and the preservation of the existing green environment. The Building Authority is also concerned with the effect of excavation on these buildings and has imposed very strict vibration and settlement requirements for us to comply with. They wanted to impose some extra measures (grout curtain) which we considered unnecessary and would cost us additional fees and construction time.

Thanks to the dedication of the architect and their persistent negotiation with the Building Authority and eventually, with the good work of the contractor, any extra measures of grout curtain were waived recently.



At the same time, SAC values the fact that the site is a heritage site and we have a duty to preserve and maintain it. The landscape consultant has a detailed plan for the existing trees to be transplanted and a new tree planting programme within the church compound. The new landscape layout will be much "greener" and a well-balanced landscape design.



Lastly, as we begin to proceed to the deep hole excavation in the rainy season, we continue to pray for God's protection on all site personnel and passers-by, that God will keep them safe from accidents and injuries. We trust that God's grace will continue to shower upon us as we look forward to the opening of the Life Centre in the first quarter of 2014 so that St Andrew's can be a witness to more people on the street of the presence of Christ.



The biggest fundraising event of all time - 'Sharing Our Heritage' Fundraising Gala Dinner on 10 May 2013 at the Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel



'FUN' Raising & Fund Raising

In November 2012, the Fundraising Committee announced the 'Heritage' Fundraising Programme which aims to raise additional funds, build links with the wider TST/HK community and engage as many church members and friends as possible in activities to build fellowship and friendship.

The first major event was the Discover TST Heritage Challenge and St Andrew's Church Open Day. It attracted over 600 people, who either participated in the orienteering tournament or visited the booths in the church grounds, many of whom set foot in St Andrew's for the first time. New St Andrew's merchandise was produced and a bilingual magazine 'Life Connect' was given out to people in the neighbourhood.



More than 600 people took part in the Discover TST Heritage Challenge in Kowloon Park and St Andrew's Church Open Day



At Christmas, church member Charlotte Chan organised a Gingerbread House Workshop to teach adults and kids how to make this sweet festive decoration.

Twenty-five couples enjoyed a romantic evening at the Chinese Valentine's Dinner in February with live music, nice food and fine wine at the Hong Kong Club. They also had fun getting to know each other better through some couples' games.



Chinese Valentine's Dinner - a romantic evening



(L to R) Architect Mr Nelson Chen, Vicar of St Andrew's Church Rev John Menear, Fundraising Gala Dinner Committee Chairman Mr John Mitchell



The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong, Archbishop of HK Sheng Kung Hui, presenting a souvenir to Prof Ron Shu Yuen Hui, Honorary Advisor

Finally, the biggest fundraising event of all time was held at the Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel Grand Ballroom on 10 May.

The Fundraising Gala Dinner 'Sharing our Heritage' turned out to be a most successful event; the Committee initially had reservations as to whether, as a church, we should and could host such a function. The response met expectations: a total of 400 people attended (seated at 7 Gold and 26 Silver tables), all the auction items (which were donated) were sold, and we raised a total of HK\$3.2 million in one night.



(L to R) Mrs Juliana Wong, Mr Peter Wong, Rev and Mrs Wing-On Pang



More than 40 items were sold at the silent and live auctions



(Middle) Honorary Advisor of the Fundraising Gala Dinner Ms Eva Cheng, GBS, with Mr and Mrs Edwin Keh



Guest speaker
Mr Wong Yan Lung, SC, JP, GBM



Guest speaker
Mr Michael Puk-san Tien, BBS, JP



Guest performer
Ms Faith Chen

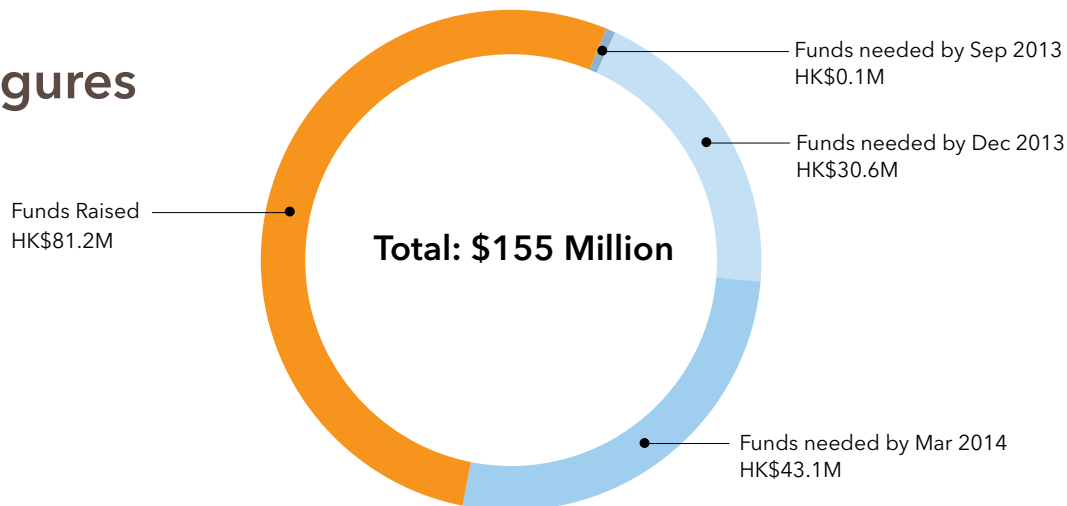
People still remember the touching testimonies of the speakers, the music, the warm fellowship of old and new members reunited, and the goodwill and positive endorsement of the 2020 Vision building project by all who were present that evening. It indeed succeeded in achieving the objectives of the 'Heritage' Fundraising Programme laid out by the Committee in November.



Guest performers
The Chung Brothers



Vital Figures



Funds Raised (as at 24 June 2013)

Breakdown

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Pledges | HK\$58,293,083 |
| One-off donations | HK\$17,698,505 |
| Gala Dinner on 10 May | HK\$3,260,712 |
| Other Fundraising Activities | HK\$1,960,003 |

Total: HK\$81,212,303

Funds Still Required

Breakdown

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| June-Sep 2013 | HK\$75,377 |
| Oct-Dec 2013 | HK\$30,573,882 |
| Jan-Mar 2014 | HK\$43,138,438 |

Total: HK\$73,787,697



Prayer Points

- For the weather, particularly during the summer months, so that work can be done without delays.
- For the health and safety of all workers on the site, and safety for passers-by on Nathan Road and users of the church.
- For much needed finances to arrive in the coming months, as existing funds will be exhausted by September 2013.
- For perseverance and wisdom for the Church Council and the 2020 Vision Committees in planning the use of the Life Centre.



Make a Difference

Give to the 2020 Vision. You can donate in one of the following ways:

- Donate online via www.standrews.org.hk
- By cheque or direct transfer. Make your cheque payable to 'St Andrew's Church Vision Fund', or direct transfer your donation to the Vision Fund account (Hang Seng Bank acc. no. 228-219002-002).
- Make a Pledge. Support our 2020 Vision building project in a monthly or quarterly manner. Contact 2020 Vision Executive Director Juliana Wong.

Another way you can help to build and fit out the new Life Centre is by joining the **Life Centre Recognition & Facilities Gifting Programme**.

From as little as HK\$5000, you can donate one seat in the auditorium. For donations of HK\$500,000 or above for certain key facilities, you are given the option of having your name or your loved one's name inscribed on a plaque as a loving and lasting tribute or memorial.

Full details can be found at www.standrews.org.hk/2020-vision/donate or by contacting 2020 Vision Executive Director Juliana Wong.
(E: 2020vision@standrews.org.hk/ T: 23671478)