

Date 30 July 2012
Location Hong Kong

For Immediate Release

新聞稿

St Andrew's Church Commences New Development in Historic Site

St Andrew's Church (SAC), the oldest Protestant church in Kowloon, has commenced development of the slope in the front of its heritage site. The new building, named the Life Centre, will enable SAC to open its doors directly onto Nathan Road for the first time in 106 years.

The St Andrew's Church Life Centre has been designed to preserve and enhance the heritage listed site while adding contemporary facilities and additional space to the historic church. It has also incorporated numerous best practice and environmental considerations, making it a world class heritage development.

The building project is expected to be completed by January 2014. The facility will be used to host church services and its ministries, as well as for community services and events. There will be a new landscaped garden to be enjoyed by both the church and the local community.

The design of the Life Centre by Nelson Chen Architects Ltd. has won a Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects Hong Kong Chapter in 2011.

Having received an Award of Merit from the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2006, the Grade 2 heritage compound posed challenges to SAC as it considered how to improve facilities while preserving the beautiful church and grounds. The final design of the Life Centre has a number of advantages that will ensure that it is a world class heritage development:

- The Life Centre will be a development built inside the slope at the front of the site onto Nathan Road. This means it will not intrude into the historic site, nor detract from the green space at the front of the compound.
- The entrance façade and landscaped rooftop of the Life Centre will light up and beautify the streetscape on Nathan Road. The granite finish to the building will match the historic Lych Gate adjoining the Antiquities and Monument Office. A significant portion of the stone wall facing will be retained, with existing masonry to be reused elsewhere on the site.
- 26 new trees will be planted while 17 existing good quality trees in the church grounds will be transplanted under the supervision of a certified arborist and the landscape architect. When the Life Centre opens, we can look forward to a greener and even more beautiful environment.

Working in close consultation with LCSD, a custom-built safety hoarding will be constructed to ensure that the existing banyan trees that overhang the footpath along Nathan Road will not be touched or damaged.

SAC has been under growing pressure to increase its facilities over the past 20 years. The oldest protestant church in Kowloon, SAC has evolved from a colonial English-speaking church with only 30 attendees when it opened in 1906, to an international church with 4 Sunday services in English and one in Putonghua, welcoming over 1,400 adult worshippers as well as 450 children and youth.

The estimated cost of the development is \$155 million, and fundraising is ongoing for an outstanding \$85 million. A model of the Life Centre is on display and publications are available outside the church office for public viewing. More information about the development is available on the church website www.standrews.org.hk and a Facebook page which documents the progress of the construction – www.facebook.com/sacdevelopment.

Photos:



Fig. 1 There will be a new landscaped garden to be enjoyed by both the church and the local community in the future Life Centre.



Fig.2 The entrance façade and landscaped rooftop of the Life Centre will light up and beautify the streetscape on Nathan Road.

--

About St Andrew's Church

St Andrew's Church is the oldest Protestant church in Kowloon, completed in 1906. Whilst St Andrew's commenced its life as a church for the expatriate community, today 90% of those attending consider Hong Kong their home. St Andrew's continues to be a growing and vibrant church in the Province of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. The Victorian Gothic styled redbrick church building is a well-known landmark on Nathan Road. Over the years, the church has been refurbished sensitively and maintained carefully for future generations of worshippers, and has received an Award of Merit from the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2006.

-End-

