



The Establishment of Manchester Prayer House

Pr Michael Chan

In the early 1990s, The General Assembly of True Jesus Church UK (UKGA) started sending workers to visit the members in Manchester. The visiting workers worked diligently to exhort and to stir up the members' faith. By the late 1990s, although workers were regularly sent to pastor the members, the members were not proactive in serving the Lord. Consequently, there was no regular service held. As there was not a place of worship, visiting workers had to hold services in local hotels. During this period, a few youths from other churches came to Manchester to attend university. Some stayed behind to work after graduation, a few youths from other churches found work and moved here.

Establishing A Place of Worship

The UKGA decided to buy a place of worship and they found the current place of worship, a two-bedroom apartment. At last, the members could gather together on a regular basis for services. Due to the lack of members who could lead services, in 2009 the UKGA decided to send full-time workers and other volunteers on a regular basis to pastor the church and lead Sabbath services.

In 2000, through God's grace, the membership increased rapidly when brethren from China who were living in UK moved to Manchester and other surrounding areas. Many truth-seekers came and also more babies were born during this period. As the children grew older, there was a pressing need to set up Religious Education (RE) for the children. In 2010, the Holy Spirit moved the members to work for the Lord. Many Sisters took up the responsibility and started teaching the children and began to have two RE classes every Sabbath. Soon, the current place of worship became too small to accommodate all the members and the truth-seekers. In 2011, the members decided that they needed a bigger place to worship God and started to raise funds for a new church building, whilst looking for a suitable place.

There are currently ninety-six registered members in Manchester Prayer House, with forty regularly attending Sabbath services. During Holy Communion, the number would rise to over sixty. The members reside in Manchester, Bolton, Warrington, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Stoke-on-Trent, Morecombe Bay and Barrow.

Purchasing a New Place of Worship

In 2013, they found a property with a selling price of £300,000. They requested the UKGA to raise the funds for them. Quickly, through the offerings and loans from other churches and the UKGA, they were able to raise enough funds to meet the asking price. The offer was accepted by the vendor, pending the approval for a change-of- building use to become a place of worship with the council. However, there was much delay in the change-of-building-use application, in the end the owner sold the property to another buyer.

Three months later in late June, a better building with good train links was found. The members agreed to buy this place for £295,000. At the time, they were competing with another buyer who made a similar offer but thank God, the estate agent recommended the church offer to the vendor. The acquisition was completed as planned.



New church building at 31 St Andrew Street, Manchester

Financially, they only have enough to cover the costs of the building and other fees. They still need to raise a further £30,000 to cover the renovation costs. This fund will be used to convert the building into a chapel and make other repairs.

May God continue to guide them in all their divine works and also open the door of salvation in Manchester. Amen.

Manchester Prayer House Offering

To offer to the Manchester Prayer House, please contact Sis Sylvia Ho (Sylviaho80@gmail.com).

Bank details:

BANK NAME: Royal Bank of Scotland
BRANCH NAME: Toll Cross, Edinburgh
ACCOUNT NAME: General Assembly of The True Jesus Church (UK)
ACCOUNT NO: 00619683
SORT CODE: 832003

Property information

ADDRESS: 31 St. Andrews Street, Manchester, M1 2AH
TRANSPORT LINKS: 10-minute walking distance from Manchester's Piccadilly train station
BUILDING INFORMATION: Single storey building with 4386sq ft floor space. Private parking to avoid paid street parking, accommodating fifteen vehicles. Built in 1970, it was previously a warehouse / office (but has been vacant for five months), and has nine offices, toilets, a bathroom, storage, kitchen Clean and tidy with no additional decoration needed, and can be used immediately

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

UK Church News

Elgin

From 19 - 30 June, Trainee Preacher Raymond Leacock came to pastor the church. Apart from leading the regular services here, he also visited Aberdeen and assisted the church work there.

From 29 June - 2 July, thirty six members from Glasgow visited us and we received them with a joyous heart. When they arrived, the preacher used the topic "Spiritual Joy" for mutual encouragement. They also attended the evangelical training, marriage counselling symposium, Sister fellowship and visited Aberdeen.

From 2 - 17 August, Sis Siew Ling Shek (Hong Kong), Br Duncan Shek and family (London), Kei Da Liu and family (Newcastle) visited us.

In the month of September, Br Chen Chung Chang and family (Sabah – Penampang); Br Yan Ren Tsai and wife (Taiwan); Dns Siew An Lee, Sis Yun Kan Leong, Sis Hui Tai Ho (Singapore); and Br Kam Fei Lai (Gifford Park) visited us.

On 15 September, We held a memorial and funeral service for our beloved Br Yung Sau Leung. Br Leung was seventy eight years old when he was called back to the Lord. When he was alive, he had beautiful footsteps of good faith, and was a man of good character who loved God and man. Before he passed away he saw a vision: an angel gave him a message. As the scripture says: "The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed." (Ps 41:3). About 200 people came to attend his funeral service.

Edinburgh

Hallelujah! Thank God for guiding Edinburgh Church through an evangelical service on 29 June and for bringing around fifteen friends to join us in this event. Many friends came through personal evangelism and joined us in prayer to receive the laying of hands when one of them an experience with the Holy Spirit.

We thank God a total of ten babies and two adults from both Edinburgh Church and Glasgow Place of Worship were baptized on 2 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 4 August, Glasgow, Gifford Park and Edinburgh Church held a joint Sisters' fellowship session. About seventy Sisters took the opportunity to meet up and share God's grace and love with brethren through testimonies, quizzes and games.

During 7 to 9 September, we held our annual spiritual convocation with the theme "In The Midst of a Crooked and Perverse Generation". We thank Pr Steven Shek, Dn Silas Chan and Dn Luke Chan who encouraged us during this time, and fed us with the words of God throughout these three days.

We also held two evangelical events in September: an elderly residential home outreach at a member's home and a campus fellowship held jointly with Gifford Park Church and we continue to have bi-monthly Sabbath evangelical services.

We pray that the Lord continues guiding the church in Edinburgh in all that we do. May all glory be unto God!

Gifford Park

Gifford Park held its annual spiritual convocation in June, with the theme "Building Up a Life of Faith". We thank God for the teachings learned about our root in God and how to nurture ourselves to grow in faith. We also welcomed many members from nearby Glasgow, and truth-seekers who came to join us. A new member was brought into the fold; Sis Thea Chan, daughter of Br. Gershom and Sis. Joanna was baptised during the convocation.

In July, we had a number of visitors from Sabah, who joined us in worship and fellowship. We were also joined by Dn Kao and his family from Taiwan. Dn Kao shared God's word with us.

We also welcomed Sis Kayleigh Leung and Br Marcus Chan who have moved to Edinburgh to study and will be joining Gifford Park. The youth group were able to organise an outing to Yellowcraigs beach where there were games followed by a dinner fellowship, allowing us to have a greater bond in Christ. May He continue to guide us in our spiritual growth!



Gathering after spiritual convocation, Gifford Park

Newcastle

On 1 June, we held our first Parents and Children's Fellowship, attended by many young and new parents.

The 21st National Evergreen Fellowship was held on 16 June, based on the theme "One is Never Too Old to Learn".

Our Open Day on 6 July coincided with the nearby Ouseburn Festival where the Children's Choir sang hymns to a large crowd on a warm afternoon.

We held our spiritual and evangelical convocation from 20-22 July, based on the theme "Unchanging Faith". We welcomed many visitors and truth-seekers to both events, as well as the six infants that were baptized on the last day of the convocation.

Our busy summer continued with the Youth Theological Training Course (YTTC) from 3-24 August. With the theme of "One Faith", a record number of over 140 students, team leaders and lecturers learned and lived together in God's house.

The RE department held two events, the first being the RE end of year service on 31 August, followed by an RE teachers' training session on 21 September, led by Pr Johnny Liu who taught us to teach our students diligently, set a good example for them and provide them with a good environment to learn and grow up in. This responsibility of teaching should be shared with the parents who can teach their children at home.

In aid of the church's Africa ministry, the Charity Team organized a successful afternoon tea event on 28 September. Thank God, many members generously donated money whilst sampling the delicious cooked and baked goods, raising over £1300.

We witnessed the holy matrimony of Br Anthony Gillham (Gifford Park) to Sis Samantha Tang (Newcastle) on 13 July.

Sadly, we held two memorial services respectively for Br Tak King Lai (Newcastle) on 11 June and Dns Mary Tsang (Forest Hill) on 28 July.



Youth Theological Training Course, Newcastle Church

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

Sunderland

In June, Sunderland Church had the opportunity to set up a photography team, where we held our first photography workshop for the members who are interested in aiding the photography work in church. We also welcomed Sis Kelly Wong's family who came over for Kelly's graduation from Sunderland University. We thank God on the 21st, the members were edified on the Sabbath through the two testimonies given by Br Wong and Sis Tseng (Sis Kelly Wong's parents).

In July, 7th-9th, we held our annual spiritual convocation with the theme "Delight in the Lord's Way" with UK GA speakers: Pr Joseph Shek, Pr Johnny Liu and Dn Thomas Chan. By God's grace, three babies and one adult were baptized and added to the flock.

In August, Pr Fook Fah Chong, Pr TK Chin, Pr Steven Shek and Pr Timothy Yeung (Toronto, Canada) took it in turns to come over from the YTTC in Newcastle to sermonize on the Sabbaths. On the 28th, the youths held a post NSSC & YTTC fellowship following on from the theme of 'One Faith'. On the 31st, we held our RE and Chinese Class end of year thanksgiving service, where at the same time we bade farewell to our Br Eddy Shek and his family, who will, from now on, attend Newcastle church.

On the 9th September, Br Yen Zen Tsai (Taiwan) visited and consulted with the members regarding the history of the church in the UK including their lifestyles when the church first began in Sunderland. On the 23rd, we bade farewell to Sis Kelly Wong. May God continue to guide and bless her in Malaysia.

In October, Br Daniel Chu continued his lessons from last year. In November, we held an evangelical event combined with praise worship and invited our friends and family to join in to praise God with us.

May God continue to guide and bless Sunderland Church in their services.

Leicester

It has been a busy summer for the church in Leicester. In June, we did some fundraising activities for the church building fund a bake sale and a car boot sale which raised £217. Members helped by making and buying cakes, donating items and waking up early to do a car-boot sale.

We had the pleasure of hosting the NSSC, which was attended by over 100 students and counsellors. Praise God, eleven students received the Holy Spirit.

Fourteen members from Leicester attended this year's YTTC in Newcastle. Among them was Br Caleb Chang, a student from the US, who attended a summer programme in Nottingham.

Sis Winnie Fong from Elopura, Sabah, Malaysia, arrived in September to study at the University of Nottingham. Thank God we have another youth added to the Leicester household.

A group of members attended the Portsmouth Spiritual Convocation & 25th Anniversary. After it ended, they enjoyed a day's outing and buffet lunch at Gunwharf Quays.

London

Thank God for guiding us through these past few months, it has been a busy, exciting and an eventful time.

Firstly, we congratulate new parents Br Raymond and Sis Christine Chan on the wonderful arrival of their baby Kathryn, born on 20th June. In addition, we have had many new young faces coming to London to work and study. We warmly welcome all the new youths and hope that they can feel at home and be part of the London family.

We bid a fond farewell to Sis Su Ann Yeoh who finished her studies in London and has returned to Singapore. Br Jeremy Lin has moved to Leicester for work purposes and now attends Leicester church.

The Song Of Songs choir took a day trip visitation to Cardiff on 12th July to share with the members there and to learn about their journey of faith. The trip was one that uplifted the hearts of the members from both London and Cardiff and fostered a tremendous feeling of unity.

We thank God that the planned refurbishment of the second floor reached completion in July and the floor is now fully functional, with the sole purpose of providing new RE classes. The timely completion of the RE classrooms was marked by the NSSC college youth class that was held in London 27th July - 2nd August, with the theme "One Faith". We thank God that London Church were able to host this event and that the week went smoothly.

On 30th August we held our annual RE end of year service with the theme "God is love". All our students, teachers and parents were able to reflect over the year and praise God for His guidance and love. The following day we had an RE outing to Clissold Park for a picnic and games.

Finally, we witnessed the holy matrimony of Br Brian Lau, from Edmonton, Canada and Sis Jennifer Lai on 7th September. We wish them abundant blessings and pray that God guides them in their future life together in Canada.

Holy matrimony of Br Brian Lau and Sis Jennifer Lai (London Church) 7th September 2014.

Portsmouth

On 31 August, we held our annual RE end of year service when our parents and teachers were greatly encouraged. We have also planned and scheduled the lessons for the new school year and re-assigned teachers to different classes.

From 21-22 September, we held our 25th anniversary spiritual convocation with the theme "We are one family in the Lord". We had Dn Silas Chan, the chairman of the UKGA, and Pr Michael Chan to lead this convocation. During the thanksgiving service, we had hymnal presentation by our Portsmouth choir, the adult choir and the children choir. Our board member, Br M Y Ho also testified how God guided the church and his own faith in the past years. The service ended with a benediction by Elder Simon Hsu.

RE Teachers' Training - Pr Steven Shek

Proverbs 27:23-27 contains the positive argument for taking good care of the flocks. When every team of teachers takes care of their students, the church will have no worry about the future workers. An extension of this thought is, if we take more care of our RE teachers, we can be more certain of the coming days when the household of God will not lack necessary spiritual nourishment and care for the spiritual growth of the members of the church.

"Faith and Feeling" which is linked with "Teacher and Motivation" has been shared throughout the RE seminars conducted. Whilst the parents should support the teachers in their work to cultivate the faith of the students, the RE Department itself should engage in planned and active support to their teachers. With this understanding, all parties can accept that we control what we do, why we do it and how we do it. As an RE teacher, especially if we have been teaching for a while, it is good to reflect whether there is still the initial zeal in doing this important work. As time goes by, especially when we go through different stages of life, encountering issues in ministry or life can affect our determination to give our best to God. If we have more than a few demands on our contribution in life, and being a teacher is one of them, it can affect the kind of heart we use to minister to the students.

This is the reason why as RE teachers we give ourselves over to be integrated into the RE family, to openly receive and generously give care to one another; only RE teachers will understand the support we need. Each church RE Department should ensure everyone feels supported in his faith and duty. The class-in-charge and RE-in-charge of each church should arrange regular refreshing reminders and direct care to boost the hearts of RE teachers in their service throughout the year.

If we agree with this idea, may the Lord Jesus guide each RE department to implement ways to supply to each other to remain strong, as Paul says in Ephesians 4:16, "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

Church Events



Baptism during the spiritual convocation, Newcastle



Baby Thea after baptism, Gifford Park

Forthcoming Events (November 2014–January 2015)

UK

3–6 Nov:	Preachers' Spiritual Cultivation Retreat	Elgin	UK Preachers / IA
24–26 Nov:	UKGA Board Meeting / Church Delegates' Conference	Sunderland	UKGA Board Preachers Church Delegates
24 Nov–2 Dec:	Pastoral ministry / Training	Cardiff	Pr Michael Chan
15–31 Dec	Pastoral ministry (AsSistance Southern Region)	Cardiff	UKGA Board Members
24–26 Dec	China Brethren Special Services	London	Pr TK Chin Pr FF Chong
28 Dec–2 Jan	African Religious Education Teacher Training Seminar	Cardiff	UKGA Board Members
4 Jan–9 Jan	Africa Voluntary Missionary Workers' Training Seminar	London	Pr TK Chin Pr FF Chong

EUROPE

31 Dec–19 Jan:	Pastoral ministry / Training	Moscow	Pr Timothy Yeung
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AFRICA

3–29 Dec:	Student Spiritual Convocation	Kenya	Pr Michael Chan Volunteer
3–29 Dec:	Student Spiritual Convocation	Zambia Malawi	Pr Steven Shek Volunteer
4–29 Dec:	Student Spiritual Convocation	Ghana Togo	Pr Johnny Liu Br Raymond Leacock



Holy matrimony of Br Brian Lau and Sis Jennifer Lai (London Church) 7th September 2014.



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