



### Welcome to our first Newsletter!



### The Year at St Peter's

Co-ordinating chaplain Terry Biddington writes:

It's been another tremendously busy but successful year:

Amongst the highlights have to be:

- welcoming loads of students to St Peter's on Sunday morning and at our evening KISS worship
- a great bunch of students involved in retreats, conferences, bible studies, discipleship groups
- lots of fun and social activities of all sorts
- various students being baptised and confirmed including one of our former student workers who was ordained as an Anglican priest and another who joined a religious community
- the arrival of Aileen Few (a recent student worker) as Authorized Lay Minister for St Peter's church to extend the depth of our pastoral ministry and support
- the hiring of two new and very gifted student workers: Daisy Black and Selena Wan-Tien Tai
- hosting several well-attended interfaith activities and programmes
- the extensive refurbishment of the auditorium, common room, kitchen and sangam
- planning for our mega vocations conference here next March



### No Such Thing as a Free Lunch? Think Again

The Sikh society distributed 1000 meals outside St Peter's as part of national interfaith week in Nov, with donations going to the ASR Charitable Trust, providing aid to Amritsar.



### Thoughts from Alumni

#### Enrique Ovalle

My best time so far in the UK, I arrived on September 2010 to Manchester to do my MPhil in Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science in Manchester University.

As a new student in a city, I was full of expectations and worries for many reasons such as missing my family and friends, and the necessity of assimilating a new culture.

However, from some friends from London I learnt that Manchester has the best place to start a new life as student as the vibrant international community. St Peter's House was that place. Thanks GOD for giving me the opportunity to belong

to such a lovely community. I found the best friends from many countries and different ages who interact in an easy way in a constructive,

friendly and really lovely environment. I just felt at home since day one, all the time and my worries just disappeared. Thanks to all of my SPH

friends who offered me such a lovely time in my life. I just want to say thanks and you always will be in my heart

GOD BLESS YOU

#### Jessica Samuel

Home away from Home

If you are away miles and miles from home, you look out for a place for comfort, joy and serenity. St Peter's House was the place where I found and enjoyed the warmth of the people and happiness in the church activities. It gave me immense pleasure to carry out small and big responsibilities handed over to me by the chaplains. Spiritual needs are met to the fullest. I couldn't have got any other place like St Peter's!!!



KISS Service



## MIH (Methodist International House)

Life in MIH has got off to a good start this year.

The House is fully occupied with a good mixture of overseas and home students, undergraduates and postgraduates.

Over the summer, the heating system has been overhauled (and we are grateful to those who have been living there during this time for tolerating a lot of noise and mess).

However, it is all completed now so we have a cosy, warm house on the cold autumn evenings!

The Residents' Association (RA) meets regularly and is very active in planning lots of social activities. Karaoke seems to be the current favourite activity! In December, the RA is planning an International Food Night, a trip to the Manchester Markets and a Carol Service. Of course, the students are also busy with their studies as deadlines for assignments are fast approaching.

There is a real 'buzz' in the house every time I visit and I pray that it is a good year for all who are living there.

*Deacon Michelle Brocklehurst  
Chaplain, MIH*

## Daisy: Student Worker

Daisy Black is one of our two new Student Workers: this has been her year so far.

Since beginning my work at St Peter's, I have been pretty busy!

### Open House Event: 22nd September

The Open House event welcomed new students into St Peter's House with some games, a play, presentations from each of the groups hosting events here and a chance to mingle and eat biscuits.

### International Carol Service: Saturday 3rd December 2011

The International Carol Service was organised by Shou Hui this year, with help from Selena and Daisy and with Terry leading the prayers.

It involved a range of local groups and carols in different languages and traditions, including the St Peter's House Music Group, the German Lutheran Church, Mandarin, Taiwanese and Indonesian choir groups. The Spiritual Drama group also performed an adaptation of a Medieval English nativity play using traditional Indian shadow puppet techniques.

### Prayer Breakfasts

For those who like to get up early, Daisy has been running at prayer breakfast from 7.30am every Thursday. We have bible readings and discussion followed by prayer, tea and cereal. As one of our regular attendees is Muslim, we often also have a comparative reading from the Qur'an.

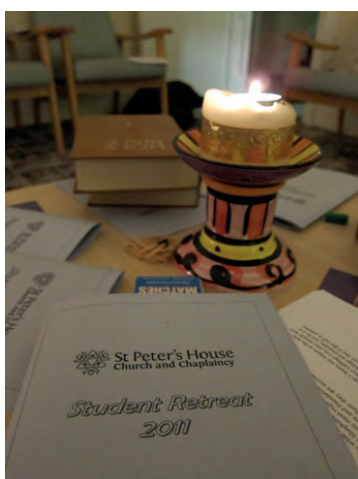


### Spiritual Drama

After spending a week running a puppet workshop in Iona with John Roussel, Daisy has started up a small spiritual drama group at St Peter's. The first production was a very silly play welcoming students to our Open House evening. In November, the group then participated in the International Carol Service with an adaptation of a medieval nativity play for shadow puppets.

### SCM

SCM has been popular this year with the arrival of new students, and had a number of members attending the November SCM London Conference 'No Hands But Ours.' At St Peter's, it has run weekly meals, bible studies and discussions on themes such as community, craft, activism and social justice. They have also worked alongside the Speak network.



Student Retreat





## Selena: Student Worker

Hello there, I am Selena Wan-Tien Tai, one of the student workers at St Peter's since this August 2011.

### KISS (Keep it Simple Service):

#### A quiet and reflective service

Joining St Peter's Church and Chaplaincy is one of the best and most exciting moments in my life. I work with my colleague Daisy Black organising KISS (Keep it Simple Service) which aims to bring worship, fellowship, reflection and creation to students. KISS happens every Sunday evening with praise, Bible reading, prayers, and a variety of creative worship events followed by free meals. This autumn we have looked at the theme of 'The Adventure of the Christian Journey', with a series of 10 sub-topics from 'Planning your own journey', 'What if you got lost' to 'Coming home', which offer people an opportunity to think about their own journey to Christian discipleship. The last KISS service is the KISS Carol Service where we celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus Christ before the end of term. KISS service provides a friendly, reflective and interactive atmosphere to students and we are very happy to see new friends and old friends meet and worship here!

### International Friends' Night

Apart from KISS on Sundays, Selena also organises a group called International Friends' Night every other Monday. It aims to provide international students with a relaxing place to experience different cultures and exchange interesting ideas. Some topics for this term are: Tea culture, Have a cuppa soup, World Puppet Night and Christmas around the world. Here is a comment from one of our students: "I think IFN is fulfilling because I not only enjoy different cultures' food but also learn their culture and music. For example, I would never know what traditional Malaysian music would be if I did not take part in the activity." (Ellen Hsu, from Taiwan)

### SPH Student Retreat

This term we also took 10 students to St Katherine House in Salford for a quiet weekend away seeking the calling of God. SPH Student Retreat was organised by our honoured Chaplain Revd. Jayne Prestwood and Student Worker Selena Tai. Through 4 sessions: Primary calling, Discerning Vocation, Exploring our gifts and Taking a step with God given by Revd. Prestwood, students had been inspired to seek their vocation and had the chance to share and discuss their thoughts more insightfully with each other. Prayers and interactive activities also provided students a quiet reflection to worship God and an opportunity to build friendships.

**Mandarin Bible Study Group**  
Every Friday, a group of Mandarin speaking students from different regions gather together at St Peter's to worship God through singing, Bible study and workshops. SPH Mandarin Group has been organised by Revd Shou-Hui Chung for 5 years. This year we are very proud to establish our own fellowship team with 1 leader and 4 colleagues to plan and hold the events together. At Fresher's week, the Mandarin group hosted 40 brothers and sisters from PCT Youth London with a weekend of fellowship and outdoor activities. It is very touching to see students and families from Manchester and London all gathered together, experiencing & sharing God's love. This is the first time that SPH Mandarin Group met the London Fellowship and was an extraordinary opportunity to sing as a joint choir at SPH Sunday morning service. SPH Mandarin group now has 15-20 regular members in Manchester. We are keeping our mission in welcoming new students, developing Christian life, exploring & establishing discipleship together.



International Friend's Night



Mandarin Bible Study Group

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## Contribute...

If you would like to contribute to the on-going work of our ministry amongst students then please go to [www.stpeters.org.uk](http://www.stpeters.org.uk) and use the PayPal facility.