



The Most Revd Dr Titus Chung
The Bishop of Singapore

The Diocese of Singapore
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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you in the Name of our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It has been several years since the start of the Jurong Building Project, and I am grateful for this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to all of you who have been faithfully giving unto the Lord – giving in terms of monetary, time, and prayers. I believe that God, in His own timing, will ordain and create a new work out of these precious sacrifices and gifts.

Original Intent of the Project

The idea for the Jurong Building Project was first brought to Synod in November 2013, when we presented 4 options to establish a Church in the West, namely:

- 1) Purchase HDB stipulated land and develop a church building there,
- 2) Purchase a strata-title space from a Developer,
- 3) Obtain Civic & Community Institution (C&CI) space from commercial building, or
- 4) Collaborate with a Developer to develop a place for resort / entertainment/ convention.

In 2017, we were made aware of the possibility of a plot of land in Jurong West becoming available for religious use. Motivated also by the hope of finding a permanent place of worship for their extension centres (Westside Anglican Church (WAC) and Jurong Anglican Church Mandarin (JACM)), St Andrew's Cathedral, both English and Mandarin Congregations, took up the challenge of spearheading the project. Regrettably, to date we still have no news as to when the land will be released but do be assured that we have plans to ballot for it when such a time comes, all other conditions being satisfied.

As explained below, even if the plans for the Jurong West land bidding and building do not materialize, the Diocesan leadership continues to pray for the realization of this vision. We remain watchful for the opportunity to embark on a new Anglican Church Project in Western Singapore. When another God-given opportunity is presented, we will re-visit the 4 options above. We look forward to the exciting possibilities that the Lord has in store for us.

Funds that were Raised by St Andrew's Cathedral

In 2017, anchored by both St Andrew's Cathedral English and Mandarin Congregations, the Jurong Church Building Fundraising Committee embarked on several fundraising projects and together, they managed to raise S\$11.8million (including bank interests earned less bank charges), as of 31st December 2023. Praise be to God!

These funds were originally held on trust for the Diocese by both St Andrew's Cathedral Mandarin Congregation and Westside Anglican Church. In 2023, the decision was taken to transfer these funds back to the Diocese. The Diocese will hold and manage these funds, which will be applied when the right opportunity arises. During this time, as we wait upon the Lord for greater clarity on the way forward, even though we may not actively raise funds, we remain open to receive funds from members prompted by God to give. Indeed, we believe that in His time, every gift received will be fruitful when God opens the door.

In the meantime, with the completion of the initial fundraising plans, the fundraising committee, so ably helmed by the Cathedral leaders and members, have been dissolved. We wish to thank each and every one of them for their excellent work, and for their witness to one and all yet again the beauty and importance of being united in the Spirit.

In particular, I wish to appreciate and commend the respective leaders and members of 2 of our extensions centres - Westside Anglican Church (WAC) and Jurong Anglican Church Mandarin (JACM). They have been tirelessly raising awareness and support for this project. We are greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic commitment and stewardship that have been shown by our members of WAC, JACM and the wider Cathedral family.

The Vision remains – to establish an Anglican Church Presence in the Western Part of Singapore

Over the last few years, there has been an exciting development in ministry opportunities for both WAC and JACM. The Lord has opened the door for them to provide chaplaincy support to the children and youth, as well as their family members in St Andrew's Mission School (SAMS). This is a school set up by St Andrew's Mission Hospital to cater to children and youths on the autism spectrum so that they can access the national curriculum, at the primary and secondary levels.

At present, WAC and JACM are now located within the compound of SAMS. Should approval be granted by MOE, and all other conditions are satisfied, these two congregations may eventually relocate to SAMS' permanent site, which is situated in Clementi. This is a key development in the Diocese's expansion towards the western part of Singapore.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, do be assured that the vision and commitment of the Diocese to build a church presence in the western part of Singapore remains, and our leaders are committed to this vision and its realization, with God's help.

Future Plans

In 2023, there were some changes in the rules and regulations of usage of Singapore land, including a new Government policy of securing land for places of worship. With these changes, the Diocesan leadership is in the midst of reviewing our plans and options on how we can leverage on them to build a church presence in the west.

As you read this letter, may I encourage you to join us in prayer as we seek God's guidance in this. More than the infrastructure, let us seek His will on where He is leading the Diocese. I am personally touched by how so many members continue to support this project. The Diocese will continue to work with furnishing periodic updates to your parish and congregational leaders. Thank you for continuing on this journey with us.

With God's richest blessings.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "++ Titus Chung Singapore". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

The Most Revd Dr Titus Chung
Bishop of Singapore
Anglican Diocese of Singapore