

Christmas Newsletter

The Li Tim-Oi Foundation



DEC 2024

A Year to Remember!

JANUARY

2024 got off to a magnificent start with a service of thanksgiving at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Florence Li Tim-Oi's ordination.

With the Bishop in Dover, the

Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, preaching, the Revd Frances Shoemith, granddaughter of Bishop R O Hall, presiding, and with a blessing from the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, it was a memorable occasion. Revd Dr Sam Wells, Rector of St Martin-in-the-Fields, wrote a moving lament and eucharistic prayer for the service and Andrew Earis directed the choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields. We also heard a beautifully arranged version of 'A Grateful Heart', performed by the London Sanctuary Gospel Choir, and composed by Winie Kampire, an alumna of the Foundation.

On Sunday 28th January, our Director, the Revd Christina Rees CBE, led BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship programme with a shortened version of the service from St Martin-in-the-Fields and she also contributed to other programmes, along with trustee and alumna of the Foundation, Jane Namurye.

FEBRUARY

A month of Zooming!



The 'home team' of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, including Life President Canon Christopher Hall, who started the Foundation 30 years ago

Christina took part in the trans-Atlantic planning meetings for three of the Episcopal Church's celebrations for the 80th anniversary of Li Tim-Oi's ordination. The Dioceses of Los Angeles, New York and Long Island joined forces to share ideas and support each other as they prepared to celebrate Li Tim-Oi's anniversary. There were further zooms with other institutions in the Anglican Communion, including with a theological college in India to discuss how the Foundation might help to support their women ministers and educators.

MARCH

Christina was invited to preach in St Albans Cathedral for St Albans Diocese thanksgiving service for 30 years of women's ordained ministry in the Church of England. Christina included the story of Li Tim-Oi in her sermon.



Christina in St Albans Cathedral



APRIL

Christina was invited to preach and to speak at a reception at the Church of Our Savior in San Gabriel, Los Angeles.



Revd Thomas Ni, Director, Li Tim-Oi Center, Church of Our Saviour, Los Angeles

While there, she also met with the Revd Thomas Ni, Director of the Li Tim-Oi Center, a center for Chinese-American laity to study theology.

Christina also met with the Rt Revd John Taylor, Bishop of Los Angeles and other members of staff at the Diocesan headquarters to discuss ways of supporting women in ministry in Los Angeles Diocese with their rich and varied ethnic diversity.

MAY

Flying 3,000 miles east, Christina preached at St Ann's Church, Bridgehampton on Long Island and later spoke at a reception about the work of the Foundation.

She travelled from Long Island to New York City, where she spoke at a reception at the House of the Redeemer. Christina was thrilled to meet the Revd Fran Toy, the first Chinese American woman to be ordained in the Episcopal Church.



Christina with the Revd Fran Toy, the first Chinese woman to be ordained priest in the Episcopal Church

Christina also attended New York Diocese's service to celebrate 50 years of women's ordination in the Episcopal Church, held in the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine. she spoke briefly during the service, bringing greetings from England and the Li Tim-Oi Foundation.



An installation of shimmering ribbons in the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine



The Revd Fran Toy with Bishop Diana Akiyama, the first Japanese American woman to be consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church, who preached at the service, and other clergy. The Presiding Bishop, Allen Shinn, also attended the service.

between the then Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop R O Hall, who ordained Tim-Oi on 25th January 1944. Bishop Hall's son and Founder and Life President of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, Canon Christopher Hall, was able to attend, along with Christina Rees and many other familiar faces and friends of the Foundation.

Also in June, Mandy Marshall, Li Tim-Oi Foundation trustee and Director for Gender Justice at The Anglican Alliance and the Anglican Communion, hosted the Steering Committee for the International Anglican Women's Network at the Anglican Communion Office in London. IAWN is the global voice of

JUNE

Lambeth Palace Library held a fascinating exhibition on the path to women's ordination, featuring archival material of the Movement for the Ordination of Women and WATCH. The exhibition also included some of the correspondence



Mandy Marshall, Gabriela Merayo and Christina Rees



A younger Tim-Oi

Anglican women and links Anglican women around the world. Mandy invited Christina to speak about the work of the Foundation and to meet the Steering Group, including Gabriela Merayo, a theological educator from Brazil who had been supported by the Foundation.

JULY

July was spent preparing applications for the trustees to consider in the next round of making grants and planning for events coming up...

AUGUST

Revd Mark Nam, trustee of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation and founder of The Teahouse, a network that raises the visibility and participation of Chinese-heritage clergy in all structures of the Church, hosted a lunch at Lambeth Palace Library with a stunning line-up of speakers, including our own Director, who spoke about Tim-Oi's life and legacy and the ongoing need to support women's vocations across the Anglican Communion.

SEPTEMBER

In September the trustees met to award grants and discuss take stock of how the Foundation is doing. We were delighted to welcome a new trustee – the Revd Lucy Davis. Lucy is Vicar of St Andrew's Church, Bedford and Dean of Women's Ministry in St Albans Diocese. She is also the Chair of NADAWM, the National Association of Diocesan Advisors in Women's Ministry. Lucy comes with a wealth of experience, not only in the ordained ministry, but also as a teacher, motivated by her study of geography, including the causes of local and global economic inequity and post-colonialism. Lucy has long been convinced of the importance of raising women

through education and of women's ability to transform whole communities. Lucy says, "I would like to give my time to a charity which enables other women to break the mould and pioneer, for the sake of the Kingdom."



Revd Lucy Davis

OCTOBER

More preparation and planning for the events coming up in November...!



NOVEMBER

Ely Diocese celebrated 30 years of women's priestly ministry in the Church of England with a conference in Cambridge entitled *Hope of Our Calling* and a splendid service in Ely Cathedral. Christina Rees spoke at the conference, held in Great St Mary's Church on the subject, 'What Would Equal Look Like?'

The next day a service of Thanksgiving was held in Ely Cathedral, attended by many women clergy in Ely Diocese, including some of those ordained in 1994. The Rt Revd Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon and Acting Bishop of Ely took part. During the reception that followed in the Lady Chapel, Bishop Dagmar visited the display about the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. In the background was David Wynn's powerful and exuberant statue of Mary, saying 'Yes!' to the news that the angel Gabriel had brought her. On the base of the statue are the words from Luke's Gospel, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord'.



Bishop Dagmar Winter with LTOF display



Lambeth Palace

Also in November, the Foundation held a small fundraising dinner at Lambeth Palace, kindly hosted by Caroline Welby. It was a special evening, with some of the Foundation's 'home team' welcoming old friends and new, including four supporters who flew to London from the United States especially for the event!

DECEMBER

Stephanie, our Executive Secretary, has been working on preparing the applications that have been flooding in for making the next round of grants in 2025 and Christina is arranging further meetings to discuss finding partners to support the work of the Foundation.

News of the Chair

PROFESSOR MARTYN PERCY

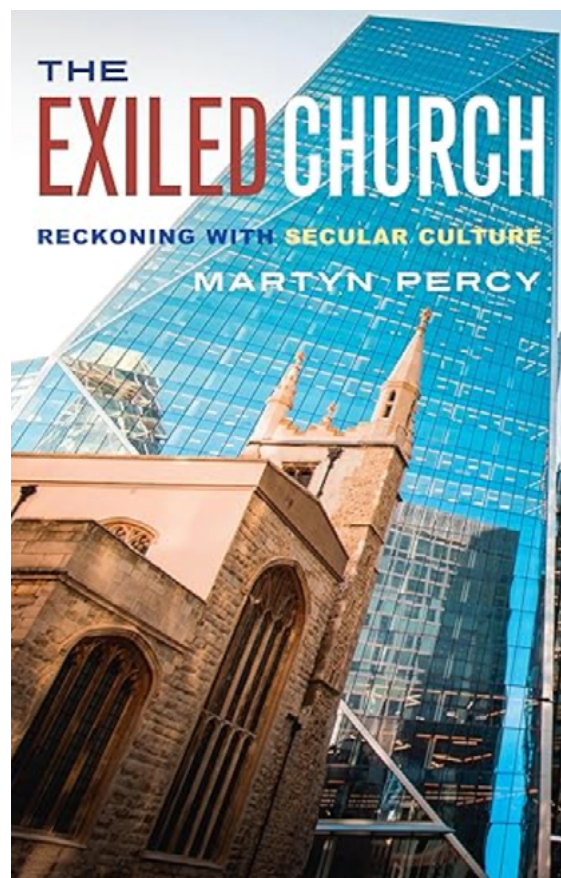
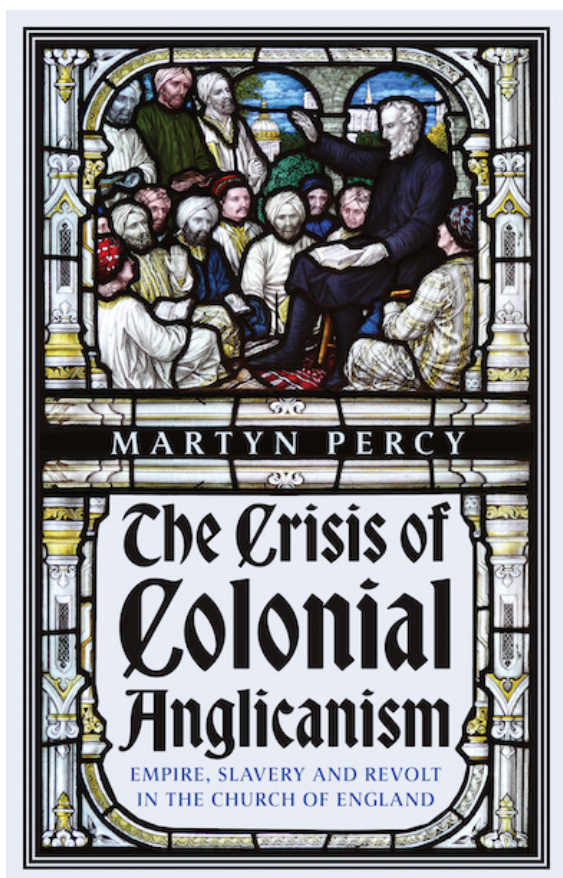
We are so pleased that Martyn continues as the Foundation's chair. This past year has been a very productive one for him. Martyn teaches at Ming Hua Theological College and the University of Joseph in Macao, where Florence Li Tim-Oi ministered to refugees. He's also working closely with the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui on a range of projects for the development of education in the region. He's also been busy with writing and from January 2025 there is a new book out on *Empire, Slavery and Revolt* in the Church of England and wider Anglican Communion:

<https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/the-crisis-of-colonial-anglicanism/>

Martyn has also written a book on secularisation for those inside the churches who are struggling to come to terms with the rapid changes in society:

<https://www.amazon.com/Exiled-Church-Reckoning-Secular-Culture/dp/1786226278>

He and Emma continue to live and work in Aberdeen. Emma is a senior lecturer in feminist theology and ministry studies at the University of Aberdeen. Besides Martyn's work in the far east, he has also been appointed to a chair at the University of Bern, and has recently become Canon Theologian for the American Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. We value his insights from his wide travels and especially from his deepening understanding of the far east.



Word from the Director

Dear Friends,

In this Newsletter we've featured just some of the highlights for the Foundation in 2024, as we have worked to increase the number of women we are able to support. If her church had not paid for her, Florence Li Tim-Oi could not have gone on to be trained for the ministry. This year has been a wonderful year of celebration and thanksgiving, not only for the life and legacy of the Revd Florence Li Tim-Oi but also for 30 years of the ministry of women priests and ten years since women have been able to be consecrated as bishops in the Church of England. We have also had the honour of being invited to join in the celebrations marking 50 years of women's ordination as priests in the Episcopal Church. 2024 has been a remarkable year in other ways. The Foundation is currently supporting 150 women in training, the most it has ever supported at one time. Typically, the courses last three years and we undertake to support each woman for the duration of her course of study.

On average it costs £1,500 a year for each woman, and so the commitment is substantial.

A few months ago, we made improvements on our website, enabling the women to complete the application more easily on their mobile phones. Since then, we have already received over 100 applications for grants - an unprecedented number in less than three months!

Thank you for all your generous support in the past and we hope that you will be able to continue supporting the work of the Foundation. If you are able to make a special donation this Christmas, that will enable us to say 'Yes!' to even more of the hundreds, if not thousands, of women who are longing to fulfil their callings.

May you have joy at Christmas and peace in the New Year.

**With my love and
best wishes,**

Christina





Will you donate today to support Christian women in the Majority World to be educated to fulfil their vocations?

To donate please go to the donations page on our website:
ltof.org.uk/donations

For further information please contact:

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The Li Tim-Oi Foundation

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