

THE LI TIM-OI FOUNDATION

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2020

Tutu and Tim-Oi - Framed!

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu appears alongside the Revd Dr Florence Li Tim-Oi in a glorious new stained-glass window in Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto, Canada.

In a service of dedication on 26th September, a letter from Margaret Sentamu was read out along with a letter from Desmond Tutu. One of the Foundation's patrons, Bishop Victoria Matthews, was present, as was Canon Edmond Der, who remembers meeting Tim-Oi at the age of five in Hong Kong. Edmond's son Matthias was just consecrated Bishop Co-adjutor of Hong Kong Island in October. Also present at the service was Sze Sze Lee, Tim-Oi's niece.

The Rt Revd Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto, presided at the service, which can be watched on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsJ7tRvJK0Q>

The window can be seen 42 minutes into the service, and 53 minutes in, Church Warden Bettie Tullis reads the letter from Margaret. We are most grateful to Bettie for letting us know of this wonderful window and for sending us the photo and link to the service.



An excerpt from the delightful letter Archbishop Emeritus Tutu wrote to the Revd Peter Walker:

Dear Friend,

Leah and I are honoured and humbled that you should go to all the work of creating a beautiful stained-glass window of me. It is a double honour to be standing next to Rev Florence Li Tim-Oi, a true pioneer and contemporary saint in our Anglican Communion history. It is clear that you got my nose exactly right! I hope and pray these windows will be a blessing to you and your wonderful congregation in Toronto and a witness to peace and harmony in your neighbourhood.

Thank you, thank you, for all you and your team did to make this come about. Leah and I give thanks for you and pray for you in your ministry at Grace Church-On-The-Hill.

God bless you,

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

Message from the Chair, the Revd Margaret Sentamu

Dear Friends,

It is with very mixed feelings that I write what will be my last letter as Chair of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. After 23 years as a Trustee and nearly five as Chair, it is most certainly time for me to step down! I am only sorry that my last meeting with the Trustees on 16th November will have to be on Zoom, but such are the restrictions of Covid-19. I had hoped for a little celebration involving cake!

I have so enjoyed my long association with the Foundation and seen it grow into the agile and vibrant organisation that it is today. I would like to pay tribute to Canon Christopher Hall, who for so many years undertook on a voluntary basis the work involved with receiving and processing all the applications for grants and who, along with our former Treasurer, Canon John Wright, set up the process of making payments in many different currencies to banks all over the Global South. Canon Christopher continues to serve the Foundation as our Life President, flying the flag for the Foundation in his various international circles. I am also mindful of, and grateful to, the late Canon Ruth Wintle, who served as Chair from the Foundation's beginning in 1993 until the end of 2005. She was followed by Canon Pamela Wilding MBE, who had recently returned to the UK after serving as a missionary and educator in East Africa for 36 years.

Over the past few years, Christopher and John's dedicated work has been ably built on by our present Executive Secretary, Stephanie Lewis-Grey, and by our Treasurer, Tom Travers. We are still discovering new and more efficient ways of running the Foundation, recently aided and supported by the good efforts of Christina Rees, our Vice Chair, and her husband Chris, who have helped to create our current website, update all our databases and establish new partnerships with training institutions in the Two Thirds World.

It has been a great privilege to work with such a dedicated group of Trustees who come from a great diversity of different countries and cultures. Together we have responded to overseeing the Foundation's core work of giving grants to women in the developing world for training and education across a wide range of professions. One thing is certain – the need for the Li Tim Oi Foundation is as great as ever, with women still experiencing prejudice and discrimination and far fewer opportunities and resources for vocational and professional training.

I know I will be leaving the Foundation in good hands and heart. Exciting developments are in the pipeline, which I am sure you will be hearing about as they come to fruition.

Thank you for all your prayers and support over the years and for sharing with us our commitment to enabling women to be trained for ministry, outreach and work in their churches, dioceses and communities across the Anglican Communion. The vision remains strong and the work carries on!

With my prayers and blessings,



the Revd Margaret Sentamu

500 and counting..!

This year we passed an exciting milestone! The Li Tim-Oi Foundation has now given grants to over 500 women for training as ordained and lay ministers, evangelists, chaplains, youth leaders, theological educators, teachers, counsellors, social workers, nutritionists, nurses, doctors, business managers and many other positions of influence and leadership.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!

New trustee!

Tariro Matsveru

The Trustees are delighted to have been joined by Tariro Julian Matsveru, now training for ordination at St John's Cranmer Hall in Durham. Tariro was born in Zimbabwe and moved to the UK with her family in time for her A levels. She then studied biomedical sciences at Coventry University and later attended the University of West England where she completed her Masters' degree in the same field. Although raised in a Christian family and active in church as a girl, Tariro had her heart set on a career in medicine. Eventually she could no longer ignore the call to ordained ministry and resigned her job at a hospital to start a three-year BA in Theology, Ministry and Mission at St John's, which she will complete in 2021.



Growing up in Zimbabwe, Tariro was inspired by the work of the Mother's Union and the examples of women leaders in the bible. Tariro writes, "The Foundation plays a big role in ensuring that the women who are called get a chance and get the training they need. I'm glad to be part of the Foundation, to encourage, support and equip women to be who and what God has called them to be and to go and spread the gospel of love in any and every way they can."

Advanced degrees for two Daughters of Li Tim-Oi



The Revd Rosemary Maina, from Nakuru Diocese in Kenya, applied for a further degree in Counselling Psychology, so that she could minister more effectively to her congregation. She writes:

"By the grace of God, I managed to score second class honors, upper division, despite the many responsibilities of being a wife, a mother, a parish priest and a student at the same time. Counselling Psychology is the greatest thing that ever happened to me. This course has enabled me first to gain self-awareness, and also to understand others far better. I can now confidently and skilfully listen to people with psychological issues and help, unlike previously when I had no confidence in handling people who came to me with life challenges. All I could promise was to pray with them. Already I have seen a huge difference in my ministry. I'll

forever be grateful!"

The Revd Margaret Auma from Kisumu, Kenya writes: "I am happy to let you know that with the support I got from the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, I was able to get my Masters' degree in Pastoral Theology. I really thank God for this. I have also been made a Canon. Thank you so much for your support."



... and a new Batchelor of Divinity - Revd Rhoda Were

"We are grateful for the grant that you gave Rhoda to study Theology at St Paul's University. We are delighted to report that she successfully finalised her studies. In 2017 Rhoda was made a deacon and after a year was ordained priest and given a parish where she has been serving as vicar. The training she received in Theology has been immensely helpful in her ministry."

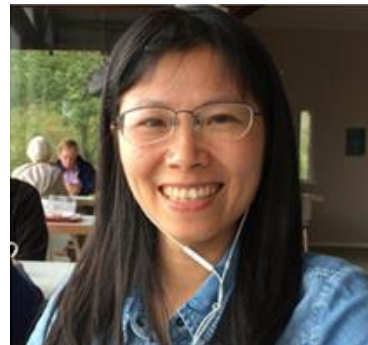
The Rt Revd Timothy Livingston Wambunya, Bishop of Butere, Kenya

Teaching the teachers

Liaising with Godfrey Stone, Chair of Friends of the Church in China, the Li Tim-Oi Foundation has helped to fund a doctorate for pastor Christina du Nana, from Shandong Province in North East China. Nana's research on the book of Isaiah took her to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge.

Having finished her study, she will be returning to the Provincial seminary in Jinan where she will teach Old Testament to future pastors of the post-denominational Protestant church.

Because Confucius was born nearby in Qufu, the church is considering how best to relate the Christian Gospel to Confucian teaching and ethics. Nana's ministry will also probably include continuing biblical research and work on the contextualisation of the Gospel in a Confucian cultural setting.



Far-flung Friend

Noel Jeffs SSF, poet and author, from Alexandria, NSW Australia, has become a firm friend of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, single-handedly spreading awareness of the life and ministry of Florence Li Tim-Oi. He has generously given copies of the icon of Tim-Oi to many churches across a number of dioceses, encouraging people to mark Tim-Oi's Feast Day on 24th January.

Thank you, Noel – for everything!

A Grateful Heart

We were overwhelmed when we received a very special gift from Winie Kampire from Uganda, who received a grant from the Foundation to train in Children's Ministry.

In addition to her job as a teacher, Winie is a gifted singer and songwriter and she sent us a link to her beautiful song *A Grateful Heart*.

Winie explained that, at first, she sang all the parts herself, but then invited four of her friends to re-record the song with her. You can listen to Winie's song by following this link:



<https://www.ltof.org.uk/2020/10/31/winie-kampire-a-grateful-heart/>

We believe Winie's song will touch many people and we look forward to hearing much more from her.

"You made my dream of becoming a clergy come true. I will forever be indebted to you. May the Lord bless you greatly. You made a poor girl's life change, words cannot express my gratitude."

Anne Nduta, Ordinand, Mount Kenya South Diocese

Together is better

During lockdown, the Li Tim-Oi Foundation worked in partnership with the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown, South Africa to support the women students who did not have access to computers or even basic essential supplies. We continue to liaise with the Principal, the Revd Dr Vicentia Kgabe, on ways the College and the Foundation might work together to support the training of women clergy in South Africa.

History comes alive in Gloucester

In September, the Church of St Mary De Crypt near Gloucester's city centre, mounted an illustrated exhibition about the Revd Florence Li Tim-Oi's visit in 1984, when she had been invited to come to preach and celebrate Holy Communion. The service was by necessity clandestine, as the ordination of women in the Church of England was not to happen for another ten years. Tim-Oi had been invited to Gloucester by Canon David Paton, whom she had known for many years, both of them friends of Bishop R O Hall, who had ordained Tim-Oi in 1944.

Tim-Oi was in England to attend two major services, organised by the Movement for the Ordination of Women, in honour of the 40th anniversary of her ordination. These services took place in Westminster Abbey and Sheffield Cathedral. Tim-Oi was also invited to Lambeth Palace for a private meeting with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Robert Runcie. After their meeting he said, "Who am I to say whom God can or cannot call?"

A big thank you to Jessica Gordon of Discover De Crypt for letting us know about the exhibition.

Reaching all around the world

Thanks to good friends and social media, news of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation is spreading! We are grateful to Gavin Drake, editor of Anglican News at the Anglican Communion Office, who posted this informative account about the Foundation. Gavin's article is the third one in the post:

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2020/07/weekly-news-summary-on-tuesday-14-july-2020.aspx>

Thanks also to Mandy Marshall, Director for Gender Justice, also at the Anglican Communion Office, for her Facebook post on the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) and for recently introducing the Foundation to some of her contacts in Brazil and the West Indies.

We have also been liaising with the Mother's Union to reach women who have not yet heard of the Foundation. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has been helping us to spread the word.

Prayers please

You may have heard that the Lambeth Conference has now been postponed until 2022. The Foundation still intends to have a presence at the Conference, as we believe there is no better way to meet the bishops and their spouses who will be attending from all over the Anglican Communion. Please pray for the organisers and all those planning to attend. Pray especially that by then an effective vaccine against Covid-19 will have been developed.

Please pray also for all the women supported by the Foundation. We know that some of them are in very difficult circumstances because of the pandemic, especially some of the clergy who are not currently receiving their stipends.

"Please take my love to all your dear ones and colleagues in the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. We value a lot the partnership the Diocese of Rumonge has with you all."

Bishop Pedaculi BirAkengana, Burundi

In order to save money for our primary purpose, from now on we intend to distribute the Newsletter by email only. It will still be possible to print out the Newsletter for extra copies for friends who aren't on email. If you would like to continue to receive the Newsletter and have been sent this in the post, please send us your email address, if you have one!

Make a lasting difference - leave a legacy

If you are planning on updating your Will, please consider leaving a legacy to the Li Tim-Oi Foundation. It takes about £3,000 to train a woman in the developing world, so much less than the cost of a degree in the UK. Any amount you give will be greatly appreciated.

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"I bring forth my heartfelt gratitude for your support towards my Theology studies. As I now go into the field to practice what I learned, I credit you for your support and very presence in my life.

Pauline Mwende, Theology graduate, Kenya