



November 2016

from the Most Revd Paul Kwong,
Archbishop of Hong Kong,
Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council



I welcomed the honour and privilege of being invited to become a Patron of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation.

It was in St John's Cathedral Hong Kong that Li Tim-Oi's journey to priesthood began, and it was my predecessors, Bishops R.O.Hall and Gilbert Baker, who led the Anglican Communion to begin to recognise that God calls women as well as men to minister as priests in the Church.

In 1931 Tim-Oi was present in St John's Cathedral at the ordination of Deaconess Lucy Vincent. Sitting in the front row she heard the Rev S T Mok ask if there was a Chinese girl willing like Lucy to commit herself to the Chinese church. Tim-Oi knelt down, and, remembering the words of Isaiah, she prayed: "Here am I, send me."

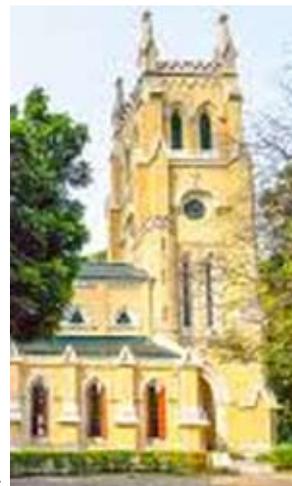


Tim-Oi at prayer in St John's Cathedral in 1987 as in 1931

On Ascension Day ten years later, again in St John's Cathedral, Bishop R.O.Hall ordained her a Deacon for service in the Portuguese colony of Macao, already thronged with refugees from the Japanese occupation of much of China. When Hong Kong fell to the Japanese and priests could no longer reach Macao, Bishop Mok licensed her as a Deacon to preside at the eucharist. Bishop Hall recognised that God had already endowed Li Tim-Oi with the gifts of priesthood, so in Free China on St Paul's Day 1944

he ordained Li Tim-Oi a Priest of God - tempted to rename her 'Cornelia'.

It was to be 27 years later, again in St John's Cathedral, that on Advent Sunday 1971 Bishop Gilbert Baker ordained two more women priests Jane Hwang and Joyce Bennett (the first English woman priest). That was nine months after the first meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Limuru, Kenya, at which it was agreed, by the slim majority of 24-22 votes, to 'advise the Bishop of Hong Kong, acting with the approval of his Synod, ... that, if he decides to ordain women to the priesthood, his action will be acceptable to this Council.'



I am glad to report that there are now 12 women priests serving in the Province of Hong Kong. In April this year I was elected chair of the Anglican Consultative Council at its meeting in Lusaka. I am thus deeply aware that there is a long way to go before the contribution of women to the priesthood, let alone to the episcopate, and even until the status of women is fully recognised and valued across the Anglican Communion. So I appreciate that there is much work for the Li Tim-Oi Foundation still to do, and encourage you to double and re-double your support - and make its work widely known so as to engage the support of your parish and diocese.

In Christ,

The Li Tim-Oi Foundation empowers Christian women in the Two-Thirds World in memory of the first Anglican Woman Priest

Secretary: Canon Christopher Hall - <admin@ittakesonewoman.org> The Knowle, Deddington, Banbury OX15 0TB - 01869 338225

Patrons: The Most Rev Rowan Williams, the Most Rev Paul Kwong Archbishop of Hong Kong, the Right Rev Libby Lane Bishop of Stockport, the Right Rev Victoria Matthews, Baroness Perry of Southwark, Mrs Jane Williams

Please click **DONATE** to give. www.ittakesonewoman.org UK Registered Charity no: 1027837