

GAZETTE

Confirmation (By the Bishop)

- 1.12.74 **Church of the Good Shepherd:**
10 presented by the Ven. Lau Teik Oon.
- 18.12.74 **Church of the Good Shepherd — English Cong:**
10 presented by the Rev. J. Wong.
- 22.12.74 **St. Andrew's Cathedral — Mandarin Cong:**
21 presented by Canon D. Dang.

Ordination

- 8.12.74 **St. Andrew's Cathedral:**
- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------|
| Mr. Joseph T. Bee Bee | } | Deacons |
| Mr. Wilfred Anthonisz | | |
| Mr. Yip Tung Shan | | |
| The Rev. Gan Boon Guan | } | Priests |
| The Rev. Francis Wang | | |
| The Rev. Yeow Swee Hong | | |

Institution & Induction

- 15.12.74 The Rev. Frank Lomax instituted and inducted as Vicar of St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish.

Collation of Canon

- 15.12.74 The Rev. Frank Lomax appointed Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew.

Published in Singapore by The Secretary of the Synod of the Diocese of Singapore
4 Bishopsgate, Singapore 10

Printed in Singapore by Wah Chung Press, 138/140 Dakota Crescent, Singapore 14.
Tel. 494292, 93227.

Diocesan



Digest

Diocese of

Singapore

No. 136

M.C. (P) 434/74

DECEMBER 1974

*The Bishop & Mrs. Chiu
wish you all
a blessed and joyous Christmas
and New Year.*

CHRIST CHURCH BANGKOK

Many visitors to Bangkok, seeing Christ Church for the first time, set in its own spacious and lovely grounds, have been heard to exclaim "How lovely — a little piece of the Church of England right here in the heart of Thailand". Christ Church is beautiful as are the grounds. The Church is truly Gothic and one could easily imagine oneself in the U.K. when standing in the grounds — but there the similarity ends. Because Christ Church is truly interdenominational and international both in worship and in congregation and considering its Charter and its history it could be no other.

It was on June 3rd 1861 that a meeting of non-Roman Catholic Christians decided to build a Church in Bangkok, to ask King Mongkut to give the ground (which he readily did) and to set in motion fund raising to make it all possible.

By 1864 the money had been raised, the Church built on its river site by the side of Wat Yan Nawarene Khock Khuae and Services conducted there for the next forty years.

By 1900 the building of factories and the increased traffic on the road and river made the site undesirable and so efforts were successfully made to have a new piece of land given by the King and Christ Church as it now stands and on the present site came into being. It was dedicated on April 30th, 1905 by The Rev. H. de Courcy Blakeney. Later the same year a new pipe organ, built by Messrs. Henry Willis was installed at a cost of 3,000 Tcs!

In addition to the activities carried out at Christ Church, the S.P.G. Mission also worked in Bangkok from 1912 to 1940 when it ran two schools, St. Peter's for Boys and St. Mary's for girls. Very sadly this work terminated in 1940 so Christ Church became and remains the only Anglican/Episcopalian center for Services in Thailand.

The Vicar of Christ Church is the only Anglican/Episcopalian Priest as such working in Thailand. He also has to minister to a small but very faithful congregation of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Vientiane. This he does by regular two monthly visits.

So much for the past and present. What about the future. It is hoped that an additional member of staff will be made available in 1975. This will allow for much needed expansion amongst the expatriates, including regular visits to Chiang Mai. The work of the Anglican Church amongst seafarers will open up by increased Missions to Seamen activity. In addition to the Youth work already being undertaken (Scouts, Guides, Bluebirds, Cubs, etc.) it is hoped that a Youth Club will come into being.

Christ Church also hopes to move into outreach both ecumenically and indigenously. Ecumenically by sharing in projects of common interest to all Christians and indigenously by taking more care of the indigenous members of our congregation than has probably been the case in the past.

The last 100 years then have seen a steady growth and progress in the life and worship of the Bangkok Protestant Community, centered first around the old 'Protestant Union Chapel' and then here at Christ Church, Convent Road. May this Church be led by Almighty God in a renewed and purposeful existence over the years to come.

The Rev. Canon J. R. Taylor, OBE.
Vicar