



UPDATE ON FCC IN-PERSON MEETING SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

This message gives further details of our forthcoming in-person meeting

Please do make a note to join us!

It will help our preparation for the day
if you can tell the General Secretary soon that you are planning to join us.
(The deadline for replies is 1st September) secretary@thefcc.org

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Where? (See below for 'how to get there')

The Community Hall, St Anne's Soho, 55 Dean Street, London, W1D 6AF

When?

Saturday 10th September 2022 10.30am to 4pm

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Highlights from the proposed programme

After two years of Covid, it is not easy to feel closely connected to our friends in China. So, we have asked some guests to help us with their sense of how things are in China. They will help us to consider together how best FCC can sustain our long-term friendship with the Chinese churches.

Morning keynote speaker: Christopher Hancock will introduce our conversation together with a talk entitled *China, Covid and the Church* (see below for '**Introducing Christopher Hancock**').

Our other guests:

H-J Colston - As CEO of the **Chopsticks Club** (www.chopsticksclub.com) since 1997, her work builds China literacy from the boardroom to the classroom, supporting British and Chinese organisations to build ... cultural understanding, investment & business opportunities in the China-UK space. She is also Director of 'Engage with China', where from 2019 she has been applying her approach to work with children and young people (www.engagewithchina.org). She is married to the Bishop of Worcester.

Pat O'beirne – Pat is a Columban brother who lives in Ealing near London. His responsibilities include a lot of travelling to different churches on behalf of the brothers. His interest in China makes him successor to Eamonn O'Brien (who is a long-term friend of FCC), and we look forward to getting to know him as he helps FCC keep abreast and link with the Roman Catholic Christian community in China.

Huang Yinxuan – He is employed by the Bible Society, and serves as Research fellow, and Coordinator for 'The Bible and the Chinese Community in Britain' project, at the London School of Theology. He is an academic sociologist, focussing on the sociology of religion. He was brought up in Shanghai and has lived and studied in several European countries. Married to 'Annie' (from Guandong), they have a young boy called 'Joshua'. They worship at the Oxford Chinese Grace Church.

Other content

- Projects that FCC is supporting in this two-year period 2021-2022
- News from friends in China / news of books etc.

See attached FCC Prayer Calendar for Autumn 2022

- The programme will end with intercession for China and the work of FCC.
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Refreshments

Please arrive around 10.30am, so we can gather for coffee.

Lunch time: We will continue our conversation together over an early and leisurely sandwich lunch, giving time to meet each other and to meet our guests.

Please come prepared to pay £10 towards the cost of room hire and sandwiches.

Tea and cake: The meeting will end, with tea and cake, by 4pm.

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Introducing Christopher Hancock

Christopher has had a long-term involvement in China, and with Asia more widely, teaching, researching and offering consultation. His involvement has been with both India and China, and most recently Myanmar as well. As an expression of these interests, Christopher was Director for the Centre for the Study of Christianity in China at King's College London and then Director of the Institute for Religion and Society in Asia.

Prior to all that, he held a number of interesting posts reflecting his varied skills - he was music director at St Nicholas' Church in Durham, under a previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey; he served as a college chaplain, parish vicar, and as Dean of Bradford; he had a six-year spell as Associate Professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary in America.

He is currently Director of Oxford House Research Ltd., and a Visiting Professor at St. Mary's University, London. Some of you will remember the online meeting, chaired by David Jasper from Scotland, at which Christopher introduced one of his recent books on aspects of the relationship between Confucianism and the Christian tradition in China.

The Chair writes: "I first came across Christopher in 2008 at the launch of a very readable and interesting biography of Robert Morrison the first Protestant missionary in China. The value of this work is commended by Christopher's association with the classic historian of the church in China, the late Daniel Bays. At a time when FCC lacks direct communication with visiting friends from China, and is still unable to resume visits to China, I felt the need for something to help us get a 'feel' about how things are now in China. It is my hope that Christopher will help us into a conversation together about this."

How to get there

Bus Routes 14, 19, 24, 29, 38, 176 all stop nearby.

Underground The nearest stations are Leicester Square, Piccadilly Circus and Tottenham Court Road.

Mainline Rail Charing Cross Station is a ten-minute walk.

Parking There is a loading bay just a few doors down and limited parking on surrounding streets. Bay parking with a maximum stay of four hours is just opposite. Nearby multi-storey car parks are in China Town and on Brewer Street.

Cycling Nearby Santander Cycle docking stations on Wardour Street, Frith Street and Moor Street.

There is no on-site bicycle storage.

Friends of the Church in China is a UK Registered Charity, no 1004221. Webmaster: FriendsChuChina@aol.com

For membership details visit the [FCC website](#), or to unsubscribe from receiving the FCC Update, contact Dot Stone, 12 William Lucy Way, Jericho, Oxford, OX2 6EQ. Email: dot.caswell.stone@gmail.com

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