

Church Without Walls

Issue 22 August 30th 2020

'HELP HONG KONG CHRISTIANS' PLEA



"Churches should prepare to welcome 'a large number' of Hong Kong Christians fleeing China's increasingly hard-line attitude to the former colony."



Click here to join us for worship
at 10.30 on Sunday morning

That's the message from a church leader born in Hong Kong, but now working in the UK, who asked to remain anonymous for his own safety.

With the Chinese Government gradually tightening their control over Hong Kong, the fear within the city of a complete Chinese takeover has been escalating for a while. The National Security Law, passed in June, criminalises acts of secession, subversion, and collusion with foreign and external forces.

the British Government stepped in at the beginning of July to offer those who are entitled to a British National (Overseas) passport a route to British citizenship. Given the poor record of the Chinese Government in upholding the freedom of religion, many of those who choose to migrate to the UK would be our brothers and sisters. About 12% of Hong Kong's population are Christians, but the Christian proportion of the migrants away from the city is likely to be higher.

So how can we help?

- **Pray** - for those who feel they are forced to relocate away from all they have known; and for those who cannot afford to locate and must stay and face a takeover by a regime unsympathetic to religious belief
- **Look after your immediate Hong Kong friends** - if you know someone from Hong Kong, check on them and listen to what they say. Few Hong Kongers will be entirely unaffected by the events
- **Welcome Hong Kongers to your church** - A large number of people will migrate to the UK in the next few years. We should seek to welcome them in the name of Christ. Some will suffer from post-trauma stress, and will need extra care and patience.

Taken from <https://www.e-n.org.uk/2020/09/world-news/help-hong-kong-christians-plea/>

Scam Warning!



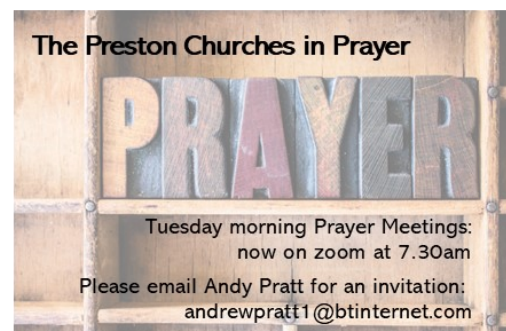
Church officers and volunteers are being targeted by scammers posing as church leaders. The initial email reads along these lines:

"Do you have a moment I have a request I need you to handle discreetly. I am currently busy in a prayer session, no calls so just reply my email."

Then, if the recipient replies they are asked to buy vouchers online as 'thank you' presents for members of the church family. The scammer provides reassurances that the money will be reimbursed and asks the individual to send photos of the gift cards or vouchers, which allows them to collect the unique codes and use the cards to make online purchases.

Yorkshire police have issued a warning ([read it here](#)) but these scammers are also operating nationally. They are well-researched and find the correct names to pose under before sending their communications to church wardens, treasurers and other volunteers.

The advice is to check the authenticity of an email before making any purchase.



 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

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Christians Against Poverty

With a small donation and big faith, John Kirkby started Christians Against Poverty in 1996. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor.

Since then, CAP has rapidly grown its debt centre network and expanded its services to tackle the causes of debt and poverty too. As well as CAP Debt Help, we now help people step into employment through CAP Job Clubs, help people get control of their habitual dependencies through Fresh Start and a brand new service, CAP Life Skills, to equip people to live well on a low income. Our vision is to bring freedom and good news to the poor in every community through a nationwide network of CAP projects.

John Kirkby says, "I am overwhelmed by what God has done. To see thousands of lives changed every year is truly wonderful. I do believe that God has given us a 21st

Century answer to one of the most pressing social needs within society today. Jesus met people's needs with love, compassion and practical help. Our desire is to simply do the same and watch the miracles unfold."



Please pray for CAP as more people than ever are facing financial difficulties as a result of Covid-19

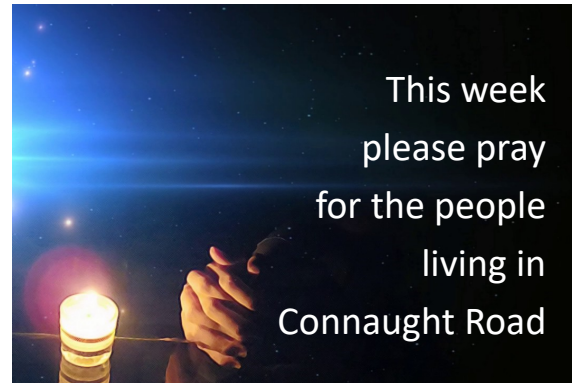
Find out more at <https://capuk.org/>

New enquiries helpline: 0800 328 0006



Don't forget we have a zoom prayer meeting on Monday 7th Sept at 7.30pm. Email the office for the link:

administrator@ststephenspreston.org.uk



Road Rage...

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy road. Suddenly, the light turned amber just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the junction, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the lights, dropping her phone and makeup.



As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer told her to get out of her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, shouting at the guy in front of you, and swearing at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' sticker and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the boot... so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."