

# Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Church family  
January 2018

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## Get to Know our Ministries

### Tea & Tots (Toddlers Playgroup)



This month we're getting to know the Tea & Tots ministry that meets on Fridays over a 12-week term at the church centre in Shek Mun.

### Could you tell us a bit about how Tea & Tots got started and its purpose.

Tea & Tots started a little over a year ago, around September 2016, and it primarily ministers to parents and their children from 0-3 years old. Often, stay-at-home mums tend to get lonely and fall out of discipline in their lives. Many people may not realize that taking care of young children is very stressful. That's why this ministry is so helpful. It provides a regular, consistent meeting to look forward to each week where both dads and mums can find much needed mutual understanding, support and advice from fellow parents on parenting, going back to work, caring for a newborn, etc.



From left: Pauline Chew, Keturah Owens, Rachel Wong and Rita Chau. (Missing Gillian Hornett)

### What does a typical day at Tea & Tots look like?

The ministry is growing! In September 2017, we expanded to two sessions: one at 9:00am and a second at 11:00am. For volunteers, the day starts around 8:20 am to set up and prepare for the first session. As families arrive, we greet them with tea or coffee, and chat with them to get to know them better. As they settle in, children and parents have about an hour of playtime and snacks. Afterwards, Gillian and Pauline lead a short Bible story and sing-a-long. At the end of the session, we clean up the toys and say goodbye to the families as they leave.

## What do you love about this ministry, and what draws you back week after week?

**Rita:** I joined the ministry when Rachel asked me to help serve tea and coffee to parents. Despite not having children myself and no prior experience with children, I found myself really enjoying serving with Tea & Tots. After a while, the children would start approaching me to play with them! For me, it's not the same routine each week because the children grow and change so quickly. Their reactions and moods are different from week to week.

**Rachel:** I cannot not come because after a long week, the kids cheer me up. It's exciting to witness them change, and if you miss a week or they skip a week, you really notice the difference. Another thing that's special about Tea & Tots is how it draws in newcomers, and has outreach potential. The newcomers find out about Tea & Tots through our church website, and just walk-in. Although some of them are not church-goers, they still enjoy coming. One couple, after a year at Tea & Tots, started to attend Shatin Church and their child now attends Kingdom Kids which is exciting to witness.

## How can we pray for this ministry?

- More volunteers! Rita will step down at the beginning of 2018 due to work. No prior experience or special skills needed. You only need a heart to serve and greet people.
- Safety for everyone during the sessions.
- Wisdom for Christian parents and volunteers on sharing the good news with newcomers.
- Parents to build relationships and support one another.
- Families to know Christian family love.

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## Get to Know the Church Family

### The Cheung Family (Aaron, Amos & Christina)



#### **Please tell us a bit about your family.**

We are a typical small Chinese family living in Hong Kong. We have a son called Amos who is 14 years old and is currently studying in a boarding school in the UK. Aaron and I grew up in traditional, disciplined families with numerous siblings. Our parents worked very hard to support their families during a time when Hong Kong was undergoing many changes, both politically and financially.

Since we have been together over twenty years, we have become very alike in terms of interests and habits. We like sports, food and travelling, as well as group activities, such as hiking and the like. We also found our faith in Christ together in 2015 and were baptized at

Shatin Church one year later. We will not forget the blessed moment when our brothers and sisters in Christ witnessed our affirmation of accepting Christ in our lives. Since then, the Holy Spirit has been working in us and provided us with a position to serve on the refreshment team.

### **How long have you attended Shatin Church, and what does it mean to be part of a church family?**

When we first came to Shatin Church about two years ago, we were impressed by the bonding of brothers and sisters and their strong faith. They were very friendly and helped us to know one another. After visiting a couple of times, we noticed that they were not only believers, but also servants of Christ. They worked in different positions but their loving hearts pointed in the same direction to God. It has been a pleasure to learn from them on how to live a Christian life. As new believers in Christ, we have been encouraged and cared for in both our faith and spiritual journey with the Lord. Under their influence, we decided to help the refreshments team because we wanted to show our loyalty and obedience to Him. We feel very blessed that God has worked wondrously and lovingly in and through us, so that our actions and words can powerfully spur on others.

### **What are you looking forward to experiencing in 2018?**

With the new year around the corner, we have decided to put more effort into learning His Word throughout the year, and to assist the church in building up its people and community in Christ. We will continue to bring more people to His kingdom, so that His grace and righteousness can be amplified.

### **How can we pray for your family?**

- At this festive season, we want to give thanks to Him for coming into the world to save us, and we praise Him for giving us a new, full life abundant in His grace. May His word work in our hearts to grasp the truth and to help people to receive His righteousness.
- Pray for my son to be more dependent on Him and trust His words.
- Pray that I (Christina) can step out of my comfort zone to be God's good instrument of spreading the gospel.

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## **Praying for the Church**

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread **and to prayer.**" Acts 2:42*

We give thanks

- for God's grace that has sustained and even refined our faith through the difficulties of 2017 including Andis's sudden death, Micah's hospitalization, and many illnesses and hardships.

- for 30+ volunteers who serve each Sunday in various roles; pray that their service will be a joyful response to the grace of Jesus Christ, and
- for the successful Christmas Bazaar and the Family Christmas Service.

We continue to pray

- for the upcoming Christmas services; for joy of Christmas to reach our friends and family who don't yet know Christ;
- for members who are traveling over the Christmas season;
- for Shatin Anglican to be a church that equips every member to be a disciple maker;
- that the church will welcome all visitors and newcomers with Christ-like hospitality, and
- that the members will grow in their knowledge of the love of God, being filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Eph 3:19).

From Tina & Brian Hazlett -

On Nov 11, I had an emergency c-section due to severe preeclampsia, and now I have a hematoma in my abdomen. Please pray for full healing for my body. One of the twins, Eli Alin, has a heart arrhythmia and has been placed on medication as of Dec 12. Please pray the medicine helps Eli and he has no more episodes of arrhythmia with his heart and no adverse side effects to the medicine. We'd love for Eli to come home soon and for us to start life together as a family of 5. Pray for Hannah as well during this time of adjustment. And lastly, pray for Brian and myself for strength, energy and wisdom as we navigate this new season in our lives.

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## The Exchange

*Need a washer/dryer? Have something to sell or donate? Looking for a tutor, or can babysit? Looking for friends to join you for a social outing? Share your interests, skills and goods here!*

- **Moving House** - Mia Jane Cheng is moving house in December and needs some strong hands to help. Please talk to Mia, or contact her at [miajanecheng@yahoo.com](mailto:miajanecheng@yahoo.com) if you can help out. Thank you!
- **New & Used furniture** - Peter Tsih ([ptsih@hotmail.com](mailto:ptsih@hotmail.com)) is giving away 2 mattresses:
  - 1) 36"/75"/7" (brand new; brand is Airland)
  - 2) 38"/76"/8" (7 yrs old but rarely used; custom made)
- **Used furniture** - Alexandra Colgan (WHATSAPP 65850399) is selling a single bed mattress with frame & storage for \$400hkd or best offer
  - 2 year old mattress & frame, good condition. Mattress is memory foam material and frame is wood with built in drawers for storage. 100cm W x 183cm L x 30cm H

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*This newsletter is put together by and for the Shatin Church family to share life and bless one another. If you have anything you'd like to share on this newsletter, please don't be shy and email [mary@shatinchurch.org.hk](mailto:mary@shatinchurch.org.hk).*