

Baptist Union of Great Britain

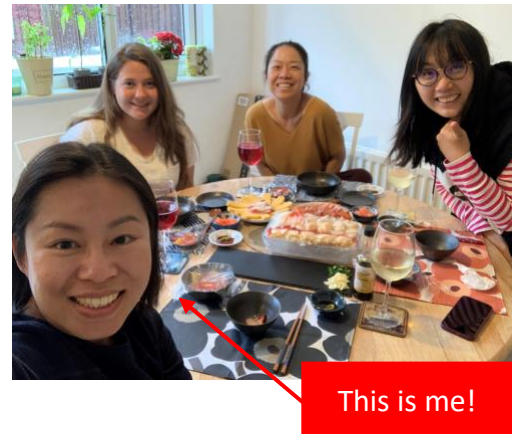
Hong Kong Response Project

Newsletter 1 – September 2021

Hi,

I am Sharon Shek, the new Hong Kong Response Coordinator for the Baptist Union. I was a minister in a large Baptist Church in Hong Kong before arriving in Derby in February. I am grateful that I can serve Hong Kongers who are seeking refuge in the UK with my previous pastoral experience and skills.

You can find more about my story in the Baptist [online article about Hong Kong migration](#) and in the [Baptist Times](#). I am glad the Hong Kong Response Project is there to welcome and offer hospitality to Hong Kongers. Here we would like to invite you to keep up-to-date about the project and pray for us.



Hong Kong Response Project

The main aim of Hong Kong Response Project is to liaise with Baptist churches in the UK to offer hospitality to the hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong migrants now coming to the UK. We will:

- help churches to know the needs of Hong Kongers, and support churches as they make contact with them
- create information and resource materials
- provide some virtual or in-person activities to help churches to connect with Hong Kongers
- connect with some congregations in Hong Kong before they leave
- connect and help Hong Kong ministers to learn about life and church culture in the UK so that they can find a role to serve.

It is a meaningful project, practically applying the biblical teaching of hospitality.

It is great to have a group of people in the Hong Kong working group, who will be working along with me. They are the Revd Diane Watts (Team Leader of Faith and Society in BUGB), the Revd Simon Goddard (Baptists Together Pioneer Ambassador), the Revd Nigel Coles (Baptist Regional Minister of the West of England Baptist Network), the Revd Margaret Gibbs (Perry Rise Baptist Church), Mrs Laura Treneer (Holland Road Baptist Church and Frank Analysis Ltd) and Mr Kent Wong (Chair of the Wirral Chinese Christian Church Leadership Team). They are people who are talented, passionate and care about Chinese culture people. Please do pray for us - for the wisdom and love of God so that we can experience hope and companionship with Hong Kongers for a new future of Hong Kongers in UK.

Good news

My role of Hong Kong Response Coordinator was formally commissioned during the Sunday service at Trinity Baptist Church on 18 July. The Regional Minister of East Midlands (EMBA), the Revd Mike Fegredo and the pastor and the leader, the Revd Ellen Price and Laura Bishop, prayed. The congregation of Trinity Baptist Church is also committing to support me and the project.



And it is exciting that there are some Hong Kong families going to churches in Nottingham. There will soon be a short interview on the website of EMBA with Mike Fegredo and me talking about the project. Also, there is a group of Hong Kongers already connected in the Midlands who share and pray together twice a month. The Revd Ellen Price was in one of the gatherings to pray for them. The Hong Kongers felt supported and warm. In the Baptist churches in the West, a well-known Hong Kong pastor, Chi-Wai Wu, has connected already. Nigel Coles from the West of England Baptist Network has really understood the situation of Hong Kong and he is calling more churches to offer hospitality. We look forward to seeing more churches committing to welcome Hong Kongers.

Thanks to God for the good start in this project and that he is calling more and more organisations and churches to offer hospitality for Hong Kongers. We do hope we can have more contact points in different regions. We hope that the Hong Kongers can be helped and build up a social inclusive society with Hong Kongers in Britain.

Please pray:

1. The project: Pray for the Hong Kong working group, for the wisdom and love of God upon us to stimulate us to work for the project.
2. Needs of Hong Kongers: Pray for the Hong Kongers who are finding huge challenges as they seek accommodation.
3. Churches: Pray for more churches to be willing to welcome Hong Kongers and get to know them.

Next Step

1. If you are interested in this project or want to know more about Hong Kongers, please contact us at SShek@baptist.org.uk
2. We would like to encourage you to register as a 'Hong Kong-welcoming church' by registering at www.baptist.org.uk/hkregister and you will receive our newsletter and updates.
3. If you want to continue praying for us, please subscribe to receive our newsletter: www.baptist.org.uk/subscribe

