



King's Cross Methodist Church

13<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Growth 成長

Inclusiveness 包容

Evangelism 宣教

Justice 公義

## “The Word in the World” Devotional Sharing

### ‘Original Sin’ to ‘Justification by Faith’

Brother Lau

The Book of Genesis records that man was created by God in His own image (1:26–2:7) and therefore possesses a noble worth. However, Adam, the first human, fell into sin by rebelling against God, and from that time sin entered the world. Humanity’s descendants have inherited the ‘sinful nature’ passed down from their forefather [*referred to as ‘original sin’ or ‘inherited sin’*], as Paul explains: ‘sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned’ (Romans 5:12).

The concept of ‘original sin’ was already reflected in David’s psalm of repentance: ‘Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.’ (Psalm 51:5) Christian theology has established the ‘Doctrine of Original Sin’ based on the Bible’s overall revelation.

### The Distinction Between ‘Original Sin’ and ‘Actual Sin’

In contrast to ‘original sin’ is ‘actual sin’, that is, the ‘sins actually committed’ by each person during their life, as James explains: ‘But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.’ (James 1:14–15) ‘Original sin’ is the root cause of all ‘actual sins’, and it is also the reason why death comes upon all people [*Accordingly, the death of a foetus or infant is due to ‘original sin’, rather than ‘actual sin’, as they lack the capacity to commit ‘actual sin’.*]

Christian theology maintains that, because of ‘original sin’, human beings cannot attain perfect goodness through personal moral cultivation or their own efforts (self-effort) alone; they must turn to God and rely on His redeeming grace (‘divine grace’). Without God’s salvation, people cannot experience the renewal of life, nor do they have the hope of eternal life.

Since all humanity is subject to an innate ‘sinful nature’ [*which Paul refers to as ‘being enslaved to sin’ (Romans 6:6)*], God has therefore prepared salvation for humanity, a deliverance from sin, so that, through the gospel of ‘justification by faith’, their lives may be transformed from ‘being once slaves of sin’ to ‘having been set free from sin’, and they ‘have become slaves of righteousness.’ (Romans 6:17–18).

‘Justification by faith’ is the salvation tenet of the Christian faith. ‘Justification’ refers to the moment when a sinner sincerely believes in Jesus Christ as Saviour, and God settles their past sins once and for all [*Note: ‘Justification’ is a legal term meaning ‘to be declared not guilty’. Sinners are ‘declared not guilty’ because Jesus Christ, through His crucifixion, paid their ‘debt of sin’ on their behalf, thereby satisfying the demands of God’s justice.*]

---

Christianity does not deny the importance of establishing sociotechnical systems, nor does it deny the necessity of enacting laws and regulations to maintain social order. For God has also provided, through the teachings and commandments in the New and Old Testaments (including the ‘Ten Commandments’), guidelines for His people to live by and conduct themselves. [*Note: The ‘Ten Commandments’ are a ‘summary of moral standards’ revealed by God to His people; therefore, they must still be observed to this day.* ]

However, the root of humanity’s problems lies in the corruption of the human heart, just as Jesus rebuked the hypocritical Pharisees by quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Matthew 15:8–9) When people fall into ‘hypocrisy’ or ‘formalised faith’, sinful behavior likewise arises.

The Christian view of human nature further gives rise to the concept of ‘transcendental constraints’, which is obedience to a divine authority that transcends humanity and acceptance of the constraints of ‘theocracy’. Whether kings, rulers or common people, all are subject to ‘the rule of God’ and will one day face God’s final judgement.

### Secured through the indwelling Spirit

The purpose of the ‘Gospel’ is to reconcile sinners to God: ‘Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (Romans 5:1) When we sincerely believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour, the Spirit renews our lives, causing us to be ‘born again’ (John 3:3–8), and ‘dwells’ in us (Romans 8:9), becoming our ever-present help.

In Romans chapter 8, Paul repeatedly refers to the terms ‘the flesh’ and ‘the Spirit’. The term ‘flesh’ refers to all the weaknesses of a person governed by ‘sinful nature’, whilst ‘the Spirit’ refers to God working within the hearts of Christians, imparting power and assurance: only the indwelling Spirit can overcome the indwelling sin (Romans 8:9–13), freeing Christians from the bondage of sin and enabling them to enjoy the freedom of spiritual life.

‘Justification’ is God’s forgiveness of a sinner’s past sins in response to their repentance, whilst ‘sanctification’ is the process by which God calls sinners, following their ‘justification’, to pursue growth in the spiritual life for the remainder of their days—that is, to progress towards ‘holiness’ through the help of the indwelling Spirit (Romans 8:9). Although Christians cannot attain perfect holiness in this life, they are moving towards the goal of becoming more like Christ [*God’s continuous redemption* ] .

At the Last Supper, the Lord Jesus said to His disciples: ‘I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.’ (Matthew 26:29). This is the Lord’s glorious promise; He awaits the coming of that day to share eternal bliss with His own at the marriage supper of the Lamb’ in heaven (Revelation 19:9). Amen!



**King's Cross Methodist Church**

**International Service**

*13<sup>th</sup> September 2026*

*Growth 成長*

*Inclusiveness 包容*

*Evangelism 宣教*

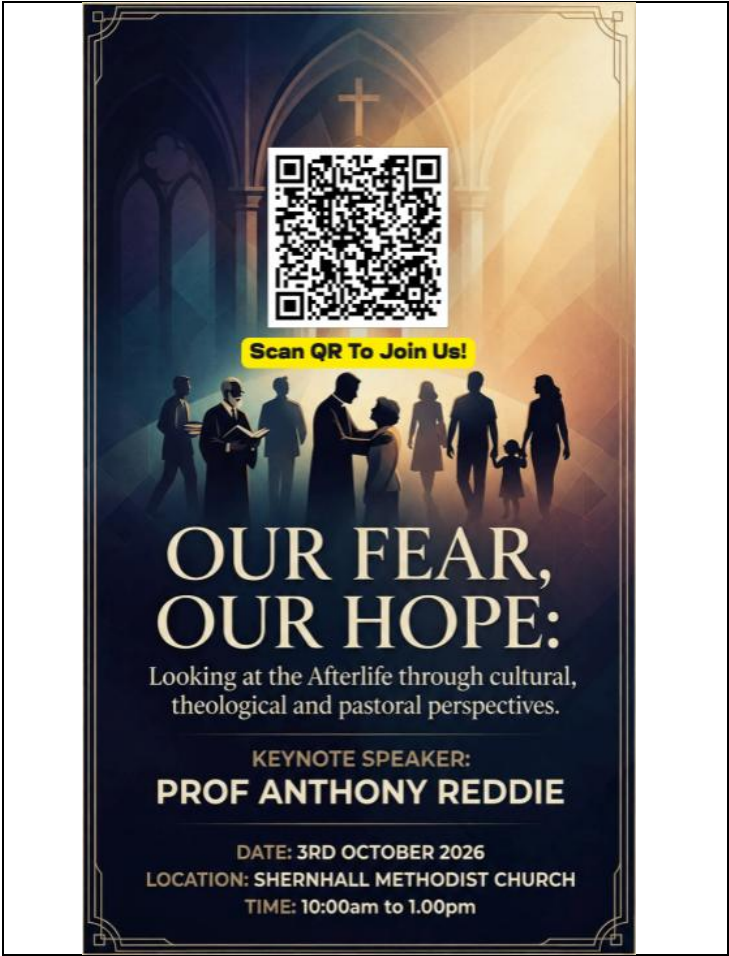
*Justice 公義*

### **Church Family News Sharing**

- 1. We warmly welcome everyone to join us for the Circuit Service, as we gather together with The Revd Faith Nyota, the London District Chair, The Revd Peter Cornick, Superintendent of the West London Circuit, and members and friends from our sister church to worship God together. We also warmly welcome Deacon Melissa Wheeler. The Circuit extends our heartfelt blessings to Deacon Melissa Wheeler as she begins her ministry among us. May her ministry bring encouragement and blessing, and contribute to the growth and building up of the church. May the Lord Himself bless and guide Deacon Melissa Wheeler and her family in every step of their journey as they adjust to their new life and ministry.**
- 2. We were deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of John Gilson, husband of our former Deacon, Linda Gilson. We extend our heartfelt condolences to John's family, friends, and all who knew and loved him. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. A sympathy card has been prepared for everyone to leave their thoughts and condolences on Sunday, 13 September. Please approach our Worship Steward to sign the card. She will be available beside the piano in the Main Hall to assist with the signing. You are welcome to come to church earlier from 9am to sign the card, or stay behind after the Circuit Service. There will be approximately 30 minutes after the service for everyone to sign the card. Thank you.**
- 3. The University Student Fellowship (CREW) will be holding a welcome event on 3 October, featuring games, dumpling-making and bubble tea. If you know any university students studying in London, we warmly invite you / them to sign up and join us. For more details, please refer to the flyer (available at the Welcome Desk or on the last page under "Meetings & Activities"), visit our Instagram, or contact Church Administrator.**
- 4. [Children's Choir Recruitment] Finished Sunday School in the morning and wondering where to take your children in the afternoon? Why not stay and join the Children's Choir! Starting in October, the choir will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. Through learning the background stories behind hymns and worship songs, basic music theory, singing, and performance training, children will learn about worship and God's truth through music while enjoying a meaningful Sunday afternoon. All children who love singing are warmly invited to join! If you are interested, please contact Church Administrator for more information and registration.**

5. **Next year's Spring Conference (29<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027) will be organized by our church, with Professor Joseph Sung as the speaker. Please refer to the “Meetings & Events” section on the last few pages for the event poster. Registration details will be announced in due course. As there are many tasks and arrangements involved, we greatly need brothers and sisters to serve together in unity. If you feel led to help with the preparations, please contact Church Administrator.**
6. **A Message from Forest Circuit – a neighbouring circuit where Rev Kong Ching is now serving. We have the honour of welcoming Prof Anthony Reddie as our guest speaker on Saturday 3rd October. He will be leading an interactive seminar exploring the theological aspects of death and dying. This event has come about following discussions with local church members about myths and cultural understandings surrounding death and dying. The event is free. For registration, please refer to the “Meetings and Events” section on the last few pages.**
7. **Euromission Ministry will be holding a Worship Revival Gathering on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, in Ilford, London, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is £10. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and broaden their vision for mission work across Europe. The ministry is also recruiting worship team members to serve at the event and welcomes believers of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds to participate. For more information, please refer to the “Meetings and Events” section on the last few pages or contact Church Administrator. For registration, please click: [David Hathaway | Release Now Conference | 19 September 2026 | Ilford — Eurovision](#)**
8. **LiFEgame will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December in Northampton. Those who register on or before 31<sup>st</sup> October can enjoy the Super Early Bird rate of £160 per person. If you have not attended before, you are strongly encouraged to join this life-changing journey. For enquiries or registration, please refer to the “Meetings and Events” section on the last few pages or visit: <http://lifegame.co.uk/join-lifegame/>**

Meetings & Events





## Children's Choir — Now Recruiting!



### Programme:

- Developing a heart for worship
- Learning the background and stories behind worship songs
- Singing and music theory training
- Training in singing and leading worship

### Starting:

October (2nd and 4th Sundays of each month)

**Time:** 1:30pm–3:00pm

### Who can join:

All children who love singing and are eager to learn and grow in worship are warmly welcome!

### Enquiries & Registration:

Church Administrator

In a world where truth is often veiled and individuals are increasingly driven by money, success, relationships and power, the Christian message in LIFEgame is both counter-cultural and prophetic.

LIFEgame is currently being run in **16 different countries** with over **250 participating churches** and over **50,000 participants**. Both engaging and relevant to people of all ages and faiths, LIFEgame challenges anyone to live a purposeful and authentic life. This isn't just a time to travel to a different location or spend time with friends.

It is refreshing and life-changing.



#### REGISTER EARLY FOR SUBSIDISED FEES

£160 – Super Early Bird Price (Promotion ends 31st Oct 2026)

£180 – Early Bird Price (Promotion ends 30th Nov 2026)

£200 – Standard Price (Application Deadline 11th Dec 2026)

Register **ONLINE** at [lifegame.co.uk](http://lifegame.co.uk) or speak to your church/fellowship leader for more details



## DISCOVER GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

LIFEGAME IS A CREATIVE SIMULATION GAME OF LIFE THAT PROVIDES AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ANYONE TO DISCOVER GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THEIR LIVES IN THIS WORLD

**DEC 21ST - 23RD 2026**

KING'S PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE, KING'S PARK ROAD,  
NORTHAMPTON, NN3 6LL

Register **ONLINE** at [lifegame.co.uk](http://lifegame.co.uk) or speak to your church/fellowship leader for more details

## 英國華人循道會春令會 2027

CHINESE METHODIST MISSION (UK) SPRING CONFERENCE

## 一生何求

傳道書 — 從大衛的生平看所羅門的智慧  
Ecclesiastes — The Wisdom of Solomon through the Life of David



沈祖堯教授

講員 SPEAKER

29 MAR – 1 APR 2027

The Hayes Conference Centre  
Alfreton, DE55 1AU

#### 費用 FEE

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| 成人 Adults       | £260    |
| 6-16歲 Ages 6-16 | £110    |
| 6歲以下 Under 6    | 免費 Free |
| 日營 Day Camp     | £57/Day |

報名截止 DEADLINE  
31 Jan 2027



# Redevelopment Updates for King's Cross Methodist Church

**English Newsletter  
Subscription**



**Redevelopment Updates  
Website**



**Facebook**



**Instagram**

