

## **Local Preachers Faith & Worship Course in Chinese**

By Hazel Yu, Kings Cross Methodist Church

In September of this year, the team headed by me together with Ernest (my husband, he is also a Minister at Trinity United Reformed Church, Wimbledon) and Joe (a teacher, mission worker and preacher) started the Faith & Worship Course, teaching in Chinese language at Kings Cross Methodist Church. The course structure is based completely on 3rd edition (revised) 2001, Faith & Worship Local Preachers Training Course published by Methodist Publishing House. We have 12 students: 9 from Kings Cross, 1 from Epsom and 2 from Medway. These students are all members of the Chinese congregation in three different Circuits. We anticipate more lay people are needed to proclaim the Good News, more commissioned preachers are needed.

Our aim is to help those who are called to preach to use their preferred language such as Chinese to preach. Our gratitude go to the Chinese Support Group of the London District, Circuit Superintendent Ministers, the Local Preachers' Office to make this materialised together with mentors who offer their help with the allocated students. Although this course is taught in Chinese, students can do their assignments in either English or Chinese.

To reach out to local secondary schools, this year, I was asked to lead worship in Epsom College, a local public school. In return, the School Chaplain has been invited to preach in Epsom Methodist Church. This opens the door and furthering the dialogue to keeping in touch with students, in particular Chinese students, who need extra support when they are new to the country. We have two other local schools in mind, one is The City of London Freeman's and the other one is Arts College in Epsom.

This year also, a team of 6 members formed a Mandarin speaking club in Epsom Methodist Church. The aim of this project is to invite those who are not church goers but prefer to have a social evening to get to know people who speak Mandarin.