

Anglican Church -- Bishop John Hind  
Charter Member of Foochow Rotary Club 1933  
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The Right Reverend Bishop John Hind (恆約翰主教), *HonDD (Dublin)*, BA (*Trinity*) (17 February 1879 – 7 July 1958), Belfast-born, was an Anglo-Irish missionary Bishop of Fukien (*Fujian*) (福建) Diocese of the Anglican Church in the Republic of China (中華民國) from 1918 to 1940. Hind was the third Irish bishop to China. He was one of the early visionary missionaries who saw the need for the Church in China to become an authentically Chinese Church. His vision and his theology of mission and of the Church prefigured many of the theological foundations for the shape of the Church in China today.

When the Rotary Club of Foochow (福州扶輪社) was organized on 21 June 1933, Hind was one of the 24 charter members. The Club was admitted to Rotary International on 31 July 1933 with Charter #1913(b), while Hind was holding the Classification “Christianity - Protestantism” until 1940.

The Charter Presentation was held in the evening of 23 September 1933. Douglas C. Howland, Asiatic Secretary of Rotary International, officiated at the ceremony.



John Hind was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1879. Hind's family had a strong commitment to mission and his uncle, James Hind, was one of the first Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionaries in the Imperial Japan. His grandfather William Marsden Hind (1815–1894) was an archaeologist and botanist. Hind graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1900. As a Trinity student, Hind was active in the Dublin University Fukien Mission (now Dublin University Far East Mission, DUFEM), and in his own words “was learning as much as possible about life in China with a view to my future work there.” He then entered the Church of Ireland Divinity School, obtaining his Divinity Testimonium in 1902. In the same year, Hind was ordained deacon in Killaloe, County Clare, Ireland, as the Diocese of Killaloe's “own missionary.”

On his journey to the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港) in 1902, Hind fell in love with one of his fellow passengers, Alice Carpenter. Hind was ordained priest in Hong Kong later in 1903 by the Bishop of Victoria, Joseph Charles Hoare (霍約瑟主教), D.D. In one move northward to the Ch'ing Empire (大清國) Hind became general overseer of Fu Ning County (撫寧縣), Chihli Province (直隸省) (now Hebei Province 河北省), pastor of all the parishes and clerk of the works for the building of the new church and missionary's home. Hind travelled around his pastoral area Fu Ning, visiting the tiny congregations on foot or in the TCD---a small boat presented to the mission by Trinity College Dublin. He supervised the building of a new church, a boys' school, a women's hospital, new houses, and a chapel for the girls' school in addition to all his pastoral work.

In 1904, Hind married Alice Carpenter in Saint John's Church, Foochow (*Fuzhou*) (福州), Fukien (*Fujian*) Province (福建省). They had a daughter and a son. But both his wife and his daughter died of dysentery, and in 1909 he took his young son back to Ireland, where for a brief two years (1909–10) he served a curacy at St. Mary's, Belfast.

A new, separate Diocese of Fukien, with Archdeacon Horace MacCartie Eyre Price (貝嘉德會吏長) as Bishop, was formed out of the Diocese of Hong Kong in 1906.

Hind returned to Fukien in late 1910 to be in charge of primary and secondary schools in Foochow. However, against all expectations, upon his return arriving as the 1911 Xinhai Revolution (辛亥革命) was bringing the Ch'ing Empire to an end. Back in Foochow, Hind worked as headmaster of the CMS Middle School (聖公會男子學校) and the next year at Trinity College Foochow (福州三一書院), which are today re-organized as the Fuzhou Foreign Languages School (福州外國語學校). Hind remained in this post until 1918.

The years 1912 to 1918 saw considerable growth expansion for the Church in China. In 1912, the Diocese of Fukien joined the other Anglican dioceses in forming the new autonomous Anglican Church (Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui 中華聖公會) (CHSKH). In 1916, Hind's mission reported a mass movement towards Christianity among the fishing community and boat people of the Fu Ning Coast. This movement spread so rapidly, that when Hind came to confirm the baptized, they and their friends were so numerous the service

was held in the open air.

Meanwhile, with the outbreak of World War I in June 1914, Bishop Price had become a naval chaplain and he nominated Hind, then only 39, to succeed him as bishop. In accepting, Hind felt “a deep concern to see the Church become more truly Chinese in character and to see the administration become Church-centric rather than mission-centric.”

Hind returned to England for his consecration as Lord Bishop of Fukien by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Davidson, in Lambeth Palace Chapel on St. Luke’s Day, 18 October 1918. At the same time, the University of Dublin granted him an honorary Doctorate of Divinity. Shortly afterwards, Hind married his second wife, Winifred Heyworth, who had trained as a doctor and had come out to China as a missionary in 1920.

As Bishop of Foochow, Hind lived in Nan Tai Island (南台島). The Diocese was slightly larger than Ireland: 38,500 square miles and had a population of over 4 million, with about 18,000 Christians and about 280 Anglican congregations.

At his first Diocesan Synod in 1919, Hind immediately discontinued the custom of keeping the minutes in English. It was agreed that the minutes should be in Chinese only, and all speeches must be in Chinese. He was convinced that the mission to China must become the Church in China. He reversed the accepted seniority of the missionaries---in future they were to be assistants to Chinese incumbents, and would cease to chair church councils; and the synods---not a missionary conference---would decide where the missionaries worked. Hind’s aim was to bring the Chinese Church to the point that it depended as little as possible on outside help, and he realized that a time would come when it would be better, for the health and safety of the Church, for westerners to leave China.

Hind played a crucial ecumenical role at the National Christian Conference in Shanghai (上海) in May 1922, leading to the formation of the National Christian Council of China (中華全國基督教協進會), the predecessor of today’s China Christian Council (中國基督教協會).

Hind hoped the new council would provide a safety-valve for the resentment among Chinese Christians “at the control of Christian activities by missions and missionaries.” He thought the removal of the foreign element from China would no longer cause the churches to collapse, and hoped that “gradually and one by one, the present institutions are replaced by institutions which bear a fully indigenous character.” Hind’s views pointed prophetically to the future course Christianity would take in China under the Three-Self principles and the unity of Chinese denominations in the post-denominational China Christian Council.

Hind was also a pioneer in women’s ministry: in 1922, he ordained six women as deacons, and by the end of his episcopate, he had ordained seven Chinese women as deacons.

Realizing that the foreign missionaries would soon have to leave China, Hind believed it was important that there should be a Chinese bishop to work in the Diocese. The Diocesan Synod met secretly in 1927, and Archdeacon Ding Ing-Ong (陳永恩會吏長) was elected unanimously as Hind’s assistant. Ding was consecrated in Shanghai in November 1927,

becoming the first Chinese Assistant Bishop in the Diocese. Some weeks later, a new Anglican cathedral in Foochow was consecrated---it was built in memory of Archdeacon John Wolfe (胡約翰會吏長), an Irish missionary who worked for 53 years in Fukien.

Hind had an enforced and prolonged absence in England when he was rushed there for a major double operation in 1929, and remained for the 1930 Lambeth Conference. But he later reflected that his prolonged absence, when the Diocese was in the care of a Chinese-born bishop for two years, “helped ... to forward the purpose which was one of the chief aims of my episcopate---namely, the development of a truly indigenous Church.”

While he was returning in 1930 Lambeth, he was told of the murder of two women missionaries who had been kidnapped. CMS in London blamed the Chinese government for indifference and inactivity, but Hind wrote to DUFEM: “God forbid that we should feel ... wrath, or desire for revenge. Rather we are humiliated to feel that there are still so many who do not know the mighty power of God.”

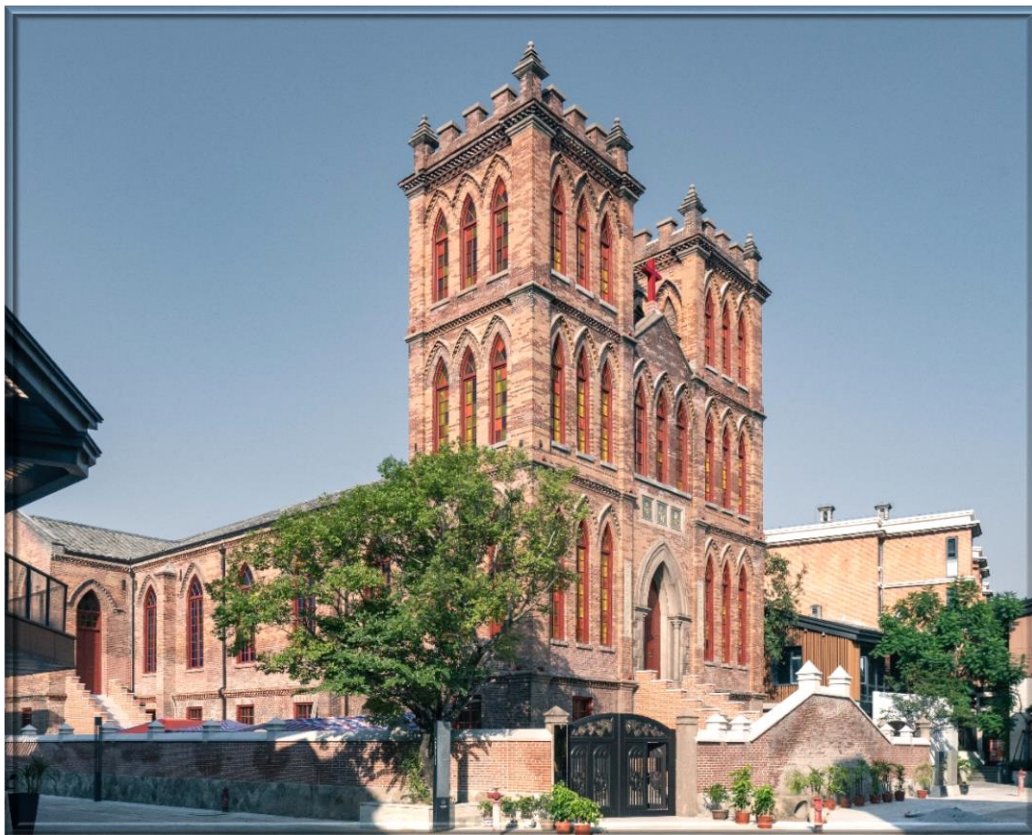
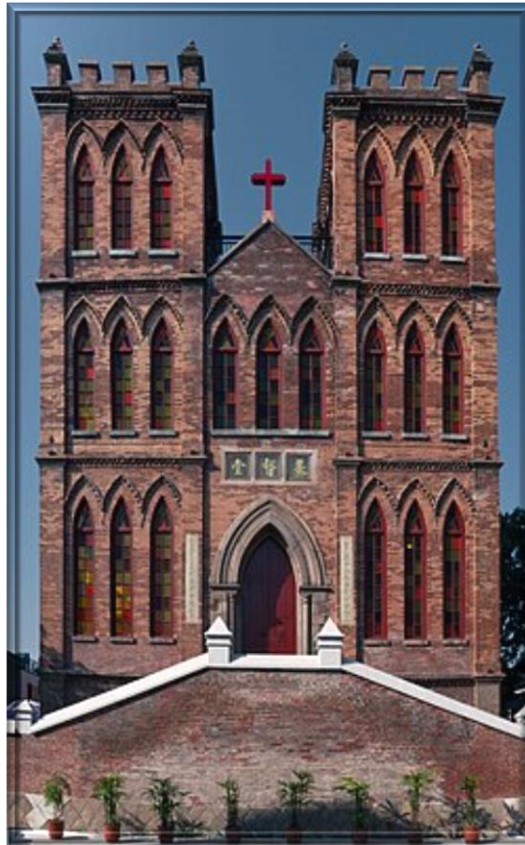
In March 1933, Bishop Ding was captured by bandits during a confirmation service and was held prisoner for a month. As civil war spread, many inland missionaries opted to stay at their stations rather than risk the bandit-controlled roads. The General Synod of the CHSKH met in Foochow in April 1937. Within three months, the Imperial Japan launched full scale invasion to China. Bombs were falling on Foochow. Schools and hospitals were destroyed, newly-finished roads were ploughed up, famine was threatening, war brought normal life to a standstill, and the Bishop realized the time had arrived to hand over to a Chinese successor.

Once again, however, illness struck severely, and he was in no state to make decisions when World War II broke out. Bishop Hind and Bishop Ding both retired in March 1940, and Hind was succeeded as Bishop of Fukien by Christopher Sargent (舒展主教). A week later, Hind made their way to Shanghai for the return home to Ireland, bringing to a close 22½ years of a missionary episcopate in Fukien and 37½ years of mission work in China.

Back in Belfast for four more years, Hind worked in as Church Missionary Society Secretary for Northern Ireland, retiring from active ministry in 1944. Hind retained an active interest in the Church in China, and in 1948 he hosted a dinner in Belfast for Sargent’s successor, Bishop Michael Chang (張光旭主教).

Bishop John Hind’s book 《Fukien Memories》 was published in Belfast in 1951, and he died in Belfast on 7 July 1958.





*1 November 1924 All Saints Day – Bishop John Hind laid the foundation stone for this Christ Church  
– the cathedral of the Foochow Diocese which was completed on 13 November 1927.*