

Issue 15
Easter 2020

the Saint
Andrew



Elders Lakshmi Seneviratne and Graham De Kretser pose with the congregation of St. Andrews Scots Kirk, holding the Dove of Peace, an artwork created by the congregation of Auchterderran Kinglassie of Scotland in solidarity with Sri Lanka for the Easter attacks last year

Church of Scotland – Presbyterian

For private circulation only

 SAINT
ANDREW'S
SCOTS KIRK
COLOMBO SRI LANKA

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19 March 2020

Dear Friends,

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4.6

As we grapple with the scale of the Coronavirus pandemic we also explore appropriate means of worshipping and serving as living disciples of Jesus today.

We are committed to regular prayer on behalf of the people of our land and world, witnessing to the power and presence of our Lord Jesus. We will keep our sanctuary open for prayers each day as normal. This is a time to pray with confidence as a Church, for we have almost 180 years locally and almost 2,000 years in the worldwide church of facing and overcoming difficult situations and this will not weaken us as a body, though it will exercise us.

We have been advised to cancel our Sunday Services from 22nd of March for the rest of the month and are very keen to worship together during the most important week in the Christian calendar, Holy Week (5th to 12th April) but this will depend on updates about Covid 19 .

We intend to keep our Facebook page and website updated twice a week with news and prayers. In fact, the PowerPoint slides we have each week in church with prayers and images will be presented alongside the sermon which will be prepared by Rev Ian until further notice. Sadly, with a very heavy heart he has, following the advice of the UK government, had to return to Scotland at short notice to ensure he could get a flight out of Sri Lanka. You may be aware that Donna was unable to travel back to Sri Lanka last Monday as flights here were stopped. Given that there is no way of knowing when the ban on travel might be lifted there was concern that Ian would be in Sri Lanka with no way of returning to Scotland at the end of his time with us and so would be separated from Donna for an indefinite period.

The Scouts and Sunday School are also stopped from meeting until further notice. Please be considerate of the lower income groups in your area. They may not have financial resources to meet their daily needs and they may appreciate your concern and care. We will continue to explore ways and means of fulfilling the mandate of our Christian discipleship, ***‘Bringing Good News to the poor’***, so we are attempting to keep serving the Thursday lunch for low paid workers. You are most welcome to share with us any suggestions that will strengthen our ministry at this time. Let us not panic for we have a loving Shepherd who will forever be with us.

Every blessing,

Rev Ian (Gilmour) and Chandan de Silva

Interim Moderator and Session Clerk

Letter from the Minister



Friends,

I have learned so much from you and it is hard to say farewell. Donna was not able to return to Colombo this month due to the coronavirus. I have taken advice from the British High Commissioner and have decided reluctantly to travel quickly to the UK as when trying to transfer my flight I was told the future is not at all clear for flights or airlines, so I will be back in Scotland, God willing by the time you read this. I will be taking up new work in Edinburgh from June, as meeting for worship is cancelled in the short term. I will continue to lead but from Scotland, which is more severely affected by the virus, but has not closed its borders as yet.

It has been interesting and challenging to see a lovely country and meet friendly people who have been afflicted by so much violence and injustice across centuries. You are not out of the woods yet. In the main, dealing with COVID 19 will continue to be a battle for some time, politicians in all parties are not really trusted, colossal debt means the economic situation teeters on the verge of bankruptcy, further, according to your experts, the educational standards have lowered across the country. So conflicts and issues to face for even on the spiritual front tensions have increased between the political Buddhist leaders and the minority Muslim, Hindu and Christian communities. So, all in all, a very challenging situation, yet not without hope and opportunity.

When we are faced with struggles as Christian people, we should return to scripture and I am going to share with you one small section of Paul's letter to the Colossians. I think it is an encouraging word to us as we turn our faces to Easter in our personal and corporate worship.

The text that keeps coming back to my mind when I read the newspapers here is that in Christ the old categories should fall away between males and females, religions, castes, shades of skin, rich and poor. However, I have witnessed some groups in Sri Lanka building such walls to the detriment of the majority. I do not believe the Tamil, Muslim or Christian communities feel properly represented in the upper echelons. So let us turn to scripture for solace, strength and support. Paul's words are from the 'Message' translation:

"All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilised, uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ." (Colossians 3.11)

My wish is for everyone on this small, important, beautiful island to gain new perspectives and new practices, so that all can enjoy the gifts of God's Spirit, which give life depth, integrity and delight to an individual, community or country. In Sri Lanka a leader shared his views with me that the one issue more prevalent here is jealousy. Jealousy comes from feelings of insecurity, fear and concern over a relative lack of possessions or safety. So we desire, then get irritated at others, rather than doing what we can do ourselves to change our situation. It becomes really destructive if many adopt this attitude. Paul continues his argument by suggesting that we change. He suggests it will be as obvious as changing our clothes, from 'power'



dressing or seductive garments to deeper and long-lasting choices. He says,

"So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it." (Colossians 3.12-14)

We know that love drives out fear and alongside it jealousy, anger and all the other emotions which do not serve us well as God's lively, loving people. To put on God's choice of garment leads us to find what every human being or every age is searching for - inner peace. Paul puts it well in this superb chapter,

"Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense." (Colossians 3.15-16a)

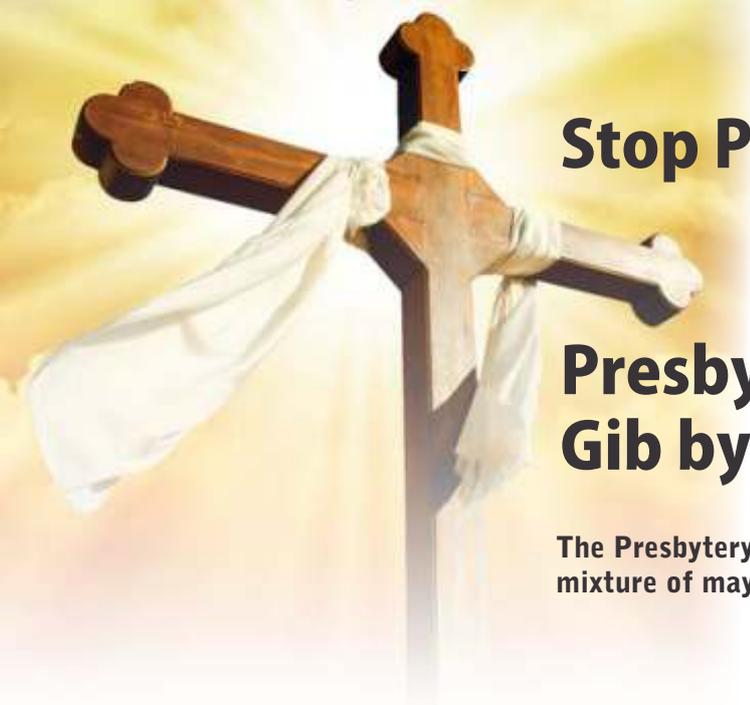
One of the small things I have tried to do is broaden the range and knowledge of the hymns and songs. I have also encouraged the choir to give a regular lead to our praise. I think a really good choir leading strong congregational singing will be a huge help as we develop ministry here by praising God with heart and voice and attracting new members. Paul puts it this way:

And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way." (Colossians 3.16b-17)

I pray that you will continue to enjoy the gifts of God's Spirit, which give life depth, integrity and delight to your life, the life of St Andrew's Scots Kirk and future life of the island once called Serendip!

**Grace and Peace,
Ian**

Ian Gilmour will be staying on in his role as Interim Moderator, moderating Kirk Session Meetings and advising the Nominating Committee, so we will meet again when a new minister is found for St Andrew's.



Stop Press:

Presbyter removed from Gib by Police in black van!

The Presbytery Meeting in Gibraltar was an unusual mixture of mayhem and magic

The Mayhem

When we heard that we were attending a country 4.5 x 1 mile, we thought a presbytery meeting might be dull. Dull it was not. We stayed at the Rock Hotel and delightful it was. However one presbyter from Rome received a visit from Border Security and was given this ultimatum, **“Stay inside your room for 14 days or you will be arrested. Your only alternative is for us to escort you across the border into Spain.”** At that time Spain did not have the same strict Coronavirus laws. A disappointed stalwart, John McGhie, who loves these gatherings, went quietly without saying a word at the meeting. We looked at each other wondering who might be next for people had gathered from Bermuda, Paris, Budapest, Amsterdam, Sri Lanka and many more places as well.



Nadhini de Silva, who was a visitor, tries everything - even climbing the Rock to avoid detention!



Presbyter removed from Gib by Police in black van! (cont...)

We met in our Church of Scotland outpost also known as St Andrew's and we talked about Youth, Worship, Fabric, Finance and Fellowship. I am glad to say we also had some super fellowship over two special meals and a warm welcome from Revd. Ewen Maclean and his wife. The meeting was conducted skilfully by the moderator, Revd. Lance Stone, who preached a brilliant sermon and conducted a fine communion. Revd. Jim Sharp, the Clerk, sent his good wishes to all in Colombo.

And Magic?

I felt there was a bit of unhealthy 'Them' and 'Us' in regard to the central church offices as my personal view is that the Church of Scotland has done well to support many small scattered congregations for such a long period. There was real concern about future funding and likely reductions in the total number of congregations. This exactly mirrors the situation right across Scotland. Fortunately, our Bermuda congregation revealed some magic. They have found a way to increase their offerings hugely in a short space of time. Perhaps we at St Andrew's Scots Kirk can learn from them, for, in the longer term, only aid contributing congregations can be assured of a future.

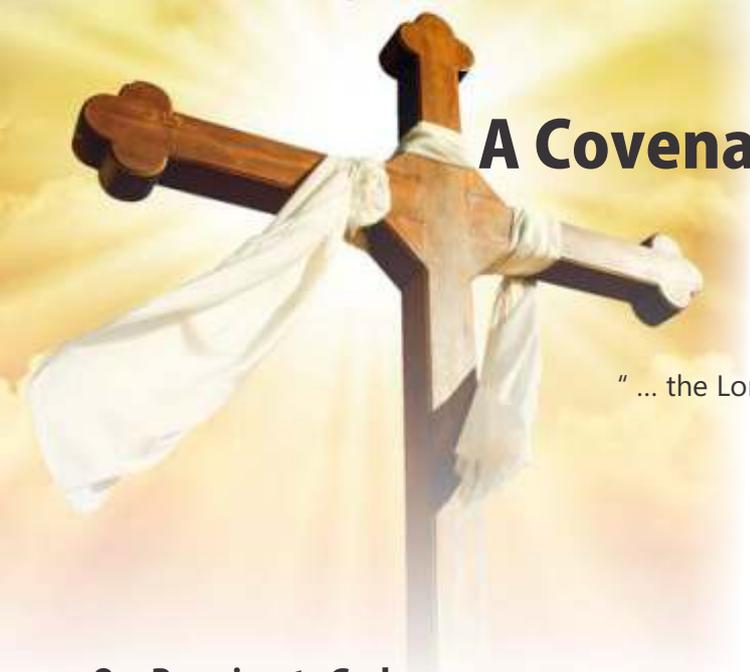
We worked hard and finished early enough to explore this historic community of Gibraltar in the pleasant Saturday afternoon sun. None of the Sri Lankan contingent were arrested but the full impact of the virus was made very obvious to us. More than that, we felt bound by brothers and sisters in Christ who also work in unique settings and who are pleased to have a strong link with Scotland and share insights from our relationship with the living God.

Our congregation was much to the fore with widespread publicity on the 'Dove' gift from Fife. The mission project for the whole presbytery last year was Ward 8 at Mulleriyawa, which surpassed the set budget. Chandan de Silva is a very proactive convener of the Finance Committee.

Finally I was tickled to see their St Andrew's window had the saint, with wet feet and a catch of fish. Perhaps there's a message for us all... If you want a good catch you do need to work at it, even if you get dirty hands or wet feet.

Revd. Ian Gilmour





A Covenant of Leadership for SASK

" ... the Lord has told us what is good.

What he requires of us is this:

to do what is just,
to show constant love,
and to live in humble fellowship with our

Our Promises to God

We promise to pray, alone and together, to thank God and to ask for God's help in our lives and in our work for our church, and we promise to listen to God's answer to us.

Our Promises to Our Church Family

We promise to demonstrate our leadership and commitment by our example.

We promise to support our ministers and staff, so their efforts can be most productive.

We promise to work together for what is best for our church as a WHOLE.

Our Promises to Each Other on the Kirk Session

We promise to respect and care for each other.

We promise to treat our time on the Session as an opportunity to make an important gift to our church.

We promise to listen with an open, non-judgmental mind to the words and ideas of others in our church and on the Session.

We promise to work towards expressing ourselves openly, honestly and clearly, recognising differences of opinion.

We promise to support the final decision of the Session, whether it reflects our view or not.

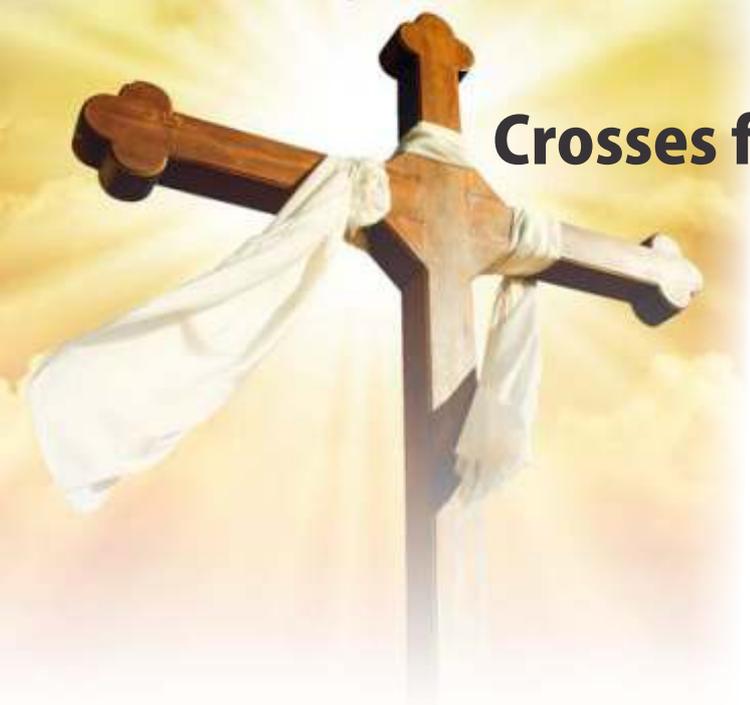
Our Commitment to the Congregation

We promise to seek and consider the opinions of our members regarding our direction and vision at least once each year.

We will seek to enable the congregation to grow in faith through our worship and service locally and by creating a harmonious fellowship, worship, education, service, belonging and outreach.

We will follow up on complaints of poor behaviour from our leaders or members.

Crosses from around the world



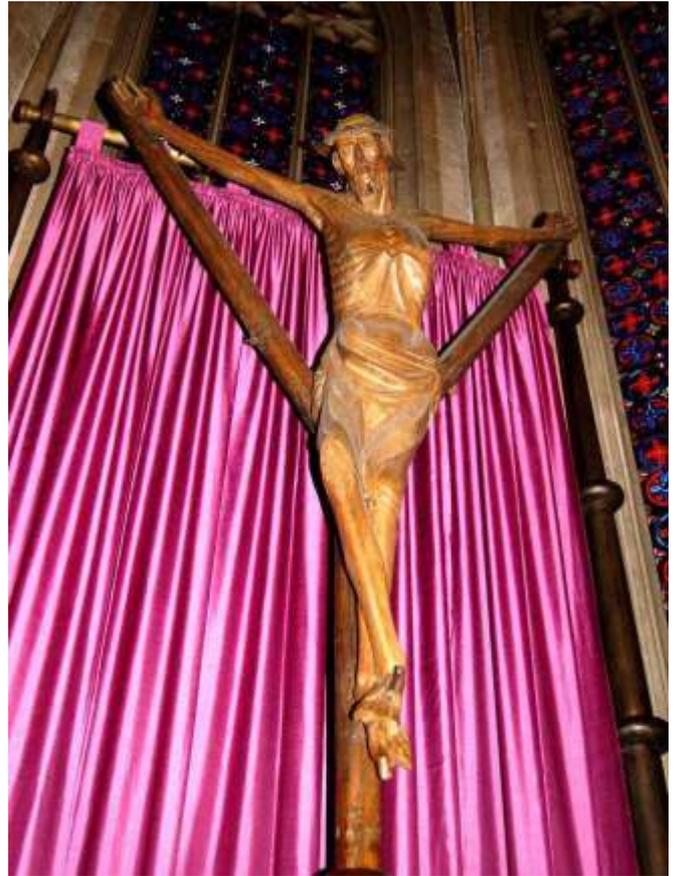
A popular form of religious iconography, crosses not only depict various Christian denominations but also feature in various beliefs some of which revert thousands of years. Some are traditional, others have aesthetic renderings, some have cultural tones and others have rich history.

Canterbury Cross



Originally found by archeologists in 1867, this cross is named after the English town of Canterbury and is believed to be a consecration cross, due to its rounded shape. These crosses represented the 12 apostles. The original cross is displayed at the Canterbury History Museum. Canterbury crosses were distributed to Anglican cathedrals around the world making it a symbol of British born Christian denomination.

Forked Cross



Dating back to the medieval era when Gothic cathedrals took shape in the 14th centuries, the Y shaped cross always has the crucified Jesus on it. The forked shape is believed to be related to the Tree of Knowledge. Only a handful of these crosses remain in European cathedrals and the most well known is hung in the Church of Saint Lambert in Coesfeld, Germany.

Russian Orthodox Cross



Also known as the Suppedaneum cross, the bottom bar represents Jesus' footrest when he was crucified, the top vertical bar His head and the standard vertical cross, His hands.

Crosses from around the world (cont ...)

Tau Cross



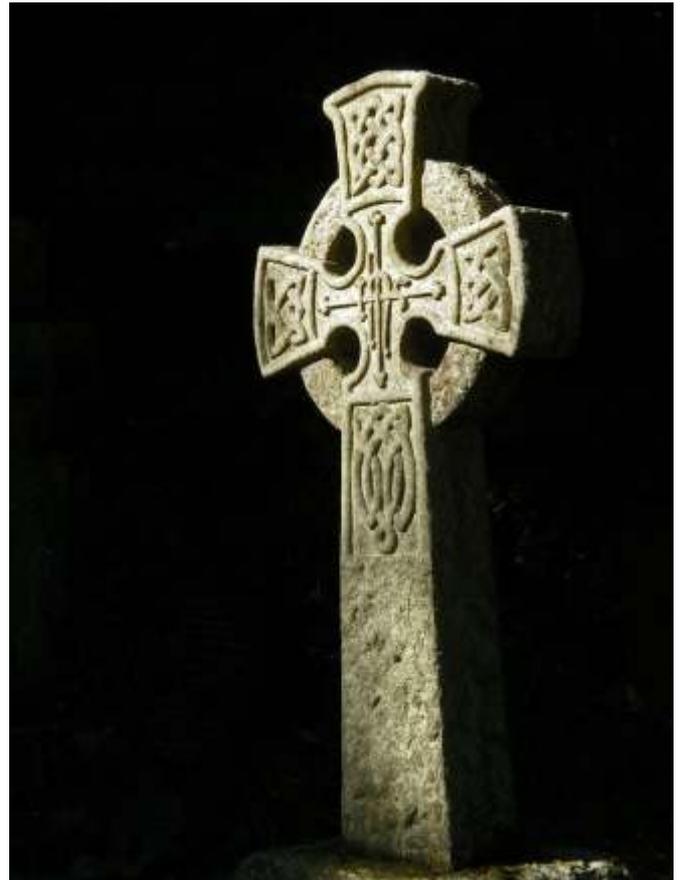
Named after the Greek letter T which it resembles, it is believed that St. Anthony of Egypt wore this cross regularly. In Ezekial, it is said that those who were saved were marked with a T on their foreheads, making it a symbol of salvation.

Greek Cross



One of the earliest crosses commonly used by Christian followers, this cross represents the Church itself. It's found in Roman cemeteries and appears in liturgical documents symbolic of the sign of the cross done throughout religious ceremonies.

Celtic Cross



Also known as the Gaelic cross, the additional circle in this highly decorative cross represents eternity and the endlessness of God's love. The earliest crosses had inscriptions of the medieval Irish alphabet and appeared in Ireland and Scotland during the Early Middle Ages.

Plague Cross



Found in Europe, particularly in areas hit hard by the Bubonic or Black Plague during the Medieval Era, these stone crosses were placed in areas free of disease, marking places where people could congregate and trade without contracting the disease.

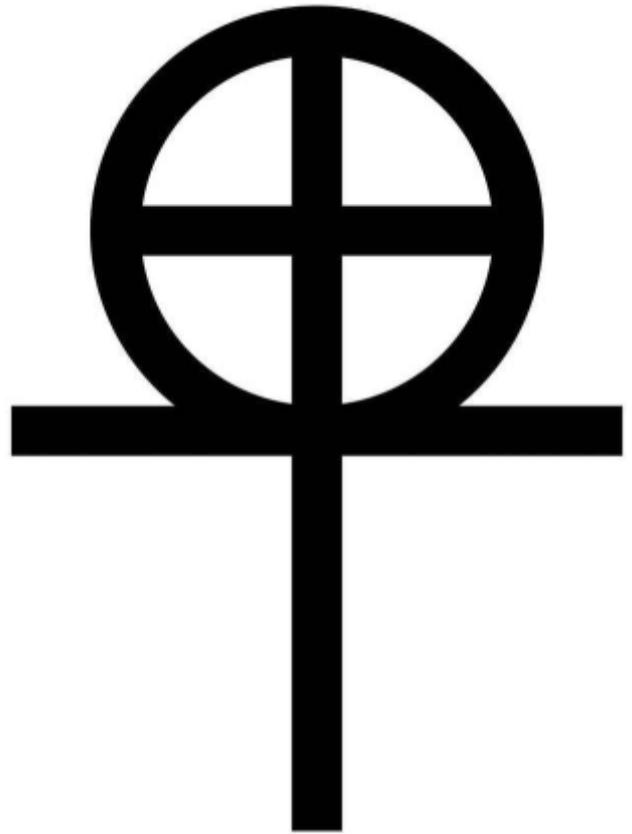
Crosses from around the world (cont ...)

Cross of Constantine



Containing the Greek letter that resemble X and a P, legend dictates that God spoke to Roman Emperor Constantine in a dream, appearing as a symbol in the sky that consisted of a golden spear and a yard that made up a cross, as well as the letter P. It is these that make up the first name of Christ in Greek. Constantine wore this symbol prominently on his helmet when he went into battle.

Gnostic Cross



A combination of a sun cross and a Latin cross, this cross is symbolic of Gnosticism, an early religion related to Christianity. But it also has its roots in Buddhism, Neoplatonism, and Zoroastrianism, making it a melding of different beliefs with a series of central ideas that date back thousands of years.

Smile a while...

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them.

'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

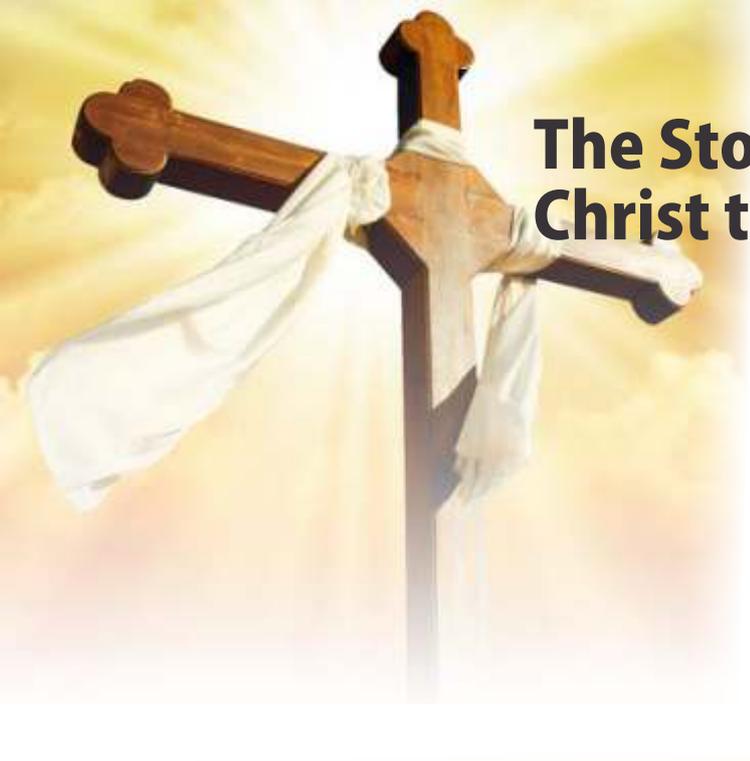
The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool.

'Oh my word, thank you,' said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the priest. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true.' St Peter rejoined, 'But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'



The Story behind the hymn – Christ the Lord is Risen Today

-Charles Wesley



Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the vict'ry won, Alleluia!
Jesus' agony is o'er, Alleluia!
Darkness veils the earth no more, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Based on Matthew 28: 1 to 10, co-founder of the Methodist Church Charles Wesley wrote this Easter hymn in 1739. It was initially titled Hymn for Easter Day and was based on an older 14th century anonymous Bohemian hymn, Jesus Christ is Risen Today and was first performed at the Foundery Meeting House. Initially the hymn had eleven verses of four lines each but was later edited by Martin Madan for inclusion in Psalms and Hymns removing the seventh to ninth verses.

The hymn gained immense popularity in the Church of England but John Wesley, Charles' brother excluded it from the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in his practice of precluding any seasonal hymns. It is today considered the most definitive church anthem for Easter.

The overall focus of the hymn is where Mary Magdalene and the other Mary is told by an angel of Jesus' resurrection found in Matthew Chapter 28. Some of the wording and the Alleluias are also drawn from a number of Psalms and alludes to Revelation 19.



Some thoughts to ponder...

"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."

Mohandas Gandhi, Indian Lawyer and Leader

"The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ came to do three things. He came to have my past forgiven, you get a purpose for living and a home in Heaven."

Rick Warren, American Pastor

"To a Christian, Easter Sunday means everything, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Bernhard Langer, German Golfer

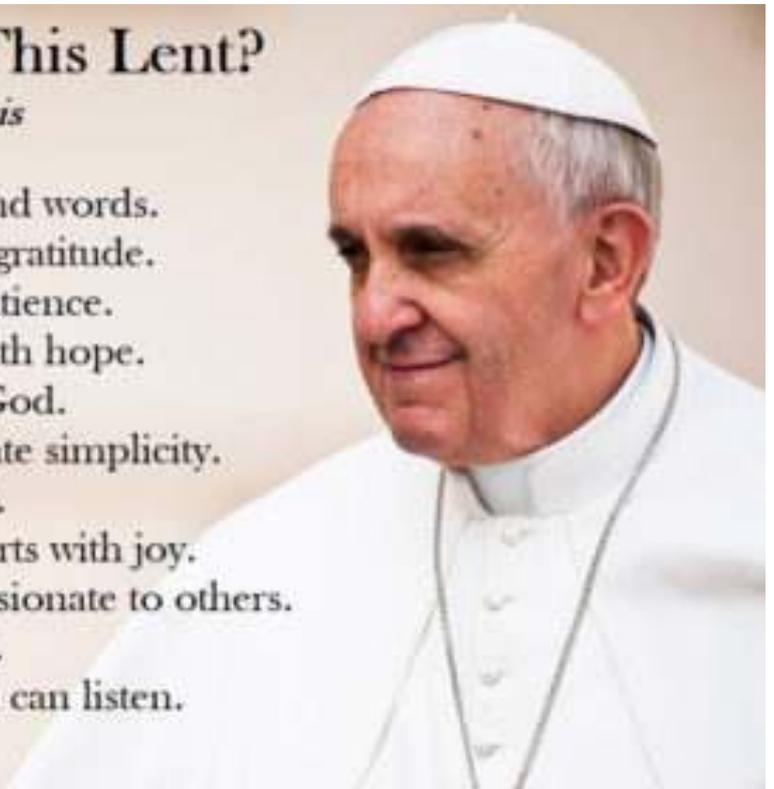
"The primary source of the appeal of Christianity was Jesus - His incarnation, His life, His crucifixion, and His resurrection."

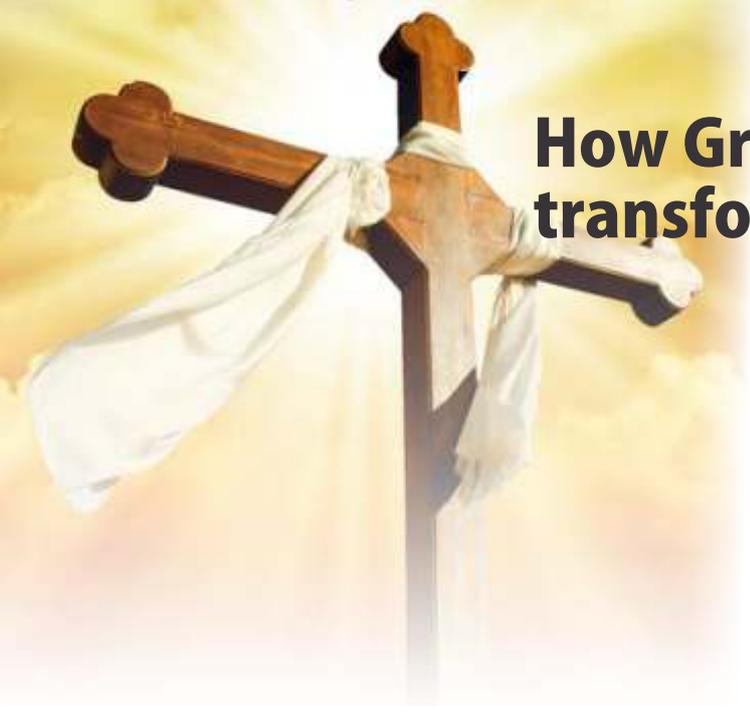
Kenneth Scott Latourette, Historian

Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words - and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.





How Graham Kendrick transformed songs of praise

Brunel University. Here are excerpts of an interview in which Kendrick speaks about himself, his inspirations and his writings:

What has been the greatest challenge you've faced in ministry?

To love God for himself rather than to love the work he gives me to do.

What has been the most profound lesson you've learned about worship over the past few years?

That whatever skills, experience or natural gifting any of us may have, it is the 'anointing' of the Holy Spirit that gets God's work done... To me one of the saddest and scariest stories in the Bible is that of Saul losing the anointing; worse still, he did not know that God had left him. Perhaps this is why his successor David prayed so fervently in his Psalm of repentance after the exposure of his adultery with Bathsheba: "Take not your Holy Spirit from me."

What is the most profound lesson you've learned about life over the past few years?

That I've learned nothing unless I've learned to love.

What are the five essentials you could not do without in worship ministry?

Being a worshipper, being a servant, being real, being prayerful and knowing the bible.

What compels you to write new songs for worship?

It's what I do best and seems to be the way in which God has used me most. New songs are a sign of life as they arise when God is at work in people's lives. Also the command to sing a new song appears many times in scripture. I try to hold before me a vision of the church singing a new song which releases their hearts to God and inculcates an aspect of truth, perhaps even capturing the essence of a new season of the Holy Spirit's emphasis. It is a discipline of hard work as well as a delight. And much of my songwriting can be likened to mining for gems. A jeweler once told me that for every carat of diamond that ends up on a piece of jewelry, around 25 tons of rock has to be dug out and processed. It sure feels like it sometimes!



There are two worship songs the SASK congregation has been singing rather lustily many times – Shine Jesus Shine and Meekness and Majesty. Both are catchy, both have hymn like stanzas and both appeal to young and old.

Traditional worship has gained its bouquets and brickbats. Some called it stilted and stiff and some intellectually empowering. However, in the 1960s, a renaissance emerged with a larger charismatic movement of clapping, raised hands and even dancing. It was around this time that the church needed to take stock of its praise and worship and work on a blend that would work for all.

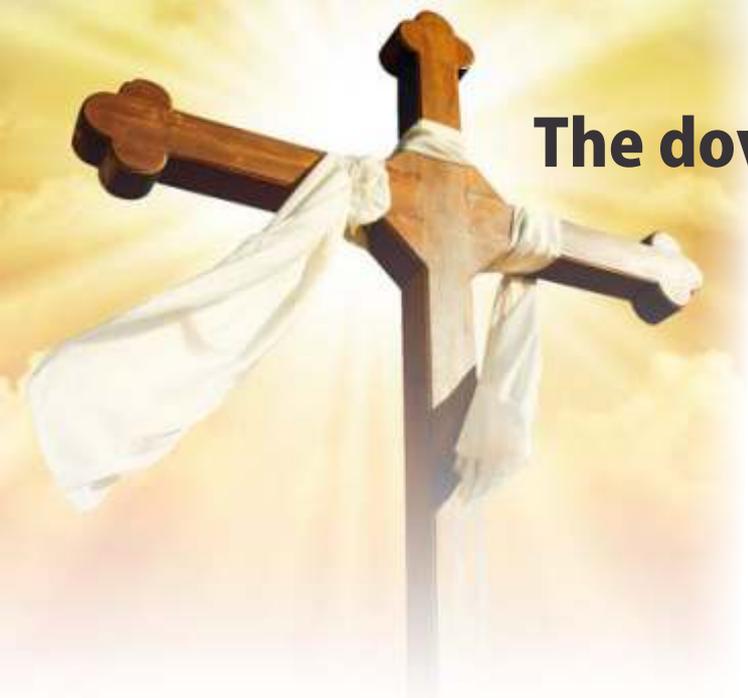
Graham Kendrick was born in 1950 to Baptist Minister M D Kendrick serving in Blisworth Northamptonshire and his wife. He grew up in Essex and Putney. Serving with Youth with a Mission, he later joined the Ichthus Fellowship congregation in South London and began exploring church music, not just with the people in the pews but with those out on the streets too.

Having begun writing songs in the late 1960s and his music career birthed with the Christian beat group Whispers of Truth. His portfolio had become expansive and together with Roger Foster, Gerald Coates and Lynn Green, in 1985 he founded the 'March for Jesus'. The marches which began in Soho spread to North America with the first global march in 1994 having ten million Christians singing through cities in the whole world.

He was conferred with a Dove Award for his international work and Honorary Doctorates by the London School of Theology and



The dove of peace



Sunday the 26th of January was special for us at St. Andrew's. A delegation from the Church of Scotland visited and presented The Dove of Peace which was an artwork creatively put together with the ribbons which festooned their churches during the Easter attack in solidarity with Sri Lanka. While Revd. Ian Gilmour took the service, the preacher was Rev. David Denniston and The Dove of Peace from the congregation of Auchterderran Kinglassie was presented by The Very Revd. Dr Russell Barr to Elders of SASK, Lakshmi Seneviratne and Graham De Kretser. The Sunday School baked a delicious butter cake to round off the festivities which was thoroughly enjoyed by the congregation during fellowship time after the service.



The dove of peace (cont...)

Below is an article that was published on the Church of Scotland website on 1st February 2020.

Fife congregation create Dove of Peace for Sri Lanka

A Dove of Peace created by a Fife church has been presented to a Kirk congregation in Sri Lanka.

Members of Auchterderran Kinglassie Parish Church fashioned it out of white ribbons that were hung outside the buildings in a show of sorrow and solidarity following the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Colombo last year.

The colourful rug ragging artwork was presented to St Andrew's Scots Kirk in the Sri Lanka capital by former Moderator of the General Assembly, Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, on Sunday.

World leaders from church, state and religious groups

than 200 people in Sri Lanka as churches and hotels were hit by multiple bombings last Easter Sunday," he added.

World leaders from church, state and religious groups condemned the action as perpetrators of hate tried to cause division through introducing pain and suffering on the most important festival in the Christian Calendar.

The Church of Scotland, in response to white ribbons being tied and displayed at the sites of the atrocity, was called by former Moderator of the General Assembly, Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, to do likewise to demonstrate solidarity with our suffering sisters and brothers in Sri Lanka.

When the ribbons outside our churches finally came down our pastoral care team produced a beautiful banner by turning their hand to rug ragging which depicts a dove.



Rev Donald Lawrie with members of his congregation and the artwork

He handed it over to church elders Lakshmi Seneviratne and Graham De Kretser and it is now framed and hangs in the manse occupied by minister Rev Ian Gilmour, who used to lead St Andrew's and St George's West Church in Edinburgh. Former Moderator, Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, presented the Dove of Peace to elders Lakshmi Seneviratne and Graham De Kretser, as the congregation gathered.

Solidarity with those suffering

Rev Donald Lawrie of Auchterderran Kinglassie Parish Church, said, "Christian neighbourliness is global. Atrocity should never be forgotten and we have not forgotten the murder of more

It is a tangible reminder that churches throughout Scotland have not forgotten people and that they continue to be held in our hearts as we pray for healing and restoration in Sri Lanka and for all who suffer at the hands of those who hate.

Mr Gilmour said the artwork, which was also fashioned out of old t-shirts, was well received by his congregation.

"What joy and amazement was in the faces of our children and adults when they saw the colourful flag from Fife," he added.

"They could see the dove immediately and were so pleased that you have thought and responded to the terror attack in Sri Lanka on Easter Day."

THROUGH THE LENS

Mission Projects and events at St. Andrew's

Helping Hands Mission work

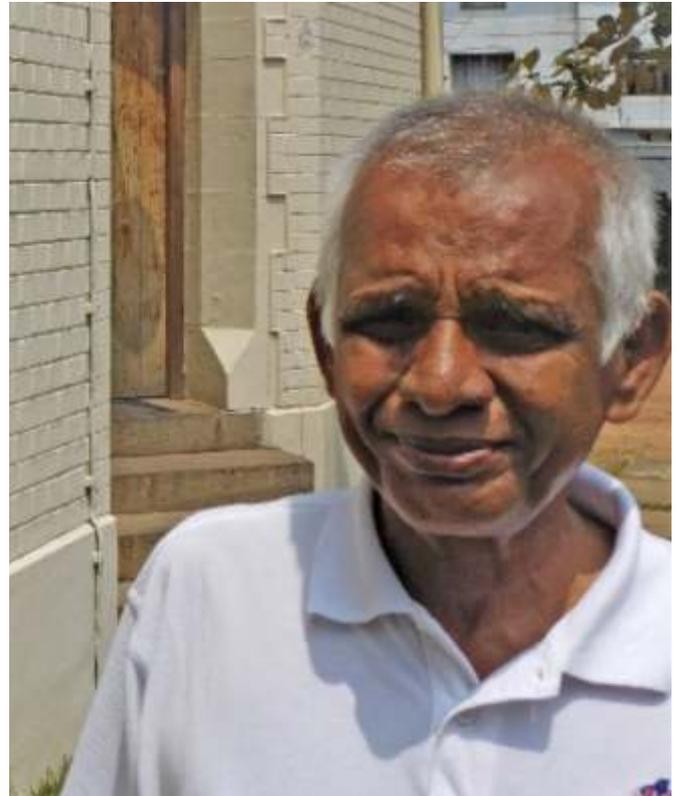
Joubert Gnanamuttu has taken over from Maureen Gennard as co-ordinator for the Helping Hands programme, once Maureen migrated to the UK last October to join her husband.

Joubert is enjoying his new role as it keeps him occupied during his retirement and he sees it as a privilege to be working with the community which is less fortunate. He thanks God to have the opportunity to do this.

Joubert spends time visiting the Helping Hands families in their homes to get a first hand view of the challenging conditions in which they live, to gain a better assessment of the families' needs.

We do not have unlimited funds at the Church but he hopes to find the means to help families with more dry rations and attend to their health issues, subsidising medical bills. He would like to organise help for them to travel to the hospital because most are not strong enough to take public transport and the cost of a 3Wheeler is too high. Many families struggle to manage their own situation but they are also burdened with help and care of parents and elderly relations.

There is much work to do.



THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

The Lunch Project



Take away packs were the solution to maintain social distancing at The Lunch Project due to COVID 19



A regular luncher, this security guard gave an appreciative speech to those at St. Andrews for the lunches being served each week



Anurada and Karina Cooray from Canada joined in to serve and donate towards the lunch. Karishma and Paddy now form the regulars serving lunch



Thursday lunchtime at the Church hall

THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)



Kumar joins the regular servers, Joubert, Karishma and Moses to serve

With the onset of COVID 19, social distancing and public gatherings being banned, the Lunch Project decided to tackle the challenge by giving take away lunch packs. The project itself has become so popular, that we distributed these packs within 10 minutes, while in the weeks prior when we have served lunches, it still is a very quick process – taking all of 20 minutes at the most.

This is one of our mission projects which has been running for over a year and aims to reach out to the needy in the vicinity of our church by serving them a wholesome meal and also getting to know them, their trials and tribulations. Many of the Lunchers are regulars who sweep and keep the city clean, some work in building sites, others as janitorial staff in the adjacent offices and most retired elderly with no place to go and reliant on meals from those who are generous to share. A few have also enrolled in our other mission project Helping Hands. It is also heartening when we receive sincere thanks from our Lunchers; a few weeks back a female security officer presented a vote of thanks finished off by a round of applause.



Lunchers enjoy some R&R after lunch

It often seems that miracles happen as we rarely turn away anyone and we often clock as many as over 150 meals which we serve every Thursday. It is also a miracle that the project though in constant need of funds has somehow been able to provide as we have pledged.

The second dimension to the project is our partnership with two members of the Bohra community who supply the meal at a value cost. After the Easter bombings of last year, it became the need to demonstrate our solidarity and camaraderie became even more apparent. Over the months the ties and links with the Bohra community have grown through us as a community - from being hosted to a visit at the Bohra mosque and to us at SASK reciprocating and members of the Bohra community serving at our lunch. Some have also contributed to the mission project fund. We are pleased that we have a fortuitous and thriving partnership in this mission project.

We are ready to welcome volunteer servers on Thursday from 11.45 to 12.30 and for contributions to ensure that this worthwhile mission project is sustainable.

Smile a while...



One Easter Sunday the Reverend Jones announced to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons.....

A \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes
A \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes
And a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour.

Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'

THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

Netherlee Cottage News

This year, the Netherlee management team, the house mothers and the residents travelled by train to Kandy. The emotions were a mixture of excitement and disappointment as we were forced to leave three ladies behind. Three of our residents are not fully discharged from the mental health hospital and just as we were in the middle of preparations to leave, the hospital decided that Ashoka, Ganga and Viola could not travel with us because of the danger from the Coronavirus. The team were very disappointed to leave part of their family behind.



We visited the Temple of the Tooth, had lunch at a friend's hotel and visited Peradeniya gardens returning to Colombo with a happy but very tired group of ladies.



Recent meetings with the senior management of the Mental Health hospital have given us great encouragement that a new community house will be established soon. We wish to move three ladies from the Cottage to independent living and there are 8 ladies waiting for a place to train at the Cottage.

Help in troubled times

SASK supported the local community of Muhandiram Watte, Colombo 3 when the city was struggling through lockdowns and curfews. 42 households were supplied with rice, dhal, soya, potatoes, etc., which were purchased wholesale and packed. Goods were handed over with the assistance of the Colpetty Police, who did their best to keep social distance rules.

Sincere thanks to Shabbir Taherally who supplies our Lunch Project every Thursday, who was able to arrange for dry rations at wholesale prices. Many thanks to the OIC of Colpetty Police Station who was so supportive despite these being busy times.



THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

The Nomination Committee Report

The team is working hard to locate a suitable Minister for SASK. Unfortunately, the advertisement in Life and Work did not reap a great response so we decided to cast our net wider. The following advertisement has been circulated to all large Presbyterian communities around the world and we do now have some responses to consider. Preliminary interviews will be arranged promptly.

We are in discussion with the International Presbytery and the Church of Scotland about the criteria which will allow Ministers from other parts of the world to serve at a Church of Scotland in Sri Lanka.



Experienced Minister needed for a challenging yet exciting post in delightful Sri Lanka

Within this beautiful 20th Century building one finds that moment of solitude, away from all the hustle & bustle...



St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, Colombo is a Presbyterian congregation of the Church of Scotland. The congregation dates from 1841, the building from 1907 and is set in the busy business district of Colombo. It is surrounded by 5-star hotels, it sits with the manse in a walled compound with gardens on three sides. The congregation is a member of the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland and associated with the local Presbytery of Lanka. It prides itself as being Presbyterian, "international, interdenominational, open to all."

Approximately 70 people, with a good spread of age and backgrounds attend our Sunday morning service, many of whom have worshipped with us for over 10 years. We attract many tourists and numerous weddings. Worship and mission are central for us with several mission projects, meeting a variety of needs.

We have a vacancy for a minister who will challenge and inspire us deepening our Christian understanding and faith, a leader able to recognise, encourage and coordinate our individual gifts and supportive of our partnerships local and global. The political context remains challenging here with Christians making up only 7% of the entire island population.

St Andrew's profile is available at www.scotskirk.lk and interest in the position can be expressed to our Interim Moderator Revd. Ian Gilmour at IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk.



THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

Growing through Change and Conflict

We all experience painful differences with others as a part of living. Perhaps more than any other challenge in life, our ability to work out differences with others, affects our ability to live well and be happy. Yet most of us get little thoughtful guidance from parents and teachers on how to do this. We figure out a few things by trial and error, but are often confused and hurt by what happens in conflicts.

This was the subject of a Seminar at Scots Kirk led by Revd Iain Goring and Revd Ian Gilmour and included many Elders, the congregation and our friends from the Presbytery of Lanka.

We learned that the phrases to recall in each and every situation are:

- Never to let conflict go beyond the first or second step; try to resolve it before it gets out of hand and create a peaceful environment.
- Always try to see the other person's point of view and problems as a means to resolving conflict.

In the words of Revd Iain, "It was good to spend the day with a group of committed people, thinking through the difficult issue of conflict in order to understand it better and consider how we might handle it differently. I valued the way in which everyone was willing to engage and contribute to the discussion."



One of the participants said, "The seminar motivated me to think about conflict in a professional way and manage it accordingly."

Visit of the Dawoodi Bohra Mosque Community

The Dawoodi Bohra Community met with the St Andrew's Scots Kirk community on Sunday 9 February 2020 in the church building. The Bohra group of men and women were impressed with the overall architecture as well as the glass and chancel of the building.

The Session Clerk, Chandan de Silva, gave a helpful presentation of our current worshipping community and active projects. He retold the congregation's story through a PowerPoint presentation. Here are some insights from his bullet points:

- St Andrew's was consecrated in 1842 - Serving the Scots in Ceylon (planters, civil servants, engineers, military personnel)

- Moved to present premises in 1907.
- Queen Elizabeth II attended the church in 1952.
- Was predominantly Scottish until the end of the WW2 and predominantly expatriate until the early 1970s.
- Congregation was small for quite a period (20-30 attending) until the early 2000s.
- Quick growth to between 80-120 attending with choir and strong children's and youth work during the ten years of Rev. John Purves' ministry.
- Made a significant contribution to families and communities affected by the tsunami, for which the Minister was awarded an MBE.
- After debate, chose to maintain strong ties with the Church of Scotland.

THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

Locum Minister Rev Ian Gilmour explained to the Bohra community about the church furniture, the name and purpose of each piece. He then spoke about three of the memorials

1. Remembering people who died building the Kandy-Colombo railway
2. A female doctor who had trained in the UK, but had served in Colombo from before WW1 to 1933
3. A well respected newspaper sub-editor, who died young and his plaque was erected by his colleagues.

These revealed the breadth of links between the church and the wider community.

We then had some refreshments at the manse and were thanked by Imam Saman and invited to visit the Mosque, when a convenient date could be found.



Carol Service

The congregation joins in singing Away in a Manger under the Porch at the Carol Service in December 2019



THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

The Nativity by our Sunday School



THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

Lord Baden Powell's birthday at Scots Kirk



23rd February 2020 was a special day for the Scouts of Colombo and 300 scouts joined the 17th Colombo Netherlee, Scots Kirk Scout Troop at a service at Scots Kirk to celebrate its Founder Lord Baden Powell's birthday who was born 163 years ago. Stanley Gooneratne, a former District Commissioner of Newara Eliya and an Elder at Scots Kirk was the special guest.

The service led by Revd Ian Gilmour gilded the link between the birth place of Baden Powell and Sri Lanka with such hymns as, Amazing Grace and the Hymn for Lanka – Jehovah, Thou has promised. Neranjan de Silva provided the music and Anila de Silva was the soloist singing "Give thanks" and "Let there be Love". Our scouts contributed to the service with a reading from Psalm 23 and Matthew Chapter 6.



THROUGH THE LENS (cont...)

The group of over 300 people then engaged in refreshments, activities and a talk by renowned physician Dr Sagara Kannangara in the church grounds. The event was organized by the Scouts themselves and the day certainly revealed they were 'prepared'. The Special Guest of Honour was the Deputy Scout Commissioner Janaprith Fernando.

"I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have a happy life too. I believe that God put us in this world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness does not come from being rich, nor merely being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a child, so that you can be useful and so you can

enjoy life when you are an adult. Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one. But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that you have not wasted your time but have done your best. "Be prepared" in this way, to live happy and to die happy – stick to your Scout Promise always – God will help you to do it."

-Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Smile a while...



Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly.

It took her mother a while before she realised that the hymn Maria had been singing was really: "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."

Richard, my friend's little grandson came home from Sunday School and I asked him what they had studied.

His reply was, 'Nothing.' So I asked him, 'Didn't you study Jesus?' Richard's reply was, 'No, he wasn't even there.'

Funny Church Notices for Easter

Baptisms: After Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised.
Children will be baptised at both ends.

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard,
the hours are long and the pay is low.
But the retirement benefits are out of this world.





Sundays at St. Andrew's

A pictorial round up of our regular Sunday worship

The baptism of Michaela Anne Fernando

Michaela is the infant daughter of Shane and Christina and was baptized on 08th December 2019. Christina was also baptized at SASK. A copy of her baptismal entry which was in the Baptismal Register, a historic document that records entries going right back to the opening of the first building in 1842, was presented to Christina.



Sunday Fellowship



Sundays at St. Andrew's (cont...)

Back from London on holiday, Ayush Seneviratne accompanied by his mum Neluka, sang at the very first communion service to be held at St. Andrew's for the year 2020



Learning more about Mediterranean Hope from Fiona Kendall



Children's activities



Margot and Naveen Bopearatchy and their daughter Amara bid adieu to SASK and Sri Lanka. Margot has been very active in Sunday School and Amara's very infectious enthusiastic personality has been a true boon to uniting the church community



Getting to know our congregation

– Ten Qs for Sarah Potts



Most Sundays, there's an energetic and enthusiastic member of our congregation who is either playing the piano, accompanying our organist or pianist with the violin (she also plays guitar), singing in the choir, assisting in prayers or helping out in some way or another. This is Sarah Potts, an Early Year Foundation Stage teacher and Key Stage 1 Music Teacher at The British School in Colombo.

Hailing from the Lake District in the north of England, Sarah is very outdoorsy. Having been around water all her life, she is passionate about water sports. Her first love is sailing, but she swims, cycles and runs, participates in sprint triathlons, and also teaches power boat and jet-ski racing. Loving the smorgasbord of cultures and experiences that travelling gives her, Sarah has etched many a memorable moment in Sri Lanka, calling it an island where anything is possible.



Elder Chandan de Silva representing the Kirk Session and Norma Swyngedaaw representing the congregation witness Sarah Potts retaking her confirmation vows with Revd. Ian Gilmour

How did you get into music?

It must have been my parents; I don't really remember but music has always been in my life.

What brought you to Sri Lanka

Initially to visit some friends who had relocated here and I fell in love with the island.

What's makes you passionate about your work?

I love teaching music to little children – my students are between two and seven years old. It's very rewarding. Music enhances their understanding of rhythm by movement.



How do you chill out in Sri Lanka?

I love to listen to music and if I have time, I hit the beach and waves.

What is it you like about Sri Lanka the most?

I love the culture, and that anything is possible, oh, and the climate is ok too!

What are three things you can't do without?

Music, music, music!!

What is your favourite food?

Mmmh - for me I love great ingredients cooked simply and well

Who would be my role model?

Probably J K Rowling for what she did for children's literature and the journey for her to get there.

What is your pet peeve?

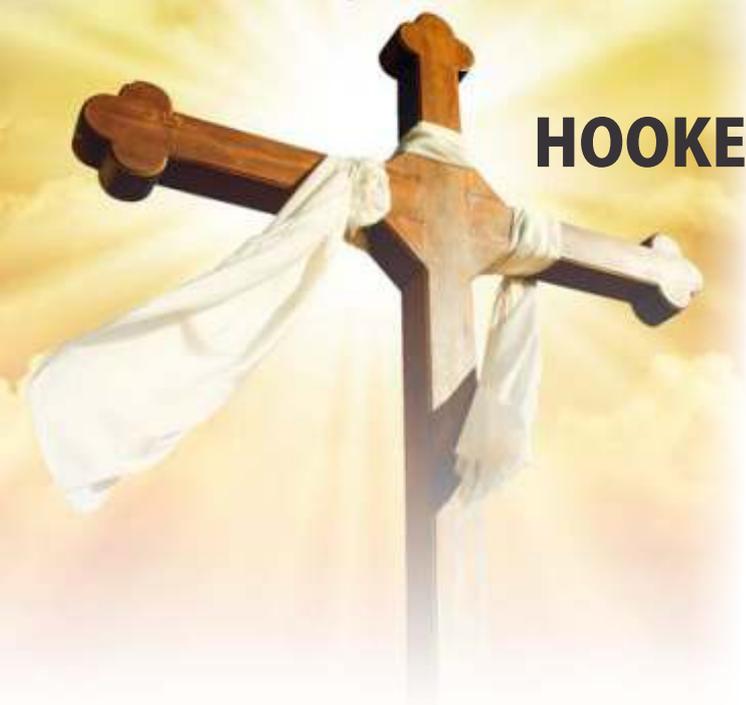
Laziness

What compelled you to worship at St Andrew's?

Having not been to church for many years, for some strange reason on Easter Day last year I decided I wanted to go to church. I had heard of St Andrew's and thought I would go there. The reason I keep coming is the community spirit and support from everyone there. Feels like home.



Sarah at the piano at St. Andrew's



HOOKED ON 'IF'

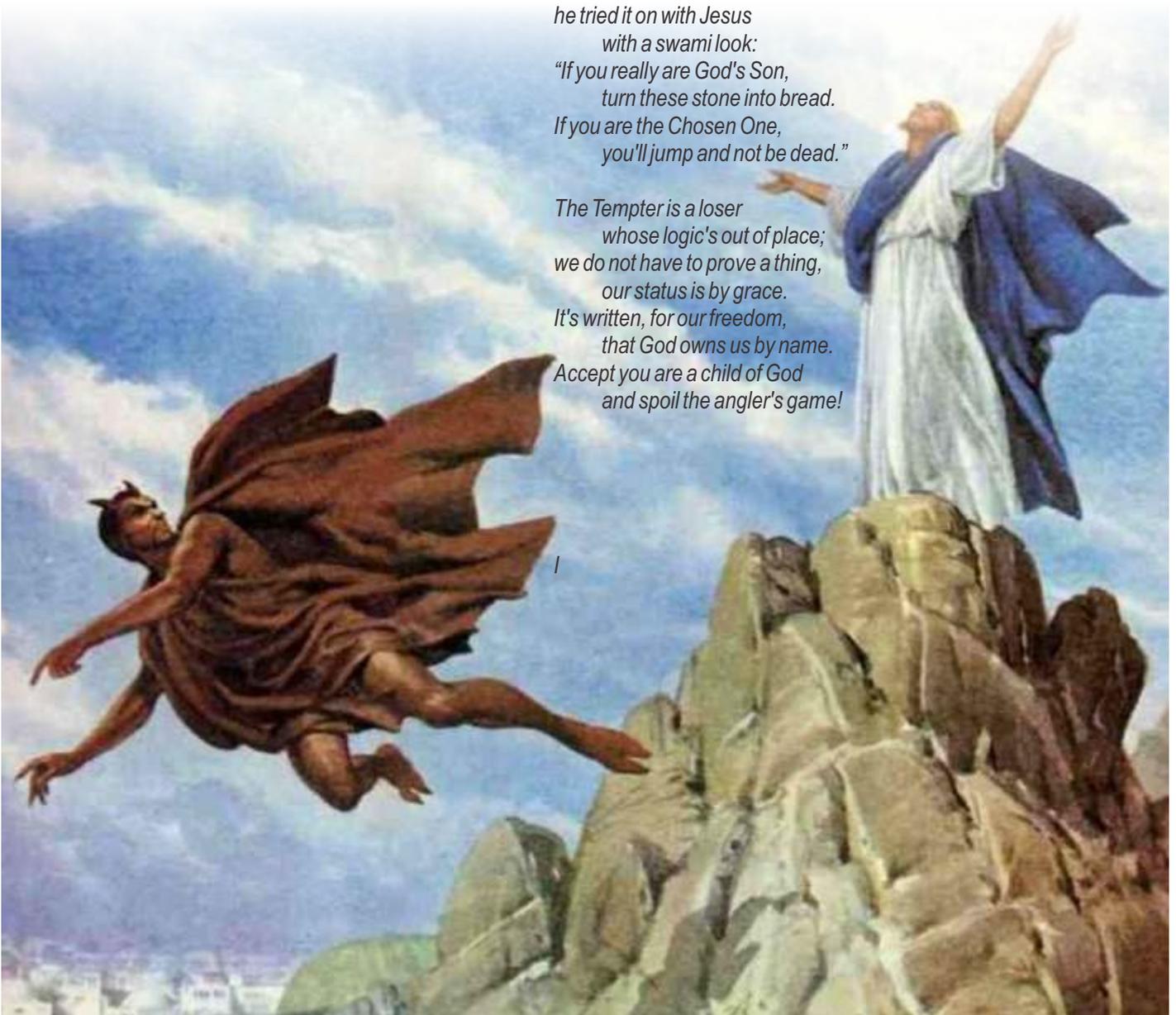
-Bruce Prewer

*The Tempter is an angler
with a covered hook,
he'll hang around your little faith
and quote you the Good Book.
Watch out when he's as plausible
as a most wise pontiff,
he's covering with some bate
a barbed, and cruel "if".*

*If you really are God's child,
show me your prayer skill.
If you have the true faith,
mountains should move at will.
If you really are a Christian,
your love will be aglow.
If you truly have the Spirit,
your godliness will show.*

*Yes, Satan is an angler
whose if is a keen hook,
he tried it on with Jesus
with a swami look:
"If you really are God's Son,
turn these stone into bread.
If you are the Chosen One,
you'll jump and not be dead."*

*The Tempter is a loser
whose logic's out of place;
we do not have to prove a thing,
our status is by grace.
It's written, for our freedom,
that God owns us by name.
Accept you are a child of God
and spoil the angler's game!*



His flowers do the talking...

Each Sunday, the altar, pulpit and baptismal fountain hold the talent and skill of Graham De Kretser, an omnipresent Elder at St. Andrew's. It is Graham who is the communion usher; it is Graham who will keep the roster for Sunday Door Elders, Duty Elders and Readers, it is Graham who most often walks up to the dais to read and it is he who steps in when there is a gap in any of the Church duties. And it is Graham who makes those beautiful floral arrangements and places it early on a Sunday in the allotted spaces, long before any of the congregation come in, not forgetting the much sought after homemade ginger beer and Iced Coffee at the Bazaar stall.

By his side unfailingly is Loretta, his wife of 38 years, a strong woman who has overcome many an obstacle but continues to retain her faith in Jesus.

Flowers and Graham go together. From his childhood, Graham loved the touch, look and feel of flowers. He grew up in a family shop where he began trying his hand at floral arrangements. The feedback from customers was more than positive and he began to take this God-given talent more seriously. Once he joined St. Andrew's, he volunteered to bring in arrangements for special services and then loved it so much, that he would bring in flowers every Sunday. He has been doing this since the time of Rev. O'Leary.

It was in 1977 that Graham and Loretta, both with Presbyterian backgrounds, began worshipping at SASK, subsequently taking their wedding vows under Rev. A Baillie. The church was festively decorated for the wedding by Graham himself, while his cousin Rev. Crosby gave the Homily and sang the blessing. His mother brought her friends along to boost the choir and the reception after was held at a friend's home and catered for by students of the Ceylon Hotel School which Graham attended.

By 1994, Loretta began working in earnest at the Sunday School and later became its Superintendent, while Graham was ordained an Elder of the Church in 1989. His service to the Kirk Session has been extensive including being Treasurer and Session Clerk. Loretta and he would also be the perfect hosts to visiting clergy organising their meals whenever necessary.

Graham was also a pioneer for St. Andrews; he was the first Presbytery Elder from Colombo, when St. Andrew's came under the Presbytery of Europe from having been under the Church of Scotland. He served in the Presbytery for four years including contributing to the Finance Committee.



Those Easter Myths and Traditions

Giving Something Up For Lent



People often think of Lent as the 40 days during which they're supposed to give up something to memorialize the sacrifice of Jesus. But according to James Martin, a Jesuit priest and author, this is a major oversimplification. Martin writes, "[Lent] reminds us that we can exercise self-control and that Jesus underwent tremendous physical sacrifices during his Passion. It also spurs us to charity. One of the original goals of cutting back on consumption, after all, was to save money to give to the poor. But overall, Lent is about spiritual preparation; sacrifice is simply a means to that end.

The Easter Bunny



The Easter Bunny is thought to represent the rebirth of life that comes with spring. The Bunny is usually linked with the Pagan spring holiday that honored the goddess of fertility, Eostre, but this itself is a modern invention, created by folklorist Jacob Grimm in the 1800s. The simple explanation for the Easter Bunny's link with Easter is that rabbits represent an important symbol in Christianity in general, as it was believed in ancient times that the hare could reproduce asexually, a virgin birth of sorts.

Easter Ham



Traditionally, ham was served not because it had anything to do with Jesus or the resurrection, but because it would have been brined in the fall and kept over the winter for eating during the spring celebration. Similarly, there is no biblical basis for the bright orange glaze or slices of pineapple accompanying the ham.

The Origin Of The Word 'Easter'

The word "Easter" never appears in the Bible. It's likely that "Easter" was a take-off from a variant of the name of the Pagan goddess Eostre or Ishtar (the ancient Babylonian fertility goddess). "Eostre" itself is a derivative of the Proto-Germanic word for "dawn," continuing the theme of new life and light. For much of the first millennium of Christianity, this holiday was known as Pascha, a word derived from the Hebrew word for Passover, Pesach.

The Actual Date of The First Easter

Unlike Christmas, which always happens on the same day, Easter is known as a "moveable feast" which moves around the calendar depending on the position of the moon. Numerous days in early April were put forth for the actual day Christ was crucified, and it took over 300 years for Christian scholars to pin down even how to determine what date Easter would fall on. It took centuries for the date to be fixed as the first Sunday after the full moon.

Those Easter Myths and Traditions (cont...)

Hot Cross Buns



Conspicuously risen breads like hot cross buns may show a desire for Easter traditions to be different from Passover, which includes unleavened breads. Breads marked with an X symbolize the cross but there are others too – Choreg from Armenia, Paska from Ukrain, the Polish Babka and the Greeks love their Tsoureki.

Hollow chocolate bunnies



In 1939, chocolate manufacturers wanted a way to make chocolate bunnies that could be large and decorative while still easy to eat and given the bunny tradition at Easter, launched these hollow bunnies during Easter.

Easter Baskets



These are originally more an Easter nest that emerged from a German tradition and inspired by concepts of fertility and springtime, much like other Easter traditions. Children would make "nests," filled with grass, in hopes that Peter Cottontail would fill the nest with eggs. The nests gradually evolved into baskets, which were less messy, easier to carry and bigger.



Question to a Rabbi in Lent

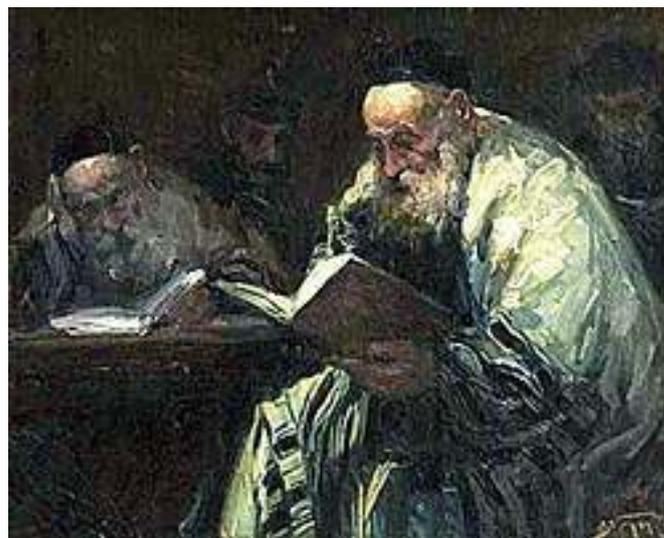
Shared from our Sunday School Children's Material

Is there an accepted early tradition for Rabbis to journey into the wilderness in order to encounter God?

Q: Moses, Abraham and Elijah all encountered God in desert places and we read that Jesus deliberately went up a mountain or a "lonely place" to meet with God. Was he following a common practice for Rabbis at the time and was the practice encouraged amongst the religious leaders?

A: I am quite confident that it was custom in some form or fashion for our rabbinic ancestors to wander in the wilderness. In fact the early rabbis all dwelled in a similar wilderness of the land of Israel, and so that had the same access - to the kind of place and the kind of lifestyle that our Biblical ancestors knew. It is the qualifier "accepted" that I am struggling to confirm or deny. While there is an awareness and appreciation in rabbinic tradition of the connections between being alone outdoors and encountering the divine in that space - I would not be confident in saying that there was an institutionalization of it. Early and developing rabbinic Judaism was seeking to create a Judaism that could offer a viable alternative to the crumbling sacrificial cult of the Temple. It needed to provide an alternative structure, rhythm and process to an already well established structure, rhythm and process of the Temple practice. I would imagine that while "outdoor spirituality" was valued, it was more difficult to concretize such practices.

So, my great rabbinic answer - yes and no. Still, these treks taken by Abraham, Elijah and Moses have had much to teach us



through the millennia. The prayer by the 18th century rabbi, Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav expressed it well:

*Master of the Universe, grant me the ability to be alone.
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
among the trees and grasses,
Among all growing things,
There to be alone and enter into prayer.
There may I express all that is in my heart,
Talking with Him to whom I belong.
And may all grasses, trees and plants
Awake at my coming.
Send the power of their life into my prayer,
Making whole my heart and my speech through
the life and spirit of growing things,
Made whole by their transcendent Source.
Oh! That they would enter my prayer!
Then would I fully open my heart in prayer,
supplication and holy speech;
Then, O God, would I pour out the words of my
heart before Your Presence.*

Smile a while...



Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house in Monkey's Eyebrow, Arizona. USA. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Ernie explained, 'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

A church on my travels

– Essen Cathedral

Dedicated to Saints Cosmas and Damian and the Virgin Mary, Essen Cathedral, a perfect example of Gothic architecture is the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Essen, Germany. Its roots date back to about 845AD when the Bishop of Hildesheim founded the Asnide Order of Nuns.

The current church had its foundations in Gothic architecture in light sandstone, although it did go through some baroque and Ottonian design features. There are yet vignettes of the Ottonian pre-Romanesque building in the octagonal westwork and the crypt and its renowned treasury is known to yet have the oldest fully sculptural figure of Mary, north of the Alps, the Golden Madonna.

The original church was destroyed by a fire in 946, but when rebuilt, included an outer crypt, a westwork and an external chapel of St John the Baptist. However, this church was not to be either as some tomes suggest the art loving Abbess Mathilde began erecting a new church changing the floorplan to an Ottonian church.



A church on my travels (cont ...)

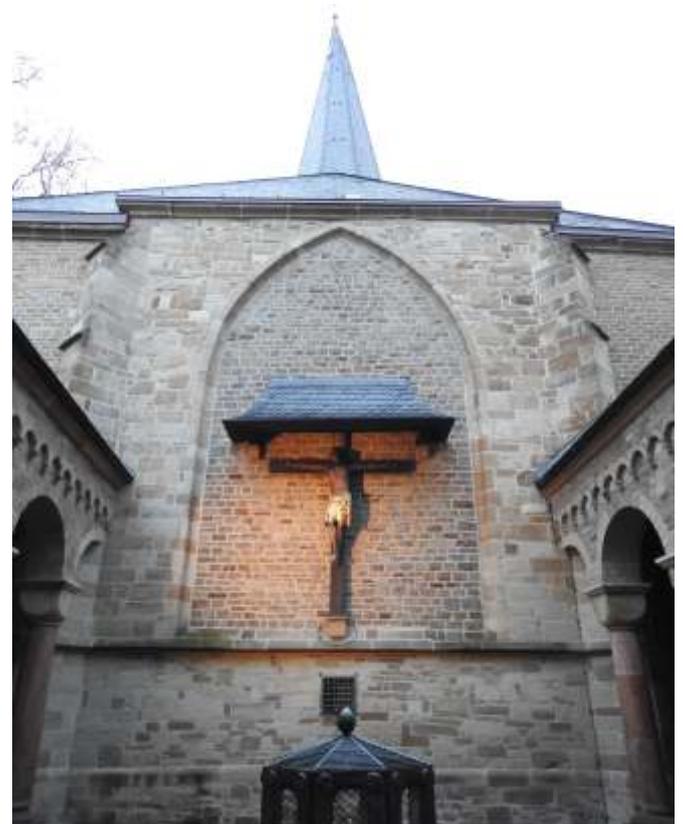


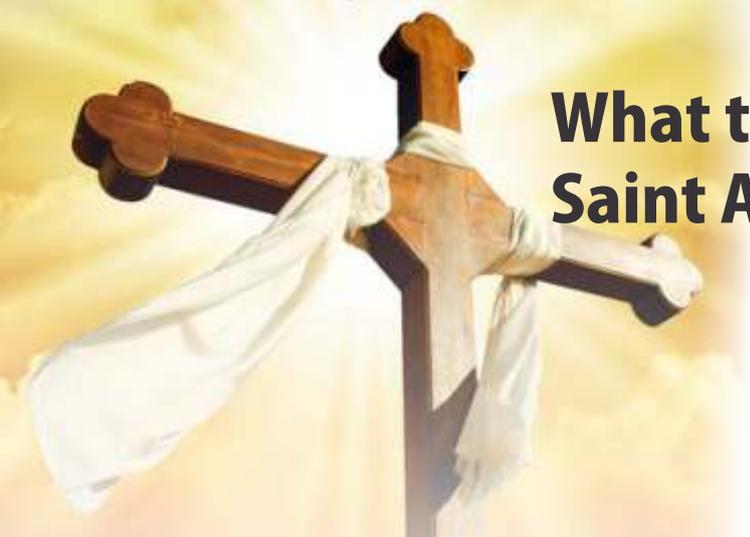
In 1275, the Ottonian church was once again ravaged by fire with only the westwork and crypt surviving. Back to rebuilding, the church now combined various features of the old church with the new Gothic style but with a stronger Westphalian design genre. This church was completed in 1316.

In 1943, Essen became the target of a bombing due to its Krupp steel works. The Minster suffered heavy damage. Rebuilding began in 1951 and when completed, the church became the seat of the newly founded Diocese of Essen.

The original architect of Essen Abbey church remains unknown but is believed to be one of the best in that time, particularly in observing the westwork which even today is viewed as immensely unique, with its square central tower crowned by an octagonal belfry and pyramidal roof.

- Shewantha Rodrigo





What they say about the Saint Andrew

Another amazing production! We are very impressed that you continue to produce such an interesting and comprehensive newsletter every few months. We know only too well the work that goes into producing something of this quality and applaud you for it. With our love and best wishes

Kindest regards
Roderick & Sue

Have just finished reading the St Andrew's newsletter. What a splendid publication! It was so interesting and informative and, above all, inspiring. A triumph!

Best wishes
May McFadyean

Very many thanks for forwarding the latest Newsletter - good to catch up and keep up with all the goings on at the Church - congratulations for such a professional Newsletter.

Kind regards
Bob and Sandra.

Very professional job and very informative about so many things.

Stewart

It is a wide ministry of presence and nurture. Thanks for sharing.

Ian A
General Secretary of the World Mission Council.





Dates for your diary

We are “international, interdenominational, open to all.”

As at 18th March, worship services were cancelled until further notice to help keep everyone safe from the Coronavirus. The dates given below therefore are of the planned services if the cancellation is lifted and services revert to normalcy. However, until such time, Revd. Ian will be presenting a service for St. Andrew's Scots Kirk every Sunday while the curfew continues. These can be accessed through our website <https://scotskirk/> and via our facebook page St. Andrew's Scots Kirk Colombo Sri Lanka. He will also provide new prayers for our families every Wednesday on these sites.

5th April	Sunday	9.30 am	Communion Service
9th April	Thursday	6.30 pm	Maundy Thursday
10th April	Friday	6.30 pm	Good Friday
12th April	Sunday	9.30 am	Easter Day
19th April	Sunday	9.30 am	Morning service
26th April	Sunday	9.30 am	Morning service

Sunday morning service will continue each week at 9.30 am once all restrictions are lifted and it is considered safe for churches and other places of religious worship to function.

The Church Hall is used by

The Thrift shop every Tuesday morning between 11 am and 1.30 pm

The Association of British Residents English Library once per month on Tuesday morning between 11 am and 1 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 6.30 pm

17th Colombo Netherlee Scout Troop every Saturday afternoon

Our Church is used by

Korean Church every Sunday morning at 11.30 am

Four Square Church every Sunday evening and Thursday lunch time

Mission work

Helping Hands. Contact Joubert +94777722736

Netherlee Cottage. Contact Gillian Mailler, email g_mailler@yahoo.com

The Lunch project every Thursday between 12 noon and 12.30 pm.

Volunteer servers are urgently needed each week. Contact Shalini Wickramasuriya +94777396742

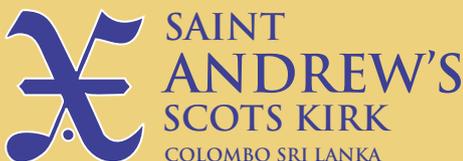
Mulleriyawa Hospital visit to Ward 8 every third Wednesday, leaving the Church at 9.30am. Contact Shanthini Ahangama, email shani_ahangama@hotmail.com

St. Andrew's Scots Kirk

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Church Officer: K S Kumar – churchofficer@scotskirk.lk

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