



September 2014

the Saint Andrew

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If you would like to submit a news article or an event listing please email us the details and we will include them in the next issue, space and timing allowing.

newsletter@standrewsscotskirk.org

If you would like to place an advertisement in our next issue please email us for details.

newsletter@standrewsscotskirk.org



“A circle complete!”

Welcome to the first edition of The St. Andrew.

Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples had the great gift of befriending people. It was Andrew who brought his brother Peter to meet Jesus, It was Andrew who found the boy with the five loaves and three fishes. Andrew gives us an image of friendly, quiet strength: of a man who was willing to communicate and to build a community. He became the Patron Saint of Scotland. Legend has it some of his bones were taken there and landed on the east coast at the town which bears his name and is famous for golf. Russia and Greece also claim him as their patron Saint.

When I told our daughters we had been invited to come to St Andrew's Colombo, our older daughter said “Dad you started your ministry at St Andrew's, Nairobi and you are going to finish your ministry at St. Andrew's Colombo, how good is that?” A circle complete!

Well here we are, four months down the line. The settling in process is going well. We have been warmly greeted and made to feel very welcome, for which we are both very grateful.

I love our building, the worship and the music. It is so full of potential, as is our city centre position. A lot more has to be done to let people know what happens at St Andrew's and help them make use of and enjoy the peace and beauty of the sanctuary.

This Magazine is part of that process. To inform each other of the work that is being done for the good and well being of many people; to keep us abreast of developments and to be a forum for new ideas; to keep a diary of events and be a springboard into your future. Once a quarter we can catch up, check up and plan for tomorrow.

We have introduced some new hymns, one of which finishes each verse with the words ‘All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.’ One of our senior members got hold of me later and said, ‘what a wonderful hymn, to make people feel they are welcome’ This magazine is an extension of that, in sharing, informing and planning to make you feel welcome at St. Andrew's.

Enjoy reading, learning and looking forward; enjoy our worship and our music. If you are resident or visitor you are welcome, if you are young or old you are welcome, if you are asking questions, looking for answers

you are welcome. Let the pathway you travel touch the pathway of St Andrew's and you will experience something of the spirit of St Andrew who made young and old feel welcome

May the Eternal Mystery, we call God, bless you and keep you.

Roderick Campbell
MINISTER

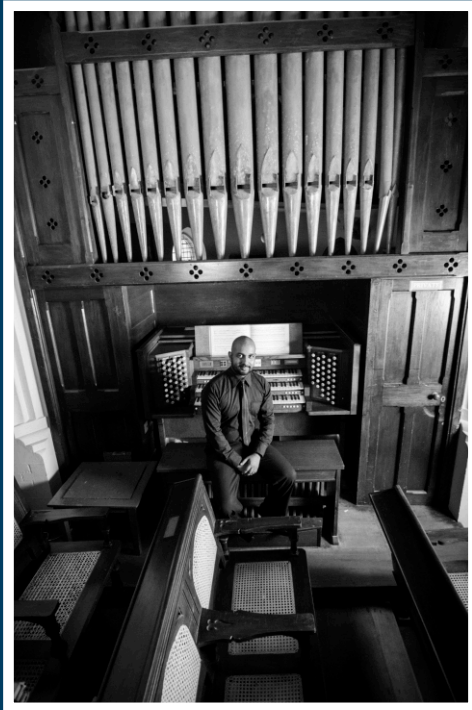
God of new beginnings
We commend this magazine
All who prepare it
All who read it
All who find it
News
Information
Nourishment
Encouragement
Spiritual insight.

By the Spirit of Christ
In St Andrew
And through us.
As we have been blessed
May we be a blessing
To others.

Amen.

from the Organ Bench

“Sing unto the Lord a new Song”



The 7th of August 2014 marks my 7th year as Organist and Director of Music and it is a pleasure to be able to contribute to this first edition of the Newsletter of St. Andrew's on such an occasion.

The highlight of my career here was being able to successfully begin the 'Music at St. Andrew's' project which has grown from strength to strength during these past years with this year being no exception. The Project has seen so many talented musicians perform within the walls of St. Andrew's raising our musical standard to greater heights.

During the seasons of Passiontide and Easter this year we had the Colombo Philharmonic Choir perform John Maunder's 'Olivet to Calvary' a sacred oratorio for Tenor and Baritone Soloists, Choir and Organ. Colombo's renowned Tenor Asitha Tennekoon and the Philharmonic's Baritone Laknath Seneviratne were the soloists on the evening.

Asitha Tennekoon later performed an evening of fantastic Easter Music titled 'Alleluja' which included works by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Vaughan Williams, John Stainer and a stirring arrangement, written by Asitha, of John Ireland's 'My Song is love unknown'. The vocal segment of the evening was punctuated with lively organ music by Bach, William Mathias and Gordon Slater.

The evening was well received since Easter music wasn't something that was done at St. Andrew's due to the heavy Holy Week celebrations which came before it. I'm extremely happy for the initiation and I'm certainly excited for next year.

'Love Bade me Welcome' was our next concert in line for the year. We were privileged to have with us Norwich Cathedral's Baritone Soloist Dhilan Gnanadurai who sang along with the Colombo Chamber Singers Vaughan William's Five mystical songs and excerpts from Handel's Messiah, Stabat Mater's Pergolesi, Handel's Chandos Anthems and Bach's St. Matthew's Passion. We look forward to having Dhilan and the Colombo Chamber Singers with us next year as well.

'Sing unto the Lord a New Song' – a new project initiated by Rev. Campbell in June this year to help St. Andrew's expand our Hymn repertoire. We have begun learning a new hymn every month where the hymn is introduced one week and then repeated the following weeks until the congregation becomes familiar with it.

The Organ at St. Andrew's has just completed its 10th year running. The current organ has served us well. Playing almost every day for the past 10 years for numerous Rehearsals, Services, Concerts and Organ recitals it has certainly been put through its paces. Sadly the the organ is now malfunctioning and St. Andrew's is looking to replace the existing Johannus with a more current Digital Organ. Work has already begun into researching and planning its replacement.

I'm very excited for the rest of the year when we plan our fund raising concerts for the new organ in October, our annual St. Andrew's day concert in November along with the Carol service and a Christmas concert in December.

Denham Pereira
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Netherlee Cottage

by the Netherlee Team

Our Mission Projects

The Ladies from Netherlee Cottage wish to thank the Community of St. Andrew's Scots Kirk for giving them the confidence they need to make a life for themselves outside of the Hospital.

Netherlee Cottage is a unique facility in Sri Lanka started in 2005 by the Elders of St. Andrew's with fund raising from Netherlee Parish Church in Glasgow, Scotland. It is a family house located at Thaladena and owned by St. Andrew's Scots Kirk and the purpose is to rehabilitate ladies from



Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital who are now well enough to live independently in society. Many of the ladies have been at the hospital for 25 years, they have been left there by their families and their families do not wish to know them. **Netherlee Cottage is their haven and St. Andrew's Scots Kirk is now their family.** The Ladies have progressed towards independence and acceptance by society in general. Shamaylee, Mary and Shanthi now work for a paper factory and live independently in a community house. Hamina, Piyaseeli and Rangani work for Abans Cleaning Services and they have completed their training at Netherlee Cottage and expect to move to independent living during August.

It is very gratifying to note that the time and funds spent on the rehabilitation of these ladies has a permanent long lasting effect. They will live and work independently for the rest of their lives.



Seelawathi moved into Netherlee Cottage from Mulleriyawa Hospital in April this year and she is being trained as a home help. On completion of her training we need to find a loving family for her to work for.



Chandra and Hafeela are some of the original residents of Netherlee and are well known to the St Andrews Congregation. Chandra does not hear very well and cannot speak but she is very artistic and loves to do crochet, embroidery and is the main contributor to the Netherlee Crafts. Hafeela has some learning difficulties but is fanatical about tidiness and does much of the house work at Netherlee and helps when she can with Craft work.



Much of our thanks for the success of the Netherlee Cottage Project must go to our 2 house mothers Modini (in the picture) and Jayanthe. Modini and Jayanthe work a 6 week rota of 4 days on and two days off and are on duty 24 hours a day.

The Induction of Rev. Dr. Roderick Campbell

by Marina Daniel



The search for a new Minister began in April 2013. This was a long and arduous process. The Nomination Committee worked hard week after week, following the protocol laid down in the preparation of all the documentation required to be presented to the prospective candidates. In November 2013, after the completion of the elimination process, Rev. Roderick Campbell was nominated as the new Minister.

He visited Sri Lanka in January and February 2014 to be interviewed by the entire Nomination Committee and was introduced to the congregation as their prospective Minister. He had to conduct a short preach at a service before the congregation was given the opportunity to voice their opinion in the form of a vote indicating if they were in favour of Rev. Campbell taking up office as their new Minister.

The ceremony of the Induction began with a Narrative by Rev. Jim Sharp on the steps leading to the appointment followed by a Preamble week, following the protocol laid down in the preparation of all the documentation required to be presented to the prospective candidates. In November 2013, after the completion of the elimination process, Rev. Roderick Campbell was nominated as the new Minister. He then proceeded to sign the Formulae as a seal of the vows he had made. This was followed by a short period of silence and the choir sang the following anthem from Isaiah 33:6 invoking God's wisdom and knowledge upon him as he took on his new office.

The congregation voted with a resounding "yes" his nomination was confirmed.

“May wisdom and knowledge be the stability of your times, And the fear of the Lord your treasure.”

Officiating Clergy:

Rev. Aaron Stevens
Moderator, Presbytery of Europe

Rev. Doug McRoberts
Interim Moderator, St. Andrew's Scots Kirk

Rev. Saman Perera
General Secretary, Presbytery of Lanka

Rev. Kumbuke Piyadasa
Moderator, Presbytery of Lanka

Rev. Jim Sharp
Presbytery Clerk, Presbytery of Europe



You can read the complete order of service by visiting our website www.standrewsscotskirk.org

Letters to the Editor

from Past members of the Youth Group

We joined youth group in our teens, a time when direction and spiritual counsel is always helpful. We were pleasantly surprised by the informality of it all; the outrageous games, the pizza parties and the light-hearted spiritual discussions. Our leaders were always supportive and accessible mentors. They understood the issues faced by teens today. It was especially nice to speak to other Christian youth and to share ideas about the bible. Being an interdenominational church, the leaders and youth were all very accommodating of differing viewpoints and perspectives.

We were both lucky enough to be chosen, on separate occasions, to attend the European Youth Presbytery annual conference.

Mine (Gyan) was in Amsterdam. It was an unforgettable experience partly because it was a great chance to absorb the sights of this famous European city but mostly because I met some amazing people from all over the world, from different walks of life, coming together to discuss how to make the Church of Scotland more accessible to the youth.

Mine (Kimaya) was held in Regensburg, Germany. It was such a beautiful city filled with Roman ruins. I loved the community feel of the summit and made some wonderful friends with whom I am regularly in touch.

All in all, the Youth group has been an integral part of our formative years. I'm sure we speak for all past members in saying that it has given us invaluable Christian guidance during those teenage years and we've made many great friends along the way.

Kimaya and Gayan de Silva



walking through the checkpoint



the Moving Mountains team representing the Palestinian flag



Ehab and his family who invited us to their home.



“Moving Mountains”

The summer of 2013 was the most memorable in my life. I landed in Israel/Palestine with only very little insight on the current situation, in fact all I had learnt was from the news as well as what my mother would say. I remember specifically telling her not to influence me as I would want to experience first-hand.

Well, words are not enough to express the journey I had. I got to Jerusalem and stayed the first night at the Church of Scotland Hotel which is a beautiful castle overlooking the Old City. The next day I crossed the border and entered Bethlehem. To think that I was standing on grounds that Jesus stepped on was such an overwhelming experience in itself.

There I met with 150 young people from across the world, and that is where all our lives changed. We gathered everyday to do some volunteer work, pray, worship, making lifelong friendships, and as in the title of the conference, we wanted to “Move Mountains”. I was very blessed to have met some of the most wonderful people ever.

I have countless memories of this trip however two were the most memorable, one was to be invited to the home of one of the participants where we learned to cook and then share a meal with his entire family. We also had the opportunity to listen to stories of how their family had to flee their hometown, and of the struggle they continuously go through. The second was walking hand in hand with all these young people through the checkpoint of Bethlehem, all the time having soldiers pointing guns at us. And as we marched we sang “We shall overcome”, and as tears poured down our faces. We did and still do believe that we shall overcome someday.

I may not have understood everything in only 10 days, but not a day goes by that I don't pray and hope for justice, peace, reconciliation and that one day we will move mountains.

Anabella Brochard

Ward 19 (now Ward 8) of Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital

by Marina Daniel

The Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital, run by the Government of Sri Lanka and located in the east of Colombo, is an Institution for the chronically mentally ill. Sadly, in Sri Lanka the mentally ill were and even today are – though maybe not as badly as in the years gone by – considered a marginalised lot; looked down upon by the community. Although there is more awareness today of the needs that these patients have, in times gone by the family members and those around lacked the know-how and coping skills needed to understand and provide proper care for them at home. And so, the hospital faced huge barriers and difficulties in providing adequate care and meeting the rehabilitation needs of these patients.

This was the case in the mid '70's when a few of the members from St. Andrew's Scots Kirk were inspired to take up the challenge of visiting and supporting the patients in Unit 2 of Ward 19 of this hospital. It was a little spark of love in the hearts of these people to serve and minister to the marginalised and rejected in society, that we as the followers of Christ are called to do.

Unit 2 is a ward especially dedicated to treating women who have been diagnosed with paranoia, schizophrenia or bi-polar disorders. In addition, to their mental illness, some of them suffer from epilepsy or struggle with learning difficulties. The frequency of the visits to Unit 2 depended entirely on the availability of volunteers to plan, sponsor and actually make the visit. However, this ministry grew against all odds and by 2002 the visits became a monthly event noted in the Church's calendar.

At present, there are about 50 residents in this unit and they are visited by the Minister, his wife and 3 – 10 volunteers every month. Each visit sees the volunteers bring with them essential items like toiletries, food and drink to be distributed among the residents. The volunteers also engage the residents in a time of singing and dancing thus providing them some fun and entertainment. Visits during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and Christmas are very special to the residents. They are given special seasonal treats and also receive gift items of clothing, linen etc. The staff who work tirelessly in spite of the many challenges, providing them with the necessary care, also receive gifts of appreciation such as saris, handbags, umbrellas etc. We operate on a monthly budget of SL Rupees 33,000/- (Euros 185/-). The project is funded mainly from the proceeds of the sale of items at the church thrift shop and the commitment of one local donor.

A project to make life a bit more pleasant and convenient for the patients by assisting with the repair and maintenance of the unit, was undertaken this year. This included painting of the beds and bedside cupboards, plastering and painting of the walls, re-tiling and re-flooring, rebuilding toilets, showers and drains, polishing of the wood work such as windows and doors, building of drying structures, installing fans and a TV. The cost was estimated at SL Rs. 559,600/- (Euros 3108/-) inclusive of material, labour and transport. A proposal for funds was submitted to the Presbytery of Europe and donation of 2000/- Euros was received towards the project. We are indeed very happy that we were able to complete this entire project with the donation from the Presbytery of Europe and the funds made available by the church. We would like to place on record our deepest gratitude to the Presbytery of Europe for their generous donation to help us achieve our goal. In December, Drs. Astrid and Thorston from Amsterdam donated a flat screen TV - a wonderful Christmas gift for the ladies who were starved for recreation.

We thank God for all of His blessings, wisdom, guidance and providence as we have seen this Mission work of our parish grow from strength to strength in the past 44 years. We also thank our Ministers past and present and the members of our parish who have been actively involved in this project and for fanning the flame of love that was inspired in the hearts of those who initiated this project.



“A Place at the Table”



On 28th September, our Youth Group will lead the St. Andrew's All Age service at 9.30am. **They will make a special presentation to the congregation on “A Place at the Table” and that day's offering will be donated to the Syrian refugees.** There will be special envelopes marked “Presbytery Mission Project 2014 -A Place at the Table”.

The war in Syria has produced a human crisis of biblical proportions – 6 million people displaced, over 4 million of whom are refugees in their own country as war rages around them. That's why this year's Mission Project is 'A place at the table' It's the Church of Scotland's imaginative response to help feed hundreds of families being cared for through our partner church, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). We will provide food and hygiene packs to displaced families.

NESSL is reaching out to the displaced people in Syria and the surrounding countries, and is seeking to support at least 24,000 families over the next year.

This is where you can help – we're asking you to consider setting an extra place at your table or an extra place in a restaurant and giving the money you would have spent on that extra meal to Syria.

By setting 'A Place at the Table' you can feed up to 5 people for a month.

This Franciscan Benediction embraces all suffering*

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of God's creations so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

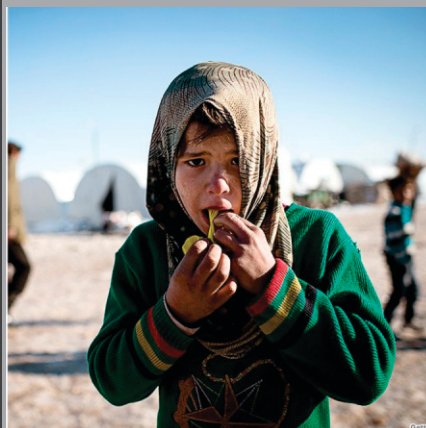
And may God bless us with just enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done: to bring justice and kindness to all our children and all our neighbours who are poor. Amen.

**offered by Anabella Brochard during our Morning Worship on the 20th of July 2014*

€25 will provide a family of five with food for one month. It will buy products like flour, oil, sugar, salt, pasta, fish and vegetables. For each family receiving food, NESSL is also providing other necessities. Or it could provide a family of five with enough hygiene products to last one month. Poor sanitary conditions in some areas are leading to an increase in lice, scabies and other skin diseases.

€70 will pay for accommodation for a family for a month. Some people have been displaced more than once and arrive in a safer location where homes are rented for them.

€6,000 from the Presbytery of Europe will help 250 families – for a year!



September

- 7th 9.30 am**
A Service of Holy Communion will be Celebrated led by Rev. Dr. Roderick Campbell, *Minister*
- 14th 9.30 am**
Rev. Dr. Gary Van Brocklin will lead our Worship
- 21st 9.30 am**
A service to mark World Alzheimer's Day. The service will be led by Ms. Lorraine Yu, *President Lanka Alzheimer's Foundation Sri Lanka*
- 28th 9.30 am**
The Youth group will lead worship with a special presentation on the Presbytery of Europe's Mission project 'A place at the table'

October

- 5th 9.30 am**
A Service of Holy Communion will be celebrated led by Ven. Lokendra Abhayaratne, *former Archdeacon of Galle*
- 12th 9.30 am**
Rev. Dr. Gary Van Brocklin will lead our Worship
- 19th 9.30 am**
Morning Worship led by the Minister
- 25th 7.00 pm**
"Sacred Chorus" - A concert presented by The Choir of St. Benedict's College and Choro Benedicte conducted by Mr. Krishan Rodrigo in aid of our Organ Fund
- 26th 9.30 am**
Morning Worship with hymns and readings to celebrate National Christian Council Centenary

November

- 2nd 9.30 am**
A Service of Holy Communion
- 10.30 am**
Sunday School Bake Sale
- 4th 12.30 pm**
Said Communion
- 9th 9.30am**
A service of music and readings for Remembrance Sunday
- 11th 12.30 pm**
Said Communion
- 16th 9.30 am**
Morning worship
- 9.45 am**
Youth Group Car Wash
- 18th 12.30 pm**
Said Communion
- 22nd 3.00 pm**
Annual Bazaar
- 25th 12.30 pm**
Said Communion
- 30th 9.30 am**
St. Andrew's Day Service
- 7.30 pm**
St. Andrew's Day Concert

ANNUAL BAZAAR 2014

Entrance Rs. 50/-
Vehicle Rs. 100/-

Saturday **22nd**
November
3.00pm - 5.00pm

Clothing and Lingerie
Netherlee Craft work
Books and Cds
White Elephant
Games
Cakes and Savoury Stalls
Pineapple Wine/Ginger Beer
Netherlee Costume Jewellery
Children's Fancy dress

Pasta Corner
Toys
Sunglasses
Christmas Items
Youth Stall

St. Andrew's Community Events

November 15th
Wedding of Anabella Brochard
and Dilshan Perera

November 28th
St. Andrew's Ball
Galadari Hotel