

March

- 1st **Sunday 9.30 am**
A Service of Holy Communion will be Celebrated with music led by Vox One singing music by Deva Suriya Sena
- 3rd **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
Rev. Piyadasa, Preacher
- 8th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship led by Ven. Chrisantha Mendis former Archdeacon of Colombo
- 10th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
Ven. Chrisantha Mendis, Preacher
- 15th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship
- 17th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 22nd **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship
- 24th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 25th **Wednesday 6.30 pm**
Choral Evensong
- 29th **Sunday 9.30 am**
PALM SUNDAY
Morning Worship
- 6.30 pm
PALM SUNDAY
Evening Worship
- HOLY WEEK BEGINS
- 30th **Monday 6.30 pm**
Holy Week Meditation
A Service of readings, music and meditations
Rev. Campbell, Minister
Voice of Praise, Choir
- 31st **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 6.30 pm
Holy Week Meditation
A Service of reflective readings, music and meditations
Rev. Campbell, Minister
Voice of Praise, Choir

April

- 1st **Wednesday 6.30 pm**
Holy Week Meditation
Service of readings, music and meditations
Rev. Campbell, Minister
Voice of Praise, Choir
- 2nd **Thursday 6.30 pm**
MAUNDY THURSDAY
Service of Holy Communion
Rev. Campbell, Minister
- 3rd **Friday 6.30 pm**
GOOD FRIDAY
A Service of readings and music for Good Friday
Rev. Campbell, Minister
Voice of Praise, Choir
- 5th **Sunday 9.30 am**
EASTER DAY
A Service of Holy Communion
Music led by the Colombo Brass Ensemble
- 7th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 12th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship
- 14th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 19th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship
- 21st **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 26th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship
- 28th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Mid week Communion
- 29th **Wednesday 6.30 pm**
Choral Evensong

May

- 3rd **Sunday 9.30 am**
Service of Holy Communion
- 5th **12.30 pm**
Midweek Communion
- 10th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Service of Holy Communion
- 12th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Midweek Communion
- 17th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning worship
- 19th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Midweek Communion
- 24th **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning worship
- 26th **Tuesday 12.30 pm**
Midweek Communion
- 27th **Wednesday 6.30 pm**
Choral Evensong
- 29th **Friday 7.30 pm**
A Choral Concert
presented by
The Colombo Philharmonic Choir
- 31st **Sunday 9.30 am**
Morning Worship

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



“from Bethlehem to Calvary”

One of the periods of the Christian Year which always perplexes me is the short period between Christmas and Easter.

No sooner are we finished with the Sundays after the Epiphany, than from Ash Wednesday we enter the period of Lent, leading to Palm Sunday and HolyWeek.

Somehow we have to jump from the cradle to the cross, from Bethlehem to Calvary, from birth to death. It is a transition in which we have little time to appreciate the fullness of the ministry of Jesus. Yes of course there is the long back straight of the Sundays following Pentecost, but somehow the impact of the ministry of Christ is lost by being so condensed between 25th December and end of March/beginning of April.

To help us cope with this compressed time the Church, many years ago, introduced the season of Lent. The period of Lent is observed in both the Eastern and the Western Christian Churches. Forty days were chosen as symbolic of the period that Matthew, Mark and Luke claim Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted. To reflect the deprivation of that experience, a period of fasting and spiritual discipline was embarked upon. In the Eastern Church the fasting finishes after the celebration of the resurrection with a great feast.

Nowadays many people treat Lent as a bit of a joke, giving up chocolate or some such goodie. Others however use it as a period of reflection, in which they look at their own lives, their strengths and weaknesses and resolve to live more committed Christ like lives in the future. Other people use Lent as a period of drawing closer to the Eternal Spirit, through reading and prayer.

However we use Lent it is an opportunity to look at ourselves. Having celebrated the birth of the Christ, now we look at the reality of Jesus' self-giving love; which is why Good Friday is such a dark day. Don't we all have our dark days, when dreams seem to fade, hope seems to die, plans collapse, death, breaks the circle of the family.

None of us can avoid these, they are part of life; as they were for Jesus.

It is just that his death and the subsequent mystery of his resurrection breaks through the darkness and offers us a new dimension of hope, of light shining, of possibility for the future. Resurrection applies not only to dying, but to our plans, hopes, dreams, to all of life. The resurrection means there is always tomorrow and in that tomorrow God will still be and the love for humankind, which took Christ to his cross, is the love that will embrace and sustain us as we continue our journey; until for each of us the time comes when we enter into the fullness of the final mystery of our own death and resurrection.

Blessings on you and on your families this Easter time of 2015.

Roderick Campbell
MINISTER

The Sri Lankan - Scottish bond

The link between St. Andrew's Scots Kirk and Fenwick Parish Church began in August 2005 when Shona Crosbie, a member of Fenwick Parish Church, came out to Sri Lanka for a month as a volunteer in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

Fenwick Parish Church had already sent money to support St. Andrew's with the work being done in Mawella. Shona returned with husband Alistair in November the same year for two weeks, accompanied by a volunteer from Fenwick Parish Church. They were surprised at the progress made in three months in Mawella and made a donation for an outboard motor for one of the larger fishing boats.

Initially, the voluntary work was based in Hikkaduwa, with links being made with Sambhodi Womens' Home, Baranasayuria Orphanage for boys and the village of Lassanagama, which Shona helped to build during her initial visit; all of these links are ongoing.

Shona also established a strong link with the ladies and staff of Netherlee Cottage and always tries to stay with the ladies on her visits. In November 2010 she spent a month at Netherlee, training the staff in Scottish Care Standards and procedures. She has maintained strong links with St. Andrew's over the years and the many friends made during her periods of Pulpit Supply and attending Morning Worship.

In 2010 "Team Fenwick" (six teenagers/four adults) visited Sri Lanka to work on projects their Church supported. St Andrew's members provided accommodation and evening meals in Colombo, whilst



the Team painted the outside of Ward 19 (now Ward 8) at Mulleriyawa, and a bedroom at Netherlee Cottage before heading up country to visit the village of Rosythe, where Pastor Sampath ministers and his wife Kumari teaches pre-school children.

The Team's second week was spent in Hikkaduwa, painting the Pre-school at Dodanduwa, which was re-established by St. Andrew's Scots Kirk working alongside Pastor Dinesh. They also painted Lassanagama village pre-school, took the ladies from Sambhodi home on an outing to Unawatuna and Galle and supplied the boys at Baranasayuria with new bedding.



Back in Scotland, Fenwick Parish Church heard the Team's report and some members offered to pay Pastor Sampath's wife Kumari's monthly salary as Pre-school teacher. This support is still ongoing. Fenwick Parish Church also wanted to invite some of the people they had met in Sri Lanka to visit Scotland. After lengthy discussions between Fenwick and St. Andrew's it was agreed that Kumar, the Church Officer, Modini, Netherlee Cottage Housemother and Pastor Sampath would benefit most from a visit.

[continued on page 8]

“Portpatrick, Scotland to Colombo, Sri Lanka”

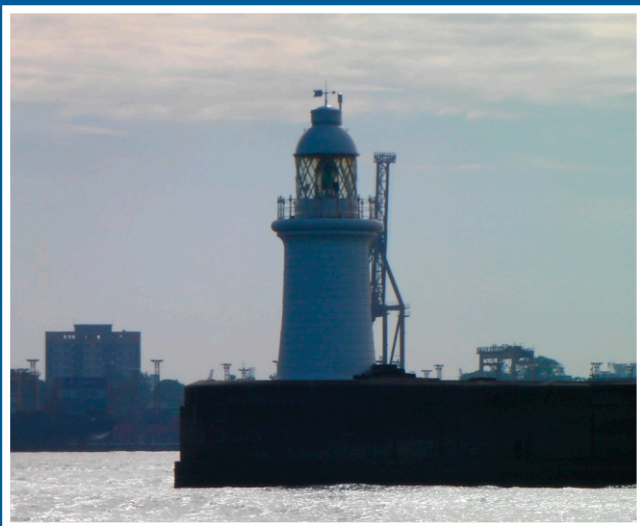
by Gillian Mailler



Portpatrick

The first Lighthouse seen by our ships as a guiding light to enter Colombo Harbour came from a small village on the West coast of Scotland called Portpatrick.

Portpatrick is a picturesque fishing village which is backed by rolling hills and bordered north and south by cliffs up to 130ft high. It is situated on the Galloway Peninsular in South West Scotland facing the Irish Sea and only 21 miles across the sea to Ireland. Portpatrick was a lively Port providing the main link between Scotland and Ireland from 1760 to 1860 when it lost its prominence to the bigger Port of Stranraer. Portpatrick is blessed with warm winds known as the Gulf Stream and as such the climate supports many tropical trees including Palm Trees.



The Lighthouse at the Colombo Port

The Lighthouse was built by 1790 of Welsh Limestone to a height of 46ft and was situated at the southern end of the curve of the village (to the right of the picture). The foundation of the Lighthouse was undermined in a very severe storm of 1839 and from that time it ceased to be used. It was removed at a cost of 500GBP in 1869 and erected in the outer harbour of Colombo in the early 1900's.

There is much conjecture about why it came to Colombo and two suggestion have been made. One that it was used as ballast for ships coming to Colombo for trade and secondly and probably more likely, Colombo required a Lighthouse to help guide ships safely into the Colombo Port and the British Navy at the time tended to get what they needed. It still stands on the outer buttress of Colombo Port doing its job for which it was designed in the early 1800.

I had a shiver up my spine after being asked to come to Colombo to work. I had always known about our connection with Colombo through the history of the village and was fascinated about why the Lighthouse was transported such a distance but I did not expect to follow it.

“Power House”

Recently, the Mission Committee visited Community Concern, a drugs rehabilitation project located in Bandaragama. I was particularly keen to see the project because, when a minister in Glasgow, I had been chairman of the Strathclyde Drug Abuse Committee for the Health Board. We had a record of being innovative in our approach and treatments. As part of the Health Service in Scotland, we had to cater for all types and conditions of people and of course support all sorts of cure and support options.

It was very interesting to be invited to the 25th Anniversary of this Centre which takes young men and women and, by faith and prayer, works to restore them to full health and usefulness of life. The regime is kindly but strict and the patients have to make the necessary effort. With the support of the staff and the faith they express, healing does happen and for some health is restored.

Not everyone can stand the pain of withdrawal and then learning to cope without the support of their drugs. There are failures, but then there are failures in any kind of treatment and rehabilitation. The service we attended was short and to the point, each of us was then asked to light a candle and place it around a map of Sri Lanka as a sign of hope that, through the love of God, Sri Lanka might be delivered from the scourge of drugs.

A much more popular and far easier drug to access is alcohol. The damage alcohol does in Scotland (I don't know the figures for Sri Lanka) is far worse than the drugs problem. I was pleased recently when I was approached and asked if a small AA group could be established in the hall. I readily agreed and am waiting further developments. If you know someone who struggles with alcohol, then I am sure this group would be very willing to offer support.

As with the drugs centre we visited, their approach is a spiritually based one, pointing beyond ourselves to a power which is available to all. Sometimes we who do not suffer from addiction need to be reminded that power is available to us.

Rev. Roderick Campbell
MINISTER



“Another helping hand”

“Helping Hands”

A desire to help people struggling to make ends meet and the constant requests for help at the Manse door, led Rev John Purves and Elder Alex Wolvers to develop a more methodical approach of dealing with the situation and the “Helping Hands” project was set up in 2006.

When the project was streamlined, it was presented to the congregation and, recognising the need and compassion involved in setting up the project, a donor came forward to support and sustain it. An initial fund was set up and a budget agreed by the Kirk Session. Their choice for a co-ordinator was Maureen Genard, a Sri Lankan fluent in Sinhala, Tamil and English, who willingly accepted the challenge and has organised and developed this St Andrew's project over the past eight years. Maureen had started attending St Andrew's in 2001, after meeting her future husband and they were married in the Church in 2004. She has a strong empathy with the people who attend Helping Hands, having experienced hunger and poverty herself.

Maureen enjoys her job very much and is totally committed to all the people she sees each week. The project has grown steadily over the years and frequently has new people coming to ask for help, based on the recommendation of others. Each new applicant is visited at home by Maureen to verify their story and a set amount, in keeping with others, is agreed. Money is needed for families, the elderly, infirm, chronically ill, widows and single mothers. Monthly cash grants are made to enable individuals and families to pay for food, medication, accommodation and schooling. Maureen is passionate about the people being helped by the Church project and will always 'go the extra mile' for them, visiting people in hospital, attending funerals and keeping an eye on bereaved families.

Helping Hands currently provides valuable help for a total of 90 individuals, including 21 men and 11 women as well as 48 members of their families.

80 people of all ages attended a Christmas party held outside the Hall in December and enjoyed a selection of food and drink and a variety of games. Musical chairs caused great hilarity, the children loved the face painting and a group competition for the 'best dressed human Christmas tree' revealed a lot of creativity amongst the Helping Hands families.

Sue Campbell



An Easter treat from our Team

Hot Cross Buns

Beat **1 egg** and leave it to come to room temperature. The egg must not be too cold or it will stop the yeast doing its job.

Add **25g sugar** to **125ml of warm Milk**. The milk should be about 37c, (body temperature) It should not be cold but also not too hot otherwise the yeast will not develop. Add **15g of dried yeast**, just sprinkle it into the milk and leave it until the milk has become frothy.

When the milk is ready add it to the beaten egg.

Add a level teaspoon of ground cinnamon and a pinch of salt to **250g of flour** and rub **25g of Margarine** into the flour using your fingertips until it resembles the look of breadcrumbs. Ensure this mixture is also at room temperature.

Make a hole in the middle of the flour and margarine mixture and add a little of the milk mixture, combine it with the flour and then add some more of the mixture until it has all been incorporated. Using your hands massage (knead) the flour mixture until the sides of the bowl become clean and the mixture is smooth and elastic dough in appearance.

Put the mixture aside to prove. The mixture should be kept at room temperature until it expands to three times its size and it becomes soft and full of air.

Meanwhile make the pastry strips which will be used to form the Cross on the top of the Buns. We require **27g of short pastry** which is made using **18g of flour** and **9g of Margarine**. Rub the margarine into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Using a little water encourage the mixture to form into a ball of pastry. Roll the mixture onto a flat surface using a rolling pin and cut the pastry into strips about 1 cm wide.

Knead the Hot Cross Bun dough again and separate it into small balls the size of a bun.

Use Margarine to grease a flat baking tray and warm the tray slightly. Place the small buns onto the tray leaving space between each bun as it will expand and the buns should not touch each other after cooking. Leave to prove for 10 minutes.

Brush the top of each Bun with beaten egg and place the strips of pastry on the top in the form of a Cross.

Heat the oven to **220c or gas mark 7** and place the Buns in the middle of the oven for **20mins**.

Enjoy during Easter time by serving for breakfast or tea, hot or cold and cutting through the bun and adding butter or your favourite preserve.

The Sri Lankan - Scottish bond [..contd]

They arrived in Scotland in May 2013 and had an exciting whistlestop tour of Scotland, including the Heart & Soul gathering in Princes Street Gardens, a visit to the General Assembly, various Care Homes, Churches, schools and Pre-schools. Most importantly, they had the opportunity of meeting many of their long-term supporters from Fenwick Parish Church, Netherlee Parish Church and Partick South Church. The three Sri Lankans enjoyed the Scottish hospitality, made new friends and further strengthened the international relationship.

Fenwick Parish Church are considering bringing a Team out to Sri Lanka to make a further contribution to the work of St. Andrew's Scots Kirk and other Projects they support - hopefully in 2016!



Sunday School

Sunday School at St. Andrew's is held on the first three Sundays of each month (during term-time) for children aged 4-12 yrs. Currently, we have 12 children who attend Sunday School regularly.

Lessons consist of learning God's word through prayer and singing and emphasised through the creativity of a variety of arts and crafts. Building team spirit and encouraging the development of individual characters is also an important part of our time together, and can be expressed well through games and other activities.

“I am learning to be a follower of Jesus by helping others and learning the word of God” says Jaitra De Saram

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.....

Mrs. Sam De Saram
SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR



The Annual Sunday School Bake Sale



Christo Perera



Christo Perera is an elder at St Andrews and he has taken a sabbatical from his duties during the last 12 months to concentrate his energies on CHRISLOGIX. We wish him every success with his new venture and hope to see more of him in the future.

CHRISLOGIX (PVT) LTD

The name is not derived from my name but is a combination of the names of our Board Members. The word Logix is for Logistics, which is what our business is all about.

We provide total logistics solutions ranging from international freight to/from Sri Lanka and the rest of the world, Customs Clearance, Cargo Transportation, Warehousing and Project Cargo Logistics.

Chrislogix was started in October 2012, not from any solid funding status or a secured customer base, but based purely on the skills of a great team of people confident of delivering results. We have with us today a team of 40 in 5 strategic offices, a warehouse of 70,000 sq ft capacity and a small transport fleet. Reflecting on the first 2 years, it's been a tough and challenging period, having to face many obstacles, especially in working capital management, but our constant prayers have never gone unanswered by an ever merciful God. We are blessed with a solid client base which is continuously growing due to the untiring efforts of our business development team.

My dream was always to start my own business, but as anyone would experience, it wasn't easy to take the decision to leave a lucrative status in a Blue Chip Organization, to start from Ground Zero. I have no regrets though, that I did dive into the deep end, the experience has been fantastic and knowing all the hard work I put in is for my family in the end, is fulfilling. I have also been able to strike a very good balance between work and family and happy that I am there for my family at the 'Drop of a Hat'.

ABOUT THIS PAGE

When we come to worship and chat to each other after the service, we do not usually have the time to get to know about each others' lives and challenges. The Newsletter Team thought it might be of interest to invite different members of the congregation to give us an insight into their lives.

If you would like to be included, or nominate someone else, please contact Gillian Mailer on g_mailer@yahoo.com

Chrislogix continues to be in my daily prayers, seeking blessings from Him to grow, not merely to be successful as businessmen, but to be a Company able to provide all its employees a Home away from Home and to abide by its core values of High Quality, Integrity, Professionalism & Respect for All.

Christo Perera

The Kirk Administration



Ms. Shamara Herat was voted by the December Meeting of the Kirk Session as the new Session Clerk following the retirement of Graham de Kretser. This appointment will be limited to 3 years.

Kirk Session

Kirk Session plan to appoint three Committees to help manage the functions of the Church. They will be Finance, Property Committee and Christian Community Development. We hope these Committees will comprise a mixture of Elders and Members of the Congregation. The Kirk Session will meet every two months in future.



Paddy Gridley

Paddy served the Church for nearly ten years as Administration Officer and retired from this role on 31st December 2014. During her tenure she helped strengthen financial controls at the church. She began this role at a time when the church's transactions increased substantially due to the inflows of donations for post-tsunami relief and reconstruction work. We would like to extend our thanks to **Mrs Paddy Gridley** for all her hard work as Administration Officer.



Janitha Perera

The Kirk Session decided at their meeting in December 2014 to combine the functions of wedding bookings and the position of **Financial Officer**. We welcome our new Finance and Administration Officer Mrs. Janitha Perera. The responsibilities of Janitha will include the administration of wedding bookings and the execution of financial processes for the Church, Netherlee Cottage, Mission and Helping Hands. Janitha can be contacted between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday.



Kanapathy Sandrakumaran

Our Church Officer known to us all as Kumar continues with all his other valuable work and will be available at his office Tuesday to Sunday from 9am until 6pm, with the exception of Wednesday afternoon.