

the Saint Andrew



ISSUE NO.05

 **SAINT
ANDREW'S
SCOTS KIRK**
COLOMBO SRI LANKA

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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9th to 30th June



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the first things I noticed about St Andrew's Church when I arrived as your Interim Minister almost four months ago, was how international and inclusive it was. That is a huge strength for any church in the modern world and from the responses to the church survey (see inside the Newsletter) it sounds as if you agree. Sometimes, however, issues arise which disturb the peace and unity of a congregation of Christian people. Paul writes about plenty of these church disputes in his epistles. Some of you may be aware that such a situation arose under the previous ministry and I am glad to say that while a few people felt they could not worship here anymore, the bulk of you have remained faithful.



Part of my task as an Interim Minister was to bring back into the Church people who have talents to contribute to the eldership and to the outreach projects of the Church. Helping Hands was relaunched and the former team returned to Netherlee Cottage. Alas, an objection was raised to a British lady with a retirement visa being an Elder or Team Leader. Lawyers were even consulted and Government departments were brought into things. The result is that the objectors are no longer in their posts as Session Clerk and Property Convener. The Church of Scotland in its history has always been adverse to interference from the State in its affairs and resents its internal procedures being taken outside its own courts (in this case the Kirk Session).

I have written to the two ladies concerned, expressing the thanks of the Church for their work in the past. But it is the future that should now be the priority of us all, putting disputes behind us, striving for a happy fellowship in Christ. I hope you will be supportive of the new Office Bearers (listed on the website) and the new Elders whom they will nominate to serve you in St Andrew's in the future.

Lara and I have had an amazing welcome from so many of you, that amid the challenges of the situation we will always think of you and our time here with affection. Let us therefore go forward into a new chapter in the life of St Andrew's with faith, hope and love. Does that sound familiar?

Every blessing
(Rev) Stewart Lamont

A Church on our Travels

Holy Trinity Church

We stumbled across Holy Trinity Church in a little backwater as we meandered along the Garden Route South East of Cape Town in South Africa.



The Church was built soon after 1830 in the Norman style by Thomas Henry Duthie. Thomas was born in Stirling Scotland in 1805 and was Captain in one of the Highland Regiments until he was posted to the Cape. He met his wife, Caroline who was the daughter of George Rex from England and settled in Belvidere, building their home here and later this Church for his

family, friends and their staff to worship.



The Church is a beautiful example of the Norman style in miniature using Stinkwood and Yellowwood for the timberwork. The sandstone was quarried and shaped by Scottish masons. The entire pulpit except for the parapet was carved from a single block of stone known as the “Monster Stone” The central window in the west front bears the royal arms above

and the arms of the Diocese of Cape Town below.

Holy Trinity Church, apart from providing a place of worship for local residents and many visitors, it is also the Parish Church to a large and diverse community on the west bank of the Knysna River encompassing of foresters, sawmill operators and a variety of commercial and social workers. The Church is sandwiched between The Bell Tavern and the Belvidere Manor Hotel.



~Gillian Mailler~



Getting to know our Congregation

Questions for Selvinee Kumar

Selvinee Kumar Interview

1) How would you describe yourself?

I'm very simple. I like helping others and spending time with friends and family. I'm very particular about things around the house, everything has to be in order (my daughter calls me a perfectionist). Overall I'm very happy but I do tend to worry too much some times.

2) What sort of career are you in?

I don't have a career. I'm a home maker. I ensure that daily life at home flows smoothly and take care of my daughter and husband.

3) What about your family?

Although I have a small family, it's a lovely one. My husband Justin is very busy. He's always working and traveling so I rule the roost at home. My daughter Sarah (who I believe looks more like my sister but she disagrees) is currently doing her A/Levels at CIS. We have a nanny Rajes who's been with us for 17 years and our loving dog (or my son as I would call him) Bruno, who is spoiled rotten.

4) What is your most memorable moment?

My most memorable moment was the birth of my daughter. It was such a special moment when we brought a bundle of joy into the world. All the pain and suffering you go through is worth it when you see something so precious that is yours.

5) How do you chill out and where?

I'm always chilling out with friends and family at Cinnamon Grand (it's like my second home). I'm there so often that I know most of the staff and managers really well.

6) What are the three things you can't do without?

My daily dose of tea - it's a vital part of my daily routine, my phone (My daughter complains I'm on Facebook more than she is) and black jeans (my husband and daughter say I wear too much black)

7) What's your favourite food?

I don't really have a favourite food but I do enjoy diverse cuisine like Japanese, Chinese and Indian. I think if I had to choose, I'd probably choose rice and curry.

8) Who would be your role model or the person who has influenced you most?

My parents are my role models and biggest influence. It's from my parents that I learned about life, struggle and love.

9) What is your pet peeve?

When the house is not clean or not in order.

10) What compels you to worship at St. Andrew's?

The congregation is so nice and diverse. I like the relaxed atmosphere and I feel at peace when I'm worshipping at St Andrew's. It would be nice to see the youth of the Church more involved and allow them to use the skills they can offer.

JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM : A REVIEW OF THE CONCERT AT ST.ANDREW'S

St Andrew's Church was filled to Capacity on the evening of 3rd April to listen to The Colombo Philharmonic Choir presenting John Rutter's Requiem.



John Rutter served as Director of Music at Clare College, Cambridge and wrote this piece on the death of his father. The first premier was in the UK in 1985 and this was the Sri Lankan Premier.

The piece is sometimes mournful and other times gently consoling played by the skilful use of turbulent harmonies and lyrical melodic lines to depict the transition from a desperate search for rest to the hope of eternal peace. The Latin text has been broadened to incorporate relevant biblical texts including English translations of Psalms 23 and 130.

The opening movement is an Introit and Kyrie, and then follows Out of the Deep based on Psalm 130, and the motet Pie Jesu. Next comes the lively Sanctus (with the Benedictus) and the Agnus Dei. The sixth movement is Psalm 23, often sung at funerals and the Requiem concludes with Lux Aeterna. The Soprano solo was

performed by Anagi Perera and the performance was accompanied by Denham Perera, the Music Director and Organist at St.Andrew's.

~Gillian Maillier~



WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women into our Church, Rev. Stewart J Lamont highlighted some of the women of the Bible; some good, some not so good and some who surely made those Biblical times, quite colourful!

Whether in the Grand Opera, the soap opera, theatre, film, play or novel, women have intertwined the good, the bad and the ugly into tales that have made the arts, literature and real life a canvas of exceptional excitement. The idea is as old as the Bible itself, whether in the nasty women or the heroines, each of who have played an important role in the Bible.

Firstly, there is Eve who gets blamed for both Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden, when quite clearly it was the serpent who put the idea into her head.

Then there's Sarah, Abraham's wife who is naturally jealous of Abraham's child by Sarah's maid Hagar, although, a happier story unfolds as Jacob, her grandson, shows the spark of true love when he first marries the plain Leah after working for seven years to fulfill a promise to his wily Uncle Laban, before finally getting the beautiful Rachel, fourteen years down the road.

There were some fearsome ladies in the Old Testament. Jael, who gives the enemy commander Sisera shelter in her camp and drives a tent peg through his head; Samson's wife the delectable yet duplicitous Delilah, who was a Philistine spy, betrayed him and Jezebel, wife of King Ahab who sent contract killers to murder Naboth so his vineyards could be stolen.

Continues on next page ----->

Eve



RUTH



SALOME



And then there are the victims. In Genesis, Dinah is gang raped and chopped into pieces; the beautiful Bathsheba is seduced by King David who arranges her husband's death so he can have her.

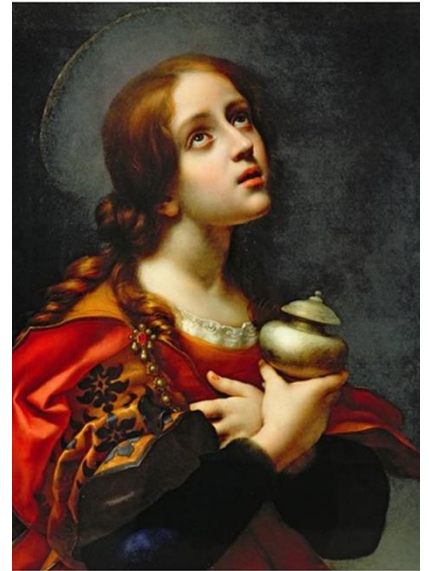
The two virtuous women in the Old Testament who come to mind are Ruth and Esther. The Book of Esther is a love story added to the Bible to make a point that racial purity is not God's way. The Moabite Ruth decides to stay on in Israel after her husband's death vowing loyalty to her mother in law. She later marries Boaz, a rich farmer to eventually give birth to one of David's ancestors. Esther, becomes the Queen of a Middle Eastern empire despite being the adopted daughter of Mordecai the Jew, having saved him and his people from a pogrom.

However, there are some nasty ladies lurking in the New Testament. Who can forget Princess Salome and her vindictive mother who call for the head of John the Baptist as the prize for dancing before King Herod Antipas? The woman by the well who has five husbands and the woman Jesus saved from being stoned for adultery?

On the converse, there are a number of Mary's who are highly significant in the Gospels; Mary the Mother of Jesus who is also given much honour in the Quran, Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus and the misunderstood Mary Magdalene. There is no Biblical evidence that she was a fallen woman. She seemed to have occupied a position of comparative wealth and ministered to Jesus using this substance. The anointing of Jesus' feet with expensive oil proves this. She remained by the cross until the body was finally laid in the garden tomb and brought sweet spices to anoint Jesus' body. It was to her that Jesus appeared first of all after his resurrection, hugely significant in that at the time, a woman's testimony was not valid in a court of law.

The New Testament records many of Jesus' interactions with women but never is there any record where Jesus disgraces, belittles, reproaches or stereotypes a woman. It can be inferred therefore that His attitude toward women repeatedly shows how he liberated and affirmed women.

MARY MAGDALENE



MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS



THE STORY OF THE HYMN

Rev George Matheson (1842-1906) despite his blindness at the age of twenty was one of the stars of the Church of Scotland ministry in the late Victorian era. Invited by Queen Victoria to preach at Balmoral, afterwards she had his sermon on Job published. But he is best remembered for one of his hymns, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go," has passed into the popular hymnology of the Christian Church worldwide. Matheson himself wrote of the composition:

"My hymn was composed in the manse of Innellan [Argyll, Scotland] on the evening of the 6th of June, 1882, when I was 40 years of age. I was alone in the manse at that time. It was the night of my sister's marriage, and the rest of the family were staying overnight in Glasgow. Something happened to me, which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. The hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than of working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a dayspring from on high."

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" was written on the evening of Matheson's sister's marriage. Years before, he had been engaged, until his fiancée learned that he was going blind—that there was nothing the doctors

could do—and she told him that she could not go through life with a blind man. He went blind while studying for the ministry, and his sister had been the one to care for him through the years, but now she was gone. He was now 40, and his sister's marriage brought a fresh reminder of his own heartbreak. It was in the midst of this circumstance and intense sadness that the Lord gave Matheson this hymn.

One line was changed on publication. Matheson had written "I climb the rainbow through the rain" and this was changed to "I trace the rainbow" by the Kirk's hymnody committee. The tune (St Margaret) forever associated with the hymn was composed by William Peace, the organist at Glasgow Cathedral.



O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

St Andrew's Church -A Hive of Activity



I have never before experienced living in such a busy Church compound. Any time I look out of the Manse windows, I see people being engaged in various activities; the grounds and the church buildings are heaving with life. We are not simply a car park for the surrounding banks!

But let's start at the beginning of the week. On Sunday, St Andrew's church opens its doors to three congregations: 70 to 90 people from our own denomination come to worship God at 9:30am, while Sunday School and in Youth Group meet for their sessions. Soon after our fellowship is over we meet for refreshments. The Korean



congregation start arriving for their service, after which they eat together in the Hall. In the evening, the church resounds again to the voices of the Four Square congregation.



On Monday morning the working week begins. Maureen meets with the recipients of the "Helping Hand" charity, listens to their concerns, follows their progress and hands out allowances. The Helping Hand project was in jeopardy at the end of 2015 when the major sponsor stopped her donations. But following an appeal from the pulpit, members of our congregation have

signed up to make regular contributions which hopefully will ensure that the least fortunate of this society will not go hungry.

On Tuesday, the Hall is transformed into the Thrift Shop which operates from





11am till 1:30pm. Gloriana and her helpers Maureen, Lucy and Paddy supervise the sale of donated clothes, shoes, household items, toys and books, which raises funds for the Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital. St Andrew's Church sponsors Ward 8 of the hospital and our members visit it monthly. Lately the bed supports and mattresses had to be removed as they were infested with bed bugs. The Church bought new ones, so that the ladies of Ward 8 do not have to sleep on the floor anymore.

(Despite our efforts, the fumigation work has still not been done by the hospital and at time of writing, the new beds are not yet in use). Our minibus was full on the last visit which coincided with the New Year when the ladies were treated to the traditional delicacies.

The Association of British Residents (ABR) operates the Library in the Hall every second and fourth Tuesday from 11am till 1:30pm. This is a lending facility which is open to all. They also have a little stall of books for sale, as well as our church books.



Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm Malee trains the fitness group. I tried it once and came home completely exhausted. I'm still not used to the heat of Sri Lanka and use this excuse as I guiltily look out at the ladies exercising in the hall while I'm preparing the evening meal. But you are most welcome to join in!

Alcoholics Anonymous meets in the Hall on Wednesday evening.

Thursday is reserved for choir practice day and since April the "Jesus All Ministry" have begun regular worship in the church hall on Thursdays as well.

On Saturday Scouts assemble in the Church grounds to train, practice and play. Sometimes they have to share the garden with the weddings which are a frequent affair. The grounds then look resplendent with marquees, flowers and lights. Well dressed guests enjoy the wedding ceremony and the reception and hopefully take away an impression of St Andrew's Church Colombo as a welcoming place.

It is due to the hard work of our cleaners Aziri and Daniel and our gardener Victor, that all the buildings and grounds are maintained to a high standard. Kadir keeps an eye on the visitors and cars; Janitha is in the office Monday to Friday dealing with all the financial matters, and Kumar deals with anything and everything as the Church Officer.

-Lara Lamont-

St Andrews on 24th April 2016:

Analysis and Results of the International Presbytery Survey and the St Andrews Local Survey.

90 people attended Church on the day the survey was conducted, while 70 returned the survey forms issued by the International Presbytery and the one compiled by the Interim Minister in consultation with the Worship Convener.

Not everyone answered all the questions which accounts for some disparity in the totals below, but sufficient people answered the questions in the survey, to gain a clear picture of who we are and what our preferences are. Thanks to all who took part.

Who are we, country of origin	SL 46	UK 8	Malay 3	USA 2	China 2	Others One person each from Italy, Canada, Jamaica, Indonesia, Kazakhstan	T O T A L 66
English as a 1 st Language	Yes 43	No 25					68
Sex	Male 32	Female 37					69
Age profile	<20 1	20-34 7	35-49 18	50-64 27	>65 14		67
How far to Church	<5k majority	5-10k 17	>10k 11				
How often do you attend	Every week 43	Fairly frequent 17	Occasionally 4	When visiting SL 2		>7 years 24 4-7 years 14 1-3 years 16 <year 10	66
A member of St Andrews	Yes 36	Another Church 11	Not a member anywhere 13			10 did not complete this section	60
Which Christian denomination	Presbyterian 10	Anglican 18	Methodist 10	Roman Catholic 11	Pentecostal 14	Baptist 2 None – 6 Other - 6	67
Entry of the Bible	Stand 42	Sit 3					45
Sharing of Peace	Yes 46	No 9					55
Saying the Lord's Prayer	Familiar version 36	Trespasses 34	Debts 8	Sins 10			52
The Gospel Reading	Sit 24	Stand 15					39
Affirmation of faith	At communion 33	Weekly 22				3 did not wish it at all	58
Coffee in the Porch or the Manse	Porch 27	Manse 15					42



The answers to the question, “if you are a member of this Church or another Church” became a little confusing. 10 people did not fill this section as presumably they were unsure, and if you add them to the 13 who were not members anywhere, it means quite a large number of our Sunday congregation are non-members. Yet many of those stated they worship in St Andrew’s regularly.

The Worship Survey produced some clear results and plenty of suggestions for hymns

Amazing Grace (10 votes); Great is thy Faithfulness (9 votes);

How great thou art (8 votes). What a friend we have in Jesus, Psalm 23, Guide me O thou great Jehovah/Redeemer, Praise my soul, and Blessed Assurance.

There was an almost unanimous wish for more music prior to the service, and for a team of readers to be deployed. Sixteen names were suggested as readers.

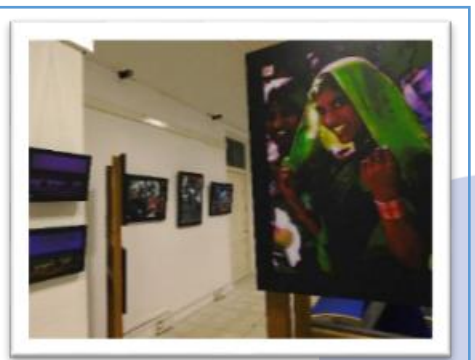
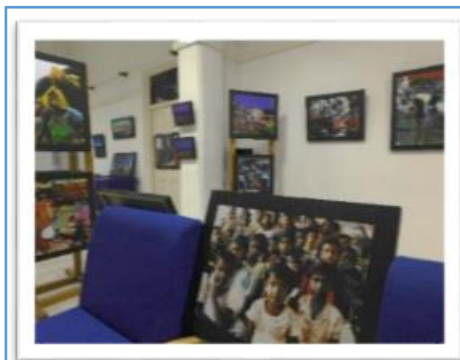
The decision regarding coffee after the service was further discussed at Kirk Session and the meeting decided to have refreshments in the Manse after the Sunday Service.



Patrick Brochard Exhibition of Photographs Alliance Francaise de Kotte 9th to 30th June

Aptly titled Varna de Sri Lanka, Patrick Brochard’s lens had not only captured vignettes of this paradise isle’s unique beauty and magnetism, but also the tropical exoticism with a manifold palette of hues that only he could have seen through his amazing eye. Patrick, who left a legacy of extraordinary creativity through his camera, was truly an artiste of our time. He used his hereditary artistic genes whether in words (he loved to write) or panoramic pictures to show the world literally in a different light. His optimism and positive attitude is well seen in the photographs that were on display, whether through the lonely fisherman or lowly tea plucker, the buzzing marketplace or serene sunset, innocent smiling faces or anklet sporting feet, Patrick’s use of vibrant colour to mark strong silhouettes, brought life into everyday places and people.

Patrick was a well-loved member of St. Andrew’s, where his wife Anna and daughter Annabella continue to worship.



Comments

On our last Newsletter

Many thanks. An excellent read. Alistair

What a brilliant newsletter. Huge congratulations to everyone involved. You should all be very proud of this edition. Rod

Great Job team. RP

Thanks for this beautifully compiled newsletter. It warmed the cockles of my heart.... It's a fabulous publication- thanks Cheers Chandan

Superb - well done team. That's a corker of a newsletter and well done James for making every page so festive and attractive, plenty of interesting content.

Looking forward to receiving future editions 😊☐ Blessings Sue

Church services and Events at St Andrew's

- Church services 9:30am every Sunday
- Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every month
- The All Age Church Service is supported by the Youth of the Church on the last Sunday of every month

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