



the Saint  
**Andrew**

Cover: Advent is when we prepare for the birth of Christ. We are asked to reflect on Hope, Peace, Love & Joy – the four themes for each Sunday in Advent. At St. Andrew's, a candle is lit each Sunday symbolising each of these themes.

 SAINT  
**ANDREW'S**  
SCOTSKIRK  
COLOMBO SRI LANKA

**Church of Scotland – Presbyterian**  
For private circulation only



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## Christmas Again...

It all depends on how the title of this piece is said - whether in desperation or in delight. We actually need to hear the tone of the person speaking to catch their chosen meaning. For some, this season will have rushed around all too quickly from last year and will be perceived as a painful set of demands - food, money, clothes, presents, and not a lot of joy. For these people it will be a strident, "not Christmas AGAIN!" While others may attend exactly the same events and find them delightful in December. So Christmas provides us with a choice - delight or despair!

St Andrew's Scots Kirk is one of the best places to experience the joy of Christmas. Our congregation has a splendid worship space, wonderful music, carols and of course the great story. We hear of God becoming human – no longer distant nor detached, but dwelling among us, giving love and joy in equal measure to all who seek.

Christmas is a good time to sing and pray, so I have an old song and a new prayer for you to use this Advent and Christmas.

The challenging song stemming from the lips of young Mary, mother of Jesus;

***"My heart praises the Lord;  
my soul is glad because of God my Saviour,  
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!  
From now on all people will call me happy,  
because of the great things the Mighty God has  
done for me.***

***His name is holy;  
from one generation to another  
he shows mercy to those who honour him.  
He has stretched out his mighty arm  
and scattered the proud with all their plans.  
He has brought down mighty kings from their  
thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away with empty hands.***

While the prayer is more recent from Peter Thurston:

***Will you help me through this Advent, dear Lord?***

***Give me the grace to greet you  
without suppressed sighs of weariness.  
Give me the generosity to invite you home  
without thought to the inconvenience.  
Give me the will to rise to your demands,  
to share your love and to receive it.***

***It's not so much to ask, I know,  
when you have faced it all -  
the Advent task, the Christmas hope -  
two thousand times before.***

Please appreciate the gift of reconnecting with your Creator this time around.

Choose to have another great Christmas. We can help your enjoyment with fine music, food, friendship and worship as long as the pandemic gives us some peace.

Rich blessings on you and yours,

**Revd Ian Y Gilmour**  
Interim Moderator,  
St Andrew's Scots Kirk



*Lady dear, if fairies may  
For a moment lay aside  
Cunning tricks and elfish play,  
'Tis a happy Christmas-tide.*

*We have heard the children say –  
Gentle children, whom we love –  
Long ago, on Christmas Day,  
Came a message from above.*

*Still, as Christmas -tide comes round,  
They remember it again –  
Echo still the joyful sound  
“Peace on earth, good-will to men”*

*Yet the hearts must childlike be  
Where such heavenly guests abide:  
Unto children in their glee,  
All the year is Christmas -tide!*

*Thus, forgetting tricks and play  
For a moment, Lady dear,  
We would wish you, if we may,  
Merry Christmas, glad New Year!*

*Lewis Carroll  
written to celebrate Christmas 1867*





Taking inspiration from Rev. Roshan Mendis' sermon on the second Sunday in Advent and with thoughts extended to all who have been through various challenges - how the world has had to deal with unprecedented difficulties, how each family has been impacted and how we've all been surrounded with pandemic woes – we asked some members of our congregation to pen a few lines on the good and positive thing they have experienced during these pandemic times.

It's always good to be thankful for what we have, as we were reminded in that sermon.

## **Shalini Wickramasuriya**

Covid has been a reset button for us all. Through the quiet we have learnt to appreciate quiet time with family, to care for our elderly neighbours and value the small community we live in. We have also reconnected with extended family as COVID presented us with time. We had so little time in the past.

We have learned to be thankful for so much we have and realize that actually we have enough. God has given us plenty and there is no need for anymore. We think we see our own personal rainbows, with the Grace of God shining through.



## **Adina Rosa-Senaratne**

I thank God for COVID because I spent more time with my mother than I have done in my entire life time and was also able to sleep a lot and play a lot.

## **Salome Rosa-Senaratne**

I'm grateful for the realization of how peaceful and joyful life is when we keep things simple.



## **Annika Fernando**

Spending quality time with my son in his pre-teen/first teen years that I never would have had the opportunity to do had he have been in school on regular timings is one of the positives that came out of COVID.

Overdoing successive weekends in Hiriketiya in early 2021 as if we'd never go again, celebrating my mother's and my birthday with unforgettable experiences in March, my father re-starting the Sunday family lunch and reconnecting with old friends who I haven't been in touch with for a long time are some things I'm thankful for.



### **Neranjan de Silva**

Many people moaned and groaned about the lockdowns resulting from the pandemic. While feeling sad for those who lost their employment or at the very least, suffered reductions in their income (including me), I think the pandemic gave us an opportunity to look inwards into the way we were running the rat race, with no time to think of better and more efficient ways of leading our lives.

In my case I was 'COVID-ready', in that my office as well as my recording studio are located in the same premises as my residence. In my work as an Engineer, COVID gave me the perfect excuse for not attending useless site meetings. Inspections were done differently, wherein the client would walk around the site with his phone camera switched on, and log into WhatsApp video, while I could do the inspection from the comfort of my air-conditioned office!

From the music point of view, even though live performances crashed to zero, recordings took flight, and new ways of recording remotely came to fruition. My wife who held a senior position in a bank, was able to work from home, from the comfort of my office, without having to waste nearly 2 hours on travel every day. My daughter who was studying overseas came back home, and continued her studies remotely from home. My father-in-law, would come over and stay with us during the lockdowns as his maid was unable to travel to work. My son and his family who live walking distance away, were able to visit us easily.....and we would all be home. What a lot of quality family time COVID made possible for us!

New ways of working – with greater efficiency, without wasting time on the road, is a major positive outcome of pandemic lockdowns. Online shopping is another, where even a coffee or hot chocolate can be ordered at 9 pm, and will be delivered fast. I plan to continue many of the 'new ways of working' even post pandemic. I realise that I can even log in to, and play the Cathedral organ (not the SASK organ) from home, while watching the rest of the service on live stream!

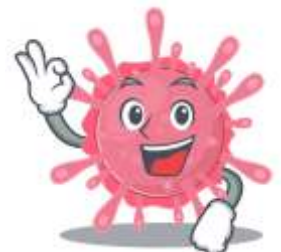
### **Pastor Abby Schaffter**

I am thankful to God for helping me to slow down and prioritize my life. Through this COVID season, I enjoyed refreshing, as I spent more quality time with family. The slower pace enabled me to be more effective in Ministry, as my weekly devotional videos, "Reflections" was birthed. I was also able to write my first book to encourage women to be all God has called them to be. All in all it has been a very fruitful period amidst the heartaches of losing loved ones, and seeing the suffering unfolding around me. God's goodness and faithfulness has seen me through.



### **Dr. Dhanan Senathirajah**

COVID19 gave us more time to spend together as a family and to spend more time with God, away from the usual busy lives we lead. Thanks to technology, I was able to do more teaching of God's word during the pandemic.





## Shanthini Ahangama

Go Local – IS WHAT WE DID!

We've been wanting to travel the world on roller skates until COVID came!! And then we decided to wear our DSI flip flops and explore our beautiful homeland. we discovered hidden gems on roads less travelled, charming native folks always sporting a smile and culinary delights that took us by surprise.

Hidden in every threat is a God given opportunity waiting to unfold ....

“Ask God to use you. Ask Him to show you how you can be a blessing everywhere you go. Keep honoring Him so that others can see Him through you.”

## Deepal Ahangama

Time to reflect! We are so lucky to live in this country. I ignore all the negativity and marvel at the positivity. I realise my wife, relatives, friends and staff are a great source of support. I am able to spend time to play the sport I love and support some poor and needy families in the village. I also have time to spend with my four year old nephew and nieces – who are triplets. And finally more time with our pets – what joy they bring. Thank You COVID.



## Priscilla Fumo Lear

Thank God for COVID – flamingos in their hundreds are back at Praia do Costa do Sol in Maputo, my home town.

Thank God for COVID - the beaches are cleaner with less plastic pollution and broken bottles. Thank God for COVID - I got to meet and socialise with lots of residents in my building.

At the moment the fear of my first Christmas alone and far away from home leaves little to be thankful for. My husband went to South Africa two days before Sri Lanka banned flights from Southern Africa countries. I don't know when he will be able to come back but I'm in Colombo alone for Christmas.

## Gihan and Ashley Wirasinha with their triplets Bella,

COVID lockdowns gave us the opportunity to spend quality time with our family – something that would not have happened otherwise.

COVID taught us on how to survive during unprecedented hardships and taught us that nothing is impossible, as long as we have a positive mindset.





It's a convoluted, complex confusing story but the underlying tale is that people must be charitable at Christmas.

John Mason Neale wrote Good King Wenceslas in 1853 to a traditional folk tune while he was living at Sackville College in the town of East Grinstead in West Sussex. It was sung as a Spring Carol for a few hundred years. It was believed that the King of Bohemia from over 1000 years ago, looked out of his castle on Boxing Day, saw peasants and gave them food and wood.

However, this is not the real tale. Wenceslas' father was the Duke of Bohemia who was a Christian, but his mother may have been a pagan. His father died when he was twelve, but because he was too young to become Duke, his mother took control of the land as regent until he turned 18. It was his grandmother Ludmilla who looked after Wenceslas, bringing him up as a Christian, smuggling priests into the house to educate him. On hearing of Ludmilla's secret works, the Regent had her banished to a distant castle. She was murdered by the Queen's guards.

Wenceslas remained a Christian even after his

grandmother's death, smuggling in local Bishops at night to teach him the Bible. At 18, when took control of his dukedom, he banished his mother and her pagan followers from his castle. He was a good duke, establishing both a good education system and successful law and order mechanisms into the dukedom. In that he was a good king, with a good heart, treating his people with kindness and love.

However, when he was 22, his brother Boleslav, plotted to kill Wenceslas, inviting him to celebrate a saint's day. On the way to the church, Wenceslas was stabbed to death by Boleslav's followers.

The story in the carol however is deemed fictitious and written by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda in 1847 in three languages – Czech, German and Latin. It was called 'Sankt Wenceslaw und Podiwin'- Saint Wenceslas and the Crocheteer. It was British poet J M Neale who translated the words and placed it into the tune of the 13th century spring carol 'Tempus Adest Floridum' – It is time for flowering.

The song was made popular by Bing Crosby and became staple Christmas music fare.







X. *Good King Wenceslas.*

Chorus.

Good King Wen - ces - las look'd out, On the Feast of Ste - phen,

When the snow lay round a - bout, Deep, and crisp and e - ven:

Bright - ly shone the moon that night, Though the frost was cru - el,

When a poor man came in sight, Ga - th'ring win - ter fu - el.

*Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gathering winter fuel*

*Hither, page, and stand by me,  
If thou knowst it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?  
Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes fountain.*

*Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I shall see him dine  
When we bear them thither.  
Page and monarch, forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude winds wild lament  
And the bitter weather*

*Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how  
I can go no longer.  
Mark my footsteps, good my page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shall find the winters rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly.*

*In his masters step he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye, who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing.*



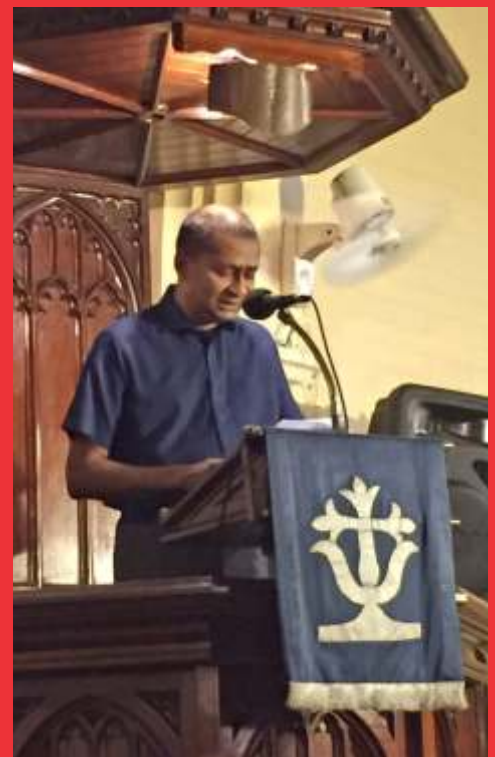
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## A Service of Lessons & Carols

SASK began getting into the Christmas spirit again when Oktave led by Neranjan De Silva presented a delightful service of Lessons and Carols in the lead up to Christmas. The singing was heavenly and stayed true to the spirit of Christmas. There was a joyous conclusion to the evening when Eshantha De Andrado led a sing-along of the congregation.

"Excellent Carol Service without any fancy/costly trimmings. Emphasis was on the Choir and their singing which certainly did not need any enhancement!"

**Dushy Parakrama**





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## Sunday Services

Despite a scaled down congregation due to health and safety regulations, SASK continues to be a buzz of activity each Sunday. We've had services led by Pastor Abby Schaffter, Rev. Roshan Mendis, Fr. Melville De Silva and Dr Dhanan Senathirajah. Here are some moments from our Sunday Services since services resumed late November.



Rev. Roshan Mendis beams as he reconnects with Aadhvika Adrinah who he baptized. Aadhvika is with her parents Diloneethan and Julia



The Advent candles in the first and second Sundays in Advent are lit by Pastor. Abby Schaffter and Revd. Roshan Mendis





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## Sunday School

Our Sunday School children cultivated their understanding of God's relationship with creation in their recent lessons on Genesis 1:1–28, Jeremiah 4:23–28, Psalm 19:1–6 and Isaiah 65:17–25 and are inspired to explore ways they can work with others to care for God's world.



### Adina

I want to save the planet. People throw garbage around and not keep it clean. Once I saw on the internet, earth helpers - they went into the ocean and I saw a turtle with polyethene stuck in his nose!

I want to help clean up beaches and get everyone to help. (Starting with the Sunday school), everyone, sign up now (to signify your pledge) to keep the beaches clean. We must collect garbage on the beach and throw them in the garbage bags. More sign-up sheets are up here.





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## Jacob

Make your own fertilizer! Make compost in compost bins. Jacob calls on people of all ages to sign up to make a pledge too - to put their dead leaves, food waste, seeds into compost bins to make food for trees. At the same time, this keeps our environment clean. Finally, 'grow seeds in your garden. Then the earth is happy.'



## Judith

Rainfall makes puddles form on the grounds of Victoria Park. Rain gets collected. Mosquitoes and other Insects lay their eggs in the water. Then, they multiply and bite people and make them ill. 'I want to help cover the holes.' Judith wants to call on the people-in-charge to take action by covering these puddles with soil.



## Aleeza

'I will grow more plants.' Not just any plants, but those with beautiful flowers, like these..



## Sheneshi

The Lord created everything to make all things, all beings to live in unity with Him and to live happily with each other. He created the earth, separated the seas, planted trees, gave birds and animals, stars, moon and sun. Finally he created man and woman because he loved us.

But man created by God, disobeyed God, in many ways. Men have started harming God's creation. First, the environment leading to climatic change. Even human beings are harmed due to fighting. Therefore, we need to save what God created with love. So, first I will pray to God to touch the heart of all who do damage to God's creation, so that they will turn back to protect God's creation. Secondly, I will spread the message in my humble way that God created all things for us, and we have to protect them. Thirdly, I will show in all my actions towards others the love of God.





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## Netherlee Cottage

Netherlee Cottage is a rehabilitation centre for ladies from Mulleriyawa Mental Health Hospital.



We opened the doors of Netherlee to help our neighbours. The younger member of the next-door family had COVID19 but the elderly lady was negative for COVID19, so to protect her she came to lodge at the Cottage, much to the delight of the Netherlee residents. The neighbour was initially stressed about her situation and that of her daughter but the Netherlee Cottage ladies used their skills of learning to care for others to make her feel welcome. They all benefited from new company and conversation during a lockdown period and celebrated all together at a local restaurant when the danger had passed.

Senuda, another friend to Netherlee Cottage enjoyed teaching the ladies how to make Kottu.

Kottu is a Sri Lankan dish consisting of diced roti stir-fried with egg, onions, chillies, spices, and vegetables.

Everyone spent the day cooking for everyone to enjoy together.

Following training at Netherlee Cottage, the ladies move to the

Community House to continue their next stage of rehabilitation and move towards independent living and we are constantly working with the local health service to ensure the continuance of this facility. The residents of the Community House work as cleaners and they have contribute Rs 4,000 every month from their salary into a communal savings account, to ensure there's sufficient funds to pay for next year's rent.

The Lease has been signed for another year and although there is an administrative delay to transferring the funds for the rent, we expect the programme to continue.

Thank you to Netherlee Church in Glasgow for their continued friendship and support of the residents and thanks also to individuals for their support and friendship to the ladies and staff at the Cottage.

Happy Christmas from Netherlee Cottage to all our readers.

### The Netherlee Team





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## Lunch for the Needy

The project of serving needy was halted during the various lockdown periods but was transformed into helping the wider community around St. Andrew's Scots Kirk. However, once some of the health rules were relaxed by the authorities, the project resumed lunches on Thursday, giving packs of lunches.

Donations towards The Lunch Project are welcome. The account no is 101000786967 at NDB bank and the name of the account is 'Lunch Project'.

Helping the wider community



When The Lunch Project resumed





Mission Projects, Committee Reports and events at St. Andrew's

## Ward 8 – Mulleriyawa Halfway Home

Ward 8 at Mulleriyawa Mental Health Hospital is part of the National Institute for Mental Health. The maintenance and wellbeing of the residents are supported by St Andrew's Scots Kirk.

### Christmas Cheer @ Ward 8

In keeping with the Christmas Spirit of giving, SASK was able to offer best quality Celcius pillows to Ward 8 gifted by Celcius Luxury Bedding.

A long overdue treat of a luncheon was also readied on the 25th of November as SASK offered a delicious Chinese Dragon lunch followed by dessert which was enjoyed by the patients.

The plan for next year is to assist in painting the interior and exterior of the ward, depending on securing approval on the proposed spend.

Ward 8 patients and staff extend warm wishes to all readers, wishing the SASK Team a Blessed Christmas Season & a Happy & Healthy 2022

May the true spirit of Christmas linger in your hearts and minds throughout this season & beyond.

Thank you for your continuing support

### The Ward 8 Team







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## Helping Hands

Despite the difficulties during repeated lockdowns in Colombo, we have always managed to deliver support for the Helping Hands family. Names of residents in difficulty are given to the HH team and their circumstances are assessed before deciding to increase the number of families we support. Some of our members need extra help at times and we discovered one such member who is disabled, sleeping on a piece of cardboard. The HH team provided him with a bed and a mattress.

The recipients of our donations have had a difficult year as any hourly work they may have had and used to supplement their living costs has not been available for much of the year. We will be giving them extra funds to help them over the Christmas period as we do not expect to be able to provide them with a Christmas Party or a food parcel this year.

We would like to thank the Livingston Church in Scotland for their continued support and also all our local donors. We would not be able to provide assistance to the local community of Scots Kirk who are in need of help without your generosity.

### Some of the Helping Hands Family





The long-awaited COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow has come to a close, making important progress in a number of areas — but not enough. The world still remains off track to beat back the climate crisis. Our understanding of the role of Christians is to be supportive of all progressive leadership in this area and to be willing to protest and sing for the changes necessary.

Glasgow has a great reputation as a city of song, so I attended a singing protest at the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh where we learned this new hymn:



### **A WAKE-UP CALL**

***The world is made by your creative hand  
You made us stewards of sky, and sea and land.  
And yet with carelessness or cruel design  
We've wrought so much destruction over time.***

***We've caused the trees to burn, the seas to rise,  
Dispersed our carbon clouds throughout the skies,  
plundered the earth for all that we could gain,  
and treated warning voices with disdain.***

*by Rev Tom Gordon (tune Sursum Corda)*

This story is not over - recognising the urgency of the challenge. Government ministers from all over the world agreed that countries should come back next year to submit stronger 2030 emissions reduction targets with the aim of closing the gap to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celcius. Ministers also agreed that developed countries should urgently deliver more resources to help climate-vulnerable countries adapt to the dangerous and costly consequences of climate change that they are feeling already — from dwindling crop yields to devastating storms.

Going beyond headline targets, leaders explained the steps their countries are taking to deliver these commitments; including action on coal, cars, cash and trees, among others.

A significant number of leaders spoke about ending coal power. 42 countries have set coal phase out dates and international public finance for coal is coming to an end.

There was an encouraging commitment to working together to achieve climate aims, including with the private sector, international organisations and civil society. Significant announcements included:

- ▶ Over 40 leaders joined the Breakthrough Agenda, a 10-year plan to work together to create green jobs and growth globally, making clean technologies and solutions the most affordable, accessible and attractive option before 2030 – beginning with power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture.



- ▶ Over 120 countries covering more than 90% of the world's forests endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests & Land Use committing to work collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, backed by the biggest ever commitment of public funds for forest conservation and a global roadmap to make 75% of forest commodity supply chains sustainable.
- ▶ A Just Energy Transition Partnership was announced to support South Africa's decarbonisation efforts; a powerful example of collaboration between an emerging economy and international partners.
- ▶ The launch of the Global Methane Pledge saw over 100 countries committing collectively to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

Some of our Christian songs seem to have more energy than the conference debates which was rather an anti-climax. However, the protesters were colourful and persistent. I leave you with another song to ponder:

***We're on a planet  
That has a problem  
We've got to solve it, get involved  
And do it now, now, NOW  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now (Tune Bella Ciao)***

Please join in where and when you can, this problem is not going away.

Revd. Ian.





# Graham's Funny Bone

A copy of "A Christmas Carol," just fell on my toe. It hurts like the Dickens.



Sure you can buy your wife some expensive jewelry and perfume



But she will never forget the Christmas you got her a mop

No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn keeper has shut under Tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test. 🤒🤒



If you want to save money at Xmas, now's the perfect time to tell the kids that Santa didn't make it through the pandemic



DEAR SANTA,  
ALL I WANT  
IS A FAT  
BANK ACCOUNT  
& A SKINNY BODY  
PLEASE DON'T  
MIX IT UP  
AGAIN LIKE  
LAST YEAR!



We are sorry to announce Christmas has been cancelled this year. It was just too difficult.

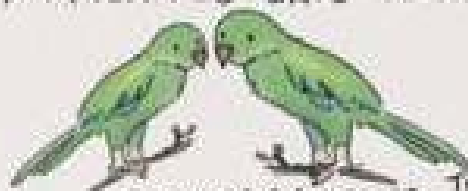
- Joseph and Mary couldn't travel because of restrictions.
- The three wise men are working from home so they won't come.
- The elves are not allowed to be more than 8 at the time in the workshop.
- Santa is in a high-risk group and can't see any children.
- Rudolph had a red nose so he is in quarantine.

# Merry Christmas from Sri Lanka

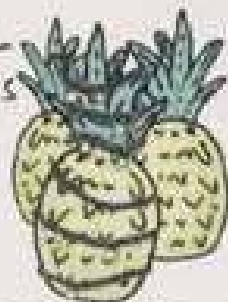
ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS  
MY MACHANG GAVE TO ME



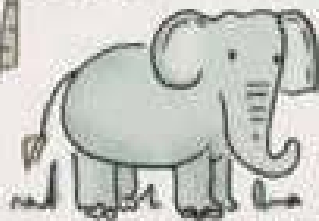
A MONKEY IN  
A PALM TREE



TWO PARAKEETS



THREE PINEAPPLES



FOUR ELEPHANTS



FIVE CUPS  
OF TEA



SIX KOTTU ROTIS



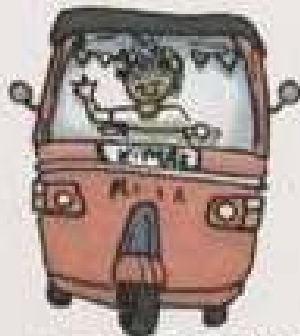
SEVEN FISHERMEN  
FISHING



EIGHT WHALES  
SWIMMING



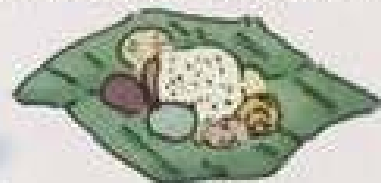
NINE SAILA DANCERS



TEN BEERING TUK TUKS



ELEVEN SURFERS  
SURFING



TWELVE  
RICE & CURRIES

12 DAYS OF SRI LANKAN CHRISTMAS



I have just been reading the Newsletter. I must congratulate you and all your contributors. It is a superb mix of interesting facts and wonderfully cheering bright photographs. I really enjoyed the jokes at the end too . Keep up the good work.

May McFadyean



Many thanks for sharing this newsletter. I feel so much a part of SASK and remember with joy Rev Jim. I thank God for his life and service to SASK during a very difficult time.

I trust you are well during this challenging time. Many blessings

Ramesh Schaffter



Beautifully laid out, informative and interesting, as always. Enjoyed reading it. Many thanks for sharing it with me. Warm regards,

Neranjana de Silva



I still have fond memories of SASK and thoroughly enjoyed all the interesting articles in your Newsletter. Thank you for continuing to send it out by email. All good wishes,

Margaret Hutt



Many thanks for this. Tinged with sadness as I read about Chloe (and of course Jim ). I have so many many memories of visiting Chloe at her home. Well done again on a fascinating read - the good thing is to see so many new faces active in SASK.

Stewart





Wishing you, our readers of the St. Andrew and your families a blessed Christmas and a joyous 2022 filled with good health.

A parting thought on the folk carol that has its origins from the West Country of England - the carol was sung by carolers, or mummers as they were called in the 19th century, when children went from door to door expecting treats, which most often included Christmas pudding and figs.

There are various versions and this appeared in an 1836 newspaper:

***We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy new year,  
A pocket full of money  
And a cellar full of beer.***



# Dates for your Diary



We are international, interdenominational, open to all  
**All are welcome.**

Sunday morning service will continue each week at 9.30 am.

Special services planned during December 2021

24th Watch Night service at 11pm

25th Christmas Day at 9.30am

26th Sunday Service at 9.30am

The Government restrictions on the number of attendees allowed for our Sunday morning services keep changing depending on the country situation, hence, unprecedented changes may occur. Therefore, please do advise our Church officer Kumar on 0722125713 / 0779978870 if you plan to attend service, so we can manage everyone. Approximately 50 people can join our services.

## **Mission Work at Scots Kirk**

**Helping Hands** – Financial support for those disadvantaged and living in the area of St Andrew's.

Contact Joubert +94777722736

**Netherlee Cottage** - Rehabilitation Centre for Mental Health issues.

Contact Gillian Mailler - email [gillmailler@gmail.com](mailto:gillmailler@gmail.com)

**Lunch for the Needy** - Held each Thursday from 11.45 am to 1.30 pm following strict COVID guidelines.

Volunteer servers are needed each week.

Contact Shalini - email [swickramasuriya@hotmail.com](mailto:swickramasuriya@hotmail.com)

**Mulleriyawa Hospital Ward 8** - Remains closed to visitors and therefore visits cannot be organised.

Contact Shanthini Ahangama - email [shani\\_ahangama@hotmail.com](mailto:shani_ahangama@hotmail.com).

Our Church is normally used by;  
The Korean Church every Sunday.

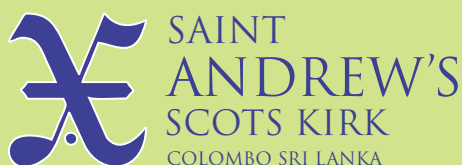
The Four Square Church, every Sunday evening and Thursday lunch time

**Interim Moderator Rev Ian Gilmour** – email [IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:IGilmour@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Church officer** – K.S Kumar – [churchofficer@scotskirk.lk](mailto:churchofficer@scotskirk.lk)

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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee.