

the Saint
Andrew



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

– Mahatma Gandhi

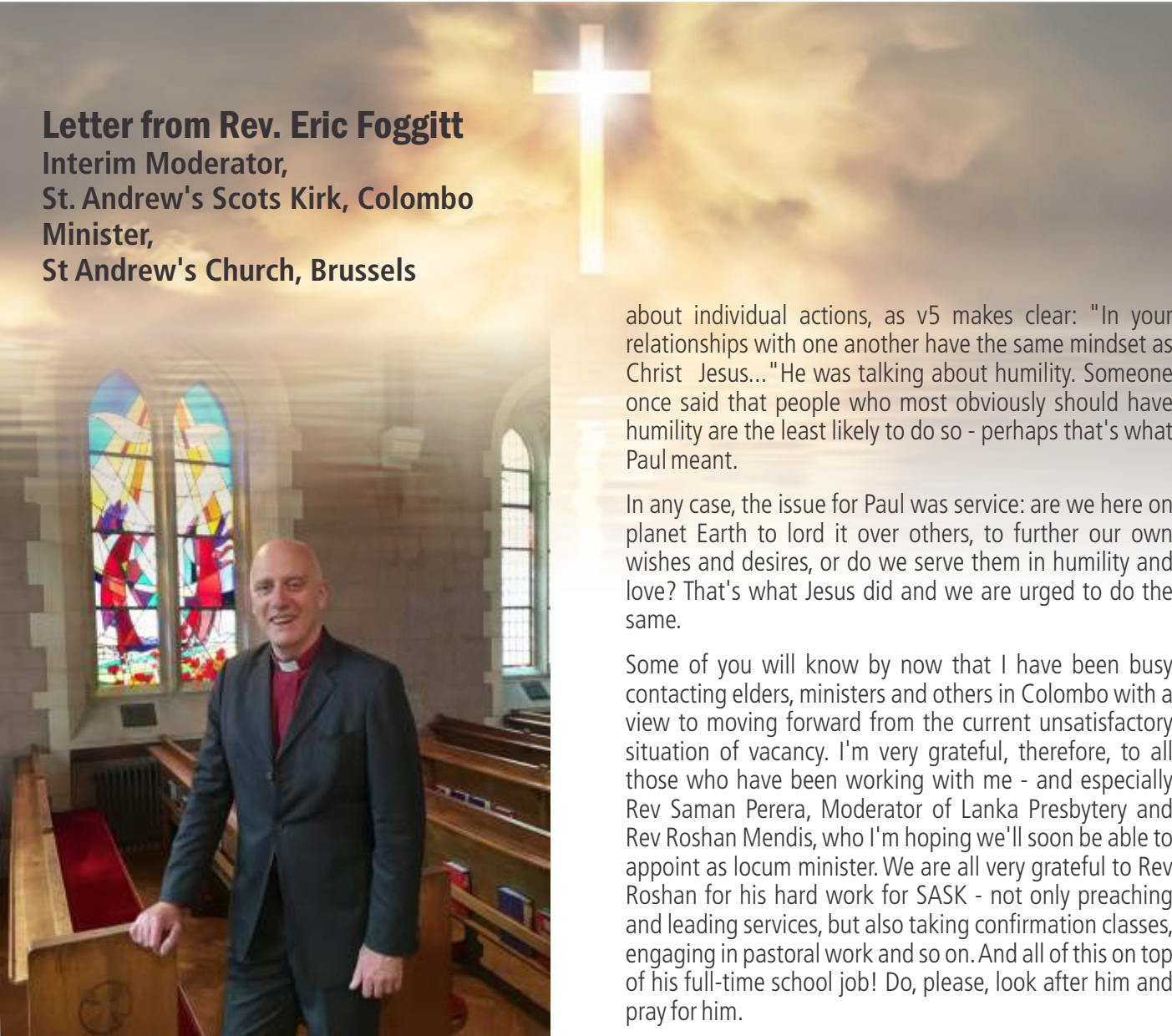


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Letter from Rev. Eric Foggitt
Interim Moderator,
St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, Colombo
Minister,
St Andrew's Church, Brussels

about individual actions, as v5 makes clear: "In your relationships with one another have the same mindset as Christ Jesus..." He was talking about humility. Someone once said that people who most obviously should have humility are the least likely to do so - perhaps that's what Paul meant.

In any case, the issue for Paul was service: are we here on planet Earth to lord it over others, to further our own wishes and desires, or do we serve them in humility and love? That's what Jesus did and we are urged to do the same.

Some of you will know by now that I have been busy contacting elders, ministers and others in Colombo with a view to moving forward from the current unsatisfactory situation of vacancy. I'm very grateful, therefore, to all those who have been working with me - and especially Rev Saman Perera, Moderator of Lanka Presbytery and Rev Roshan Mendis, who I'm hoping we'll soon be able to appoint as locum minister. We are all very grateful to Rev Roshan for his hard work for SASK - not only preaching and leading services, but also taking confirmation classes, engaging in pastoral work and so on. And all of this on top of his full-time school job! Do, please, look after him and pray for him.

There remain one or two obstacles in the way: Rev Roshan is not yet available to take on a bigger role with SASK and the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland needs to give its approval. I also wish to set in place support and in-post training for Rev Roshan from excellent facilities in Scotland. There is also a shortage of Scottish ministers and as I write, our churches in Amsterdam, Paris and Rome are all vacant, without a minister, so we in the I.P. are rearranging things - my own church here in Brussels may be partnered with Paris, some 200 miles away!

Meantime, I hope and trust that you will continue to support SASK in your attendance, in your service and giving; and also, in prayer - that we may together, humbly and lovingly, seek to walk in unity through these dark days of hunger, poverty and hardship for so many. The Gospel is all about God bringing light from darkness; I pray that He may do this again for us all.

With every blessing,
Eric

Dear friends,

It has been a joy to re-connect with friends and acquaintances from three years ago, when Tineke and I spent a very memorable few months with you in Colombo. Even though it was through Zoom or WhatsApp, or even email, I'm delighted to be back in touch with you. And I'm aware that you are living through very difficult times, with economic problems in the nation, queues for food and fuel and many in dire poverty. We have been praying for an end to this situation, and will continue to do so.

Very recently, looking towards Good Friday and the lessons of Easter, we in Brussels have been looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians. Up there in Macedonia there were evidently proud, selfish people and a good few power-driven individuals who were causing problems in the church. So, he wrote to them: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit..." (Phil 2:3) and urged them to emulate the example of Jesus, who "emptied" himself and became a servant. He wasn't just talking

The Soldier's Crime

Greta Zwaan

Nailed to the crossbar, couldn't move, now let's see Him try to prove,
All the things He claimed to be - Son of God and majesty.
But now He's under our control, He's stuck upon a wooden pole.
The claims He made were sure great schemes; fantastic thoughts and
crazy dreams.

Now look what happened to His plan - He's nothing more than one
dead man!
Such foolish things that guys will do, I guess He's just one messed up
Jew.
My goodness! It's so dark out now but it is only noon!
What's happening? What's this all about, why is it dark so soon?

You don't suppose that Jew was right, and what He said was true?
If he was right, God help our souls! Oh God! What can we do?
We can't undo this horrible crime, we didn't see the light;
It took this frightening, midday black to know we lost the fight.

God! We are doomed by lack of faith, we've hung your only Son,
He, most innocent of all; we each, a guilty one!
But God replies, "Hope is not lost, your trust can set you free.
Just do what Jesus told you to: 'Come, believe in me.'"

The soldiers bent their grieving heads and sought for their release,
Then Jesus gladly took them in and gave eternal peace.



Ride on, Ride on in Majesty! The story behind the hymn

The hymn adapted from Matthew 21: 1-17 is all about Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It was Henry Hart Milman who wrote the hymn in 1820 although it wasn't until 1827 that it was actually published.

Vicar of Hodnet, Shropshire Bishop Reginald Heber was keen on developing a collection of hymns that could be used with the cycle of the liturgical church year. While he himself had written quite a few hymns, to complete his collection he reached out to friends and colleagues including Sir Walter Scott, Robert Southey and Henry Milman, the Vicar of St. Mary's, Reading Berkshire, a skilled poet and in line to be made Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

Milman responded with a few hymns including texts intended for Advent, Good Friday and Palm Sunday and 'Ride on, Ride on in majesty' took top place amongst the hymns eventually appearing in print. Heber submitted a draft of his collection, *Hymns Written and Adapted to the Weekly Church Service of the Year* to the Bishop of London, writing to his wife Amelia in 1822, "The Bishop of London has suggested a good many alterations in my hymns, but speaks very handsomely of them, and encourages me to publish them."

Unfortunately, the hymn book was not realized in Heber's lifetime. He was appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1823 where he remained until his death in 1826. It was his wife Amelia who eventually published the collection, where this hymn was placed as the first of two hymns for the Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday). It was also later published in Milman's *Selection of Psalms and Hymns* published in 1837.

Composer Stanley L Osbourne described the hymn as, "Objective, robust, confident, and stirring, it possesses that peculiar combination of tragedy and victory which draws the singer into the very centre of the drama. It is this which gives the hymn its power and its challenge".

The popularity of the hymn is exemplified when in 1907, John Julian, in his *Dictionary of Hymnology*, titled it the most popular Palm Sunday hymn in the English language at that time.

Ride on, Ride on is processional hymn sung on Palm Sunday and is sung to various tunes including St. Drostan by John Bacchus Dykes and Winchester New.



THE LATE VERY REV. DR. MILMAN, DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT.—No. I.

H. H. M.

RIDE on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes Hosanna cry!
Thine humble beast pursues his road,
With palms and scatter'd garments strew'd!

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die!
Oh Christ! Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive Death and conquer'd Sin!

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes,
To see the approaching sacrifice!

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Expects His own anointed Son!

Getting to know our congregation

Ten Qs for Anila De Silva

She sits quietly in the choir stalls during Sunday service, adding some much needed support to her organist dad Neranjan whenever needed. But then, more often than not, at the end of a service, she raises her voice in praise and the congregation is transported near to heaven. Anila de Silva has the voice of an angel and lends that amazing voice to the occasional Bible reading assignment as well. Ever willing to help in church events, she generally comes for service with her mum Dayani and dad in tow, adding in some lusty notes into the morning's worship.

She is now studying at Monash University in Malaysia and while we miss her dearly, she still remains firm in spirit in worship at St. Andrew's and assures us, she'll be back soon.

Here are Ten Qs to get to know Anila de Silva a bit better:

1. How would I describe myself?

This would be one of the most difficult questions to answer, but in short I would describe myself as bubbly, positive and always in for a challenge. I believe in living in the moment and living life to the fullest.

2. What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include spending hours in my dad's studio singing specially gospel songs. Apart from that I like to cook, binge watch Netflix, spoil my dog and hang out with my close friends.

3. Most memorable moment?

I think my most memorable moment was when I got into Monash, as there were so many challenges I was faced with and eventually when I got accepted into Monash it was a dream come true.

4. What has been most challenging?

In my personal opinion, I believe being away from home especially during this time has been really challenging for me. I have always been very family oriented from childhood and therefore leaving home to study in Malaysia has resulted in some days where I feel really homesick and upset.

5. What frightens me?

As weird as this sounds, butterflies really scare me. I have always been afraid of butterflies since I was young and it has crept into my adulthood as well.

6. Favorite food?

Cheesecake

7. Quirky Habit?

One of my worst habits is peeling my lips when I am stressed with assignments/ have a lot of deadlines to meet or I am having an unusually busy day.

8. What can't you do without?

My family, my best friend and my dog

9. What's a day like for you?

I wake up pretty late and sleep really late as well. My day includes cooking, gyming, studying and binge watching Netflix. Now that I am abroad I call my family back home every day and finally I keep up with my social media.

10. Why do you like to worship at St. Andrews?

One of the biggest reasons I enjoy worshipping at St. Andrews is that I am able to use my talents and my skills for God's service. In comparison to all the churches I've been to before, this place felt like home as age doesn't matter, everyone is there for each other and there is no judgement. I definitely miss every second of worship back at St. Andrews and I am awaiting to join as soon as I am back.



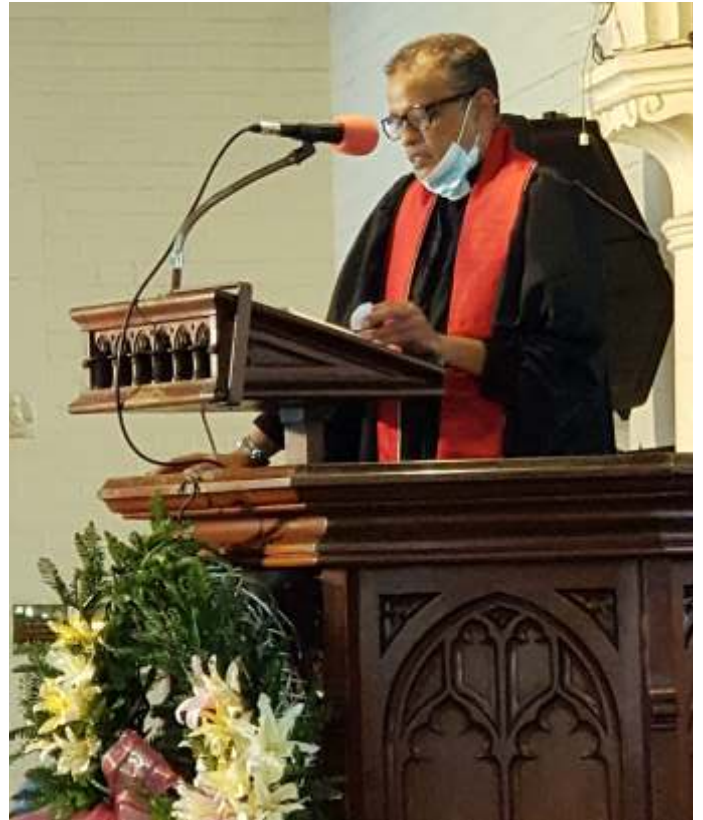
Through the lens –

EASTER SERVICE AT ST. ANDREW'S

With Rev. Roshan Mendis leading our Easter Sunday Service, the congregation had a fulfilling morning singing uplifting hymns, a blessing and explanation of the empty tomb shared with the children who also had an Easter egg hunt and a sermon that re-iterated the symbolism of the empty tomb and the stories that surround the resurrection. The service had the additional blessing of welcoming into the congregation 10 month old Alanna Inaaya, daughter of Piyathma and Amanda Gooneratne and little sister to Aleena Raaya.



Through the lens (cont...)



Through the lens (cont...)

CHORAL MEDITATIONS FOR LENT

The Past Pupil's Choir of St. Bridget's Convent presented a choral mediation for Lent on the 8th of April. The choir was conducted by Harin Amirthanathan and accompanied by Neranjan de Silva. Rev. Roshan Mendis presided over the service.

The processional was a traditional Latin processional – Mode V – beseeching the Lord to Hear us and Have mercy on us. Capturing our hopes for peace and safety, the choir also sang the African-American Spiritual Deep River by Russel Robinson, Edward Elgar's 1187 hymn Ave verum and Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, a poignant picture of Mary at the foot of the cross. These were interspersed with congregational hymns, Bible readings and an organ recital by Neranjan de Silva.



Through the lens (cont...)

MISSION PROJECTS Netherlee Cottage

The Netherlee Cottage Project was started in 2005 with a donation from Netherlee Parish Church in Glasgow, Scotland. It is a family house located in Thaladena, owned by St Andrew's Scots Kirk, Colombo, a congregation of the Church of Scotland. The residents are 6 ladies who have been patients previously in Mulleriyawa Half Way Home. Netherlee Cottage is a development centre to reintroduce the ladies back into society. This is a unique facility in Sri Lanka.



The Sri Lankan New Year and Easter is a time for giving so we are busy at the Cottage making New Year treats - Kokis, Aluwa and Mun Kewum to share with the neighbours.



Lots of smiling faces waiting to start the Biryani with barbecue chicken, one of the many happy times we shared.



Consultants, Doctors and Matrons from the National Institute for Mental Health enjoyed a visit to the Cottage.

The recent meetings at NIMH suggest we will welcome new ladies to the Cottage for training in April.



Old friends from St Andrew's made a new when Maureen and Chaminda came to spend time with the residents.

Through the lens (cont...)

Helping Hands

We are very happy that the Helping Hands Mission Project is progressing quite smoothly. There have been a few hiccups along the way but these have been overcome through the dedicated efforts of the Helping Hands Team.

The weather here is quite gloomy and dark with overcast skies and rain but the situation in the country is gloomier. The queues to buy essentials grow longer by the day, prices are increasing rapidly and food stocks are running out. If this situation continues, many poor people like our Helping Hands beneficiaries will find it very difficult to survive. In fact, they have already

mentioned that the money they get is hardly sufficient for a single meal as even a cup of tea is beyond their reach. Hence, instead of the usual hampers for the Sri Lankan New Year, we gave them a gift of money.

One of our beneficiaries was an amputee to whom we gifted a bed and a mattress. We are happy to note he is sleeping comfortably on the bed, a big change from the piece of cardboard he was sleeping on previously and took a toll on his health. Helping Hands is also meeting the cost of his medicines.



Another of our beneficiaries was arrested of an early morning on a charge of assault. She is normally a peaceful well-mannered lady who lived alone but has had a history of nervous breakdowns in her latter years. The inability to obtain her required medication prompted a marked change in her demeanour. She is currently in prison but will be released soon. She will need our support to recover from this episode.

One of our very generous donors who has also been prolific at raising funds for this project, has been taken ill. Your prayers at this time for him are appreciated.



Through the lens (cont...)

The Lunch Project

Despite COVID related challenges where we were precluded from sharing lunch at our premises, the Thursday Lunch Project managed to overcome the obstacle, handing out packs of lunches to 120 regulars at the church gate. There are setbacks: rising food prices which has meant we now pay more for the pack of lunch, rising prices of cooking gas and an acute shortage of gas experienced by our suppliers.

We know these same challenges translate to the lives of our weekly subscribers, who queue diligently earlier and earlier on a Thursday to avail of a free meal. However, we are determined and remain committed at SASK supported by our generous donors and the team on the Lunch Project.



The Cross Was His Own

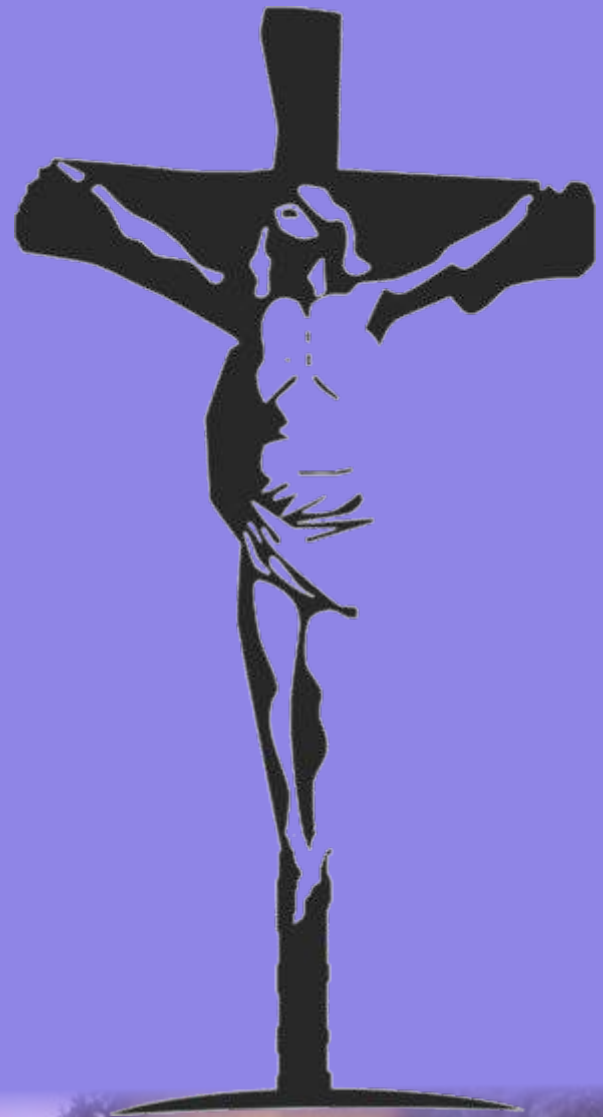
They borrowed a bed to lay his head
When Christ the Lord came down;
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass
For him to ride to town;
But the crown that he wore
And the cross that he bore
Were his own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd He fed
On the grassy mountainside;
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which he was satisfied;
But the crown that he wore
And the cross that he bore
Were his own.

He borrowed the ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude;
He borrowed a nest in which to rest;
He had never a home so rude;
But the crown that he wore
And the cross that he bore
Were his own.

He borrowed a room on his way to the tomb
The Passover Lamb to eat;
They borrowed a cave for him a grave;
They borrowed a winding sheet;
But the crown that he wore
And the cross that he bore
Were his own.

The thorns on His head were worn in my stead
For me the Saviour died.
For guilt of sin the nails drove in
When Him they crucified;
Though the crown He wore
And the cross He bore
Were His own
They rightly were mine.



Graham's Funny Bone

Two keys hang in an undertaker's office - one for the organ in the chapel; the other for one of the cars in the garage.
Two small signs above the keys read "Hymn" and "Hearse."

What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a tricycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle?
Attire.

One Sunday after church Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

Her daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilts." Needless to say, Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the Pastor stopped by for tea. Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said, "Be not afraid, Thy comforter is coming."

So I phoned my Scottish boss this morning and said: "Sorry boss, I won't be able to come in today, I've got a bit of a cough".

He said: "You have a wee cough laddie?"

I said: "Ok cheers boss - see you next week!"

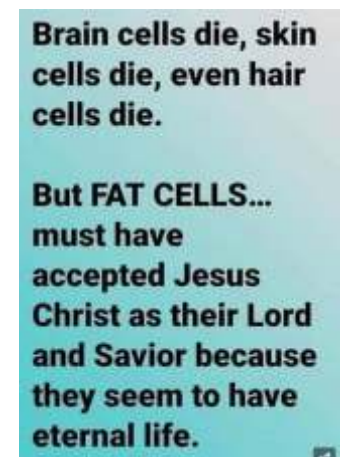
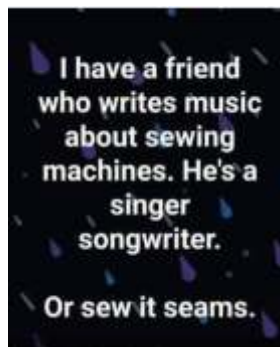
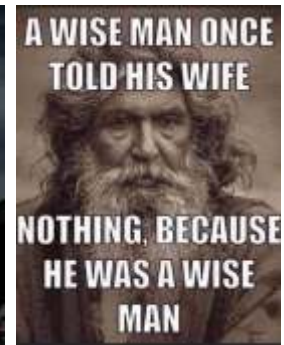
A NEW BRIDE

A young bride was scouring the aisles of the supermarket. Up and down each aisle she went, then started over again. The store manager noticed this and went over to her. "Can I help you find something, miss?" he asked. "It's Mrs!", she said proudly, "I just got married." "Congratulations," said the manager. "What can I help you find?" "Scratch," she replied. "Scratch?" he asked, "Is that a new cleanser or something?" "No silly," she replied brightly. "My husband told me that his mother made everything from scratch, so I need to find some!"

Forgive me, Father, Pastor, Vicar, Padre, Priest ... for I have synonymed.

Just built a chair to support my lower back.
Got the materials at the lumbar yard.

I'll bet only a few of you know God's first name! It has been right there in front of you all along! It's Andy. Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am his own...



Fun facts about EASTER

In the 13th century, the church prohibited eating eggs during Holy Week

Hot Cross Buns is a Good Friday tradition in England

The Bilby is the traditional Easter mascot in Australia

Easter Island is part of Chile

In countries including Greece, Mexico and Spain, effigies of Judas are burned during Easter bonfires

Easter symbols like rabbits stem from the Anglo-Saxon festival Eastre

"Easter Parade" was written by Irving Berlin

Each year, Easter is recognized on the first Sunday of the first full moon on or after the spring equinox

Children in Finland dress as witches at Easter

Ostara is the pagan goddess associated with Easter

The Lily is considered a symbol of Easter

Passover is the Jewish holiday being celebrated the week of Jesus' death and resurrection

Judas traded Jesus in exchange for 30 pieces of silver

Barrabas was the prisoner who was released instead of Jesus

In eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called Lazarus Saturday

Peter Karl Faberge was the jeweler who decorated Easter eggs for royalty



What they say – about our Christmas 2021 Edition of The St. Andrew

What a delightful Newsletter .. thank you
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

Shanthini Ahangama

Thank you so much for sending your St Andrew's
Newsletter

I really enjoyed reading it.

Merry Christmas

Sheila Dunn

To all at St Andrew's Colombo and Netherlee
Cottage

Hope you are all safe and well at this difficult
time. Best wishes for our Christmas Season.

David J Leslie

This is super. Splendid!

Dr Dhanan Senathirajah

Thank you for the newsletter. I find very
informative and packed with lovely content
portraying a glimpse of life in Sri Lanka and St
Andrew's family community. It was good to read
what is happening at Netherlee and all the
wonderful projects there and in the wider
community.


Wishing you and your family a very happy
Christmas

Kind regards

Pamela



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.

The Government restrictions concerning 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 +94 777 722736

Netherlee Cottage -

Rehabilitation Centre for Mental Health issues.
Contact Gillian Mailler - email gillmailler@gmail.com

Lunch for the Needy - 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

Mulleriyawa Hospital Ward 8 -

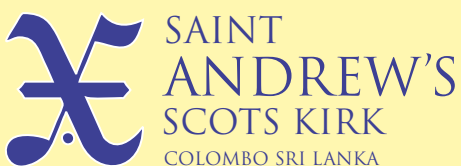
Remains closed to visitors and therefore visits cannot be organised.
Contact Shanthini Ahangama - email shani_ahangama@hotmail.com.

Our Church is used by;

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

Interim Moderator Rev Eric Foggitt - EFoggitt@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church officer – K.S Kumar – churchofficer@scotskirk.lk
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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee.