

the Saint
Andrew



The Resurrection – Pericle Fazzini (1977)

A monumental bronze and copper-alloy colossal sculpture towering at 66 x 23 feet, The Resurrection captures Christ rising from the crater of a nuclear bomb in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Commissioned by the Vatican in 1972 and completed in 1977, the work was cast at the Michelucci Art Foundry in Pistoia and its dramatic energy fills the Paul VI Audience Hall in Rome.

Christ rises at the wall's center, his anguished face mirroring humanity's struggle in turbulent times. Twisted roots and jagged forms echo the chaos of wars, disasters, and fractured societies. From devastation—whether nuclear craters or modern crises—resurrection remains a fierce, unsettling act of hope.

It's an awe-inspiring fusion of faith, art, and history that continues to stir reflection on resurrection, hope, and humanity's search for peace.



Church of Scotland – Presbyterian

For private circulation only

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From the Minister's Desk



A Reflection on the Words from the Cross – “Father, Forgive Them ...”

“But Jesus was saying, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’” – Luke 23:34

When Jesus was crucified, His very first words from the cross were a prayer of forgiveness. He asked His Father to pardon those who were putting Him to death—the Jewish religious leaders, the Roman politicians, and the soldiers. Yet His prayer reached beyond them, embracing all who have sinned against God. Even in agony, Jesus interceded for His executioners, fulfilling

His own command: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

This prayer reminds us that no one is beyond God's mercy. Even if we feel like the worst of sinners, too far gone or too unworthy, we hear Christ's voice still pleading: “Father, forgive.” The word “forgive” here is in the imperfect tense, meaning Jesus repeated this prayer throughout His crucifixion.

- ✠ When Pilate falsely accused Him, He prayed: **“Father, forgive him...”**
- ✠ When He was beaten, mocked, and stripped: **“Father, forgive them...”**
- ✠ When His back was torn by whips: **“Father, forgive them...”**
- ✠ When He carried the cross through the streets: **“Father, forgive them...”**
- ✠ When nails pierced His hands and feet: **“Father, forgive them...”**
- ✠ When crowds jeered at Him: **“Father, forgive them...”**
- ✠ And across twenty centuries, His words still echo: **“Father, forgive them...”**

Paul echoes this call in Ephesians 4:32:

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Dear friends, may we follow Christ's example—extending forgiveness in our families, our church, our schools, our workplaces, and our communities. For in forgiving, we reflect the very heart of Jesus.

We are 'saved to serve'.
Rev. Roshan Mendis



Marked by Ashes, Called to Renewal



A smudge of ash on the forehead may seem simple, yet it carries centuries of meaning.

On Ash Wednesday, Christians step into Lent with this ancient symbol of repentance and mortality. The practice reaches back to the early Church, when penitents covered themselves in sackcloth and ashes to show sorrow for sin. By the 11th century, Ash Wednesday was formally established in the Latin Church and the tradition of ashes has endured ever since.

The ashes themselves are made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday, then traced in the sign of the cross with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This ritual reminds believers of life's fragility and God's mercy.

Today, Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans and many Protestants worldwide begin Lent with this solemn act, uniting millions in a shared journey of renewal and hope.



The story behind the hymn

There Is a Green Hill Far Away – Cecil Frances Alexander

It's a hymn born from a hill but few hymns capture the solemn beauty of Good Friday as tenderly as "There Is a Green Hill Far Away." Written in 1848 by Cecil Frances Alexander, the hymn was inspired by a small rounded hill near her home in Derry, Ireland. Seeing its resemblance to Calvary, Alexander sought to explain the meaning of Christ's sacrifice in simple, vivid language that even children could understand.

Alexander (1818–1895) was one of the most influential hymn writers of the 19th century. Married to an Anglican clergyman, she devoted her life to teaching the faith through verse. Her Hymns for Little Children included enduring classics such as "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "Once in Royal David's City." She believed that hymns should be both poetic and instructive, helping young believers grasp profound truths.

"There Is a Green Hill Far Away" reflects this mission perfectly. Its imagery of a hill "outside a city wall" brings the crucifixion into everyday landscapes, reminding worshippers that Christ's death was both a cosmic act of salvation and a real event in human history. Today, the hymn remains a staple of Good Friday services, cherished for its gentle clarity and timeless message of redemption.

Green Hill Far Away

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains He had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved,
And we must love Him too,
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do.



No. 52. *There is a Green Hill far away.*
"And they took Jesus and led him away."—John 19: 16.
Mrs. CECIL F. ALEXANDER. Glee, C. Stevens, by per.

1. There is a green hill far a-way, With-out a cit-y wall;
2. We may not know, we can-not tell What pains He had to bear;
3. He died that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good,
4. There was no oth-er good enough, To pay the price of sin;

Where the dear Lord was cru-ci-fied, Who died to save us all.
But we be-lieve it was for us He hung and suffered there.
That we might go at last to heav'n, Sav'd by His precious blood.
He on-ly could un-lock the gate Of heav'n and let us in.

CHORUS
Oh dear-ly, dear-ly has He loved, And we must love Him too!

And trust in His re-deeming blood, And try His works to do.

5-3



“Never say never” for “Nothing is impossible for God”!

John & Patricia Purves - Visit to Sri Lanka in February 2026



The Church of Scotland has a pension scheme for its retired ministers and staff which is adequate but not excessive. Returning to Sri Lanka, then, after my retirement in 2013, was never an option for us until some dear friends invited us to share in the wedding service and celebrations of their daughter. This was an offer we could not refuse. We were delighted to accept. Meanwhile, there had been long-standing invitation from Rev Roshan Mendis for me to preach in my former pulpit so the bones of a possible return visit began to knit together and live for us!

By the end of January, we were in transit out of the depths of a cold and wet Scottish winter into the heat and humidity of Colombo. It felt good to be back in the place which had been our happy home for 10 years.

But how do we begin to describe adequately the two weeks which we spent among you? Well, it was not long before the word was out that we were to be in town so that we began receiving a series of kind invitations, here, there and everywhere. By the end of our visit, it felt like we had been able to condense the essence of our 10 memorable years into two weeks!

We are so grateful for all the kind offers of personal hospitality which we were able to enjoy - on the compound at St Andrew's - at the Colombo Swimming Club - in Fort (where we lived at the Baur's Building for two years) - at the Jetwing Hotel - and at the Dutch Burgher Union. Then, there were the happy gatherings for worship and refreshments at St Andrew's Scots Kirk - a Scottish Evening at the British High Commission - Netherlee Cottage's 20th birthday party - and the weekly meeting of the 17th Colombo St Andrew's Netherlee Scout Group.

Moving about the city to enjoy all of these occasions obliged us to brush up on our 'tuk-tuk' as well as our Sinhala. This, in turn, enabled us see how so much of the city had changed - new highways - flyovers - a Port City - and so many sky-scraping hotels, apartment buildings and statement towers. It was refreshing, however, to discover some of the things which had not changed - like the menus at CSC and the passion fruit cheesecake at the Paradise Road café!

Then, of course, there was our *raison d'être*, the wedding! Now, kurta and sari shops are non-existent in the rural Scottish village in which we live so a return trip to Pettah was arranged for us. What fun we both had, trying



John & Patricia Purves - Visit to Sri Lanka in February 2026 (...cont)



John Purves

on our potential wedding finery and what a great pleasure it was to be offered a rebranding discount of 50%!

The marriage service was celebrated in the family garden and blessed by a well-timed inter-monsoon shower of rain. With great foresight, our hosts had a sturdy canopy in place under which we could be focussed on the pleasure being shared by the happy couple. There were some peals of thunder each perfectly timed to emphasize the significant points being made by the minister! We were able to eat, drink and make merry well into the evening.

Later, there was an opportunity to reconvene with an even greater company of family and friends further down the coast for another celebration of nuptial bliss. What could we do but linger a few days longer by the seashore to reflect, with thanksgiving, on all that had been provided for us in the goodness of God?

All too soon we were back on the Great Southern Highway en route for the airport. There was time for one more visit to St Andrew's to complete a little project on which we had been working during our stay. We had time, also, to stop off for some final home visits before checking in at Katunayake.

Sitting there, in the departure lounge for Doha, we took some time to reflect on everything which had happened at such a whirlwind speed through the previous two weeks, saying to ourselves, "How did we manage to do all of that?" Of course, the simple answer is that we did not do any of it by ourselves but rather in full and further proof that "Nothing is impossible for God" and that we should "Never say never" to any of the wonderful plans that he has for each of our lives.

To everyone who enabled and encouraged us in this great truth we want to offer a very big thank you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Hill That Refused to Be Silenced The Hill of Crosses – Lithuania



In northern Lithuania, just outside the city of Šiauliai, lies one of the world's most extraordinary pilgrimage sites: the Hill of Crosses.

Rising modestly from the landscape, this hill is covered with more than 200,000 crosses, crucifixes, rosaries, and statues, each placed by believers as a symbol of faith and hope. Its origins are traced to the 1831 uprising against Russian rule, when grieving families planted crosses to honor fallen loved ones. During the

Soviet occupation, authorities bulldozed the site multiple times, yet locals defiantly replaced the crosses overnight, turning the hill into a powerful symbol of resistance.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II visited the Hill of Crosses, calling it a place of "hope, peace and love." Today, it continues to grow as pilgrims from around the world add their own crosses, making it a living testament to resilience, devotion, and the enduring power of faith.



Why 40?

Lent lasts 40 days because it mirrors key biblical periods of trial and preparation — most notably Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. The number 40 is deeply symbolic in Scripture, appearing in the flood narrative, Moses' time on Mount Sinai and Israel's years in the desert.

Biblical Roots:

Jesus fasted for **40 days in the wilderness** before beginning His ministry (Matthew 4:2)



The Great Flood lasted **40 days and nights** (Genesis 7:4)



Moses spent **40 days on Mount Sinai** receiving the Law (Exodus 24:18)



Israel wandered for **40 years in the desert** before entering the Promised Land (Numbers 14:33). These events link the number 40 with testing, purification, and preparation.



The Latin word *Quadragesima* means "fortieth," and Lent was formally set at 40 days by the early Church to reflect these biblical precedents. Sundays are not counted as fast days, which is why the calendar span from Ash Wednesday to Easter totals 46 days



From Blind Date to Diamond: The Sefcicks' 60-Year Romance

On 21st May 1966, Jane and Paul Sefcick stood together at the altar in London, beginning a journey that has now spanned six decades. Their story began, quite unexpectedly, on a blind date at Charing Cross station. Paul jokes that Jane was "a pickup," but fate had other plans. That evening, they saw Chips With Everything at the theatre, followed by dinner at The Egg and I. "That started it all off," Jane recalls warmly. Four years later, they were married.

Since then, their lives have been filled with adventure, resilience and devotion. Jane, a nurse, and Paul, an electronic engineer working on Ministry of Defence contracts, built a life rooted in kindness and faith. Together, they raised two children—Mark and Alison—and now delight in their grandchildren, Daniel and Emily. Daniel, with a double first from St Andrews, is training to be an actuary, while Emily is on the cusp of becoming a doctor. Their pride in their family shines through every word.

Sri Lanka holds a special place in Jane's heart—she was born and christened here. In 1996, after a difficult year, the couple returned for a holiday. "We've come every year since, except for COVID," Paul explains.

They celebrated their golden wedding in Sri Lanka, and now, their diamond anniversary. "We love it here, really. The people are just lovely," Jane says.

When asked what has sustained their marriage, Jane smiles: "He's kind, he's gentle and he's been a superb father." Paul adds with quiet affection, "I rather liked her, actually... I was attracted to her and we got on." Their bond is evident in the way they speak of each other—with humor, respect, and gratitude.

Now living in Berkshire, they enjoy a quieter rhythm: walking, reading, sharing meals with friends and traveling when they can. "We'd like to keep our health, be able to get around, and just enjoy each other's company," Paul reflects. After 60 years, their love remains steady, their faith unshaken, and their joy in life undiminished.





THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS

This Easter season at St. Andrew's has been alive with faith, fellowship and purpose. Inspiring preachers have led Sunday services that lifted spirits, while Holy Week reflections stirred hearts with the true reason Jesus walked among us. Beyond worship, our mission projects continue with enthusiasm, carrying Christ's love into the community throughout the year. And each Sunday, fellowship after service reminds us that we are one family in Christ—sharing stories, laughter and encouragement.

As you scroll down, enjoy our photo gallery capturing services, music, readers, preachers, and the vibrant life of our congregation in action.

Palm Sunday Service



Easter Service and Brunch



THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)

Easter Service and Brunch



Sunday Services





THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)



The Shepherds



Revs John Purves and Roshan Mendis



Sudesh Sundhara Moorthy



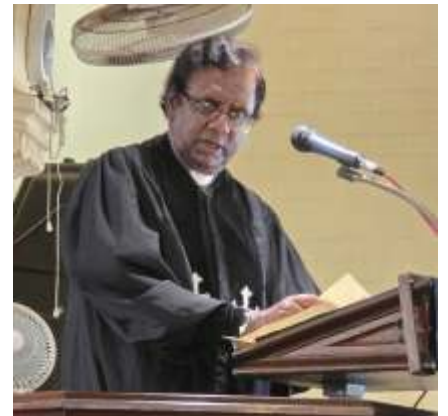
Rev. John Purves



Pastor Abigail Schaffter



Pastor Lakmal Wijeratne



Rev. Charlie Jansz

The Music Makers



Anagi Perera



Angelo Samarawickrema



Falan and Aaron



Nilhan Warshamanage



Savindu Jayasinghe



Senaya Jayasinghe



THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)

The Word Sharers



Adina Rosa



Aruni John



Mano Samaraweera



Hiranjana de Alwis



Karen Amerasinghe



Marianne Hills



Radhika Hettiarachchi

Fellowship after Sunday Service





Sunday School: Growing in Faith and Fellowship

Sunday School remains a vibrant cornerstone of our church life, nurturing young hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. Classes continue regularly and we are delighted to welcome a growing number of new students—an encouraging sign of both the children's enthusiasm and the trust parents place in this ministry. Each week brings engaging lessons, interactive activities, and moments of reflection that make biblical truths practical and relevant. The dedication of our teachers and volunteers ensures consistency and creates a welcoming space where every child feels valued.

A highlight this season was the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held on Easter

Sunday. Joy and laughter filled the grounds as children celebrated the message of hope and resurrection through play and fellowship. As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening this ministry—growing not only in numbers but in spiritual impact. We warmly invite more children to join us on this journey of faith, learning, and joyful fellowship.

As we reflect on the year with gratitude, we thank God for His constant guidance and blessings. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the teachers, parents and church leadership for their continued support. With thankful hearts and renewed enthusiasm, we look forward to another year of growth, service and joyful learning in our Sunday School.



THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)



The New Faces of SASK Sunday School Team



Vinodhini Sundhara Moorthy (Vino)

Dear St. Andrew's Scot Kirk Family,

It is with immense joy that I introduce myself as your new Sunday School Ministry Head! My name is Vinodhini, though many affectionately know me as Vino.

When Rev. Roshan Mendis asked me to lead our Children's Ministry, I initially felt the weight of our church's wonderful legacy in this area. However, after much prayer, I accepted this clear, God-given calling to guide young hearts. My passion for teaching children began as a teenager, deepened through raising my two sons – whose growth in faith profoundly shaped my own calling – and is further informed by my experience as a counsellor, seeing the lasting impact of strong values.

Along with my fellow Sunday School teachers, my vision for our Sunday School is to create a safe, vibrant space where we prayerfully sow the seeds of God's Word. I want every child to feel valued, grow in faith, and discover their unique destiny in God.

I am so excited to embark on this journey with you all!



Steve Joseph



Shelini Hettiarachchi

I'm Shelini Hettiarachchi. Most of you will know me from around the congregation at St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, and I am so glad to now be serving in this new role as a Sunday School teacher.

This isn't my first time teaching Sunday school. I had the joy of doing it in a previous church but I am new to this role here, and I come into it with a humble and willing heart. It was something God kept placing on me, and eventually I simply said yes.

My hope is that every child who comes on a Sunday feels safe, loved, and leaves with a little more understanding of how much God cares for them. Nothing fancy, just faithful.

And fair warning, after we cover David and Goliath, do not be surprised if your child starts eyeing every stone they find in the garden and asking if they can practice. Apparently taking down giants is a very transferable skill!

Looking forward to this new journey with you all.

My name is Steve - and I am not too old to be uncle. What made me start teaching Sunday School is the heart I had for kids and how I wanted to bring my creativity for the glory of God.



THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)



Fallon De Vesser

I am an interior designer by profession with a love for creativity and a soft spot for animals. I enjoy expressing creativity not just through design, but also in how I connect with others.

I began teaching Sunday school after Rev. Roshan encouraged me to get involved. I was initially hesitant, but through prayer, I felt God calling me to take on the role.

I'm especially passionate about guiding students through their teenage years—a time of growth, discovery, and many questions. In a world where so much information is readily available, I believe it's essential for them to have a strong Christian foundation to guide them. It's something I would have deeply valued myself, and I feel a responsibility to help them build a faith they can stand on and learn to navigate life through a Christ-centred perspective.



Senaya Jayasinghe

My name is Senaya Jayasinghe and am currently pursuing higher studies in the field of English language teaching.

For as long as I can remember, I have carried within me an innate fondness for children, and I have had many God-given encounters in my life where those same feelings of warmth and affection have been reciprocated through their cute and ingenuous smiles.

This growing love for children, along with my love for the Lord, is what led me to teach at the Scots Kirk Sunday School. I believe that there is truly no better way to love these precious children than to make known to them the highest and greatest form of love: the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." —Matthew 19:14.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



SASK Session Clerk Thomass Atkinson bade farewell to Sri Lanka and St Andrew's as he made his way back home to England. At his last service with the congregation, Rev. Roshan Mendis said a special prayer for him and blessed him.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY



The Youth Fellowship ministry continued to grow and strengthen during the first months of 2026 through meaningful gatherings, worship, fellowship, and spiritually enriching youth services. Although no youth meeting was held in January, the ministry resumed actively from February onwards with several impactful events that encouraged fellowship, spiritual growth, and engagement among the young people of the church.

On the 28th of February 2026, the Youth Fellowship organized a special Movie Night for the youth members. During this event, the inspirational Christian movie "Overcomer" was screened. The movie carried a strong spiritual message about identity, faith, and trusting God during difficult circumstances. The evening created a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere where the youth were able to gather together in fellowship while also receiving spiritual encouragement through the film's message. Popcorn and movie treats were provided for everyone, adding warmth and enjoyment to the event. The program was well received by the youth and helped strengthen unity and friendship among the members.

The next youth gathering was held on the 15th of March 2026 as a Youth Service under the theme "Set Apart – Living Holy in a Digital World." The speaker for the evening was Delaine Shannon. The message focused on the importance of maintaining a holy and Christ-centered life while living in a generation heavily influenced by social media, entertainment, and digital distractions. The sermon encouraged the youth to stand firm in their faith, guard their hearts and minds, and become positive examples to others through their online and daily lives. The service also included several interactive games and activities that encouraged participation and teamwork among the youth members. The gathering concluded with a joyful time of fellowship which helped create stronger relationships within the youth community.

On the 19th of April 2026, another Youth Service was conducted under the title "Daily Devotions." The speaker for this service was Steve Joseph. The sermon emphasized the importance of spending consistent daily time with God through prayer, Bible reading, and personal devotion. The session was highly interactive and encouraged active participation from the youth. Many practical insights were shared on how young people can build a stronger spiritual life amidst busy schedules and distractions. The service inspired the youth to deepen their personal relationship with God and to develop a disciplined devotional life.

All the youth services and meetings conducted during this period were accompanied by beautiful and powerful worship sessions led by the Youth Worship Team. Through music, hymns, and praise, the worship sessions created an atmosphere of reverence and spiritual renewal that prepared the hearts of the youth for worship and the Word of God. The dedication and ministry of the worship team greatly contributed to the success and spiritual impact of each gathering.

Looking ahead, the next Youth Service is scheduled to be held on the 17th of May 2026 under the theme "Casting Anxiety." This upcoming service is expected to address the struggles of fear, stress, and anxiety faced by many young people today, while encouraging them to place their trust fully in God. In conclusion, the Youth Fellowship activities conducted since February 2026 have played an important role in strengthening fellowship, spiritual growth, and youth participation within the church. Through worship, sermons, fellowship activities, and interactive programs, the youth ministry continues to encourage young people to grow closer to God and support one another in faith. Continued prayers and support from the church leadership and congregation will further help the youth ministry flourish in the months ahead.



MISSION PROJECTS

Helping Hands Project: Compassion in Action

The Helping Hand Project continues to uphold its mission of compassion and community care by providing consistent support to those in need. Through its monthly assistance programme, allowances are distributed to all beneficiaries, ensuring stability and relief for vulnerable families. Currently, the project supports 23 beneficiaries each month, helping them meet their essential day-to-day needs.

Further extending its care during the Avurudhu season, the project was blessed with generous contributions from kind-hearted well-wishers. These donations made it possible to distribute thoughtfully prepared Avurudhu goody bags to beneficiaries. Each pack included essential household items such as dhal, rice, sugar, flour, biscuits, tea, soap, and soya meat, bringing both practical support and festive joy to the families.



MULLERIYAWA HALFWAY HOME FOR WOMEN – WARD 38 A MINISTRY OF COMPASSION

Joy and fellowship filled Ward 38 on April 10th as our team joined patients and staff to celebrate Avurudhu together. For many of these women, life's journey has been marked by isolation and hardship. Yet, in those precious hours, simple acts of kindness—a warm smile, a listening ear, a gentle prayer—transformed the atmosphere from somber to radiant, bringing connection, laughter, and renewed hope.

A highlight of the day was the Avurudhu Beauty Pageant, where Pushpa, one of the home's most beloved ladies, proudly won 3rd Prize. Her joy was shared by all, reminding us of the resilience and spirit that shines even in challenging circumstances.

As the Gospel of Matthew 25:40 reminds us:
"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me."

The celebration was more than an event—it was a living testimony of compassion in action. We invite volunteers to join us on our monthly visits, continuing to spread love, fellowship, and hope to those who need it most.

Ward 38 Team



NETHERLEE COTTAGE – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

This April marked a joyful milestone as Netherlee Cottage celebrated 20 years of dedicated service to the Sri Lankan National Institute of Mental Health. A small but heartfelt party brought together neighbours, hospital representatives, housemothers past and present, Rev. John, and the Netherlee management team—all united in gratitude for the journey so far. Residents themselves served soft drinks, sandwiches, and cake, generously donated by Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, adding warmth and pride to the occasion.



Since opening in 2005 and moving to Thaladena in 2008, the Cottage has been blessed with a supportive local community. Their acceptance and friendship have helped residents grow in social awareness and etiquette—skills that are often difficult to teach but vital for dignity and independence.

The past year has brought challenges, from staffing reviews to costly maintenance, yet the team remains steadfast. LKR 52,000 has already been spent on repairs, and larger projects such as subsidence behind the house will require further support. Conversations with the hospital continue, with preparations underway to welcome two new residents in May, guided by the College of Psychiatrists.

Financially, the 2026 budget shows pressures in water, wages, and maintenance, but overall performance remains steady. Through it all, the unwavering support of Netherlee Parish Church in Glasgow has been a cornerstone of success, reminding us that this mission is truly a shared one.

Twenty years on, Netherlee Cottage stands as a testament to compassion, resilience, and community partnership—proof that when love and faith come together, lives are transformed.

The Netherlee Team



THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)

Weekly Lunch Project: Serving Hope Every Thursday



The Weekly Lunch Project, is a cherished initiative at our Church, has stood as a symbol of hope for several years. Every Thursday, we provide warm meals to around 80 to 100 individuals in need from our local community in the Church hall.

It is both heartwarming and humbling to see attendees, often from severely disadvantaged backgrounds, lining up with eager anticipation for what could be their sole meal of the day.

Although we have received generous support from donors and sponsors, it is crucial that we continue to seek and pray for ongoing financial contributions to ensure the sustainability of this essential program. We want to express our deep gratitude to Rev.



Roshan Mendis for guiding us in prayer before each meal service and to Mr. Thomass, our diligent session clerk, for his steadfast encouragement and support.

We also extend special thanks to Kumar, our church staff, and the dedicated volunteers Selvini, Padmini, Jessica, Malcolm and Yamini who tirelessly devote their time each week to serve these meals with kindness and empathy.

Through our united efforts and commitment, we can continue making a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most within our community.

The Lunch Project Team

The Thrift Shop - Fellowship, Generosity, and Community Care

The St. Andrew's Thrift continues to be a vibrant hub of fellowship and generosity, bringing people together through racks of lovingly donated clothing and household items. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM, the thrift shop opens its doors, offering quality goods at affordable prices and creating a space where community spirit thrives.

This season's highlight was welcoming Jimmy, our youngest volunteer, whose cheerful presence and willingness to help reminded us that service has no age limit. His bright smile at the table brought joy to all who visited.



Jimmy – our youngest and brightest volunteer, manning the table with a smile!

THROUGH THE LENS – SERVICES, EVENTS & MISSION PROJECTS (...cont)

With every item priced under Rs. 500, the thrift ensures accessibility for those in need while supporting a greater cause. All proceeds go directly towards the maintenance of Ward 38 at the National Mental Health Hospital, making each purchase an act of compassion and care.



★ All items priced at less than Rs. 500 ★ Making quality goods accessible to all ★

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers, whose tireless efforts—from sorting and organizing to assisting visitors—keep this ministry thriving. At the same time, we bid a fond farewell to Jess, a valued member of the team whose warmth and commitment have left a lasting mark.

The Thrift Ministry stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with purpose and heart—transforming simple acts of giving into lasting impact.

The Thrift Shop Team

**ST. ANDREW'S
THRIFT SHOP**

**EVERY 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAY**

10:30AM to 1:00PM

Location:
**St Andrews Scot's Kirk,
73, Galle Road,
Colombo 01.**

**Shop for Clothes, Shoes, Bags,
Toys, Books, Household Items & More!**

**All proceeds are towards Ward 38,
Half Way Home (Female) -
Mulleriyawaa Mental Hospital**



17th COLOMBO ST. ANDREW'S NETHERLEE SCOUT TROOP Scouts in Action: Faith and Safety First!

The 17th Colombo St. Andrew's Netherlee Scout Troop has had an inspiring start to the year, combining spiritual growth with practical training. On 3rd February, our scouts joined the All-Night Pirith Chanting at the Colombo District Scout Headquarters—a moving religious program that strengthened bonds of fellowship and faith.

Adding to this momentum, under the leadership of Senior Scout Manuthi Akithma, the troop

participated in a specialized Fire and Safety Program. This hands-on session equipped scouts with essential knowledge on fire prevention, identifying hazards, and responding swiftly in emergencies.

Together, these experiences reflect the troop's commitment to nurturing well-rounded young leaders—grounded in faith, prepared for challenges, and ready to serve their community with courage and care.





Did you know?

The name "Good Friday" may come from "God's Friday," though some traditions interpret "good" as meaning "holy"



In medieval Europe, blacksmiths refused to forge nails on Good Friday out of reverence for Christ's crucifixion

Catholic churches keep their bells silent from Good Friday until the Easter Vigil, symbolizing mourning



Easter is a "movable feast," celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox



On the Greek island of Chios, rival churches celebrate Easter by firing homemade rockets at each other's steeples

In some regions, baking bread was once banned on Good Friday, as the day was reserved for fasting and solemn reflection



Good Friday is a public holiday in countries such as Sri Lanka, the Philippines and much of the Caribbean

Early Christians in Mesopotamia dyed eggs red to symbolize Christ's blood — the origin of Easter eggs



The Easter Bunny tradition began in Germany in the 1600s, where children believed a hare laid colored eggs



Americans consume billions of chocolate eggs and marshmallow Peeps every Easter, making them the most popular holiday treats

Graham's Funny Bone



"SO, PASTOR, YOU WORK SUNDAYS AND THE OTHER SIX DAYS, YOU JUST HANG OUT?"



"We learned the fourth commandment: 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"



Thanks to Robert ON OUR ISLAND, EVERY SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY



A Rev-Run



WE DO.





Easter Joy

By Joanna Fuchs

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him In heaven,
where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

Joanna Fuchs is a contemporary Christian poet known for her accessible, heartfelt devotional verse. She has written numerous poems for holidays, worship and personal reflection, many of which are widely shared. Her work emphasizes gratitude, love and the joy of living out faith in everyday life.



Dates for your Diary



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

Services

Sunday morning service - 9.30 am

Every first Sunday is Communion Sunday

Every fourth Sunday is Family Sunday

Lunchtime service every Wednesday - 12.45 pm to 1.15 pm

The church is open from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm every day for those who would like to have personal prayer time. Our Daily Bread and Bibles in three languages are available.



Sunday service is livestreamed on
St. Andrew's Scots Kirk Facebook page



<https://scotskirk.lk/>



@St.AndrewsScotsKirk

Our Church is used by The Korean Church every Sunday

The publication - Our Daily Bread is available in the Church.

Mission Work at Scots Kirk

Helping Hands – Financial support for those disadvantaged and living around St Andrew's

Contact Selvinee Kumar +94 77 307 8059

Netherlee Cottage - Rehabilitation Centre for Mental Health issues

Contact Gillian Mailler - gillmailler@gmail.com

Lunch for the Needy - Held each Thursday from 11.45 am to 1.30 pm.

Contact Church Officer Kumar

Mulleriyawa Hospital Ward 38 -

Contact Shanthini Ahangama - shani_ahangama@hotmail.com

Other Activities at Scots Kirk

SASK Thrift Shop – The sale of pre-loved and new goods at very competitive prices to serve and support the local community open every second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Contact Karen +94 773429734/kamerasinghe@gmail.com

17th Colombo, St Andrew's Netherlee Scout Troop - Contact Church Officer Kumar

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