



The Church Of India - CIPBC



## Memorial Church Anglican – Whitefield

Consecrated 1886

Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore 560 066

### **HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2017 / 2018**

Once more we come to the end of another financial year, and with God's grace, our little church continues with its regular services and other activities. In the course of the year we have managed to create some new activities.

#### **Congregation:**

Our congregation remains small and we still enjoy a strong healthy fellowship devoid of Church politics. We have thirteen Tithing or Full Members. The balance twenty four are Floating Members.

As there was a growing request from Floating worshippers, who attend services regularly, and wish to support the church regularly, but are not in a position to join the Church of India – CIPBC; Mr. Dewars at a special meeting held in November 2017 presented a proposal explaining various types of membership JUST for our church with many references from the Bible. With that we have adopted the Full Member, Resident Member, Affiliate Member and of course the floating members as referred to above.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jessu Anand, Mrs. Mary Priya, Master Johan (dependent) and Mr. Nimalan Paul were received into the Anglican Fold as Full Members, using the Traditional Order of Appointment to the Church Vestry Committee/Council.

Our Vicar Fr. Gabriel Suthi is well settled with his family and is able to fulfil his duties in the church comfortably.

On 15<sup>th</sup>. July 2017, we had a 'Potluck' dinner for the fellowship of the Parish, for which 28 people attended. Most of the food was prepared by the ladies, who gave us a good spread. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and good food. We also had a game and some music thanks to Mr. Glenn Lunel.

We were very fortunate to have the Rt. Rev. John Augustine, The Metropolitan and who is also the Bishop of Madras, visit us twice in the year. In September he and his wife came to Whitefield as we held our first Confirmation after Revival, at a Holy Mass on Holy Cross Day the 14<sup>th</sup>. September. On the evening before, that is the 13<sup>th</sup>. there was a Parish Dinner at the Royal Orchid restaurant, at which 38 members were present. Many of the newer members were able to meet His Grace.

The next afternoon the Metropolitan chaired a Vestry Committee meeting held in the Vestry. Here the Vicar's and the Secretary's Annual reports were read out. His

Grace then reminisced about the Church of India CIPBC in 1993/94. He mentioned the Book of Common Prayer being translated from Urdu to Hindi and that he and his wife were involved with that. He also commented that it was a blessing to have Memorial Church Anglican in the fold, and thanked us for our contribution towards the printing of the Book of Common Prayer.

He remarked that Fr. Gabriel had taken his duties as the Vicar seriously, and that he would give him an Anglican Breviary to help him learn to follow our Rites and Rituals and understand the same.

He gave us a dispensation to hold our Carol Service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. as it was not possible to hold the same on the Sunday next before Christmas, as was the tradition, as that Sunday was Christmas Eve.

He later visited Cottolengo Convent with the Vicar and Office Bearers of the Vestry Committee. He prayed for the children and interacted with them.

Then in December, at our invitation, the Metropolitan, Bishop of Madras, visited us again with his wife and two daughters. This time they were able to attend our Annual Christmas Party for the children of the Cottolengo Convent on the 16<sup>th</sup>. December and also attended our Carol Service on the 17<sup>th</sup>. evening, having earlier given us the dispensation to hold the Carol Service that day.

Our young working members, when called on, do try to give as much help and support as possible.

#### **Ministry:**

Today, our Vicar is able to hold Matins, Sext, Evensong /Vespers every day. We also celebrate festivals with special worship according to our church calendar during the week as stipulated in the Lectionary.

From Palm Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup>. April to Easter Sunday on 16<sup>th</sup>. April 2017 - Holy Week services were conducted as scheduled:

Maundy Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>. Holy Eucharist at 4p.m.

Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. At 11.30 a.m. Began with Stations of the Cross for the first time.

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. at 11 p.m.

Easter Sunday: Holy Mass at 11.30 a.m.

On 10<sup>th</sup>. May 2017, there was a special worship to commemorate 131<sup>st</sup>. Anniversary of our church.

On 4<sup>th</sup>. August 2017 Fr. Gabriel held the first Baptism which was for Mrs. Sarah Daniels Paul. This was attended by Mr. Dewars, Mr. Nimalan Paul, Mrs. Lunel, Mrs. Grace Suthi and Mrs. Smith.

On 20<sup>th</sup>. August 2017 we held a special Service worship for the Nation at 11.30 a.m. where we reaffirmed our commitment to the Nation, by reciting the preamble to the Constitution of India. We then prayed for the Father of the Nation, members of the Constituent Assembly, all leaders past and present, members of the Defence Services, the Intelligence and Investigative Agencies, all Civil Servants, healthcare professionals, teachers, farmers and those in business activities.

200 newly printed copies of the BCP booklets (1960 print). Of these 50 were blessed by Fr. Gabriel on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and put into use. One has also been sold.

The Metropolitan, Bishop of Madras celebrated a Confirmation Service for Mrs. Sarah Marcy Daniels, Mr. Jeeth Mathai on 14<sup>th</sup>. September 2017 which was also Holy Cross Day. Our regular worshippers were present as well as Jeeth Mathai's parents and our Metropolitan's wife.

The General Council Meeting for CIPBC, was held in Lucknow on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. October 2017. This was attended by Fr. Gabriel, Mr. C.K. Dewars and Mrs. Margaret Lunel. At this meet Mrs. Lunel was voted onto the Standing Committee of the Church of India, CIPBC. Her name was proposed by Bishop Hebron from Chota Nagpur, and seconded by Archdeacon the Venerable Stefan Joel.

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. All Saints' Day: Holy Mass was celebrated at 10.30 a.m. in church.

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Souls' Day: A general prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of the departed was said at the entrance of the Whitefield cemetery. Then prayers were said by the Vicar at individual gravesides of the loved ones of the parishioners.

In November all linen, vestments, altar clothing, sacramental vessels, terramundis and all items from the Sanctuary were cleaned. On the eve of Advent Sunday the same were blessed.

At Mass on Advent Sunday and the following three Sundays the tradition of lighting of lighting the Advent candles was followed. Also at Mass, on Advent Sunday, members returned the terramundis taken the previous year, and took new ones for the current Liturgical year. The Vicar also visited homes of parishioners on Advent Sunday to light their Advent candles.

The Carol Service was held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. December 2017 and was well attended. Dr. Ashley William Joseph and some of his musicians and choir members from the William Joseph International School of Performing Arts, accompanied the singing of the carols with a soloist as well.

Midnight Mass was held on the night of December 24<sup>th</sup>. 2017 with a good attendance of 60 worshippers. A fellowship with coffee and Christmas cake followed the Mass. Regular Mass was held on Christmas Day at 11.30 a.m.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>. 2018 Holy Mass was celebrated for the Feast of the Epiphany at 10.30 a.m. Later a house visit was made by our Vicar.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>. 2018 the Vestry Council was formed, for the sole purpose of being the executive arm of the Administration function of the Vestry Committee. On the same day Mr. Nimalan Paul and Mr. Jessu Anand were sworn in as Council Members.

On 26<sup>th</sup>. January Republic Day service was celebrated at 10.30 a.m. and the Prayer Booklet on Service to the Nation was used.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>. February 2018 the service for the Festival of Spring was celebrated. However, we at the admin had not been able to have any fund raisers, such as the Spring Festival brochure as in the previous year. This made our outreach more difficult.

Later the Vicar and his family hosted a Thanksgiving lunch for the sisters of Cottolengo and the congregation.

On 14<sup>th</sup>. February 2018, Ash Wednesday service was celebrated at 4.30 p.m.

On 24<sup>th</sup>. March Mrs. Grace Suthi, Mrs. Margaret Lunel, Mrs. Romola Kuruvilla, Mrs. Sydney, Ms. Rini and a friend, gathered together in Mrs. Kuruvilla's residence and with the able instruction from Mrs. Lunel, they made up all the Palm Crosses needed for the service the next day. They all deserve a very big 'Thank You' for their efforts.

On Palm Sunday the congregation once more began the service with a procession round the church building holding palms and singing hymn number 39 'All Glory Laud and Honour' and entered the church again for the rest of the service.

We then had the regular Holy Week services:  
Maundy Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>. March at 4.30 p.m.  
Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup>. March at 11.30 a.m.  
Holy Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>. March at 11.30 p.m. Easter Vigil.  
Easter Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>. April Holy Mass at 11.30 a.m.

#### Out Reach:

Our main Out Reach project continues to be Cottolengo Convent. Here they house and care for 30 resident children who are physically or mentally challenged, many of whom are destitute. It is known to all that these sisters take care of children and adults from all walks of life – caste, colour, creed, no bar. They also run a special school for mentally and physically handicapped children, resident and non resident together total 95. All are cared for and loved. They have a physio therapy department which functions with well trained staff and is open to any who need help.

The highlights of the year for these children is the Christmas Tea Party we arrange for them every year. At this time Mr. Narayanswamy, music director from Frank Anthony Public School, brings some of the children with their instruments and regale everyone with enjoyable Christmas music and carols. Recently the sisters also begun joined the children and participated in the singing as well.

(Mrs. Sydney Smith)  
Hon. Secretary