



The Church Of India - CIPBC

Memorial Church Anglican – Whitefield

Consecrated 1886

Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore 560 066



HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018 /2019

As we come to the end of another financial year, God's grace has once again brought our little church safely to continue with our regular services and activities, some old and some new.

Congregation:

Our congregation is still small, but as before, we still enjoy a strong healthy fellowship devoid of Church politics. We have fourteen Tithing Members.

In January 2018, a Vestry Council was formed. This is an executive arm of the Vestry Committee. They drew up a list of some ideas for Fundraising as well as Fellowship, some of which we have held with some success.

On 20th September, one of our Trustees, Glenn Lunel, passed away after a brief but painful illness. It was with very heavy hearts we witnessed him being laid to rest in the Whitefield Cemetery on the 21st. His funeral service was very well attended. He leaves behind his grieving widow Margaret and two sons Andrew and Richard.

In December we had the usual festive season of Christmas beginning with the Cottolengo children's tea party. This year we had Srikanth play Santa. Unfortunately, Mr. Narayanaswamy and the children from the Frank Anthony Public School Brass band were unable to be present to entertain everyone with their music as the children had examinations. However, the sisters and the children of Cottolengo still had an entertaining evening with members of our Choir singing for the children.

On 15th December we had our first choir performance. We had our Choir Mistress, Sarah Daniels, organise an Advent Recital with explanatory readings of each song. She was ably assisted by our organist Wilson Bright. The Choir gave their best and made the Advent Recital very successful. There was cake and coffee to follow. The performance has been uploaded on YouTube for your viewing pleasure.

Also, on the 23rd December we had our Carol Service at 6.30 p.m. We were led with the musicians and choir members of the William Joseph International School of Performing Arts. This was also followed with light refreshments.

In order to raise funds for our various outreach programmes we held the following events:

At Easter we held a small Get Together of Parishioners and a few well-wishers, calling it “More Than Just Coffee” and also organised an Easter Treasure Hunt for the children. This was enjoyed by them.

On August 19th. we held a special Service for the Nation followed by a fund-raising lunch – with voluntary donations for the lunch.

On 22nd September, we held a small fete, as a fund raiser. We had some games stalls and some food was on sale. All the food sold was donated as were most of the prizes used for the games.

This year we ran a Christmas Hamper with three Hamper prizes. We thank Mary Priya and a group of ladies who helped her put everything together and all the donors of all the items.

Ministry:

As mentioned before our Vicar and family are well settled full time here in Whitefield. As such he is able to hold Matins, Sext and Evensong / Vespers every day. All festivals stipulated in the Lectionary are celebrated according to the church calendar.

This year some of the ladies met on the 24th. March and made the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday the congregation processed around the church at the start of the service. All Holy Week services were held as scheduled.

On 29th. March: Maundy Thursday: Holy Eucharist at 4.30 p.m.

On 30th. March: Good Friday – At 11.30 a.m. Stations of the Cross was followed by Good Friday service; after which lime juice and hot cross buns were served.

On 31st. March: Easter Vigil – at 11.30 p.m. Service of Light followed by Holy Mass.

On 1st. April: Easter Sunday Holy Mass at 11.30 a.m.

10th May 2018 was the Church Anniversary of 132 years. We celebrated this with a special service on Sunday 19th May.

On 10th June 2018 we had the reception of receiving Susan Sunita Kuruvilla, daughter of George and Romola Kuruvilla, into the fold of our Anglican Church, CIPBC. She had just returned from the United States of America after completing her Masters in Business Management.

On 15th July 2018, we held a Thanksgiving Vesper Service of Hymns and songs of Faith and Inspiration. This was conducted by Dr. Ashley and the choir of the William Joseph International School of Performing Arts. This was well attended and much appreciated by all.

Since 15th August 2018 fell on a week day, we had Holy Mass. We held a Service for the Nation on the following Sunday which was 19th August. This was followed by a fund-raising lunch, with voluntary donations towards it.

On 1st November 2018, All Saints’ Day – Holy Mass at 10.30 a.m. in church.

On 2nd November 2018, All Souls’ Day – A Memorial Service for the Faithful Departed was held at the cemetery at 4 p.m. This is a general prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of the departed said at the entrance of the Whitefield cemetery. Then the vicar prays at individual gravesides of the loved ones of the parishioners.

1. On 11th November 2018, we received Eric Stephen Erasmus into the Anglican Church CIPBC as a full member.

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 according to traditional Anglican rites.

At Mass on Advent Sunday and the following three Sundays the usual tradition of lighting the Advent candles is followed. On Advent Sunday, terramundis taken the previous year are returned and new ones taken for the current Liturgical year. The Vicar visited the homes of parishioners to light their advent candles as per tradition.

On 16th December 2018, we had our first infant Baptism since the Revival of the Anglican Communion, for Samantha Yazh, daughter of Manju and Wilson Bright.

Midnight Mass was held as usual on the 24th. night at 11.45 p.m. This too was well attended and was followed with light refreshments. Regular Holy Mass was held on Christmas Day at 11.30 a.m.

The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated on the 6th January. The Vicar conducted Epiphany House blessings of Parishioners between the 6th and 12th of January.

On 26th. January 2019, Republic Day, Special prayers for the nations were said at Matins, Sext and Vespers.

On 16th. February 2019, we held a parish 'Potluck' dinner. Once again, the ladies excelled in preparing delicious food and giving us all a good spread. There was a serious discussion on how to 'move forward' as a parish community. Finally, it was decided to have an open Question and Answer session as a Bible Study venture. This was started on the 17th. March, but would continue on the first Sunday of each month, after Holy Mass and a light lunch. The first session proved to be interesting and was fairly well attended.

On 3rd March 2019 we celebrated the Festival of Spring. A special service was followed for this. The souvenir which was planned to be released at this service is delayed. This will be released early in May. The choir also rendered a special hymn for this service. This was followed by a Parish community lunch.

The regular Holy Week and Easter programme has been prepared for the church.

Out Reach:

Our main Out Reach project continues to be Cottolengo Convent, which houses 30 resident children who are physically or mentally challenged. Many of these children are destitute or orphaned, but it is well known that the sisters here take care of all the kids and adults coming from all walks of life – caste, colour, creed, no bar. They also run a school for mentally and physically handicapped children, resident and non-resident together total 95. Here all are cared for and loved. They have a physio therapy department which functions with well trained staff and is open to anyone who needs help.

For us the highlight of the year for these children is the Christmas tea party we arrange for them every year. Usually Mr. Narayanaswamy, the music director from the Frank Anthony Public School brings some of the children with their instruments and regales everyone with music and carols. Unfortunately, this year the children were not free to attend. All the same, they all had a good evening putting on their own skits with dances and much singing. This year Srikanth was their new Santa and he made a good one too.

(Mrs. Sydney Smith)
Hon. Secretary