



The Church Of India - CIPBC

## Memorial Church Anglican – Whitefield

Consecrated 1886

Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore 560 066



### **HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2015 / 2016**

1. With God's Grace and Blessings, another year has passed us by, and our little church continues on and on. Our numbers have not increased very much, but with the floating congregation, we do see a few new faces now and again. We still only have 8 tithing members.
2. We had Rev. H. Karunakara as our vicar up to the month of August 2015, as he resigned from September 1<sup>st</sup>. 2016. The reasons to the Metropolitan for his resignation were mainly that the Vestry committee would not share church matters with him. All complaints of his are entered into the Minutes register. He was granted two months leave on compassionate grounds as his grandson was seriously ill and he was needed with the family in the U.S. In his absence Rev. Fr. Stefan stood in for him.
3. Then from September onwards, Fr. Stefan took on the post of 'acting vicar' till the end of March 2016. We thank him for helping us out when we needed a priest.
4. During his time as 'Acting Vicar' Fr. Stefan took on the task of training Master Leroy, son of Asha and Binu Raj, to be an 'Altar Boy'. However Fr. Stefan never submitted a report on the progress.
5. We began our support in financing the studies of Fr. Suthi Gabriel in April 2015, and our Metropolitan had given us an assurance that he would join as our vicar when he completed his studies. The grant for his support was approved by the Vestry Committee.
6. Not having any Deacon, it was decided to give up the renting of accommodation for one. With the assurance of a new vicar in April, we got to do some repair work in the Vicarage, and furnishing and equipping it with things needed for the new family.
7. Mrs. Lunel had informed the Vestry Committee of a proposal from an International group called, 'Bible Study Fellowship'. They had requested us the use of the church to conduct special Bible Study Fellowship for women on Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. They had been refused permission

from the CSI, and had now approached us. These sessions would be held every Thursday from 13<sup>th</sup>. August and 17<sup>th</sup>. December 2015 and again from 7<sup>th</sup>. January to 24<sup>th</sup>. March 2016. A circular was passed around the VC members asking their views on this subject and whether we should allow it. Beside Rev. Kaunakara who had reservations about this, the others were all in favour of it. So it was agreed we should let them use the premises with certain stipulations made to the group, namely

- Only the nave of the church would be used, and nobody should enter the sanctuary / altar.
  - They should not have the usage of the church should any other religious activity need to be undertaken in the premises, for which the Secretary should ensure compliance.
  - Being a religious activity, the church would bear any expenses incurred.
  - The group did, however, make a monthly donation to the church.
8. We had some repair work to the altar kneelers, the printing of 'To Be A Christian', a new crib set, some Christmas booklets, and replacing of an external hard drive for the computer.
  9. Our main Outreach project continues to be, Cottolengo Convent. This convent houses and cares for 28 children, who are physically or mentally challenged. As is known to all, the sisters of this convent take care of children and adults from all walks of life – cast, colour and creed – no bar. They also run a special school for mentally and physically challenged children, resident and non-resident, and ALL are cared for and loved. The physiotherapy department continues to function with well trained staff, for all who need their help.
  10. This year we were also approached by Mrs Kavitha, the cleaning lady at the Vicarage, with a request for education aid. This was for her son named Taran Raj in Std. 7. She requested help with his school fees, books and uniforms, which we were able to help with.
  11. We continue to use the services of M/s. N.R. Rajagopalan and Co. As our External Auditors, to help us deal with the Income Tax Department. Mr. T.C. Anbalagan continues with our internal audits.
  12. On November 1<sup>st</sup>. 2015, All Saints Day, we held a special service to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup>. death anniversary of J.T. William Joseph. The musicians of The William Joseph International School for Performing Arts, accompanied the congregation and rendered a few special items. The worship service was performed by Rev. Fr. Peter, a close family friend of J.T. William Joseph.

13. As Fr. Stefan was not in station to perform the duties of the priest on All Souls' Day, and sadly for the first time we were unable to have our traditional service at the cemetery in memory of our loved ones who have passed on.
14. On Advent Sunday in the afternoon, Wilson accompanied Fr. Stefan as he visited the homes of the eight members who had so requested him to come home and light the Advent candle. They were Wilson, Sowmyu and his friends, Maggie, Sydney, Cecil, Mary Priya and Jessu Anand, Srikanth and Jyotsna, and Asha and Binu.
15. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we were able to have our usual celebrations with the children and sisters of Cottolengo Convent, starting with the Christmas Tea Party. The sisters and Mr. Narayan Swamy of Frank Anthony Public School, with his group of musicians from his School Brass Band regaled us with a variety of music, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Then Santa, (our own Wilson) distributed gifts to all the children.
16. Our regular Carol Service was held on December 20<sup>th</sup>. 2015 with Dr. Ashley William Joseph and a section of the musicians of the William Joseph International School for Performing Arts in attendance. This was the service of seven lessons with carols suitable with the reading. The service was very meaningful and touched the hearts of many. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
17. The Christmas midnight mass was well attended and the fellowship after the Holy Mass with hot coffee and cake was welcome and enjoyed by all. As usual the flowers for the church were done by us as they are done at Easter also.
18. As per tradition, home visits are done by the vicar after the Epiphany service. But as our acting vicar was not available, so this lapsed for the first time.
19. On Republic Day a regular Mass was conducted instead of using the special service for the Nation – as such honouring our Independent India was not held to offer thanksgiving to our Lord.
20. The regular Holy Eucharist was conducted for the Festival of Spring and not the special service set out for it. As such we were unable to hand over our annual financial support to the sisters of Cottolengo Convent.
21. This Lenten season went through without any Lenten Bible Study or meditation. The Easter vigil on the 26<sup>th</sup>. March was also well attended with a good fellowship after the Holy Mass.

We continue to share the regular monthly expenses with the C.S.I. towards the salaries of church staff and maintenance of the property. We also pay our share for

the cemetery expenses. Once per quarter we pay our tithes to our Diocese. This year, by the Grace of God, we were able serve the members of our Parish well.

(Mrs. Sydney Smith)  
Hon. Secretary.