

## HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2012/2013

As the years move on so do we at Memorial Church Anglican. With God's grace we have been able to continue functioning with all our commitments. Rev. Anandhraj continued to manage services at our church along with his duties at Christ Church, Basavangudi. Deacon Binu also continued working with us as he tried to work towards his course in theology.

The Cottolengo Convent continues to be our main Outreach project. As we all know, the sisters at 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 handicapped children. They have resident and non resident children, and ALL are cared for and loved. The physic therapy department continues to function, with well-trained staff, for all who need their help.

Our other outreach work continued with our taking care of the educational needs of dependants of our clergy and other staff. Their children's school fees, books, uniforms etc. were all paid for by us. There was also a lady, Supriya Kumari, who needed treatment for severe AR and moderate MS at VIMS hospital; we were also able to help her. We continued with our obligations of salaries for the four priests in Tamil Nadu, namely,

- Rev. Daniel Manoharan of St. Luke's Church, Amma Palyam, Salem Jn.
- Rev. Ramani Kumar Johnson, Emmanuel Church, Athismankottai, Dharmapuri.
- Rev. K. Abraham, World Saviour Church, Nachipudur Village, Namalekar Dist.
- Rev. J. Devasitham, Ratchanya Kanmalai Church, Tholampatty.

In anticipation of getting another resident vicar, we took on and rented another house on Borewell Road. This we furnished with all the necessities to begin with, so as to house any visiting clergy at any time.

This Christmas season too, we held a party for the children at the Cottolengo Convent. This time it was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December with all the excitement of the children present. Once more, Mr. Narayana Swamy was there with a group of children from the Frank Anthony Public School Brass Band who accompanied us all with the singing. They also entertained us with their marches, tangos, and cha-cha-cha during the evening.

For the Carol Service – Lighting the Way, which was well attended, we had an Ensemble from the William Joseph International Academy of Performing Arts, led by Dr. Ashley William Joseph, playing through the service. This lent much meaning to the entire Carol Service. Midnight Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> night was also well attended. This was followed by fellowship with all sipping hot coffee and enjoying good plum cake. Once more we were able to host a lunch for the sisters and children who were still in the Cottolengo Convent, and spent some time with them.

Another evening of bonding was the Family dinner night held on the 13<sup>th</sup>. January 2013. We had a great time with 25 members of the congregation present. Each family cooked and brought a meal to share with others. We had a good spread of a variety of sumptuous food which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We played a few games, had a sing along session in which everyone was very sporting. The evening turned out to be very successful, and many expressed views of having more such evenings. As it can be seen, this brought the congregation closer.

As February came along we began preparing for our annual fund raiser. That is our Festival of Spring Souvenir, for which we get advertisements from friends and well-wishers. The funds generated from this venture help us maintain the church and carry out some of our Outreach work during the year. The service for The Festival of Spring fell on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013, where we gave thanks to our heavenly Father for all His Grace and blessings showered on us through the past year.

Through the Lenten season Rev. Fr. Anandhraj conducted some Lenten Bible classes for the members of the Parish. The season ended with our Easter Vigil

We continue to share with the C.S.I. congregation, the expenses of salaries of church staff, and maintenance of the property. We also continue to pay our tithes to the Diocese and taxes to the Government. We have no outstanding towards either....by God's Grace we have been able to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God, God's.

Mrs. Sydney Smith  
Hony. Secretary