

## HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011 -2012

Another year has gone by, but as time goes on so do we at our little church here in Whitefield. With God's grace and blessings we have come forward to meet 2012 with the faith that whatever we undertake for the glory of God we will find strength and means to carry it through.

In April Rev. Darryl Taylor took ill, and had to leave, as he was unable to perform his duties. We have survived without a full time vicar, but with the grace of our Bishop, we have managed by sharing the services of Rev. Anandhraj of Christ Church, Basavangudi.

In July we were saddened by the passing away of a fellow parishioner, Lauren Clough. She passed away after a long illness. May her soul rest in peace.

Our main Outreach project is still the Cottolengo Convent. As mentioned before, this convent houses and care for children and adults from different walks of life. The convent run a special school for children, some are mentally challenged, some physically challenged, some are blind or have speech defects. Non resident children are also taken into the school. BUT ALL are well cared for and loved.

They have a physiotherapy section and yoga for all residents in the home. Outsiders can also avail of the specialised physiotherapy treatment here.

We have been able to give help elsewhere also. Rev. Anandhraj, the Vicar of Christ Church, Basavangudi, who has been appointed by the Bishop to take care of us, needed help with his son's school fees and transport fees, this we gave from our outreach programme. Another child Carolina Mary, also requested help with school fees, which we were able to pay. Mr. C. Binu, who is preparing to become a deacon in our Church was also put onto the outreach programme.

In September 2011 we welcomed Asha and Binu Raj and Wilson Bright onto the Vestry Committee. Mrs. Asha would take on the work of Ministerial Charge, and Wilson is still our organist.

The highlight of the year was our Christmas Party with the children and nuns of the Cottolengo Convent on the 3rd. December 2011. We had a special Sindhi themed lunch (sponsored) at mid day. Then at 5 p.m. the William Joseph International Academy of Performing Arts were in attendance for the tea party. They played music for everyone, sang along with us all and were very well appreciated by all present. Then our Santa stole the show when he distributed the gifts to the children, interacting with each of them in turn.

Other programmes for Christmas were the Carol Service on December 18<sup>th</sup>, Midnight Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup>. December and a special sponsored lunch for Cottolengo on the 25<sup>th</sup> December.

Our congregation continues to grow, but there are many who travel a lot, so it appears to be a floating congregation. We still average 25 to 30 at a service on Sundays.

The celebration of Spring was held on 19<sup>th</sup>. February 2012. This is when we take particular care and time to thank our God for the year that has gone by. We specially remember and thank our Lord for all His blessings and the bounty He has showered on us through the past year. We use this opportunity to generate funds for the maintenance of our church and for our outreach work. This comes in the form of a souvenir/brochure sponsored by friends and relations of our members.

We were made aware of the financial difficulties some of our churches in Tamil Nadu. After some consideration and reviewing of our own finances, we decided to step in help out. The churches concerned and their vicars are:

1. St. Luke's Church, Amma Palyam, Salem Jn. Vicar – Rev. Daniel Manoharan.
2. Emmanuel Church, Athismankottai, Dharmapuri, Vicar – Rev. Ramani Kumar Johnson.
3. World Saviour Church, Nachi Pudur Village, Namalekar Dist. Vicar – Rev. K. Abraham.
4. Ratchanya Kanmalai Church, Tholasampatty. Vicar – Rev. J. Devasitham.

We were able to supply their needs of altar tables, chalices, ciboriums and patens. They were also given 60 chairs each for their churches. The salaries of the priests concerned are being paid by us as well for one year or till they are more stable financially.

It was decided to erect a clock tower to commemorate 125 years of the existence of our church. The design and drawings have been completed and Mrs. Lunel is working on obtaining permissions to construct the same. Simultaneously efforts are being made to raise funds for this project.

We continue to share with the C.S.I. congregation the expenses of staff salaries, security and electricity, and any miscellaneous expenses that may crop up. We also continue to pay our tithes to the Diocese regularly.

Mrs. Sydney Smith  
Honorary Secretary  
Vestry Committee