



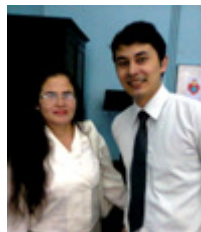
# St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

NOVEMBER  
2015

## Contents

Letter from presbyter	1
Alex Smith	1
Derby Diocese in Cal	2
Multi-faith symposium	4
Harvest Festival	4
Bp Michael Westall	4
Christian Music Fest	3
Mem service of Harry	3
139 yrs of PMS	3

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Mrs. Leblond with her son Leslie attend SAC with the LMB boys.

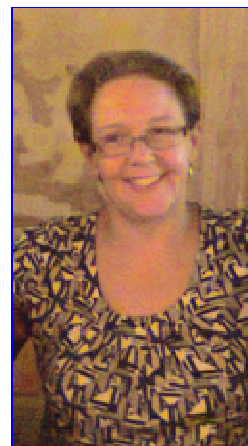
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## Letter from the Presbyter

*Reaching out to those outside the church*

So he **reasoned in the synagogue** with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the **market place day by day with those who happened to be there** (Acts 17:17)

Rev Anita Matthew (see pic) of St. Peter's Church, Derby, told the clergy of the diocese of Calcutta on 29.10.15 that in the passage, Acts 17:16 -34 there is a theological basis on how the church can reach to those who are outside it. This is the famous passage of how St. Paul interacts with the people of Athens, Greece.



There are three spaces that can be seen in the section namely, the comfort space, the market space, and lastly the invitation space.

### The comfort space

St. Paul always began his sharing of the good news of our Lord by beginning in the synagogue of the Jews, He would be welcome and familiar with the Jewish customs and prayers and that is where he began, This is the church community with which we are in familiar ground—our comfort zone.

### The market space

The next place of sharing the good news is the market place. St. Paul reasoned with the people in the **market place day by day with those who happened to be there** (Acts 17:17). Here St. Paul has moved from the comfort zone to the unfamiliar and difficult terrain of people at work. People would be doing business here. This where most people spend their working hours. Chaplaincy begins in the place where people spend

most of their time. Paul spent the maximum time here because the Word of God says he was there **day by day**. Following this, chaplaincy in Derby focuses on business, retail, industry, community, transport, leisure and so on.

### **The invitation space**

This is the zone where one can move into by invitation only. This comes from the response of the hearers. *"Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?'" (Acts 17:19,20)*

This is the moment that Paul had been waiting for, the time to share the good news of God in Christ Jesus (Acts 17:22-34)

Chaplaincy in Derby diocese has focused on the workplace and includes police, fire, transport, industry, sport and agriculture.

The Rt Revd. Alistair Redfern, bishop of Derby Diocese has said, *"Churches tend to retreat into being gated suburban spaces dedicated to the well-being of their members and inviting others to be 'converted' into dwelling in such a safe space. The task of the church is to go out into the mix and messiness of the market, acting out a generosity that makes a transformative difference."*



### **Derby Diocese visits Kolkata**

Members of the Anglican diocese of Derby, England, visited the CNI diocese of Calcutta from 28.10.15 to 6.11.15 and interacted with the schools, clergy, churches and other institutions of our diocese. Earlier some members of our diocese had visited Derby from 18.10.15 to 4.10.15. These included Mr. Aniket Deb Roy, principal of St. Thomas' Day School, Mrs. Sanchita Biswas, principal of St. Paul's Mission School, Mrs. Mukherjee of the Cathedral Social Service Schools, Mrs. Mitra, of the St. Ninian' School. Mrs. Alison Brown (*pictured below*) of the Education Department of the Diocese of Derby also shared with the clergy the *"Experience of Christmas"*, a dramatic presentation of Christmas which we can share with people outside the church.





### **Pratt Memorial School celebrates 139 years**

On 3.11.15 Pratt Memorial School, A.J.C. Bose Road celebrated 139 years of its work among the girl child with a service of thanksgiving in St. James' Church. Sister Prema, Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity was the chief guest. She told us that every day one of us must do a good deed to the least of our brethren. The Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas, bishop of Calcutta, presided over the service. Following the service, the bust of the founder of Pratt School, Archdeacon John Henry Pratt was unveiled by our bishop. There followed a wonderful exhibition in the school including a film on President Abdul Kalam, done by the school girls.



### **The Memorial Service of Harry**

**Johnstone** took place in our church on 8.11.15. Mrs. Johnstone, the mother of Harry and an aunt, the sister of the late Harry Johnstone Sr, were present in the service. The tributes were present by Carol Johnstone and Mr. Quentin Pope. Mr. Quentin Pope recounted beautifully in his talk that the father of Harry, the Late Harry Johnstone, a teacher in St. Thomas' School, Kidderpore, was of the best English teachers in the city.

Quentin met Harry when they were in school. While Quentin was a boarder, Harry was the son of a staff. Harry was a friendly boy who would bring food for the boarders despite the restrictions in the school. Harry suffered from a sugar problem leading to a cessation of the kidney function and died from acute loss of weight. Let us give thanks for his beautiful young life.



### **The Christian Music Festival**

was held in Bishop's College grounds on 14.11.15 in aid of repairs to their chapel. It was an extravaganza of music, joy, food, fellowship and faith.

**Benny Joseph** shared how God had healed him and taken him to 250 nations to share what God had done in his life.

**The Harvest Festival of SAC** was celebrated on 1st November, 2015 in a service that was conducted by the Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb. The Women's Guild of our church participated in the worship in the readings and prayers and singing. The message was given by Rev Dr. S. Caleb. The proceeds were then taken to the Santi Nivash home for the aged near the Oxford Mission, Behala. We thank the ladies of the Guild for organizing the gifts and taking them to the home. The offering on that day was also gifted to the seniors of the home. We also thank the La Martiniere Schools for the use of the vehicle to take the proceeds to the home.



**A multifaith symposium** entitled "*Interfaith engagement towards building life affirming communities*" was organized by the Council of World Mission, the Henry Martyn Institute and Bishop's College from the 6-8 November, 2015 in the La Martiniere for Girls School, Kolkata. The Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas, bishop of Calcutta inaugurated the programme with a welcome speech. The inaugural address was given by Dr. Colin Cowan General Secretary of the Council for World Mission. He told us that in a world that was fragmented by different ideologies, "*What unites is far greater than what divides us.*" Swami Agnivesh then addressed the gathering in a very informal way by coming to the level of the audience. He told us that we must question all our traditions and fight for justice and equality. Although he was a Brahmin, he said that he cleaned the toilets in the Kumbh Mela. He denounced the evils of the caste system.



**Bishop Michael Westall,**

Former principal of Bishop's College and former bishop of Tanzania addressed the clergy chapter of our diocese on 16.11.15 on the topic, "*The essence of the priesthood*". It was a nostalgic occasion when some of his students like Rev Sukhendu Biswas, Bishop Ashoke Biswas and Rev Andrew Simick shared their experiences of Bishop's College as students.