



St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

JANUARY
2016

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Radhika Samaradivakera visited Kolkata during Christmas bringing great joy

Letter from the Presbyter

Lent: a time for prayer

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:6

Lent is a grand opportunity to wait upon the Lord, seeking his face, fasting, confessing our own sins and the sins of our fellow-human beings, a time of heart-searching, being filled with the Holy Spirit and a time of revival.

Our Lord told us that our prayers and our giving should be in secret. He who sees in secret will reward us openly. No one should know that we have spent hours with him. Our fasting and our supplications should be known only to him.

Evan Roberts, the man who was behind the Welsh Revival of 1904 used to pray at night from 1a.m. to 5 a.m. God blessed his covert extended intercession and the world-famous revival broke out in Wales. The people came to church at 6p.m. and continued to stay till 4 a.m. and still they did not want to go back home. They wanted more and more of God. As more and more people began queuing up for church services, the pubs became empty and the crime rates dropped. Bar owners acknowledged that the revival had ruined their businesses. Police officers had no work as their were no criminal cases. Oh what an ideal situation.

Lent is also a time to confess our individual sins and the sins of our community. Daniel did this. The people of Israel were in Babylon in exile. Daniel confesses his sins and says that it is because of their sins they were in this condition. "we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name.." (Daniel 9:5,6)

Lent is also a time of persevering in prayer. Our Lord taught us that we *"ought always to pray and not lose heart."* (Luke 18:1) and taught us the parable of the persistent widow.

Lent is a time of returning to God. The prophet Joel said, *"Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments."* (Joel 2:12,13)

Lent is also a time of interceding for the nation. *"I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land that, I should not destroy it, but I found none."* (Ezekiel 22:30)

Lent is a time of fasting. Our Lord fasted and prayed in the wilderness for forty days and nights (Mt 4:2). Moses also fasted for the same time when he went up amount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. Daniel fasted and prayed for the nation of Israel which was in exile (Daniel 9:3). The apostles were fasting and praying when the Holy Spirit told them to lay their hands on Paul and Barnabas and send them on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:2).

May God give us a beautiful Lent in his presence as we turn to him in fasting, repentance, intercession leading to a great revival.



Mrs. Farida Abraham, Principal of the Lucknow La Martiniere Girls College for 31 years passed away on 13.2.16



Ms. Sofia Ghani, the daughter of late elder Mrs. Ghani attended our worship on 14.2.16. She is working in Geneva. As she met and talked with the members she brought many memories of the past days of our Church.

The Holy City Program, organized by Rev Subir Roy and Mrs. Eunok Lee Roy from 21 to 23 January attracted many believers. A prayer group from S.Korea prays in the meeting in Seva Kendra.





The Scottish Cemetery.

On 13.2.16 the elders of our church visited the Scottish Cemetery and took part in a community programme organized by the KSHT. Lord Charles Bruce, Chairman of the KSHT, Bashabi and Neil Fraser, the architects of NSDA and the team Banipur Sahayog took part with Mr. Norman and Mrs. Loreta Hall in attendance. There was first a children's drawing competition. This was followed by tea and introductions. Then followed a welcome by the children. The results of the competition were declared and Lord Charles Bruce gave out the prizes brought from the U.K. There was interaction with the men and women and it all ended with gifts and food packets being distributed to all. The next day Lord Charles Bruce and Dr, Neeta Das attended our worship and met the elders. Some homework has been given to us to do meanwhile. We give thanks for this great step in involving the people of the area.



St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata

<http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>

Roster for March, 2016.

6/3/16. 3 Sunday before Easter (Mothering Sunday) :

The power of God is manifested in the works of Jesus .

Preacher :Mrs. Jolly Joy, Conductor : Rev Andrew Simick
Isaiah 49: 22-26 : Mrs. Jacqueline Nyss
Acts 19:11-20 : Mrs. Zeena Mondal

13/3/16. 2 Sunday before Easter (Passion Sunday) :*The magnetism of the cross.* Conductor & Preacher : Revd. A. Simick

Isaiah 53:1-11 : La Martiniere for Boys
John 12:20-36 : Ms. Devjani Samaradivakera

Meeting of the Deacon's Court & Kirk Session follow

20/3/16. Palm Sunday :*Christ enters Jerusalem to offer his life for the salvation of the world ,*

Conductor & Preacher : Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb
Isaiah 50:4-10 :Mr. David John
Luke 19: 29-40 : Bishop's College

25/3/16. Good Friday. :*The victory of the cross.*

Conductor & Preacher : Revd. A. Simick
Exodus 12: 21-33 : Mr. P.C. Daniels
Hebrews 10: 4-24 : Mrs. Bhaswati Samaradivakera

27/3/16, Easter Day:*The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed. Hallelujah* **HOLY COMMUNION**

Celebrant & Preacher : Revd. Dr. Philip V. Peacock
Exodus 15:1-2, 19-21 : Dr. Gillian Hart
Colossians 3:1-4 : Mr. Ashok Pasricha
John 20: 1-18 :Revd. Dr. Philip V. Peacock

The Keswick Meetings,led

Dr. Robert Suderman and his son Bryan (*pic below*) held from Feb 8-13 were a great blessing . **The Week of**

Prayer for

Christian Unity ended with a service and fellowship meal at the Loreto House.



Abdul Basir, the son of Mr. Abdul Nasir, our church employee was using an electric saw in his home when he suffered a nasty accident. His right arm received a cut of 5 inches. We are grateful for the help given by Mr. John Rafi, the teachers of La Martiniere for Boys and Rev Dr. Sunil Caleb in giving him the medical help required for his treatment.