



**St. Andrew's Church**  
**15, B.B.D. Bag (C.N.)**  
**Kolkata (founded 1815)**



**Annual report**  
**2015-2016**



Presented at the  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
On  
**Sunday, 3rd July, 2016**



**Forever  
With  
The  
Lord**



**Ann Colquhoun, Harsh Biswas, Harry Johnstone, Nita Das, Farida Abraham, and many who were persecuted and killed for the sake of Jesus**

**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. Touching 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.



**The 200th anniversary closing thanksgiving Holy Communion service of St. Andrew's Church** took place on 29.11.15. The **Rt Rev Ashoke Biswas, Bishop of Calcutta** preached the sermon and celebrated the Lord's Supper. We were also blessed to have the Rev Paritosh Canning, Vice-President of the Diocese and the Rev Swarup Bar who is in India on a break from his doctoral studies in Edinburgh. We render a big thanks to the Welland Gouldsmith School for decorating the church for the occasion, doing the background work and singing the Bicentenary special song.



**Rev Dr. Philip Vinod Peacock** Celebrated the Lord's Supper in our church on 17.1.16. We thank him for his ready services, congratulate him on receiving his doctorate and pray for his family and ministry in Bishop's College and in our diocese.



**The Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb and Mrs. Beulah Caleb** served us throughout the year by their presence every Sunday, their pastoral care and by their help in the services. Mrs. Beulah Caleb excelled in playing the organ



**Ordination in our Diocese**

Mr. Philip Gupta, Mr. Arpan Makhal, Mr. Sanjib Bishoi and Ms. Lopamudra Mistry were ordained to the Diaconate by the Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas on 1.5.16 in St. Thomas' Church, Howrah.



**Rev Swarup Bar** visited our church in December 2016 and is now in Edinburgh completing his studies.



Tunellia Marak, Rev. Sushma Kumar, Ashibo Zhimo (and Lem-pang H. Phom) of **Bishop's College** were assigned to our church for the period 2015-2016 and helped us by their presence, prayers and pastoral care.



**Rev James Gomez** helped us throughout the year.

*Healed by his stripes.*



**Bishop Maqbul Caleb, Bishop Dinesh Gorai, Janet Joel, Ashok Pasricha, Prodyut Addy, Quentin Pope, Dr. Gillian Hart and Abdul Basir** became very sick in the past year but received God's wonderful healing

**Prof Dr. Lalitluangliana Khiangte**, principal of Serampore College visited our church on 25.10.15. **Rev Dr. Roger Gaikwad** the Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India preached in SAC on 17.3.16





**The St. Andrew's Church Bicentenary Concert of Praise and Worship** was held in our church on 19.7.15. Dr. Gillian R. Hart, Chairperson, Bicentenary Committee, warmly welcomed the 230 people gathered. After the congregational hymn "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" played by Mrs. Beulah Caleb,



songs were presented by the Calcutta Hill Christian Church, the La Martiniere for Boys' School, the St. Thomas' Church, Free School Street, the Scottish Church College, St. Paul's Cathedral, Bishop's College and by St. Andrew's Church. Psalm 148 was read to us by Mr. Charles J. Nyss, Clerk to the Deacons' Court, and the Oxford Mission charmed us by two orchestral items. The hour-long concert came to an end with a Prayer and Benediction by His Grace, **the Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas, Bishop of Calcutta**, who presided over the whole function



**SAC Bicentenary Quiz Competition**

took place in our church lounge on 27.9.15. hosted by the SAC Bicentenary Committee to involve children in our celebrations! Planned by Dr. Gillian Hart, chairperson, and Mrs. Bhaswati Samaradivakera and with help from Rev James Gomez, **Mr. Nikhil Biswas** of St. Paul's



Cathedral was chosen as the quiz-master. Nikhil did a super job of quizzing with a power-point presentation on the theme, "the miracles and parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark". Four teams of three persons each from the neighbouring Cathedral of the Holy Rosary, Ling Liang Church, Sacred Heart Church and St. Andrew's Church took part. Participants from St. Francis Church, Old Mission Church and Jesus Calls also took part. Above all it was great to have Father Hansel, Father Peppins, Rev Pradip Nanda and Rev Souren Sarkar with us. A big thanks goes to Ms. Louisa Jackson and Mr. David John for the physical arrangements and Mr. Ashok Pasricha and Mr. Behera for the food.



**Mr. John Rafi**, Principal, La Martiniere for Boys, preached in our church on 9.8.15. **Congratulations!** Brandon Murray, Sylvester, Bevan, Jonathan Nyss and Sakchi Arora passed in the ISC and ICSE 2016. Two of our boys got into St. Xavier's College. LMB won the Keventer's Cup. Brandon Murray got the **Best Sportsman of the Year** award on 12.9.15. **Mrs. Swarna Joshua** and **Mr. John Stephen** were inducted as the new Vice-Principals on 2.9.15 and 7.12.15 of LMG and LMB



**Sunday School & La Martiniere**



A big thank you



<http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>

**The Closing Worship of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Diocese of Calcutta**

was held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 13.12.15. The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Rev Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy, Moderator, Mr. Alwan Masih, General Secretary of the Church of North India, the Most Rev Thomas Desouza, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Calcutta, the Most Rev Sisir Sarkar, the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh were present.

The Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas presided over the service and Rev Nigel Pope, Presbyter of St. Paul's Cathedral proficiently conducted the service. The President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, accompanied by the Governor, Shri Keshri Nath Tripathi were also felicitated on the occasion.

God had blessed the diocese of Calcutta exceeding abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).





**St. Andrew's Church and the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust meet in Scottish Cemetery**

A historic meeting of the Deacons' Court took place with Dr. Neeta Das, Conservation Architect of the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust in the Scottish Cemetery on 19.9.15. Again 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, and the team Banipur Sahayog took part with Mr. Norman and Mrs. Loreta Hall. **The KSHT** is reaching out to the children and mothers in the areas surrounding the Scottish Cemetery with projects like *skilled training for art craft and basic awareness*. According to Lord Charles Bruce, this is going to be one of the biggest projects on conservation in South Asia. **Dr. Sauvik Mukherjee**, professor of Presidency University is also doing research work in the cemetery.



**The wedding of Rishika Pradhan and Michael James** took place on 11.1.16. A marriage ceremony in our church took place after eleven years. Rishika is the daughter of Mr. Neville Ashok and late Anuradha Pradhan. Anuradha who had an untimely death a few years ago was the daughter of Rev D.P. Das who was the presbyter of St. Andrew's Church some time ago. At the beginning of the service a lamp was lit remembering Anuradha Pradhan and all the grandparents of the bride and the groom.



**World Anglo-Indian Day Service** was celebrated in our church on 2.8.15. Dr. Gillian Hart encouraged all Anglo-Indians in her message.

**The Welland Gouldsmith Schools 145th Homes Birthday Service** took place on 22.11.15 in their Patuli school with the theme of "Gratitude", Mr. M.J.Pook and Rev A.Simick represented our church.

**The Dr Graham's Homes Service of Thanksgiving** was held on 20.12.15 in our church. This was attended by Gen John R. Mukherjee, the then President and Chairman of the Homes. Rev Henry Simon, the chaplain of the Homes preached.

**The Harvest Festival of SAC** was celebrated on 1.11.15 in a service that was conducted by the Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb. The Women's Guild of our church participated in the worship and took the proceeds to the Santi Nivash home for the aged near the Oxford Mission, Behala.

**Roof repairs of SAC.**

Mr. David John, Mr. M.J.Pook, Mr. A. Pasricha and Mr. C.J. Nyss are looking at the repair work.

**The St Andrew's Church Picnic** was held on 23.1.16 in Udayan.

**Ms. Sofia Ghani**, daughter of late elder Mrs. Ghani attended our worship on 14.2.16. She is working in Geneva.

**Thursday 1 pm** worship continued throughout the year.

**Mr. P.C. Daniels**, Principal of St. Thomas' Church School, Howrah, along with his family members have been attending worship in our church. He also took part in the Easter Rally on 27.3.16

**The Flower Service of the Dr. Graham's Homes Kalimpong** took place in our church on 8.5.15.



Thank you members of our staff: Mr. Chinatamani Behera, Mr. Abdul Nasir, Mr. Avadesh Gaur, Mr. Sarat Mahala and Mr. Ajit Mr. Abdul Nasir retired on 31.3.16 and continues to serve us.



**Congratulations!**

We congratulate Dr. Gillian Hart on being made the Chairperson of the Dr. Graham's Homes Kalimpong Board of Governors.



**Our Free Homeopathy Medical Clinic**

ran every Wednesday at 12noon. Jessica Mcleod relocated to Park Circus. Jonathan continues in DGH Kalimpong



## Keep awake, watch, be alert

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

There is a great need to pray continually because if we don't the world, the flesh and Satan will always get the better of us. As a Christian we are in a constant battle. Our Lord told Peter, *"Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? **Watch and pray** so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."* (Mark 14:37,38) Peter felt so tired after a gruelling day at Passover time and with the Lord in the upper room that the first reaction when he was alone was to slumber deeply. He had forgotten the words of our Lord, *"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death...Stay here and **keep watch**"* ( Mark 14:34) Peter failed to keep up with the Lord in his agonizing sorrow and prayer. He and his two companions completely missed the gravity of the struggle between the work of the Holy Spirit and the temptation of Satan and the flesh. Whereas the three fell into a deep sleep, our Lord struggled. The Greek word used for watch is "gregoraite" meaning "keep awake, watch, be alert; be alive" from where the name Gregory comes. Our Lord saw the danger coming. At one point of time the temptation of Satan was for our Lord was to give in. He prayed, *"Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. **Yet not what I will, but what you will**"* (Mark 14:36). But when our Lord prayed, *"Yet not what I will, but what you will"* he had won the battle for the salvation of the souls of all humanity. Peter slept while our Lord prayed.

Often when we are exhausted doing the work of the Lord Satan attacks us on this front.

When Peter awoke, the hour had come and Jesus had been betrayed into the hands of sinners (Mark 14:41). After the arrest of our Lord, Peter told the people, *"I don't know this man you're talking about"* (Mark 14:71)

Failure in prayer led to a denial of his loyalty to our Lord.

After his great breakdown Peter repented, cried bitterly and came back to the Lord (Luke 22:31,32). He was endowed with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and used mightily for the gospel. In his letter he writes, *"be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him."* (1 Peter 5:8) *"The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray"* (1 Peter 4:7).

A great help we have when we pray is the Holy Spirit. While we do not know how to pray the Holy Spirit helps us and prays with us. *"the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."* (Romans 8:26,27)

Let us therefore be always sober, vigilant and alert that we may always pray, be victorious over Satan and pray in accordance with God's will.

St. Andrew's Church, 15, B.B.D. Bag, Kolkata 700 001  
The report of the Presbyter, 2015-2016

My dear members of St. Andrew's Church, it is my great privilege to present to you this report of the Presbyter from July 2015-2016. This year is the year after the bicentenary year of our church and the first person to whom we render our thanks and praise is the Lord God Almighty for his gracious hand of blessings for over two hundred years of our parish.

Let us first remember all those who slept in the Lord in the last year: Ann Colquhoun, Harsh Biswas, Harry Johnstone, Nita Das, Farida Abraham, and many who were persecuted and killed for the sake of Jesus

We thank first our Bishop the Rt. Revd. Ashoke Biswas, bishop of Calcutta, for his overall guidance and prayers for our parish. We thank him for being with us for our not only for our closing worship of the bicentenary celebrations on 30.11.15 but also for our bicentenary concert of praise and worship on 19.7.15.

Next we thank the Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb for his pastoral care, for conducting our services and his presence every Sunday with his family help during the whole year. Along with Father Sunil, we also thank Mrs. Beulah Caleb who has played the organ skillfully and encouraged us in worship. Rev Swarup Bar, a presbyter from our diocese doing doctoral studies in Edinburgh, visited us in December 2015 and January 2016. The free homeopathy medical clinic which he helped us start has been functioning every Wednesday at 12noon. The Rev James Gomez helped us by coming in the weekdays and taking services for us. The Rev Dr, Philip Peacock helped us whenever we needed his help. Bishop's College students who were attached to us for training attended church regularly, helped us with our children and prayed for us. To all these fellow labourers I render my hearty thanks.

I take this opportunity to thank here Mr. M.J.Pook our Session Clerk, Mr. Charles Nyss, our Clerk to the Deacons' Court, Mr. Ashok Pasricha, our Honorary Treasurer, all our elders of the Kirk Session and the deacons of our Deacons' Court for the role they have played throughout the year in looking after the administration, staff, finances, maintenance, repairs of the church, the Scottish Cemetery and their attendance every Sunday. I also thank Dr. G. Hart and the Welland Gouldsmith Schools for lighting our church for the whole of the bicentenary year which is continuing still now.

While we are having our services our Sunday School is being run by our teachers, Ms. Rina Fletcher and Mr. David John. Dr. Gillian Hart and Ms. Louisa Jackson also take a keen part in supervising the teaching and training of these children.

Here we thank the La Martiniere for Boys School for allowing the hostel boys to come and worship with us every Sunday. We say a big thank you to Mr. John Rafi, the Principal, Mr. Bertie Francis and Mr. Quentin Pope and Mrs. Le Blond, the Matron for being a part of our church family.

Next, I thank Mr. Chintamoni Behera, our Church Officer, for his careful supervision of all church work including accounts, staff, services, records, car parking and public relations. Along with Mr. Behera, I thank our four hardworking staff members who have worked consistently the whole year through, namely, Mr. Abdul Nasir, Mr. Avadesh Gaur, Mr. Sarath Mahala and Mr. Ajit Routh.

At the Scottish Cemetery, our thanks go to Mr. Norman Hall and Mrs. Loreta Hall who have worked the whole of this year looking after the cemetery. Lord Charles Bruce, the Chairman of the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust, and Dr. Neeta Das the conservation architect have met the elders and deacons in the cemetery. The last year has seen a flurry of activity of not only the restoration but a project involving the local women and children that has brought life to our cemetery. We thank the KSHT for their restoration and community work.

Here I thank all you members of our church who make it a point to be in worship on Sunday morning. I want to thank you all for your regular attendance, giving, your support to the church and for your prayers.

Last but not least I thank my wife Mrs. Snigdha Simick who has labored on with me these thirty three years and has helped me not only in the home but in the two churches where I am serving. As this is the last Annual Congregational meeting that I will be attending before my retirement on 31.12.16 I want to say a very big thank you for your love and cooperation in church life and how grateful I have been to have been attached to this great church family. May God bless you abundantly.

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
**KOLKATA**

REPORT OF THE SESSION CLERK FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016 TO THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2016 IN THE CHURCH LOUNGE.

Dear Presbyter and friends,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the twelve months ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and apologise that being out of India I am unable to present it personally but have requested Charles Nyss, Clerk to the Deacons' Court to read it for me and I thank him warmly for agreeing.

Andrew our Presbyter has excelled himself as editor and publisher by producing his Annual Report with not only a wealth of detail but also so many photos and pictures spread over three pages. I cannot hope to compete with that excellent publication and indeed I doubt you would want me to repeat much the same chronology of events and happenings.

We have successfully completed our Bicentenary Celebrations. The physical fabric of the Church has lasted for 200 years and is in good condition but what has brought us through is our faith in God and the backbone of our form of governance. That should not be taken for granted especially when we see many organisations in disarray, rent with dissent and lacking common purpose. Since Presbyterianism is rather rare in this part of the country I thought it would be useful to explain it and our form of governance..

Presbyterianism emerged from the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation as Protestant reformers recaptured the form as well as the message of the New Testament church. John Calvin (1509-64) made a long dedicated study of the Bible and concluded that Jesus Christ himself is the sole ruler of the church and that he exercises that authority through four kinds of church officers. Calvin became the Reformed leader in Geneva and that church order was subsequently carried to Scotland by John Knox (1505-72) where it evolved into Presbyterianism. Besides Scotland Presbyterians are found throughout the English speaking world and also in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Hungary, France, South Africa, Indonesia, Korea and more.

Spiritually Presbyterianism embodies the principles of Calvinism and forms the main branch of the Reformed churches.

It asserts the sovereignty of God and the prime authority of the Scriptures as guides to church doctrine.

The Bible is held as the rule of government and discipline as well as faith.

Presbyterian worship is simple and orderly and revolves around preaching from the Scriptures hence the importance attached to the sermon.

Presbyterian churches are plain so that the congregation may concentrate on God's word and worship Him through their devotion to His word rather than attempting to intrude on his glory with man-made decoration.

Two sacraments are recognized: the Lord's Supper, usually celebrated monthly or quarterly, and baptism which is administered to infant children of church members as a sign of God's covenant of mercy.

The four kinds of officers set out by Calvin were:

Pastors (to exhort, admonish and encourage), doctors or teachers (to instruct), lay elders (to guide and discipline), deacons (to aid the poor). In Presbyterianism this has evolved into:

Presbyter or Minister combining the roles of pastor and teacher and heading the church and leading the congregation.

Elders, specially selected men and women ordained as Elders who have pastoral responsibility for the members of the congregation. They share with the Presbyter the celebration of Holy Communion.

Deacons who assist in running the church. It is from the Deacons that Elders are selected. Deaconship can be seen as a form of apprenticeship for Eldership.

The Kirk Session consists of the Presbyter and Elders and meets to deal with matters spiritual, the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the wellbeing of the Presbyter.

The Deacons' Court consists of Deacons and Elders under chairmanship of the Presbyter and meets to deal primarily with temporal (relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual) matters.

St Andrew's joined the Church of North India in 1970 and was permitted to retain its form of governance. This form of governance has stood the test of time – since 1560 in Scotland and for 200 years at St Andrew's, Kolkata, through schisms in the Church of Scotland, independence, political changes, congregational changes, financial challenges and with that pedigree it is hoped it will continue to manage St Andrew's with wisdom, insight and care for the greater good for its congregation.

One thing Andrew did not mention in his report is that the Diocese has granted him an extension of a further year and he continues as our Presbyter for which we are grateful and thank God for his continuing work and stewardship of St Andrew's.

In conclusion it is my duty to record that the Deacons' Court and Kirk Session have met regularly and have worked in the spirit of Christian charity to maintain the well-being of the Congregation and our Presbyter, the proper conduct of our worship, also to maintain the fabric of the Church and to carry out our duty as a loyal member of the Church of North India. I thank our Presbyter, Assistant Presbyters, visiting conductors and preachers, Elders and Deacons, the Church Administrative Officer, our loyal staff and not least members of the Congregation for their help, support and assistance during the year.

May God bless you all.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Pook".

Michael Pook  
Session Clerk

REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KOLKATA, AT THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD ON JULY 3, 2016.

The Presbyter, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting the ANNUAL REPORT of your church together with the AUDITED ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31.3.2016.

I would like to commence my report by first thanking Revd. Andrew Simick, the elders, deacons, congregational members, the church administrative officer, service staff, the accounts team led by Mr. Altaf Hussain, our auditor and tax consultant Mr. Ashok Pradhan for their continuous support, co-operation and sound advice related to the financial workings of the church.

The generosity of the congregation, donors, visitors and well wishers of this church alongwith the prudent financial policy of the Deacons Court has allowed us to maintain our record of good financial health.

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The total income from all sources stood at Rs. 19,37,092.54 which was lower by Rs. 57,375.46 as compared to last year ( Rs. 19,94,468.00 ) and this arose from a reduction in donations and miscellaneous receipts.

Despite this dip in total income, we have been able to achieve a surplus of Rs. 5,33,068.54 as compared to Rs. 4,98,338.64 last year.

#### ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 2016-2017.

The Deacon's Court has very recently given its consent for the fabrication of a ramp for the differently abled at the front of the church and alongwith a proposal to try and overhaul the drainage system on the roof, the combined expenses are expected to be upwards of Rs. 2,50,000/-, and if interest rates do not travel southwards, a modest surplus of Rs 2,00,000/- can be attained.

#### BICENTENARY CELEBRATION EXPENSES

A sum of Rs. 1,27,917/- was incurred on the various programmes held to commemorate this historic milestone in your church's history and we remain grateful to Dr. G. Hart, chairperson of the committee and also to all of you who participated and supported the many events held during the period of celebration.

#### AUDITOR'S REPORT

The auditor's report relating to the methods adopted in the preparation of accounts is self-explanatory.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS

Proposed by :

Seconded by :

And unanimously resolved that the Audited Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31.03.2016 be accepted

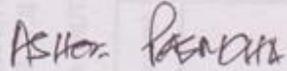
**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

It is proposed that M/s A.Pradhan and Associates, Chartered Accountants, be appointed Auditors of St. Andrew's Church for the period 2016-2017 on terms decided by the Deacon's Court.

Proposed by :

Seconded by :

Thanking you kindly, and may God bless each one of you.



ASHOK PASRICHA

Honorary Treasurer

