



St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

AUGUST 2016

Contents

Sermon by Q.Pope 1
 Mr. Shane Calvert 1
 W.Anglo Indian Day 3
 Church Ramp 3
 Diocesan Council 3
 Independence cup 3
 Scottish Cemetery 4
 Bishop's College 4
 Congrats! Rev Nigel Pope 4

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Mr Shane Calvert addresses an ecumenical congregation at a CAISS service on World Anglo-Indian Day 2.8.16

Being Blessed

(Sermon preached by Mr. Quentin Pope on 31.7.16 in St. Andrew's Church)

Let us pray: Loving Father, even as we meditate upon your word and open our hearts to your love, enlighten us to understand how truly blessed we are, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Friends, in the Gospel passage of Luke which was read to us— we find a woman praising and acknowledging the mother of Jesus, saying to him, *"how blessed is the woman who bore you and nursed you"* (Luke 11:27).

These words immediately reminded me of my own beloved mother who at one time of her life had to suffer, sacrifice and struggle to raise me and my siblings. Life was not easy for my mother because even though my father was a God-fearing and loving man, he was given in to the weakness of gambling and this caused my mother a lot of stress and pain. However, today my father is no more and wherever my mother goes, people keep telling her how blessed she is to be the mother of Rev Nigep Pope, who is a priest of the Diocese and Pastor of St. Paul's Cathedral, and this is her blessing. Yes, all mothers go through a lot for their children, but are all mothers equally blessed??

Talking about blessings! Everyone wants to be blessed. This is because blessings are benefits, gains, profits, privileges, advantages or, to put it in one word— *'happiness'*, which everyone of us desire. Friends, it is here that we need to be very clear about the difference between being LUCKY and being BLESSED, because the two are not the same. 'Being lucky' means getting or receiving something by chance, even though you may not have it (example —winning a lottery).

However, 'being blessed' means getting or receiving that which you have earned or worked for in some way or perhaps by finding favour (example— Mary, Jesus' mother).



Friends, there are many ways by which we all could consider ourselves to be blessed, though we may not always realize it. Students and children—you are blessed to have parents, grandparents, a good school education, good food, clothing and shelter. Elders and parents—we are blessed to have children, a job to go to, a regular source of income, a comfortable home, a position of social respect and a lovely church in which to worship and fellowship. However, let us look at Jesus' response to the woman. In v 28 he says, "*blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it*". This was in a way changing the focus from his mother and reminding woman and the rest of us about our own blessings. Was Jesus denying the fact that his mother was blessed? Certainly NOT! Jesus was trying to help the woman and us to recognize our own blessings and to understand what it means to be truly blessed. (Repeat).

Let us look at what it means to be truly blessed in 3 ways-

Firstly, the Blessedness of Having the Word of God:

Literally, speaking, the word of God refers to the 'Bible'. Now, I am sure that as Christians, all of us have Bibles at home and also in our churches.

The 'Bible' is a prized possession for those who understand and realize. Besides being a bestseller, it is believed to be the most inspiring, practical and life-transforming book in the world. This is because the Bible is truly inspired and guided by God himself. The word of God or is Bible is God's way of connecting with us. It tells us about his love for us, his plan and purposes for us. "*I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, not to harm you.*" (*Jeremiah 29:11*). It acts as a guide, guardian and light to us in a world so filled with darkness. "*I am the light of the world*" (*John 9:5*).

In a deeper sense, the blessedness of having the word of God means to be blessed with JESUS in our lives.

Having Jesus in our lives as Lord and Saviour is the greatest blessing. So it is only when we have a personal relationship with God through his Word i.e. Jesus, that we would be TRULY BLESSED.

Secondly– the Blessedness of Listening to the Word of God :-

"He who listens to my word and obeys shall be blessed" (*Lk 11:28*)

Friends, 'Listening' is the key word in this point. 'Listening' is very different from 'hearing'. While hearing is simply the entry of sound into the ears, listening involves mental focus and attention which when takes place, leads to a response on the part of the listener.

One of the problems in this world that leads to misunderstanding and fights is the lack of listening to each other. How much more when it comes to listening to the Word of God. Sunday after Sunday we hear the word being read to us and preached to us: BUT do we truly listen? If so, then we would certainly experience the blessing in our lives.

Listening to the Word means carefully and sincerely making note of what God speaks to us through Jesus so that we would know exactly what is in God's heart and mind and live in accordance. "*I know my sheep and my sheep know my voice*" (*John 10:4*). Indeed it pays to listen . And Finally the Blessedness of Obeying the Word. Friends the Bible says, "*Obedience is better than sacrifice*" (*1 Samuel 15:22*) . Adam and Eve brought sin and suffering into the world by being disobedient. They did not follow God's instructions and lost out on God's blessings.

Come, let us avail of the True Blessings of God by 1) Making sure to have the Blessedness of the Word in our lives (Jesus)

2), By honestly and truly listening to the Word (Jesus) and burying it in our hearts so that we may not SIN against God and 3), by obeying the Word and living a life of obedience unto God's love and calling. May God bless us. Amen.

World Anglo-Indian Day was celebrated on 2.8.16 in various ways and places in our city. First, Dr. Gillian Hart, President and Chairperson of the Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong shared that Mr. Shane Calvert had been nominated twice as the Anglo-Indian MLA to the West Bengal Assembly and that he would be sworn in on World Anglo-Indian Day. Dr. Hart wrote, "I'm sure each one of you join me in congratulating Shane on this well deserved achievement and wishing him all the very best for his 2nd. Term, as he continues his excellent work in helping with the progress and growth of our microscopic Anglo Indian community. May God bless all his endeavours and crown them with success."



In St. Thomas' Day School the teachers cooked a home-made meal for senior Anglo-Indians, celebrated the 88th birthday of Mr. Cyril Bird-Sturgeon, and gave them a game of housie and dance session. In the evening, the Calcutta Anglo-Indian Service Society organized a touching thanksgiving worship service in the Fatima Church.



The Church Ramp to help those unable to climb stairs is being worked out by the Deacons' Court on a drawing made by our Session Clerk. The pre-fabricated steel structure will be constructed on the south east part of our church (*see pic*)



The 46 Diocesan Council was held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 12 & 13 August, 2016. Mr. Charles Nyss represented our Church. Mr. P.C. Daniels was also present. Students passing ICSE, Sylvester, Sakshi, Jonathan and Bevan were also felicitated by our bishop.



St. Andrew's Church took part in the Independence Cup Football tournament held in St. Paul's Cathedral on 15.8.16 and won the trophy. In the finals which was between St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Andrew's Church, Mr. Quentin Pope scored three goals and received the prize for the best scorer of the tournament. The warm hospitality of the Cathedral and the Christian spirit with which all the games were played made it a remarkable day.



St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata

<http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>

Roster for September, 2016.

4/9/16. 16 Sun after Pen: Teachers' Sunday *The cost of discipleship*

Conductor & Preacher : Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb

Joshua 24: 14-24: Mrs. Kiran Daniels

Luke 14: 25-33 : Mrs. Bhaswati Samaradivakera

11/9/16. 17 Sunday after Pentecost: *God does not abandon his people when they go astray*

Conductor & Preacher : Revd. A. Simick

Hosea 11: 1-11 : La Martiniere for Boys

Philemon 7-20 : Mrs. Devjani Samaradivakera

Meeting of the Deacon's Court & Kirk Session follows

18/9/16. 18 Sunday after Pentecost : *Common sense as well as devotion are needed for the service of God*

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant & Preacher : Revd. Dr. Philip Vinod Peacock

2 Kings 5: 19- 27 : Mr. M.J. Pook

I Timothy 6: 6-12, 17-19 : Mr. Prodyut Addy

Luke 16: 1-12 : Revd. Dr. Philip Vinod Peacock

25/9/16. 19 Sun after Pen: *True compassion is based on justice*

Conductor & Preacher : Rev A. Simick

2 Kings 6:8-17 : Bishop's College

Revelation 12: 7-12 : Mrs. Jolly Joy



Our children enjoying a session at the piano and

below a child learns drawing at the Scottish Cemetery.



Rev Nigel Pope represented the CNI at the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) 2016 held in Zambia from 6-20 April 2016. He has become the first South Asian to be elected to this ACC Standing Committee and is also elected as a Trustee in the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund and a member of the Monitoring Committee on Implementation of Resolutions of ACC2016. Congratulations and God Bless.

The **Bishop's College Students** attached to us for this academic term are Ayeka Sumi, Olika Ayi, Ebenezer P and Mandeep Nahar. Let us remember them in our prayers and invite them to our homes.