

6th OCTOBER 2012
at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, Fitzroy Square, London

The annual celebration of FCI Day was held at the YMCA Indian Student Hostel in London on October 6th. After registration and coffee, the gathering of about 80 people was welcomed by the outgoing Chair of FCI, the Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel. A special welcome was given to visitors from Germany, Archdeacon Immanuel Nau, the Revd Dr Viola Schrenk, and also to several Indian students, studying in the UK.

The theme for the morning session was "Celebrating links with the Indian Church" - sharing experiences from the UK and Germany. The Revd Suresh Kumar, Treasurer of FCI, is a CSI presbyter working in Leicester. He gave a very interesting, illustrated presentation about the link between the *Churches Together in Leicester and the CSI diocese of Tiruchirappalli-Thanjavur*. This link is celebrating ten years of close fellowship. The German link with CSI was described with illustrations by Archdeacon Immanuel Nau and the Revd Dr Viola Schrenk. It is a small group partnership link between a church in Southern Germany near Stuttgart and the *CSI Diocese of South Kerala*. Questions and answers followed these presentations.

After a tasty rice and curry lunch the afternoon session began with the FCI Annual General Meeting and with the Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel in the Chair. Apologies were given, the minutes of the last AGM were approved and the Secretary's report by Mrs Angela Wingate was presented. Mrs Wingate reviewed the activities of the past year, and expressed thanks to the Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel, the retiring Chair, and to the Revd Dr Timothy Mark, the retiring Editor of *Pilgrim*. *The audited accounts were presented by the Treasurer, the Revd Suresh Kumar, and these were received and approved with thanks.* The following officers were elected: Chair, the Revd Jessie Anand; Treasurer, the Revd Suresh Kumar (re-elected); Editor of *Pilgrim*, the Revd Dr Joshva Raja. *A proposal from the Management Committee* regarding the widening of FCI's friendship to all the United and Uniting Churches in south Asia was discussed, and the Committee was requested to explore this further and to report to the AGM next year.

The Revd Jessie Anand was welcomed as the new Chair of FCI. She expressed warm thanks to the Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel, the retiring Chair, for her leadership and inspirational vision.

The programme concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist, using a form of the CSI Liturgy, with the Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel as celebrant and preacher, assisted by the Revd Jessie Anand. The names of the twenty-one FCI members who had died during the previous year were remembered during the service. The offertory amounted to £362 and was given to *Kirubi Illam* (Home of Grace) in CSI *Thoothukudi and Nazareth* Diocese. The service ended with the hymn, "Ye *servants of God, your Master proclaim*". An enjoyable day of fellowship came to a close with Indian snacks and a cup of tea.