

FCI Secretary's Report 2012

The Annual FCI Day in 2011 was held on 1 October when the celebrant and preacher at the Eucharist was Revd Dr Chellian Lawrence and we were very happy that his wife, Malar and family came too. In the afternoon Vincent Manoharan spoke about issues for Christian Dalits. The time for discussion was short and, as you now know, it was decided to reverse the order of the day for this year, with the presentation in the morning and Eucharist in the afternoon to see if this is more acceptable. (The AGM is not to be moved from 2pm!) The number attending FCI Day last year was fewer than in 2010 and, as in all the recent years, several members have died during the year- we shall remember them in the Eucharist.

2012 has been the year for the St Thomas Unity Lecture, which was presented by Brian Dunn, a Canadian doctoral research student, who spent his childhood in India and several years of his adult life working there too. His lecture was on the Indian Christian theologian, Bishop Appasamy, and Comparative Theology and was very well received in the eight cities where it was delivered. It would have been good to have larger audiences but for those not able to hear the lecture, it is available for reading on the website. We are very grateful to Margaret Smith, the coordinator for the Unity Lecture programme, for the excellent arrangements made to get Brian from Blackburn to London, Belfast and Edinburgh and all places in between.

In the two Management Committee meetings held during the year some thought has been given to the decline in membership of FCI and what this might mean for the future. It was decided to ask members for their views on looking into widening the friendship to all United and Uniting Churches of South Asia and we will do this later in this meeting. There has been the opportunity to comment on this proposal on the website forum and we thank the webmaster, Roy Smith, for facilitating this and those members who have expressed their points of view. Time for evaluation is needed.

As usual, we have enjoyed two excellent editions of Pilgrim this year and we cannot thank Timothy Mark enough for all his work as Editor of our highly respected journal. It is with much sadness that we have accepted Timothy's resignation from his post and hope we may elect another editor to continue in his footsteps.

It is sad, too, that we are to lose Julie Lipp-Nathaniel as Chair of the Management Committee and we record the deep gratitude felt by the committee for all Julie has done as Chair. She has brought life to FCI and a window on the wider church. We give thanks for the service of the committee members who have retired during the year, Margaret Smith (Miss) and Margaret Addicott and for all those members who regularly attend, giving ideas and support and accepting responsibility for jobs, especially Jessie Anand, who has, for the last three years, taken on the task of coordinating arrangements for the Eucharist, a special time in our Annual day.