

PILGRIM

*MAGAZINE OF THE
FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH IN INDIA*



April 2024 Edition 64



FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH IN INDIA



Mission Statement

The FCI shall seek to promote at a local level, in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, interest in the life, work and mission of the Churches of India.

The FCI will focus on the Indian Churches' experience of Christian Unity, and will seek to understand the religious, political, economic, cultural, and social context of their ministry and mission.

The FCI will do this as a contribution to, and an encouragement of, ecumenical relationships in the United Kingdom.

Objectives

The promotion of the Christian Religion at a local level in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland by:

- (a) Encouraging interest in the life, work, and mission of the Churches of India, with special reference to their experience of Christian Unity*
- (b) Facilitating understanding of the religious, political, economic, cultural, and social context of the Indian Churches' ministry and mission*
- (c) Making the Public Benefit of a contribution to, and an encouragement of, ecumenical relationships in the United Kingdom.*

Pilgrim Editorial Team

Revd. Chellian Lawrence

Cllr. Eleanor Jackson

Revd. Premraj

Editor

Mr. Sumanth Bommarthi



PILGRIM

Edition 64

April 2024

The Magazine of the Friends of the Church in India

Contents

Editorial	4
A Mission Story Telling Day Conference.....	7
FCI Chair’s Remarks – AGM	9
FCI Annual Day 2023 – Report	14
FCI Annual Day 2023 – Gallery	16
Projects in Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India	17
Missionary Reflections – Revd Sarah Miller	21
Remembering Revd Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron	27
Life of the late Revd Dr Gordon Shaw by Stephen Shaw (Son)	30
Tribute to The Revd Dr Gordon Shaw,	35
Tribute to the Revd Dr Gordon Shaw – FCI Management	39
Revd Jim McManus.....	41
Fr. John Webber	42

©Copyright 2024 Friends of the Church in India (1042850).

Editorial

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from the Editorial Team of the Friends of the Church in India. I hope you all had a blessed season of Lent and Easter.



This edition of *Pilgrim* has some useful information on the future programmes and the work done by FCI. There will be a Missionary Story Telling Day Conference in June later this year. The FCI Annual Day will be held in September. We describe the numerous projects undertaken by the Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India and we include the missionary stories of the work done by Revd Sarah Miller,

I regret to inform you that FCI has lost two supporting members this year. Both Revd Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron and Revd Dr Gordon Shaw were very faithful and committed members supporting the work of FCI. Revd Gordon served as FCI Chairperson between 2005-2007 and then as a Treasurer in the following years. We give thanks to God for the life of such incredible servants of God.

I would like to thank our editorial team and Revd William Allberry for their time and effort for proofreading the articles that have been sent through to us from various sources for publication in *Pilgrim*.

Please send your submission of articles, reports, comments, book reviews, etc., for publication in *Pilgrim* in Word document format to editor.fci@gmail.com.



SATURDAY 28th September 2024 from 10.30am to 4pm
at Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 6AQ
(200yds from Warren Street Tube Station)

*All with an interest in the Church in India and South Asia
are warmly welcome*

Programme

- 10.30am** Registration
- 11.00am** Introduction & Welcome to Visitors, Students and Guests
- 11.15am** “Environmental concerns: How can churches in India and South Asia contribute to addressing them?” – Kailean Khongsai
- Kailean was a CMS mission Partner for 15 years seconded to A Rocha UK where his work included transforming a 3-acre wasteland into a multi-purpose green space. He has a professional background in environmental waste management and ecology. He can also respond to questions on the recent attacks on churches in Manipur, his home state. He is to be ordained at St Paul’s Cathedral in June 2024.
- 12.25pm** Annual General Meeting of FCI Members
- 1.00pm** Indian Lunch: Curry and Rice
- 2.00pm** Worship Songs
- 2.15pm** Holy Communion
- Celebrant: The Revd Dr Chellaian Lawrence**
(Methodist Minister, Lesnes Abbey Circuit)
- Preacher: The Revd Liz Hull**
(Vicar at St Thomas’ Church of England, Douglas, Isle of Man)
- 3.00 pm** Closing Words
- 3.15pm** Tea (*FCI members invited to contribute sweets & savouries*)

REGISTRATION SLIP

To be returned by **28th September 2024** to the Revd William Allberry:

FCI Membership Secretary

48, Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6RB

Tel: 020 8390 2019; Mobile: 07818 641576;

Email: membership.fci@gmail.com

Advance payment / Payment on the day: £15 per head.

Advance payment can be made by cheque accompanying this form, payable to “Friends of the Church in India”, or if returned by email then Bank Transfer to: A/c Name: “Friends of the Church in India”, Sort code: (HSBC) 40-02-06, Account No. 30030716. As a reference, please put “(Your Name) – FCI Day”

If the provided lunch is not taken, the attendance charge in advance or on the day will be £5.00; there will be no charge for short-term visitors from overseas attending FCI Day.

Overnight accommodation if required can be booked directly with YMCA Indian Student Hostel, London. Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 0411
www.indianymca.org

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL (Optional).....



Friends of the Church in India

Your Story, God's Story

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Psalm 105:12

A Mission Story Telling Day Conference

All are welcome!

**SATURDAY 15th June 2024 from 10.00am to 4.15pm
at All Saints Church,
100 Prince of Wales Drive, SW11 4BD**

(8 minutes' walk from Battersea Power Station on Northern Line or 4 minutes' walk from Battersea Park mainline Station – every 15 mins from Victoria Station)

Our churches and mission agencies represent a vast reservoir of the stories of God's works through those who have faithfully served him as they have crossed borders and cultures. Many of these stories have gone unrecorded or undocumented, or simply not been told widely enough. This day conference is an opportunity for such stories to be told, shared and recorded and from which we, and many others can be inspired and learn, now and in the future. All participants will have an opportunity to tell their own story to a small group as well as to hear from a selection of designated key storytellers. We will also hear from two keynote speakers who both have a wide mission experience:

Dr Mark Galpin

Mark is based at All Nations Christian College (ANCC) where he leads the postgraduate programme and teaches Poverty and Justice studies, and Leadership. From 2009 until 2016 Mark served as Executive Director of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Before that he worked for the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) based in the Mid-West of Nepal. His background is in the area of community development, and he completed his PhD in Agricultural systems at the University of Reading in 2000. He has also lived and worked in East Africa, where he grew up.

The Venerable Alastair Cutting

Alastair Cutting is Patron of FCI, and grew up as a “mish kid”, living most of his pre-teen years in South India. His parents, William and Margot Cutting were medical missionaries at the CSI Campbell hospital, Jammalamadugu, in Rayalaseema Diocese. His grandparents Cecil and Eleanor, and great-grandparents William and Jane also served 30 years each in India too, so there are generations of Indian inculturation in the family. Alastair currently serves in the Southwark Diocese as Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich.

.....

REGISTRATION SLIP

To be returned by **31st May 2024** to the Revd Jessie Anand, Treasurer, All Saints Vicarage, 100 Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea, SW11 4BD;
Tel: 07760 252655; email: jessieanand@yahoo.co.uk

Registration Fee which includes lunch and refreshments: **£15 per head**.
Advance payment can be made by cheque accompanying this form, payable to “Friends of the Church in India”, or if returned by email then Bank Transfer to: A/c Name: “Friends of the Church in India”, Sort code: (HSBC) 40-02-06, Account No. 30030716. As a reference put “(Your Name) – Story-Telling Conference”.

NAME(S).....

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL.....

FCI Chair's Remarks – AGM on 30th September 2023.

Once again FCI Day has been affected by events outside our control! 2020 was held by Zoom due to pandemic restrictions. 2021 went ahead as planned, in 2022 it was the weekend of the Queen's funeral and so again FCI Day



was postponed to a Zoom gathering in December. This year (2023) there is a national rail strike affecting travel for many, so we have gone down a hybrid route of a physical meeting for those who can make it while connecting via Zoom for those who cannot. Let us pray for a better outcome in 2024!

Margaret Marshall, as Secretary, has already given us a concise overview of the year in her report. I just want to emphasise my appreciation for all who contributed to the success of the St Thomas Unity lectures, especially Revd Anand Asir who organised them, all the work done by the local hosts, and of course Dr Isaac Devados for his excellent lecture. I would also like to also highlight again the Zoom prayer meeting which was once again a valuable initiative that we hope to repeat in 2024. And thirdly I want to express my appreciation for the excellent standard of the issues of Pilgrim magazine that we have received this past year – many thanks to Sumanth and the team.

A brief highlight of just some of the broad challenges for FCI at this time.

Firstly, there is the need to strengthen our core task of witnessing to the ecumenical unity of the united churches in India and indeed South Asia to the churches here in UK and Europe, at a time when there is less interest in movement towards organisational unity of the churches. The response to this challenge includes finding innovative ways of sharing the history of these churches. The ongoing work of producing a short history of FCI is just one small part of this. The need to share the rich stories of mission service of our members and others, especially mission experiences in Asian contexts, is why we are looking into the possibility of a mission story telling gathering in 2024.

Secondly, there is the need to share the present realities of the life, worship, and mission of the united churches specifically and the church generally in India and South Asia to the churches in our own context. There are so many inspiring and encouraging stories to tell – so much that is happening at the grassroots level that churches in the West can learn from. But equally there are real concerns that call for committed prayer and advocacy. These concerns may be internal to the churches where there are moral and behavioural failures, or external where there is persecution and opposition, especially as we have seen this year in Manipur state.

The above all highlight the continuing relevance of FCI today – but they in turn point to a third major sphere of challenge. This is how can we communicate more effectively not just to our members, but to a wider audience and so broaden our core constituency and our general reach. And then how can we effectively engage them and connect them with the churches in India and the South Asia region, especially when our resources in terms of people, money and time are so few? In other words, back to a point I made last year – how can we better unleash the potential of FCI and encourage a new generation of young leaders? This is where we come back to the issues of, and opportunities for, diversification and collaboration. This is not for our own organisational survival, but for the need to build bridges of mutual friendship, learning, challenge and sharing within and between the churches of our two regions.

And that brings us to a fourth challenge. We live in a rapidly changing and unstable context at every level – local, national, and international – which also means changing and unstable ecclesial contexts. We need to be alert, informed about and responsive to these changes. In many respects the church in UK has, although with some notable exceptions, in recent decades become more introverted as it struggles to survive in the face of numerical, institutional, and often moral and spiritual decline. I wonder if a measure of withdrawal from meaningful global engagement – including with South Asian churches – has contributed to

this. If so, that is yet another indication of the potential relevance of FCI – but this also poses the challenge to give effective practical expression to our vision and calling.

These challenges all call for prayer – and so I conclude with the final and fifth challenge. How can FCI become a more united and committed community of prayer, praying for specific needs? Prayer itself opens our hearts to the love, presence and power of God and so will always lead to building stronger and more loving friendship with those Christians and churches for whom we pray.

May God give us grace to rise to the challenges before us.

I will close by expressing my thanks to all the members of the Management Committee for their work and support, including the office bearers, Margaret, Jessie and Sumanth. Many thanks again to Anand Asir who is our Education Secretary and to Selvan Enoch our webmaster.

Special thanks as always must go to William Allberry for his faithful, diligent work as our Membership Secretary handling communications to members, the membership database, and Gift Aid. We would be lost without all he does.

And thanks to all of you have joined with us today, in person or virtually, and to all our members for their prayers and support.

Above all thanks be to God for his faithfulness, his abundant grace, and unfailing mercies. I close by reading verses 2-6 from Philippians chapter 1, ***“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”***

Thank-you and God Bless You

Revd Adrian Watkins, FCI Chair

Hospitality and Friendship

"As Friends of the church in India, we would like to sometimes express that friendship through offering hospitality to visitors from the Indian churches (and perhaps from other South Asian churches) - particularly church leaders or others with an official role in the churches who are visiting the UK for church related activities. We would like to record the names of those members who are happy and able to offer such hospitality, whether accommodation and/or meals. If you may be able to offer this, when convenient for you, please let us know - William Allberry. The Membership Secretary, or alternatively the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer."

FCI Annual Day 2023 – Report

What a glorious day was the Hybrid FCI Annual Day 2023 held on Saturday 30th September from 10am to 4pm at the Indian YMCA, in the midst of all the interruptions of travelling due to



unexpected train strikes! This was the first time in the history of FCI Annual Days, that we organised a hybrid meeting, both in person and virtually. We had 31 adult participants and 5 children in person and 11 participants attended the day via Zoom.

The Day started with a general welcome for the participants by Revd Adrian Watkins, Chairperson, FCI. Our special speaker was Mr James Wesley, Post-graduate Research Student at the University of Aberdeen. He served as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counselling at Bishop's College, Kolkata, Church of North India. He is living in Aberdeen to complete his PhD. He gave a special and inspirational talk on "Opportunities and Challenges for the South Asian Diaspora" from his experience. The meeting was moderated by our Patron Ven. Alistair Cutting, Archdeacon, Southwark diocese. During Question-and-Answer time, he encouraged the Zoom participants along with people present in person to take part in raising questions, so it turned out to be a marvellous, inclusive session and it brought the atmosphere of participants' togetherness on that day. Though Zoom participants were unable to take part in the Indian lunch and in the Eucharistic meal, still the day united people together.

The AGM was conducted by Revd Adran Watkins, the Chair. Mrs Margaret Marshall, Secretary, presented her report and Revd Jessie Anand, Treasurer, hers, and at the end the Chair thanked the responsibility holders for their contribution throughout this year and encouraged the members in their participation in the life of FCI with his remarks on the life and ministry of FCI.

After we all had a sumptuous Indian lunch served by the Indian YMCA, we had worship songs for 15 minutes. Songs were sung by Indian students organised by Mr. Sam Robert, Assistant Secretary, YMCA Indian Student Hostel, London and a song from an Indian Mr Andrew Selwyn and Mrs Vinodhini Jeyakumar from Coventry.

Following the worship songs, the Eucharist was conducted. The Celebrant was the Revd Shirley Murphy, Diocese of St David's in the Church in Wales, and the preacher was the Revd Davidson Solanki, USPG. This year the FCI Offertory was taken to support the Environmental Awareness programmes with the CSI Women workers' Training Centre, Nagalapuram in Thoothukudi and Nazareth diocese

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks given by the Revd Adrian Watkins.

In His Service.

Revd Jessie Anand
Treasurer, FCI

FCI Annual Day 2023 – Gallery



Projects in Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India

The history of the Diocese of Durgapur reveals a rich and dynamic heritage as well as inspiring memories. Three Protestant denominations were involved in this area, namely the Church Missionary Society (CMS), the Methodist Missionary Society (MMS), and the American Baptist Mission. The missionary work in this area began about one hundred and seventy-two years ago. The geographical territory of the Diocese of Durgapur is about 43,340 sq. km. The Diocese covers the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia, Midnapore, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur. At present it consists of 31 pastorates; 209 churches and the total membership is about 29,948. This is basically the composition of the Diocese. West Bengal also possesses rich traditions of the Santal people who have been perennially on the move in search of food, shelter and above all dignity and respect. Jal, Jungle, Jamin and Janwar, were their fundamental assets. Eventually it was acknowledged that the Santals have their own language and literature, art culture and festivals. Thus, we can rightly assert that the Diocese of Durgapur was conceived within the womb of the mission and ministry of the missionaries of the Methodist Missionary Society in the Jangal Mahal. When the historic occasion of the foundation of the Church of North India was taking place on 29th November 1970,



Durgapur was not envisaged as a diocese. It took another two years to sort out local and national challenges before it was declared as a diocese. Therefore the Diocese of Durgapur began its ecumenical journey from the year 1972. Historically it then came on its own as an independent diocese with its own integrity. The umbilical cord with the Methodist Church particularly the MMS, was cut in the year 1974 and the CNI ethos and ethics attained fruition in this area. The Rt. Revd Sameer Issac Khimla is the present Bishop of the Diocese. In its ministerial journey, the Diocese engaged in numerous projects to continue the ministry of God. They are Educational, Tribal, Community Development, Anti-Human Trafficking, Hospital, Child Development and a few other projects that encompass the very essence of the Diocese. The different ministries of the Diocese such as Children's Ministry, Evangelical, Healing, Pastoral, Prayer-Shawl, Sunday School, Women's and Youth Ministry engage in the advancement of the Diocese of Durgapur.



The Anti-Human Trafficking Program under the Diocese of Durgapur successfully organized a flood relief camp for the flood-prone areas of North and South Dinajpur named Deulbari and Baroghoria, Block Kusmundi, Dist Dakshin Dinajpur on September 30, 2023. The main objective of the relief camp was to provide critical aid and support to the flood-affected individuals and families in the region. A total of 150 families were given relief in this relief camp.

The flood relief camp was organized with the generous support and contribution of various volunteers. The volunteers spent a considerable amount of time and effort sourcing donations and resources for the camp. The donations consisted of essential items such as food, clean water, blankets, hygiene kits, and medicines.



These activities were an attempt to uplift and motivate the individuals and families affected by the flood.

Overall, the flood relief camp was a massive success, with a large number of people benefitting from the services provided. The Anti-Human Trafficking Program under the Diocese of Durgapur must be commended for their exemplary efforts in organizing this event, which played a significant role in supporting the community during a time of adversity. The camp provided much-needed relief and hope to many flood-affected people and helped in creating a positive impact in their lives. Also a lot of good work was done to protect girls caught up in



trafficking.

The Good Shepherd Eye Hospital Vision Clinic at Bamunara was

inaugurated on

6th July 2023! With this, we are ensuring that everyone in the locality has access to quality eye care. This vision centre will be open every Thursday from 3pm to 5pm. We are committed to making sure that everyone in the community has access to the necessary eye care. Let's work together to make this vision centre a success!

Raja Moses, Project Coordinator, Diocese of Durgapur, CNI

Missionary Reflections – Revd Sarah Miller

My parents Jeffery and Frances Miller went to Andhra Pradesh in 1954 to serve as CMS missionaries. They arrived in India on their first wedding anniversary and for the next thirteen years were based at Masulipatnam (now Machilipatnam) on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. As a missionary priest, my father was correspondent of Noble School and my mother ran the sick-room for the boarders' hostel. They had four children during these years, of which I am the youngest, born in 1965. Our family returned to England in 1967, when I was only eighteen months old, so I was too young to remember India as a child – but grew up absorbing the memories of my parents and three older siblings. India had formed our family history and culture.

Only as an adult was I able to revisit the country of my birth, the first time in 2010, when I was a parish priest in Gloucester Diocese. After an official visit to our companion link Diocese of Dornakal, I made a personal journey with my sister Catherine to Machilipatnam in neighbouring Krishna-Godavari Diocese. There, Bishop Dyvasirvadam, and his wife Ramani hosted us and helped us reconnect with friends of our family at Noble School. We visited our old home in the compound, a pan-tiled bungalow – I had seen family photographs of the six of us, taken on the steps of the verandah shortly before departure in 1967; and we saw the old correspondent's office, up a rickety staircase in the school, shutters on three sides to allow the breeze to waft through and the original wooden desk and chair still in place. I pictured our father here as a young man, dressed in the loose white linen shirt suit seen in photographs, working on administration and plans for early building projects.

In January 2018 I set out for India on a second journey of rediscovery. I went through USPG's *Journey with Us* programme on a six-month volunteer placement to Madurai-Ramnad Diocese in Tamil Nadu, to help with English teaching at the CSI College for Women and Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, both in Madurai. The city is on the plains and by the end of April temperatures were soaring. I chose the month of May to travel to the Nilgiri Hills for a holiday, just as my family used to do from Andhra. We would go to Kotagiri, a hill station high up in the mountains, surrounded by tea-plantations and forests. My parents chose Kotagiri for its cool climate and proximity to Ooty, where my brothers John and Christopher were boarders at Lushington School. This is now Hebron School, and I stayed in a guest flat there for the first fortnight of my holiday and was generously welcomed by the school community.



In the mornings, as I stepped outside, the mountain air was sharp and fresh with the smell of eucalyptus. Hebron is now an international boarding school with 360 pupils from around the world, most of whose parents are engaged in Christian mission work. The staff I met were from several different countries including India, the UK, Canada, New Zealand, and Germany. I enjoyed being involved in the life of the school, which was full of energy and enthusiasm. The staff room and dining room buzzed with animated conversation about academic life, culture, and faith. I joined one of the school families for a trip to Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The drive there was spectacular on mountain roads with steep hair-pin bends and distant views of the plains. At the reserve, our safari bus stopped suddenly on the dirt road and the driver pointed out a large tiger some yards away in the evening sun, cooling off in a pool and swishing its tail in the water. We gazed, awe-struck.

I went on to Kotagiri, smaller and quieter than bustling Ooty, and stayed at the Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital. Here my Danish godmother and friend of our family, Dr Lydia Herlufsen, spent nearly thirty years from the 1940s building up healthcare provision for the people of the Nilgiris, including outreach clinics for the remote tribal communities. She worked alongside another pioneering medical missionary, Dr Pauline Jeffrey, an eye specialist from America. I was able to meet retired nursing staff who had worked with them (including the mother of Paul Jevraj, the hospital administrator) and it was moving to hear their first-hand memories. KMF began in 1937 when two British missionaries, Monica Sutton and Vera Nowell, converted a cow shed into a dispensary with an operating table, seeing the need for local healthcare. It has developed over the years into a 50-bed hospital (the cow shed is now a museum, telling its history) and is still serving the rural community.



A two-day asthma and respiratory camp was held while I was there, giving local people the opportunity to consult a specialist doctor and support staff from Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, which now helps manage KMF. I had some lively conversations with CMC doctors over dinners in the hospital mess, and subsequently was able to visit CMC to see the work of the hospital chaplains. This was another personal pilgrimage – my father had a lung operation there in the early 1960s, which saved his life; it was a traumatic period, recounted by my mother years later.

A retired priest and local historian in Kotagiri, Reverend Philip Mulley, helped me find the bungalows we used to stay in for our family holidays. He and his wife Evelyn took me on a tour of Kotagiri and the surrounding area which is lush and green. We walked through tea plantations to Catherine Falls in bright clear morning sunshine and stood at the viewpoint looking down the steep wooded slopes to the distant water below. We found two of the original Miller holiday bungalows still standing: Mount Pleasant, which is now a science lab

for the CSI School next door, and North Harpster. Plains View, which was situated on top of a hill surrounded by tea plantations, had been demolished, and a large new house built on the site by the tea estate owner. We did venture up the drive, and I could see why my parents chose Plains View for holidays; the elevated position has glorious views, as the old name suggests.



We visited St Luke’s Church, Kotagiri, where I was baptised by my father in 1966. The pastor, Reverend Jeri Rajkumar, found the entry in the baptism register, written in my father’s own hand. Directly below was recorded the emergency baptism of a baby at the KMF Hospital, signed by Dr Lydia.

Following an introduction by Reverend Mulley, I visited the local community broadcasting station, Radio Kotagiri, located within the Keystone Foundation which promotes economic development and conservation in the Nilgiri Hills. I spent two mornings with Radio Kotagiri staff, hearing about their work and seeing a programme broadcast live. A safety officer was interviewed over the telephone about safety in the workplace. Programme content reflected local

needs and interests such as agriculture, health, education, food and conservation. Staff described their regular field trips to rural tribal communities to make recordings and involve local people in making programmes. I was interviewed about my past involvement in community radio in Wythenshawe, Manchester, where I was a curate. All over the world, radio is a powerful and simple way of giving communities a voice.

May 22nd was my last day in Kotagiri and the anniversary of my baptism. I helped lead morning worship in the KMF Hospital chapel, Reverend Philip Mulley translating my address into Tamil. Then there was tea with the staff. Later, Reverend Philip and I walked to St Luke's Church and said prayers there. It was a special day, marking the end of a rich and enlightening four weeks of rediscovery.

Sarah Miller

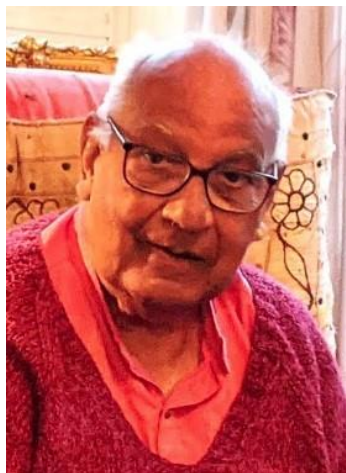
Revd Sarah Miller is based in Edinburgh, following recent studies at New College and is a member of the FCI Management Committee.

FCI DAY on Saturday 28 September 2024

Offertory to support
Church of North India Project

Remembering Revd Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron

12 November 1929 – 20 March 2024



With great sadness we had to say farewell to Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron. He was very fondly known as Canon Ivor. He supported the work of the FCI for several years. As the Friends of the Church in India members, we give thanks to God for the life of such an incredible servant of God.

Meeting Ivor was for me a transforming experience as was for many people. He was a person who was living a message, the gospel, both priestly and prophetically at the same time, all the time very radical. At the heart of his life was God and he totally yielded to God and in all that he thought, did and spoke and touched our lives.

Ivor would make the Sunday morning Eucharist a spiritual feast for all. Arriving at the church at 7 am for a service that is going to start at 10 am. He will be paying attention for every detail and component of worship. All the time worrying, is there anyone who is excluded? Everyone had to be actively included. Anyone who steps in will be embraced into the fellowship of the church with great love. No one is an outsider or a newcomer and it was never us and them.

We can never forget Ivor for his ministry as a University Chaplain at Imperial College, London. In a community of scientific minds, he started worship in the rooms of students and in every available space. He redefined worship for the otherwise busy students. Worship and prayer never ended without food: not complicated food, but whatever is possible. Ivor has the distinction of being a person who has influenced 60 of those Imperial College students to become priests in the Church of England at some point in their lives.

Ivor was always about people. He wanted to be with people. He would constantly keep inventing ways to be with people. There were weekly breakfast groups, theological discussion groups, or just weekend dinner evenings at his residence. I cannot count the number of people Ivor's and our friend Revd Alan Gadd would have fed; it must be multitudes of several thousands of people. Ivor cared for everyone and valued everyone.

Ivor loved diversity of people, ethnic and religious diversity. He was one of the founding members of the South London Inter Faith group. Ivor was proactive about empowering Black and Asian clergy. Earlier we had the Association of Black Clergy and Ivor would be in touch with everyone and Black and Asian clergy could turn to him for counsel and support. Ivor played a very important role in the development of the Southwark Diocesan Minority Ethnic Anglican concerns initiatives.

He supported many charities in the UK and also charities in Asia and in Africa. He would keep raising funds to support poorer communities. To the extent while at All Saints' Battersea he dared to give away 50 percent of the Sunday collection to some charity or other, either in the UK or in Asia or Africa.

Ivor was proud of his Indian heritage. For most of his life he supported the Roof for the Roofless project based in Chennai. He played an important role in the development of the Community College movement in India which made technical education possible for students from deprived backgrounds. He helped the Church of South India, Diocese of Madras to build their massive Lay Training Institute and so many other facilities to help the poor.

All these things would not have been possible for Ivor without the grace of God and without Alan, his friend and companion. We can never speak of Ivor without Alan. Ivor's life was made beautiful and meaningful by Alan for which we are extremely grateful to Alan. Together Ivor and Alan drenched our lives with the love of God.

Ivor loved Indian people and the Indian church, and we love you Ivor. Rest in peace, Ivor: you will never be forgotten.

Revd Premraj Dhanraj

Life of the late Revd Dr Gordon Shaw

by Stephen Shaw (Son)



Rev Dr Gordon Shaw MA, LLB
20th July 1936 – 20th February 2024

Good afternoon to those of you here in Yorkshire and elsewhere in the UK. Good evening to those of you in the East and good morning to those of you in the West. Thanks to Rev Steve Jakeman for taking care of the technology and supporting us during the Committal Service. Welcome to this service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Gordon Shaw. Celebration and Thanksgiving. We want this to be a happy occasion. We are here to celebrate the life of a very clever and wise man; a very caring man (Mike and I realized last night that we could not remember him ever getting angry with us – even though we must have given him much cause); a sometimes obstinate and opinionated man; but also a quite shy and sensitive man. He left a great legacy – even though he would be the last to acknowledge it. We have much to celebrate and much for which to be thankful.

On behalf of my own family (Janet & Jai), my brother and sisters and their families (Mike, Barbie and Elisabeth) I would like to thank you for spending this special time with us.

Mum and Dad each had a sister (Anne and Joan). Even though dear Auntie Anne and Uncle David, and Auntie Joan and Uncle Alan have passed on, their families are with us today. Cousins – welcome!

Dad's was a life well lived. He died peacefully and at peace in his 88th year.

So what do I mean by a “life well lived”? It is very difficult to have a good life in isolation. A life well lived is a life characterized by the many relationships developed and the other lives well impacted. It is all about the people that enriched you and the people you enriched. Be they family, friends, colleagues, and congregations. So that is why it is special that you are all able to join us today.

As you will soon find out, Charlotte expresses this far better than I!

Dad would have been the first to admit that he was not perfect. But he was made immensely better because, in his teens, he met Barbara Hooton (Babs) at Loch Street Methodist Church near Wigan. They married there in 1960.

Shortly after Dad's death I commented that he had been waiting to rejoin Mum since she died in 2015. Then I realized that was nonsense.

She has remained at his side every day since then. They will now simply continue their journey together.

I very glad that Mr Rajasingh and his family have been able to join us from Chennai and elsewhere. Mr Rajasingh – you were one of Dad’s dearest and closest friends for over 55 years and I know how much you both cherished that friendship. But you were not selfish with your relationship. As a result, several generations of our families came together and have remained intertwined ever since.

In fact, the theme of families, rather than individuals, coming together characterizes all of the relationships that I will mention today.

The past couple of years have been hard on those of us left behind, seeing the passing of many of what someone recently described as the “old gang”. I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few of them and recognize what they meant to us:

- Bob and Margaret Marsh – who took care of Dad at St George’s when Mum had to remain on furlough to deliver Mike.
- Howard Dalzell – Howard remains very high on my personal list of favourite people.
- Rev Manne Sanjeeva Rao, or “Sanjeevi” as we all knew him – Dad regarded Sanjeevi as the epitome of what a good pastor should be.
- Liz Hogerzeil (more of whom later)

- Shanti Paramanandam (Ernest – Thanks)
- Colin and Eva Nickeus (whom we only found out about when trying to contact people about Dad)

Patrick Manne (Sanjeevi's son) commented to me last week that they must be having "one heckuva party". He is right because (and this may surprise some of the grandkids) they knew how to party. It is probably fortuitous that Church House was not designated as a Methodist Manse!

I would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments about Dad's work in India, especially as the Medak Diocesan Treasurer. I am very proud of what he achieved even though some now consider the context to be unfashionable. A Church is only as useful as the good work that it can do (refer to James 2). At that time, the churches in India were struggling because they could no longer rely upon the funding from their historical overseas partners. Dad persuaded the Diocese to use land it owned through the building and leasing of commercial properties, providing an improved revenue stream to support the work of the dioceses. It was also the time when KNH (from the German Churches) innovated to make investment in the wellbeing of children from impoverished families through education to be more effective. Dad was inspired, and those stars aligned to transform the Diocesan educational institutions.

The object of Dad's work and the joy it brought him always related to his congregational communities. From Loch Street and Trinity Methodist Churches near Wigan to the very special congregation of St John the Baptist in Secunderabad, the circuit of Southeast Northumberland and finally the churches here. With his roles at the Overseas Division and British Council of Churches, the world became his congregation allowing him to pursue his passion for global development and ecumenism.



Liz Wright (later Liz Hogerzeil) used to tell the story of her arrival in India. As a young nurse, she travelled alone to Bombay by ship and then by train to Secunderabad. Upon arriving at Secunderabad Railway Station she asked how she could get to Medak. She was told that she had to “take a rickshaw to Paradise”. (In those days the Secunderabad Central Bus Station was next door to the Paradise Talkies Cinema). Dad – may you fully enjoy your rickshaw ride to Paradise! (Pictured).

Tribute to The Revd Dr Gordon Shaw,

A missionary of the Methodist Mission Society (MMS), England.

Dear Friends in Medak Diocese of the Church of South India (formerly a British Wesleyan Methodist Mission field and Church) and Methodist Church in Great Britain and Ireland),

It is with a deep sense of loss and gratitude I write this tribute in the memory of the Rev. Dr. Gordon Shaw. All of us who knew him and worked with him are sad at his passing away. At the same time, we thank God for his life and witness in India and also in the United Kingdom.

He and his wife Barbara came to India as MMS missionaries and were sent to Medak in 1962. He was made the Superintendent of the Boys' Hostel as well as Presbyter at the Cathedral. They soon learnt Telugu the local language and began to work with local presbyters under the leadership of Bishop Eber Priestly, who himself was a MMS missionary from Ireland.

Rev. Gordon Shaw and Barbara hailed from Sheffield, in Yorkshire, from where the Rev. Charles Walker Posnett came earlier to Medak.

With their simplicity and friendliness and unassuming character, they soon won the hearts of people in Medak.

Soon they were sent to Secunderabad and in 1967, he was made the Diocesan Treasurer at a turning point in the life of the Diocese. The MMS gave a notice of withdrawal of their financial support from 1975.

Added to this, there was no bishop in the diocese after the retirement of Eber Priestly. The CSI Synod sent Bishop H.D.L. Abraham, then an assistant bishop in Bellary to Medak. There was hot and cold reception to him but through his outstanding courageous leadership he stabilized the administration. Together with Rev. Shaw, the Rev. B.G. Prasada Rao, the Rev. P.Y. Luke and others they took important decisions and requested the MMS to send their funds in advance. Under the leadership of the Treasurer Rev. Shaw they undertook construction of commercial complexes in Hyderabad to generate income for the diocese in lieu of MMS funding withdrawal. It was a giant step for the diocese. “Finding some way of ending the diocesan dependence on overseas funding and building up of service and mission activities of the church”, was his greatest contribution to Medak Diocese.

Shaw also built the Church House in the diocesan office campus for housing the Treasurer as well as members of the committees whenever they come for committee meetings. It showed the sagacity of the leadership of Rev. Shaw. At the same time, he was also presbyter in charge of the church of St. John the Baptist in Secunderabad.

In 1975, they returned to England.

“In 1975, he was appointed to the staff of the Methodist Church overseas Division (the former Methodist Mission Society) and later to the Conference for World Mission of the British Council of Churches, both of which appointments kept him in frequent contact with the

Churches of North and South India for the next 20 years.” After 1995, he was made Secretary to the India Relations Committee in England, in which capacity he remained till 2005 and made a tremendous contribution in bringing the partners together in support of the united church in North and South India. His significant contribution lies in supporting theological education in India through the Senate of Serampore and Board of Theological Education in India for Doctoral, doctorate in ministry and external studies, particularly in the establishment of the Senate Centre for pastoral and theological research by extension (SEPTRE) in Kolkatha, India. The Council of the Serampore College conferred on him a D.D. in recognition of his contribution to theological education.

It was my privilege to be associated with him between 2000 and 2005 as India Liaison Secretary at the Association of Churches and Mission in Stuttgart, Germany, representing the Church of South India. He organised several partnership consultations in India, in the UK, in Germany, in Holland and in Canada. He was a meticulous writer of the minutes of the meetings. Through him and with the help of Baron Kathleen Richardson, the then President of the Methodist Church and member of the House of Lords, we had the privilege of having our evaluation of India Relations Committee meeting in the House of Lords, London.

He also served as Treasurer and Committee member for several years of the Friends of the Church in India (FCI), a charity organisation in the UK.

I was also privileged to visit him in his village in Northumberland near Newcastle. He also paid a day's visit to us to the Centre for Mission Studies, Queen's College, Birmingham as we were spending a short sabbatical in 2010.

He always kept contact over emails. We celebrated Eucharist together with the Rev. R.A. Marsh using the CSI Liturgy in East London in 2016.

He was truly a man of God and gift of Mission to India.

May his soul rest in peace!

We pray for his family for God's grace and mercy at this time of bereavement, knowing and believing that Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and life.

Sincerely submitted,

Bishop Surya,

CSI Bishop Emeritus,

Hyderabad

February 21, 2024

Tribute to the Revd Dr Gordon Shaw – FCI Management

I have known Gordon since 2000, the year I came to work with the Church Mission Society as Asia Regional Manager. I have met with him regularly ever since and in two main associations. First as a fellow member of the CSI-CNI Relations Committee of which he was the convenor for many years, and secondly as fellow members of the Friends of the Church in India (FCI) where we served together on the committee of management for several years. I have been deeply impressed by Gordon's personal commitment to the churches in India and inspired by his deep ecumenical understanding and vision. This was always accompanied by a clear and incisive analysis of any situation and by words of wisdom in matters that arose. He always made me think more deeply and for this I am grateful. His many friends in India as well as in the UK and Europe will also be grateful for his life and service and feel keenly the gap left following his departure to a better place.

Adrian Watkins, FCI Chair

Tribute to the Revd Dr Gordon Shaw

Gordon was a very good supporter of the life and work of Church of South India and was involved in the leadership of Friends of the Church in India, UK. Barbara and Gordon were missionaries in Andhra Pradesh in India, though I have known them only since 2003. He was a

passionate and committed member of FCI. He served as FCI Chairperson from 2005 to 2007 and then as Treasurer in the following years. When Gordon spoke, we were able to see his wisdom from the past and his efficient guidance for the present and future life of FCI.

I had the chance to work closely with Gordon while I was Chairperson of FCI for 6 years. I treasure his thought-provoking guidance in the Management Committee for us not to forget the areas of Ecumenism and gender equality, and his wise financial guidance which still we remember. He was a broad-minded person in sharing FCI's vision, and he enabled us to implement it graciously. The FCI constitution and its website are the legacy of Gordon's work with FCI.

Gordon and Barbara's encouragement, friendship, and love, as we experienced them in the life of FCI, were marvellous, and we recollect that and give thanks to God. Gordon was a man of simple heart and focused mind in God's mission. I know his love and affection to all Indians, particularly Telugu people in London. Gordon introduced CSI Telugu members and encouraged us to serve and support them with our friendship. I respect Gordon for his friendship and love towards Indian people when God called him to serve as a missionary from the UK, and in his later years his committed partnership with FCI.

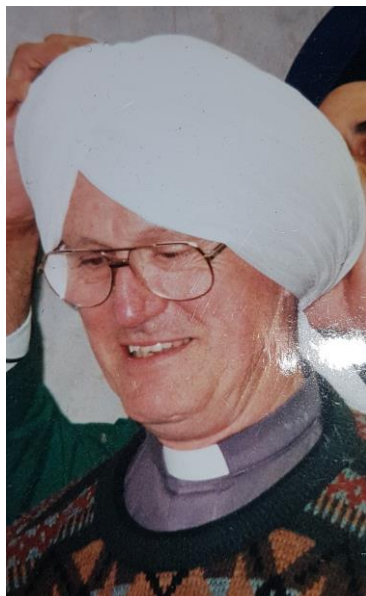
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Revd Jessie Anand, Treasurer FCI

Revd Jim McManus

Died in January 2021

Our late father Jim McManus and our Mum Mavis were sent in 1966 by CMS at the request of the National Christian Council of India to help start an industrial mission team that became Industrial Service Institute ISI in Nagpur together with Rev. Karim David among others. They also took part in the unification in Nov. 1970 of churches in North India CNI in Nagpur. Among ISI initiatives were a rickshaw wallahs' credit union and numerous civic trade union and commercial hostings and collaborative ventures. In 1973 they moved to Mumbai as team members of Bombay Urban Industrial League for Development headed by Rev. George Ninan. 'BUILD' fostered a broad-based community organising approach to coalition building among existing poorer community people's organisations. Initiatives included demonstrations of people power by neighbourhoods of slum dwellers and other disadvantaged groups. They achieved things like security of tenure and improved basic amenities such as water and drainage. Another was building better homes co-operatively.



The slum colony demonstration to get proper water supply needed mass assembly outside municipal offices because the neighbouring tower blocks had pumps which took all the water.

One team member himself went to live in a slum colony. When Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi had her Emergency Rule Jim and Mavis took a less visible role in BUILD preferring diocesan mission work and a parish. They returned to England in 1979.

By David McManus (Son)

Fr. John Webber



Fr. John Webber worked for the Church of Bangladesh for many years, through missionary organisation, USPG.

After leaving the Church of Bangladesh in the mid-1990s, Revd John was appointed under Bishop Jim, then Bishop of Stepney, to work in Tower Hamlets deanery where he worked for quite a few years promoting interfaith dialogue and was part of a number of good projects in the deanery.

Fr. John returned to Wales for his retirement and sadly died on 31st December 2023.



Church of Bangladesh

Synod Office: St. Thomas Cathedral, 54 Johnson Road, Dhaka-1100, Bangladesh
Cell : +88-01755577699, Email: mankhinbishops@gmail.com , cobsynod@churchofbangladesh.org
Web : www.churchofbangladesh.org

Date: 2nd January 2024

Dear Matthew Da,

Greetings from the Church of Bangladesh.

It is with a heavy heart that I extend my deepest condolences on the passing of Fr. John Webber. His life was a testament to righteousness, and his unwavering dedication to the Church of Bangladesh has left an indelible mark.

In moments like these, we reflect on the profound impact Fr. John had on the Church community. His contributions were not only great but transformative, shaping the very fabric of our spiritual journey. We are profoundly grateful for the wisdom, compassion, and unwavering commitment he brought to his role as a spiritual leader.

As we mourn the loss of a beloved figure, let us also celebrate the rich tapestry of Fr. John's life and work. He leaves behind a legacy of faith, kindness, and service that will continue to inspire generations to come. May we find solace in the memories of his guidance and draw strength from the example he set.

During this time of grief, let us come together as a community to support one another and honor the memory of Fr. John Webber. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may the Church of Bangladesh find comfort in the enduring impact of his remarkable life.

His righteous spirit and significant contributions to the Church of Bangladesh will forever be cherished.

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." Revelation 14:13.

With heartfelt sympathy,

+ 

The Most Revd. Samuel Sunil Mankhin

The Moderator, Church of Bangladesh

Friends of the Church in India

Registered Charity No: 1042850

The Rectory, Oakley Church Lane, Oakley, Diss IP21 4BW

Website: <http://www.f-c-i.org.uk>

Patron: The Venerable Alastair Cutting

Chair	Revd Adrian Watkins	01379 741949
Secretary	Mrs Margaret Marshall	02476 387642
Treasurer	Revd Jessie Anand	020 7622 3809
Database Secretary	Revd William Allberry	020 8390 2019
Membership Secretary	Revd William Allberry	020 8390 2019
Education Secretary	Very Revd S.A. Asir Anand	020 7622 3809

Membership Subscriptions 2024

Individual £15; Couple £20; Corporate £35

Notes:

1. Unless paid by standing order, subscriptions are due in January each year. Cheques payable to Friends of the Church in India should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Revd William Allberry, 48 Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6RB. Tel: 020 8390 2019. Email: membership.fci@gmail.com
2. FCI is a Registered Charity. Standing order forms and Gift Aid forms are available from the Membership Secretary.
3. Corporate Membership is open to Church Organisations and others.
4. Data Protection Act 1998. The following information about members is held on the database: title, name, address, telephone number, email ID, and last year of subscription paid. Objections to storage of any information should be intimated to the Database Secretary.
5. Webmaster: Mr Selvan Enoch. Email: webmaster.fci@gmail.com

Editor: Mr. Sumanth Bommarthi

Email: editor.fci@gmail.com Telephone: 07951 538524

Opinions expressed in the pages of PILGRIM are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FCI or the Editor

©Copyright 2024 Friends of the Church in India (1042850).