

FCI SECRETARY'S REPORT 2017

The meetings during the past year were the FCI Annual Day held on 1st October 2016 and the Management Committee meetings on 9th May and 25th October, 2016 and also the St Thomas Unity Lectures. The work of the Management Committee during the year included preparations for marking the FCI Jubilee.

The Annual Day for 2016 was held one again in the Indian YMCA Student Hostel and was attended by over 55 members and friends, slightly more than the previous year. The Eucharist followed an Indian liturgy and the Celebrant was Revd. Sarah Miller and a stimulating sermon based on Ezra 10.1-17 was given by Revd Dr David Haslam. The offering amounting to £417.50 including Gift Aid was for Arulagam, a home for women in distress in Madurai, south India. After the service the recently retired Bishop of Karimnagar, Rt Revd Dr Surya Prakash brought greetings and gave a short overview of the current Indian context. Revd Dr Israel Selvanayagam also brought greetings.

At the close of an excellent Indian curry lunch, a group of young people associated with the YMCA entertained the participants with some Bollywood style dancing. At the Annual General Meeting Dr Martin Heath, Revd Julie Lipp Nathaniel and Revd Dr Gordon Shaw were all re-elected as FCI representatives on the Management Committee for a second three-year term. Revd Anand Asir was co-opted to the committee at the October meeting of the Management Committee and in May the committee requested him to assume the vacant role of Education Secretary.

The afternoon session was entitled "*Encountering the Church and Culture of India*" and this consisted of reflections from a group of three younger people who have visited India through the CNI-Derbyshire Ecumenical Link. The question and answer style session was facilitated by Mr Steve Pearce and by Revd Anita Matthews. It was a refreshing session and encouraging to see how ecumenical link partnerships can inspire younger people.

During the year two issues of Pilgrim have been produced to a high standard and we are grateful to Revd Chellaian Lawrence for his excellent work. There has been a high quality of presentation, layout, news and colourful pictures as well as stimulating articles. The next issue due at the end of the year will be a special issue to mark the FCI Silver Jubilee. It remains a financial challenge to produce these two editions each year, but the committee is clear that we should aim to do so for as long as possible.

The South Asia Ecumenical Forum was held on 2nd-5th April 2017 in Bradford on the theme *“Serving Communities Together”*. FCI was represented by Jessie Anand and Adrian Watkins (for one day) and Steve Pearce was present as one of the organisers.

The St Thomas Unity Lecture has been held in Battersea-London, Lincoln and Birmingham with one due to be held in Edinburgh this coming week. Prof. Daniel Jeyaraj has delivered the lectures on the subject, *“Christian Presence and Witness in Contemporary India: Challenges and Opportunities”* These have all had a good attendance and been very well received.

Revd Jessie Anand, FCI chair was able to represent FCI in the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the formation of CSI in Chennai on 27th September this year and also participated in the CSI partners meeting the previous day. She went on to Delhi to represent FCI in the CNI Partners meeting on 29th September and the CNI which began the following day.

Our Membership Secretary, William Allberry has provided us with an update for the AGM. We currently have 201 members, comprised of 66 individual members, 34 couples (i.e. 68 members), and 67 life members. Since FCI Day 2016 we have three new members but three members have resigned due to ill-health or old age; one member has returned to India, and we have removed four more members from the active list due to their subscriptions not having been paid for some years. All except 8 of current members are up to date with their subscriptions. The Management Committee and FCI as a whole is particularly grateful to Revd William Allberry, Database, Membership and Gift Aid Secretary for his extensive and detailed work.

The Management Committee is also grateful for Mr Oswin Peter, Webmaster, for his work in maintaining the FCI website. We welcome receiving contributions or news from members for the website.

I conclude by thanking Revd Jessie Anand and the whole Management Committee for their support and guidance during the past year.

Revd Adrian Watkins, FCI Secretary
October 2017