

## FCI SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

The last twelve months began with the FCI Silver Jubilee Celebration on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 incorporating the FCI Annual Day on the Saturday. The inaugural Friday evening meeting attracted a good number to hear the sharing of missionary children's life stories which included hearing from Sarah Miller and her sister and Andrew Wingate sharing on behalf of his children. There was a cultural celebration and shared Indian dinner together. The Saturday programme followed the usual format for FCI Day and we were honoured to have present the CSI Moderator and outgoing CNI Moderators who fortuitously had been in London for the Anglican Primates meeting that week. The Most Revd. Thomas K. Oommen was the Celebrant for Holy Communion and the Most Revd P.K. Samantaroy was the Preacher. Following the welcome of visitors and students and the usual delicious Indian lunch there was the Annual General Meeting. The main afternoon session followed in the form of a Table Talk session coordinated by Revd Julie Lipp Nathaniel. Participants selected different tables to hear a resource person share on their own partnership experience and join the discussion. It was a memorable and well attended celebration.

During the year, the final in the series of St Thomas Unity Lectures was held in Edinburgh in October 2017 with between 60 to 70 attending. We are very grateful for Prof. Daniel Jeyaraj in delivering the excellent and well attended lectures on the subject of "Christian Presence and Witness in Contemporary India: Challenges and Opportunities".

An Education Seminar was held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at All Saints Church, Battersea. Jessica Richard, (Coordinator - Campaign & Advocacy, Church of South India) spoke on the subject of "The Gender, Disability & Child Rights Campaign of Church of South India". Dinner was served to participants before the main programme.

There were as usual two meetings of the Management Committee during the year (14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 & 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018). During the year Dr Martin Heath resigned from the committee and Revd Julie Lipp Nathaniel signalled her intention to stand down with effect from the 2018 AGM. The committee has already expressed their deep thanks and appreciation to both members and I offer my own sincere appreciation for their fellowship and work again in this report. We were also very pleased to welcome Revd Ajay More as the CNI representative onto the committee during the year.

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. The special Anniversary edition however has been delayed in production due to delays in being able to secure all the needed contributions and it is hoped will be produced by the end of the year. It remains a financial challenge to produce two editions each year, but we aim to do so for the time being, funds permitting.

The chair, Revd Jessie Anand represented the FCI at the South Asia Ecumenical Forum in Uppsala in March 2018. The theme this year was “Mission in a Changing Society – Working together with the Younger Generation”

Our Membership Secretary, William Allberry has provided us with a brief report which is incorporated here:

We currently have 68 individual subscribing members and 39 subscribing couples, i.e. a further 78, making a total of 146 subscribing members; and we have 53 life members. Total individual membership therefore is 199. Since the last FCI Day we have 8 new members (four couples). During the past year, 19 memberships have ceased: 7 members have died, and *Pilgrims* sent to a further 5 have been returned ‘Gone away’; 3 have asked not to receive *Pilgrim* any more due to reasons of old age; and 4 have not paid their subscriptions and haven’t responded to polite reminders. In addition, there are 8 group memberships: CEMM (Console Evangelical Missionary Movement) in Tirunelveli, Derbyshire CNI Partnership, Fellowship of St Thomas, Gloucester Diocese CSI Link, Indian Christian Organisation, Leicester-Trichy Ecumenical Link, Lincs and SE India Churches Partnership, and Schwäbisch Gmünd-Nandyal Partnership Group.

The Management Committee is very grateful to Revd William Allberry, Database, Membership and Gift Aid Secretary for his very considerable work for all these roles. The Management Committee is also grateful for Mr Oswin Peter, Webmaster, for his work in maintaining the FCI website.

With help from Revd William Alberry, arrangements were made to comply with the new GDPR legislation that came into effect in May 2018.

The Committee will be looking in the coming year at possible constitutional amendments to be brought to the next AGM. Due to the need to give this matter further thought this is not on the Agenda today although itemised in the earlier publicised Agenda.

I conclude by thanking the whole Management Committee for their support and guidance during the past year. I particularly thank Revd Mark Woodrow for his work as Treasurer and who is standing down this AGM having completed his term. He has done much work to put our accounts in good order and they are maintained efficiently and well. I particularly wish to thank Revd Jessie Anand for all the huge amount of work undertaken by our chair, Revd Jessie Anand during her two terms as FCI chair. We would be lost without her hard work, knowledge, experience and connections and I truly hope she will continue to invest her time and energy in FCI in the future.

**Revd Adrian Watkins, FCI Secretary**  
**October 2018**