



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2025

"Equipping and Empowering Congregation in God's Mission"



Work and Productive Living

"We were not idle when we were with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:7)

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From the Presbyter's Desk

Work and Productive Living

"We were not idle when we were with you"
(2 Thessalonians 3:7)

We begin the month of May, celebrating *Labour* or as *Workers Day*. It almost passes off as another holiday, a day to rest from work, a time to be idle and become more productive. Commemorating *May Day* on the first is more than symbolic remembrance. The coming together of the workers and the workers movement brought the concerns of the workers to the table and compelled employers to negotiate and talk together. The workers' movement brought the '*movement*,' to a new level of understanding and action. Many concerns of the workers, including daily wages, labour laws, have received the much-needed attention. It brought the idea of '*work*,' to the forefront and initiated the discussion about productivity.

Apostle Paul while instructing the early Christian community in *Thessalonica* (2 *Thess.* 3:6-12), called people to exercise discipline in terms of work. The believers probably became idle, expecting the return of the Lord. It maybe also because lazy Christians were exploiting the charity of wealthier Christians and used their free time to meddle with others' affairs. Paul strongly encourages the community to be productive by discipline and not depend on others for a living. Productivity is a choice one makes in one's life with the time, talent and resources one has. It is a measure of the efficiency of a person, machine or system. For many, productivity is an absolute good, an obvious goal for ourselves and for the organizations where we work. It is about quality and not about quantity. There are also theories which propose moments of idleness promotes better productivity. What we today in contemporary language call as, '*taking a break*.' Paul encourages believers to '*keep away from believers who are living in idleness*' (3:6), and uses even more strong language, '*Anyone unwilling to work should not eat*' (3:10). Even in the creation narrative, God intended in the Garden of Eden, '*to work and keep it*' (*Genesis* 2:15).

God wants us to be productive in all spheres of our life, including our mind. As the popular saying goes, '*An Idle mind is devil's workshop!*'. Let us be productive with our time and the gifts that God has given us, in Church and Society, in order to make a difference, even as we think of work and workers in all spheres and areas that we encounter.

May God bless you.

Your Presbyter

Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

Sunday School

By Christ's amazing grace, *VBS 2025 - Light Years*, touched many hearts as we all experienced our *Incredible God* with *Immeasurable love!* It not only impacted the kids, but also left a special mark on the teachers and volunteers in our faith's journey. Based on *Colossians 1:15-17*, VBS highlighted *Christ's supremacy* and how we cannot comprehend our God's incredible handiwork!



We are glad to share that *124 kids* were blessed during *VBS 2025!*

Under the guidance of our *Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben*, it has been a privilege for our Sunday School Team to go ahead with *VBS 2025!* The devotions impacted us teachers with great magnitude, learning from each other how our Incredible Lord has led each of us based on His amazing nature.

The *10-day VBS* had a *Bible Topic* every day, sharing *God's special character*.

Day 1: Started off with registration confirmation, introduction to the VBS Theme "*Light Years*" and Day 1 Theme, "*Invincible God He made me.*"

Day 2: Introduction to *Day 2* and delegation for *Final Day*.

Day 3: Theme, *Incredible God He rules over me.*

Day 4: Theme, *Intimate God He Cares for me.*

Day 5: Theme, *Immaculate God He forgives me.*

Day 6: Theme, *Invisible God He is always with me.*

Day 7: *Puppet Show for children and Teen Talks* for teens, followed by *Love Feast*.

Day 8: *Inspection Day and Practice*

Day 9: *Final Day Program*

Every day the kids started with the *Launch Pad Opening Station*, where they praised God with upbeat songs, learning the day's Bible point, memory verse and learning about the *Key Point* from *Captain Cosmo* and his *Crew*.

The *Second Station* was *Luminary Sights*, where the *Bible Stories* came alive.

The *Third Station*, *Stellar Craft Station*, learning object lessons and creating *Creative Crafts*.

The *Fourth Station*, *Moon Rover Games*, helped everyone to break free and get the adrenaline pumping!

The *Fifth Station*, *Mission Command Control*, helped kids visualize the *Bible Buddies* everyday and learn along with *Wally* and friends.

Not to forget the *Food Station* for providing us with excellent food!

Treating the children to a *Day of Outing* on *14th April* at *Elim Resorts* after the VBS concluded, was such a blessing and a time of fun.

Thanking every teacher and volunteer for their efforts to glorify God's name. Your commitment for this ministry is commendable!

Thanking the *Pastorate Committee* for the support. Grateful to all the ministries for their prayers and support. Especially thanking the *Women's Fellowship* and *Men's Fellowship* for sponsoring a day's sumptuous breakfast. In all this, thanking the *Church Office Staff* for working closely with our Team for the smooth functioning of every event during VBS. Not to forget all the parents and grandparents for bringing their precious children to learn God's Word. Thanks especially to the congregation for your support in prayers, kind and finance for enabling us to enjoy such a joyful experience.

Time flies and we are gearing up for the next academic year. Kindly pray for our Sunday School Team as we prepare ourselves for the same.

Dear *Andrew's Family*, we have experienced God's hand working on our *Team* because of your prayers. Do continue to uphold our Team in your precious prayers.

Children were blessed to be part of *Palm Sunday Procession* and *Easter Services*. They relished the *Easter Eggs* too!

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohan Raj
Sunday School Superintendent

Youth Fellowship



Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The month of April has been an eventful one for our Youth Fellowship, with the members participating in diverse activities. Our Youth members participated in “*Fireball*”, an *Inter-church Sports Event* conducted by *St. John's Church*, in which *Hannah* secured *2nd place in Chess* and *Prakyath*, *Leah*, *Dilip* and *Sarofina* placed *3rd in 100m x 4 Mixed Relay*.

The Youth gladly assisted with *VBS* and blended in with equal enthusiasm as that of the children. We helped start each day with *Songs of Worship*. We volunteered and taught the tiny tots and young adults alike.

‘*Care for the Elderly*’ is another ministry where we supported with *Praise and Worship* during their monthly meeting.

We were blessed with the opportunity to present a play, “*The Storm of Truth*” during the *Sunrise Service* on *Easter Sunday* through which we aimed to leave a meaningful message of sharing the Gospel to those around us.

The play was written and directed by our very own youth member, *Cris Benjamin*. It was a success through the collective effort put in by each youth member and we truly appreciate the response and support we received.

We thank *God Almighty* for bestowing *His* gifts of talents upon us. We pray that we continue to have the strength and humility to be instruments always, for God's glory alone!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Ms. Vivian Shiri and Mr. Prajwal Jacob
Conveners

Women's Fellowship



Greetings to you all in the Precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Our Women's Fellowship met for their monthly *Bible Study* on Saturday, the 5th of April, 2025. We studied *Psalms 121*. The Bible Study began with a testimony of how this is a very special blessing to *Mrs. Kumuda*. We started with the introduction that this is one of the 15 Psalms which were called *Psalms of Ascent*. We learnt that as the pilgrims made this long journey to Jerusalem, they could rest because their Lord was always alert. We also take hope in the fact that He is always awake in our journey of life. The heart of the Psalm is *The Lord Watches Over You*. The Lord is our shade and will not allow neither the sun nor the moon to harm us.

The study ended with all of us being assured of the Lord's presence in our journey of life, no matter the place or the time. Praise God, He watches over us and is our Protector! *Amen!*

Our Women's Fellowship members also made beautiful *brooches* for all the members of our church for *Palm Sunday*, which was given to them to be pinned on their shirts, sarees and dresses!

Everyone appreciated the brooches and enjoyed wearing them.

Mrs. Daisy Richard
Secretary, SACWF

VBS at Tubagere Mission Field

VBS was conducted for 5 days from the 14th to the 19th of April 2025, at Tubagere Mission Field. Our Evangelist, *Mr. Praveen Kumar* did all the needed arrangements. About 38 *childrens* attended the VBS this year.



Children enjoyed throughout and learnt about *Moses* and *David* from the *Old Testament*, and about *Jesus*, *John* and *Paul* from the *New Testament*, complemented with *Songs* and *Memory Verses*.

The children from the surrounding villages were picked up by volunteers on two wheelers, and the children from around Doddaballapur were ferried by auto on all the five days.

The *Final Day Program* was on the *20th of April, Easter Sunday*, was graced by *Rev. Melvin Yesuvaraju*. We were treated with a couple of *Songs* sung in multiple languages, and *Choreography* by the senior children.

Children and volunteers were given a *small gift* as a token of appreciation for their participation. The program ended with *Fellowship Easter Lunch*.

Mission and Evangelism Team

Care for The Elderly



We thank our *Heavenly Father* for giving us this opportunity to have another month's Fellowship at the Parish Hall. We thank our *Lord Almighty* for *His* continuous blessing on us.

This month's *Speaker* was *Mr. Saji Abraham*, who brought us the message on the Topic, '*The Calling and The Purpose*'. *Mr. Saji Abraham* spoke about our calling and our purpose. What are we called for, what are we supposed to do; how are we supposed to pray and how do we live our lives. It is important we spend our lives glorifying our *Lord* in *word and deed*. What is more important is that we pray not to get our prayers answered but to do *His Will* and honour *His Word*. We pray to seek *His Will* and not our own desires. For it is written '*Delight yourself in the Lord and He Will give you the desires of your heart*'. Therefore, spend at least 10 minutes in prayer for your family and yourself and in praising the Lord.

We must be *Prayer Warriors* for the Lord and for others because our prayers can open the doors of victory in our lives. He gave us the following passages of *Scripture* for our reference:

Colossians 3; Romans 8:11; Matthew 5:48; Revelation 22:12; Hebrews 5:7; Matthew 27:46; Titus 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 4; Psalm 141; Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 5:8; Numbers 12:6-8; Psalm 148; Proverbs 21:2; Numbers 12; Job 22; Matthew 7:21; Luke 17; 1 Corinthians 13; James 3:1 to 12; Matthew 5:8.

This *Message* truly helped us understand how we have to truly live our lives and how we should pray and be a calling for *His Purpose*.

We thank all the *Elders* for coming and the *Youth* for leading us in *Praise and Worship*.

The Meeting ended with *Fellowship Lunch*.

Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri

Convener, CFE

Music Ministry

We were blessed to have **The Living Stones Quartet (LSQ)** performing at the *Morning Service* on *Sunday, April 27, 2025*.

The Living Stones Quartet had its inception when four men decided to minister the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through their gift of singing. The Lord put this thought in their hearts as they performed as a quartet for the *Christmas Concert* of the *Kottayam Mixed Voices* in 2012. They submitted their thoughts to the Lord in prayer, and the *Living Stones Quartet* was born!

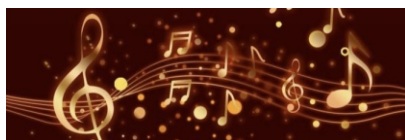
The four of them share not just a passion for quartet singing, but also for sharing what the Lord has done in their lives. They undoubtedly testify that they are sinners saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. In a world where the *“harvest is plentiful and workers are few,”* the *Living Stones Quartet* finds joy in bringing meaningful music to a hurting world.

Having the roots of harmony singing in traditional *Church Hymns*, they blend with *Southern Gospel*, to *a-Capella* and to *Contemporary Gospel Music*.

The *Living Stones Quartet* comprised *Jithin Mathew Abraham, Blesson Joseph, Alen Itty Jose* and *Olive Abraham Chandy*. And they are blessed to be a *Quintet*, with their highly gifted accompanist, *Rohan George!*

Their punch line is from *1 Peter 2: 4-5*, which reads: *“As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans, but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ!”*

Their rendering was truly uplifting for they sang with much conviction, and indeed, it touched many a heart!

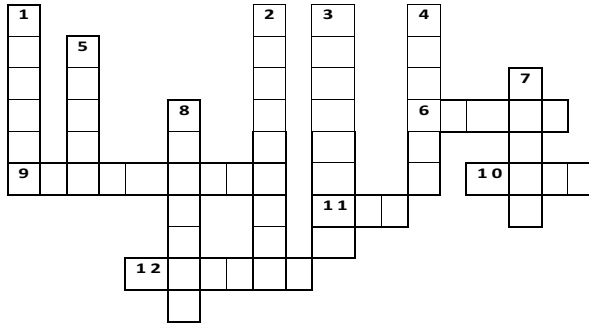




Welcome friends. Mothers are a reflection of God's love and are celebrated for their affection, compassion, sacrifice, kindness and wisdom. Let us cherish and honour mothers, grandmothers, and all the amazing women God placed in our lives to instruct, guide and love when we needed it the most.

Next up is a Crossword on famous Bible moms, can you name them?

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 6. Mother of Ishmael
- 9. Mother of John the Baptist
- 10. Mother of Jesus
- 11. Mother of Cain, Abel, and Seth
- 12. Samuel's mother

DOWN

- 1. Mother of Timothy
- 2. Mother of King Solomon
- 3. Mother of Aaron, Miriam, and Moses
- 4. Mother of Joseph and Benjamin
- 5. Mother of Mahlon and Kilion, one of whom married Ruth
- 7. A lady whose name means "princess." She was the mother of Isaac
- 8. Mother of Jacob and Esau

Correct entries will be published in next month's Newsletter along with Answer Keys. Send your **printed** answers to the **Church WhatsApp number 9741401874** by **20th May 2025** in the following format:

Name

Serial number - Answer

REFLECTION

A PRAYING MOTHER: AMELIA TAYLOR

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was a great missionary in China whose obedience led thousands to Christ. Though he grew up in a Christian home he was once a scoffer, a rebel, and an avaricious teen. But God used his mother's prayers to pull Hudson out of his rebellion.

Hudson's mother, Amelia, noticed the turmoil that her son was in. She knew that the only way his heart would be changed was if he had a radical encounter with Jesus. She travelled 50 miles from their home in Barnsley, England, to visit her sister. It was during this time that she locked herself in her room for hours and pleaded to God that He would save Hudson. She decided not leave the room until she came to a sense of assurance that God would save him. Her heart soon turned from pleading to praise when she found herself worshiping and thanking God that He had opened Hudson's eyes to salvation.

Back at home, Hudson was bored and meandered in his father's library, where he found a gospel tract titled "Poor Richard" and read the words, "the finished work of Christ." It was that day that Hudson understood that Christ's work on the cross was sufficient for his salvation, and repented, and committed his life to the Lord, promising to serve him forever. He soon learned that as he was on his knees praising God for his salvation, his mother was doing the very same thing, though many miles away. Transformed, he soon committed his life to missionary work, trained as a doctor, began to preach, and at last departed for China in 1853. Taylor spent 51 years in China and found the China Inland Mission leading thousands to Christ. *His story cannot be told without giving due credit to the power of a praying mother.*

The commitment of a mother calls for the spiritual care of children by setting an example for them in the way of righteousness. Surely an eternal reward awaits the faithful mother who is steadfast in her desire to see her children grow to be even more like Christ than she.

CHILDREN'S NOOK

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Can you spot 11 differences in the images?

1 Samuel 2:19 Each year Samuel's mother Hannah made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

Samuel Served in God's House Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the left with the picture on right. Circle the 11 things that are different.



LEGACY OF LOIS

Inspired by 2 Timothy 1:5

"I am reminded of your sincere faith,
which first lived in your grandmother
Lois..."

Her faith isn't flashy, just steady and true,
A quiet light shining in all that she'd do.
She taught me of Jesus, His mercy, His
grace,
And now I see Him in her gentle face.
Her prayers are the seeds, her love is
the rain,
And her legacy blooms in my heart
again.

MY PRAYER WARRIOR

Inspired by James 5:16

"The prayer of a righteous person is
powerful and effective."

When I'm scared or I'm sad, you kneel down
and pray,
You talk to God for me every single day.
You fight for my heart with your words and
your tears,
And you remind me that Jesus is always
near.
Thank you, dear Mommy, for praying for me,
You're my hero of faith-I just wanted you to
see!

SUMMER DELIGHT

Looking for a refreshing summer drink?

Here are delicious cool treats that even children can make by themselves. Add your special touch to make a signature drink that family and friends can enjoy. Scan QR code or visit <https://www.thespruceeats.com/summer-drinks-for-kids-4165867> for recipes.



Quiz Answers for the Month of April 2025

1. Pilate
2. Thief on the cross
3. Caiaphas
4. Peter
5. Jews at Jesus' trial
6. Centurion
7. High Priest
8. Pilate's wife
9. Pharisees
10. Witnesses / bystanders at the Crucifixion

Congratulations Stars for the month of April 2025

1. A N Indiradevi
2. Esther Suguna Simeon
3. Felicia Manoraj
4. Annie Felix
5. Daisy Mark Prabhu
6. Rosabelle Prabhakar



7. Deepan Elbert Pramodan
8. Gitanjali Lazarus
9. Lynette Natasha Karkada
10. Kenneth David
11. Eva Amanya Bethapudi

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

Weddings



Dr. Bennet Vyasan B
son of Mr. S. Baktha Segaran and Late Rathna Segaran
With
Ms. Chetana J
daughter of Mr. Jayaprakash R and Mrs. Nirmala Y
on the 25th of April 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Nixson
Mr. Aditya Solomon Gunjal & Mrs. Viyola Susanna Maben
Mr. Ajay Dass & Family
Mr. Vajralar V & Family

OBITUARY



Mr. Shawn Roland Simon
aged 63 years, husband of Mrs. Pauline Simon,
father of Michelle and Samuel Simon,
slept in the Lord on Friday, 4th April 2025



Mr. Dinodaya Ariel Kunder
aged 74 years, husband of Mrs. Caroline Margaret Kunder,
father of Mr. Baldwin Michael Kunder and Mrs. Ann Isabel Bernard.
slept in the Lord on Friday, 4th April 2025

Calendar for the First Week of June 2025

Student's Sunday			
*1st June 1st Sunday	Theme: Fear of the Lord as the Beginning of Wisdom		
	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service		
	Old Testament	1 King 3: 3 - 14	Mr. Prajwal Jacob
Epistle	1 John 5: 13 - 21	Mrs. Asha Franklyn	
Gospel	St. Luke 10: 21 - 24	Mr. J. A. Prakash (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m

Calendar for the Month of May 2025

*4th May 1st Sunday	<i>2nd Sunday after Easter</i>		
	Theme: Breakdown to Breakthrough		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	2 Chronicles 34: 29 - 33	Mr. Wilson Prathap	
Epistle	Acts 5: 12 - 16	Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri	
Gospel	St. John 20: 24 - 31	Wg Cdr I D Soans (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m
11th May 2nd Sunday	<i>3rd Sunday after Easter</i>		
	Communication Sunday		
	Theme: Reflecting Divine Love through Authentic Communication		
	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Dr. Asish Koshy	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Number 22: 21 - 35	Mrs. Esther Vincent (K) Mr. David Gilbert Karkada	
Epistle	James 1: 17 - 25	Mrs. Mary Kumuda Sujaya Kumar (K) Mrs. Sushma Jennifer Devadatta	
Gospel	St. John 8: 1 - 12	Mrs. Chithra S. Herbert (K) Ms. Shirley Susan	
Evening Service	Youth Fellowship		6.15 p.m
*18th May 3rd Sunday	<i>4th Sunday after Easter</i>		
	Theme - Believing in Christ: The Truth		
	Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben Preacher: Rev. Jessie Ranjan	*Kannada Holy Communion	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Rev. Jessie Ranjan	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	Exodus 34: 1 - 9	Mr. Praveen Johnas (K) Mr. Jayakar Rao Essampally	
Epistle	Ephesians 4: 7 - 16	Mrs. Sowmya Kairanna (K) Mrs. Vrinda Eleanor Mathias	
Gospel	St. John 17: 6 - 19	Mrs. Savina Peters (K) Mr. Ryan Joshua	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Dexter S. Maben; Preacher: Rev. Melvin Yesuwanuja		6.15 p.m
25th May 4th Sunday	<i>5th Sunday after Easter</i>		
	Theme: Mission with Christ's Spirit		
	Preacher: Rev. Melvin Yesuwanuja	Kannada	8.15 a.m
	Preacher: Dr. Julian Sundersingh	English	9.30 a.m
Old Testament	2 King 2: 9 - 16	Mr. Kiran S. Kotian (K) Mrs. Grace Gnanapriya Abraham	
Epistle	Acts 7: 54 - 60	Mrs. Evelyn Sumana Samuel (K) Mrs. Clara Shyrine	
Gospel	St. Matthew 28: 16 - 20	Mrs. Mary Gokavi (K) Mrs. Preethi Prabhu Pani	
Evening Service	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Samuel Sunith R		6.15 p.m

Note: Kindly keep the Church Office informed in advance about your inability to be present for the Scripture reading as scheduled.