



St. Andrew's Church

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

N E W S L E T T E R

OCT 2026

"Equipping and Empowering Congregation in God's Mission"



HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Sunday, 11th October 2026



Church in Line with God: A Thanksgiving

Presbyter-in-charge: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari

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"Church in Line with God: A Thanksgiving"

In today's world, our understanding of God can sometimes become shaped by materialistic, ritual, or our own expectations. Yet, when we look at God's mission, we see clearly that His desire is not for revenge or punishment, but for **forgiveness, repentance, restoration, and reconciliation**.

The story of Jonah gives us a powerful illustration of this truth.

God called Jonah to go to Nineveh and proclaim His message. Jonah preached repentance, and the people of Nineveh responded. They turned away from their sinful ways and repented before God. When God saw their repentance, He showed them mercy.

However, Jonah was unhappy with God's response.

In Jonah 4:1, we read: *"But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry."* Jonah had obeyed God's command outwardly, but his heart was not aligned with God's heart. He wanted Nineveh to face judgment, while God desired to see the people repent and live.

v 6-8 6 The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 7But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

This reveals an important truth for the Church. **It is possible to do the work of God while our hearts are not fully aligned with the will of God.** Jonah did what God asked him to do, but he struggled to rejoice when God showed mercy.

The same challenge can sometimes confront us as a Church and as individuals. We may participate in worship, follow traditions, serve faithfully, and celebrate important occasions, yet still need to ask whether our hearts truly reflect the heart of God.

As we celebrate our Annual Thanksgiving, we are called not merely to give thanks as a ritual or tradition, but to celebrate with hearts that are **in line with God's will**.

True thanksgiving means recognising God's mercy, rejoicing when lives are transformed, and sharing in God's joy when people turn towards Him. It calls us to move beyond our own expectations and submit ourselves completely to God's purposes.

We may sometimes be like Jonah, faithful outwardly, yet struggling inwardly. But God calls His Church to have a heart that reflects His own: a heart of mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation, and love.

Therefore, as we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us examine our hearts. Let us submit ourselves afresh to God's will and learn to rejoice with God and with His people.

Rev. Samuel B. Pujari
Presbyter-in-charge

Reports of Activities by the Wings & Ministries

Sunday School



“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

- 1 Corinthians 15:58

A Sunday School teacher's work can change lives for eternity, making an impact that reaches far beyond the classroom. The month of September gives us a special opportunity to celebrate and thank our teachers for their unconditional love, dedication and service. Our Sunday School teachers are truly a blessing to our church as they nurture young minds in faith, and we are deeply grateful for each one of them.

God continues to bless our Sunday School team as they diligently use their God-given talents to glorify His name through participation in various inter-church events.

INTERSUN 2026

INTERSUN 2026, an inter-church event conducted by the **United Theological College**, brought together 50 churches and 665 participants. We are thankful to God for blessing our team with three awards:

1. **Solo Singing - Primary:** 1st Prize - *Merlin Niranjan*
2. **Solo Singing - Junior:** 3rd Prize - *Keerthan Kunder*
3. **Western Group Singing:** 3rd Prize

Talents for Christ 2026

At **Talents for Christ 2026**, hosted by **East Parade Tamil Church**, the Kannada Sunday School team participated for the first time and were blessed with two awards:

1. **Vernacular Solo Singing:** 1st Prize - *Daniel Vivian*
2. **Vernacular Group Singing:** 2nd Prize



We also congratulate all the children who participated in the **Scripture Union Annual State-Level Bible Examination 2026**. We praise God for each child who diligently studied the Scriptures, practised their talents and gave their very best.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our **teachers and parents** for patiently training, encouraging and supporting our children.

A Time of Worship

On **Sunday, 27th September**, the Sunday School children presented the beautiful song “*Firm Foundation*” by John Chisum during the English Worship Service.

Our Kannada Sunday School children also presented the Kannada song “ಭಲೇ ಭಲೇ ಮಾತು” during the Kannada Worship Service on **13th September**.

We give thanks to our Almighty God for His continued blessings upon our Sunday School ministry. We are grateful to our Presbyter, **Rev. Samuel B. Pujari**, for his guidance and support, and to the **St. Andrew’s family** for your continued prayers, encouragement and support.

Looking Ahead

We are excited and preparing for the **Harvest Festival on 11th October** and **World Sunday School Day on 25th October**.

We kindly request the congregation to remember these upcoming celebrations and our Sunday School ministry in your prayers.

To God be all the glory!

Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohanraj
Sunday School Superintendent

Care for the Elderly

“Purposeful Living - The Best Is Yet to Come”

We observed **Care for the Elderly Sunday** at St. Andrew’s Church on **27th September 2026**, with the theme “Purposeful Living - The Best Is Yet to Come.” It was a blessed and joyful day of worship, fellowship and thanksgiving. We thank our Almighty God for His abundant blessings and for giving us this wonderful opportunity to glorify His name.



The day began with the **Kannada Service at 8:15 a.m.**, centred on the theme of Purposeful Living. The service included an opening prayer, a welcome by the Pastor and an opening hymn, followed by the Call to Worship, Praise and Adoration, and the Call to Confession. Stuthi @ St. Andrews presented a special number based on **Psalms 71:18**, followed by the Scripture readings.

After a hymn, **Rev. Sanjay Samuel Ayer** shared the message. The service continued with the **Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed** and the Annual Report presented by **Mr. Kiran Sandesh Kotian**. The service concluded with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

The **English Service** began shortly after 9:30 a.m. with prayer and an organ prelude. Our elders took an active role in leading the service, beginning with the Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer led by the Presbyter.

The elders, together with the youth, led the congregation in Praise and Worship with "Dhanyavad Ke Saath Stuthi Gaoonga" in Hindi and Malayalam, followed by "Sarva Srushti Yejamana Neeve" in Kannada and Tamil. The Choir then led the Introit, followed by the opening hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation."

The congregation continued with Praise and Adoration, the Call to Confession, Absolution and the Collect for the Day. A special song, "Firm Foundation" by John Chisum, was beautifully presented by the Sunday School children.

The Scripture Lessons were taken from **Joshua 14:6-13, Philippians 3:12-16 and St. John 21:18-23**.

In his sermon, **Rev. Sanjay Samuel Ayer** reflected on the faith and perseverance of Caleb. Despite the doubts of the other spies, **Caleb** continued to trust God's promise of the Promised Land. Even after forty years in the wilderness, his faith remained strong.

The message reminded us that we should never lose faith in **God's promises**, even when their fulfilment takes time. Rev. Ayer also reflected on Jesus' words to Peter, reminding us of the call to live a life fully surrendered to Christ-to take up our cross daily and remain faithful in love, service and obedience.

The service continued with the **Apostles' Creed**, followed by the Annual Report of the **Care for the Elderly Fellowship**. Our elders then presented a special song, "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus," which was a meaningful part of the service.

The celebration concluded with the **Lord's Prayer, the Closing Hymn and the Benediction**, followed by the Organ Prelude.

It was truly a wonderful day of praising and thanking God. The celebration reminded us that every stage of life has a God-given purpose and that we can continue to serve, encourage and bless others through every season.

"The Best Is Yet to Come."

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri
Care for the Elderly Ministry

Women's Fellowship



Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good for His mercy endures forever.
Psalm 136: 1

Greetings to you all in the precious name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

The Women's Fellowship of our church led by our Pastor Rev. Samuel B. Pujari, conducted both the Kannada and the English Services on the *13th of September 2026*, the theme being '*Women who trust God - Faithful and Fearless*,' a solemn Service with Praise and Worship, Prayers, Special Songs, and unique Messages.

Mrs. Evelyn Sumanna and Dr. (Mrs) Pauline J. George were the *Preachers* for the Kannada and English Services, respectively.

In the Kannada Service *Mrs. Evelyn Sumana's* sermon was as follows:
"It was centred on the theme, "Women Who Trust God - Faithful and Fearless." The lives of the daughters of Zelophehad, Hulda, and the Canaanite woman were reflected upon as inspiring examples of faith, courage and perseverance.

The daughters of Zelophehad, displayed courage and wisdom when they approached Moses regarding their inheritance. Their story teaches us to speak with courage, seek justice and trust God even when circumstances seem to stand against us.

Hulda, the prophetess, demonstrated faithfulness to God's Word and the courage to speak the truth without compromise. Her life reminds us that a woman's voice can become God's instrument to bring about spiritual renewal and transformation.

The Canaanite woman showed remarkable humility, persistence and unwavering faith as she pleaded with Jesus for the healing of her daughter. Despite obstacles and apparent rejection, she refused to give up. Jesus commended her faith, saying, "Woman, you have great faith!"

Together, these women remind us that faithful women stand firmly on God's Word, fearless women speak with courage, and women of faith persevere in prayer. The Sermon encouraged the congregation to trust God wholeheartedly, remain faithful in difficult circumstances and become instruments of blessing in their families, churches and communities."

In the English Service, Dr. Pauline also brought out gracefully on the Theme: "A beautiful theme with all 3 interlinked. Trust builds faith and Faith makes one fearless - fearless to live a life for Christ, fearless to draw people to Christ. All the women in the Bible show this trait.

Faith as mentioned in Hebrews 11: 1 - "assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen." We are expected to take the leap of faith to see promises unfolding. The Canaanite woman, a gentile, brought up in a land where pagan worship was predominant is a great example. She knew who Jesus was and asked for his healing and received it for her demon possessed daughter. Her faith was huge as she was ready to settle for the crumbs.

Priscilla in the New Testament led a life of faith. Together with her husband Aquilla, they provided their house for the church to gather.

Huldah the prophetess in the Old Testament was faithful by being true to the One God inspite of the circumstances of the land. She was fearless in guiding young King Josiah along the right path.

God is asking each one of us women to be instrumental for his Kingdom. In whatever capacity he asks us to place our trust in him, be faithful and fearless for him."

Twenty-five women from our church enrolled themselves. Our Women's Fellowship gladly welcomes them and prays that they will be a huge blessing to the Body of Christ

Mrs. Archana Arun Kumar and Mrs. Josephine Sharon participated in the events Flower Arrangement and Cooking without Fire, conducted by the Hudson Memorial Church. We truly appreciate their talents.

We Praise and thank God Almighty for all the favours and blessings He has bestowed on us.

Mrs. Daisy Richard
Secretary, Women's Fellowship



**“The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us.”
Psalm 67:6**

What are you planting today?

Are you planting **kindness** or **criticism**?

Encouragement or **discouragement**?

Generosity or **selfishness**?

Faith or **fear**?

Paul reminds us:

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9

As we celebrate Harvest and Thanksgiving this month, let us remember that God’s blessings are not meant to stop with us. **A good harvest is something to receive with gratitude and share with joy.**

A HARVEST PRAYER

Lord, thank You for all that You have given us.

Open our eyes to see Your blessings, our hearts to receive them with gratitude, and our hands to share them generously.

Help us plant seeds of kindness, faith, love and hope wherever we go.

And when our harvest comes, remind us that every good gift comes from You.

Amen.

HARVEST & THANKSGIVING - BIBLE CHALLENGE

These questions are not just about remembering Bible stories. Some require you to remember **details, passages and connections between different parts of Scripture.**

1. In Deuteronomy 26, what was an Israelite instructed to say when presenting the firstfruits of the land before the Lord?

- A. “My father was Abraham, the father of our nation.”
- B. “A wandering Aramean was my father.”
- C. “The Lord called Moses from the burning bush.”
- D. “David established Jerusalem as the city of God.”

2. Which biblical book contains the command:

“You shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest?”

- A. Exodus
- B. Leviticus
- C. Numbers
- D. Deuteronomy

3. Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz. What relationship did Boaz have to Naomi's deceased husband, Elimelech?

- A. He was his brother.
- B. He was a close relative of Elimelech.
- C. He was Naomi's nephew.
- D. He was the chief servant of Elimelech.

4. Which feast in the Old Testament is specifically associated with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest?

- A. Passover
- B. Feast of Weeks
- C. Feast of Trumpets
- D. Day of Atonement

5. In Proverbs 3:9–10, what two things are specifically mentioned as ways of honouring the Lord?

- A. Wisdom and obedience
- B. Wealth and the firstfruits of all produce
- C. Prayer and fasting
- D. Tithes and sacrifices

6. In Jesus' Parable of the Sower, which soil produces a harvest described with different yields?

- A. The path
- B. The rocky ground
- C. The thorny ground
- D. The good soil

7. Which of the following passages use harvest or sowing imagery to communicate a spiritual truth?

Select all that apply.

- A. Galatians 6:7–9
- B. John 4:35–38
- C. 2 Corinthians 9:6–10
- D. Philippians 4:10–20

8. According to Leviticus 23, what was waved before the Lord as part of the offering connected with the beginning of Israel's grain harvest?

- A. A sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest
- B. A basket of grapes from the vineyard
- C. A loaf of leavened bread
- D. A lamb without blemish

9. In the feeding of the five thousand, which Gospel specifically records Andrew identifying the boy with five barley loaves and two fish?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

10. TRUE OR FALSE

Paul uses the phrase “**harvest of righteousness**” in 2 Corinthians 9:10 when discussing God’s provision for generous believers.

True / False

11. Which Old Testament figure stored grain during seven years of abundance in preparation for seven years of famine?

- A. Joseph
- B. Boaz
- C. Nehemiah
- D. Elijah

12. In the New Testament, which event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Weeks, traditionally associated with the wheat harvest?

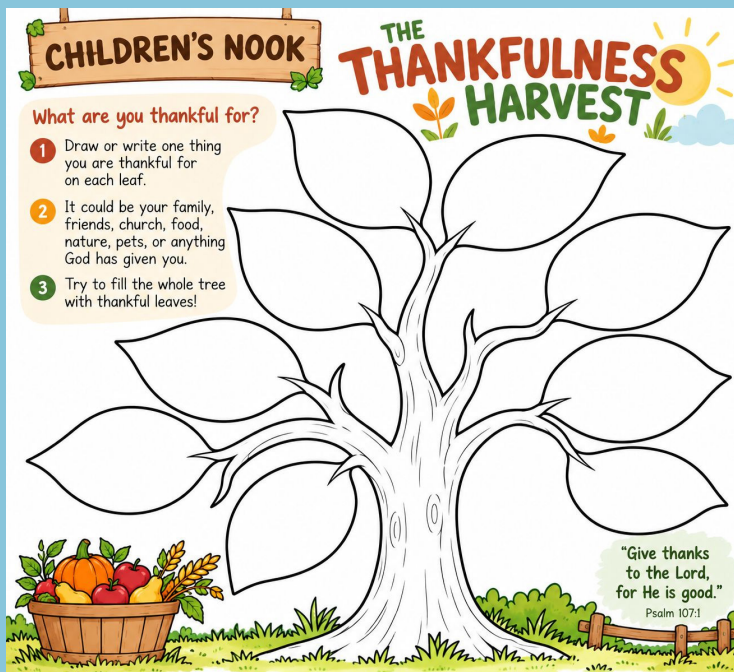
- A. Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan
- B. The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- C. The resurrection of Lazarus
- D. Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus

Correct entries will be published in next month’s Newsletter along with Answer Keys. Send your printed answers to the new Church **WhatsApp number 7349251838** by 20th October 2026 in the following format:

- **Name**
- **Serial number - Answer**

Children’s Nook

THE THANKFULNESS HARVEST



Quiz Answers for the Month of September 2026

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Sapphira | 6. Michal |
| 2. Priscilla | 7. Abigail |
| 3. Delilah | 8. Rahab |
| 4. Miriam | 9. Vashti |
| 5. Rhoda | 10. Dorcas |

Marvelous Winners for the Month of September 2026

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Deepan Elbert Pramodan |  | 5. Daisy Mark Prabhu |
| 2. Annie Felix | | 6. Rosabelle Prabhakar |
| 3. Santhosh Kumar Hans | | 7. Gitanjali Lazarus |
| 4. Lynette Natasha Karkada | | 8. Advik Jacob Palanna |

HAPPENINGS DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026

INFANT BAPTISM



Evania Vineeth

Daughter of Mr. Vineeth Vachakka & Mrs. Hilda Josephin H
on 22nd September 2026

Annual Thanksgiving Harvest Festival - 2026

Parking: After the Church Parking area is full, kindly park your vehicles on Infantry Road and Tunbridge High School Grounds.

Biryani Packets (Rs.300/-) will be available for Sale near the Coffee Counter after the worship service and from the Church Office, till the 10th of October 2026.

Offering in kind will be received in Church on Saturday, 10th October 2026 10.00am Onwards.

Calendar for the First Week of November 2026

*1st November 1st Sunday				22nd Week after Pentecost	
				All Saints Day	
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service			
Old Testament	Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34	Mr. Erol Shailesh Wasta			9:00 a.m
Epistle	Revelation 7: 2 - 4, 9 - 17	Mr. Joshi Mark Premnath			
Gospel	St. Matthew 5: 1 - 12	Wg Cdr I D Soans (K)			
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra				6.15 p.m

Calendar for the Month of October 2026

*4th October 1st Sunday	18th Week after Pentecost		
	Laity Sunday		
	Theme: Every Member a Minister		
	Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Samuel B. Pujari	*Combined Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 a.m
Old Testament	Numbers 11: 24 - 30	Mrs. Rashmi S. Mohan Raj	
Epistle	Acts 6: 1 - 7	Mrs. Asha Franklyn	
Gospel	St. John 15: 12 - 19	Mrs. Reena Rani Susinder (K)	
Evening Service	Preacher: Dr. John Vasumitra		6.15 p.m
11th October 2nd Sunday	19th Week after Pentecost		
	Harvest and Thanksgiving Sunday		
	Theme - Church in Line with God: A Thanksgiving		
	Combined Worship Service		8:30 a.m
Old Testament	Deuteronomy 26: 1 - 11	Mr. Wilson Prathap	
Epistle	2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15	Mr. Praveen Oscar Shiri	
Gospel	St. Luke 21: 1 - 4	Mr. J. A. Prakash (K)	
No Evening Service			
*18th October 3rd Sunday	20th Week after Pentecost		
	Reformation Sunday		
	Theme - Reformation: A Call for Renewal		
	*Kannada Holy Communion		8.15 a.m
Old Testament	2 Kings 23: 1 - 8	English	9.30 a.m
		Mrs. Arpana Pallavi Palanna (K)	
		Mr. John Nirmal Mohanraj	
		Mrs. Savina Peters (K)	
Epistle	Titus 3: 3 - 8	Mrs. Agnita Robert Narendra	
Gospel	St. Luke 5: 36 - 39	Mrs. Soumya Namrata Sumitra (K)	
		Mr. Aditya Graham	
*Evening Service	Holy Communion Service - Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Samuel B. Pujari		6.15 p.m
25th October 4th Sunday	21st Week after Pentecost		
	World Sunday School Sunday		
	Theme - Be the Light: Dare to be Different		
	Kannada		8.15 a.m
Old Testament	Daniel 3: 16 - 30	English	9.30 a.m
		Master Samuel Victor V (K)	
		Miss Tanya Sharon	
		Master Adam Jake Christopher (K)	
Epistle	Philippians 2: 14 - 16	Master Kenneth David	
Gospel	St. Matthew 5: 13 - 16	Master Shane Kevin Karkada (K)	
		Miss Merryl Natania Devadatta	
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