

It seldom happens in any Parish to have the same Vicar for such a long period. It is due to his able and devoted service and the loyal co-operation of the members that this Parish has achieved many things. Both the Rev. Canon Baboo and the congregation deserve praise and will be remembered with gratitude and admiration. Since 1.1.1973 the present Vicar is continuing his work and coverts each and everyone of your prayers to do the Lord's Ministry.

"I will give thanks unto Thee O Lord, with my whole heart. I will speak of all Thy marvellous works." Ps. 9:1.

The Rev. C. Abraham Caldwell
Vicar, Christ Church
20th July, 1975.

(With Acknowledgements to The Rev. Canon P.I.S. Baboo former Vicar of Christ Church whose guides and histories provided most of the information for this article).

GAZETTE

Confirmation (By the Bishop)

- 15.6.75 **St. Paul's Church**
10 presented by the Rev. J. Villie Devapiragasam.
- 29.6.75 **St. John's/St. Margaret's Church**
26 presented by the Rev. C. McSparron.
- 6.7.75 **All Saints' Church, Changi**
30 presented by the Rev. Ong Ming King.
1 presented by the Rev. R. H. B. Yin.
- 13.7.75 **St. Andrew's Cathedral**
26 presented by the Rev. Canon F. Lomax.
1 presented by the Rev. R. H. B. Yin.
- 16.7.75 1 candidate.

Licence

- 21.7.75 The **Ven. Lau Teik Oon** licensed as **Bishop's Commissary**.

Lay Reader

- 20.7.75 **(Mrs.) Jenny Tullis Olivet** licensed to assist at the **Church of the Holy Spirit, Vientiane**.

Diocesan



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THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH — SINGAPORE

The one who writes this, though a Singapore Citizen — was born in Kuala Lumpur, studied and spent much of his younger days in Malaysia, is quite new to Singapore and to the Church life of the Republic of Singapore.

I just reproduce what my predecessor The Rev. Canon P. I. Samuel Baboo has said and put into a kind of farewell letter to the members of this Congregation, on his retirement after a long and devoted Service of about 34 years.

The Tamil Congregation of this present Christ Church were worshipping at St. Peter's Church, Stamford Road. It had been shared by four congregations. When the site was taken by the Government, the Tamil Congregation had a share of the compensation paid for it.

Through the efforts of the then Priest-in-Charge, the late Rev. Canon C. D. Gnanamani, and the Church Committee, the Diocese helped to have a separate Church building. The Canon Gnanamani's ambitious plan could not be carried out due to financial difficulties. The plan being altered by the building committee funds were raised. People willingly gave donations, while few members, namely Messrs S. J. Dason, V. S. James, and A. M. Handy accompanied the Canon P. I. Samuel Baboo to the Federation of Malaya to collect funds. Messrs A. M. Handy and P. V. Samuels regularly, accompanied by the priest visited various friends and firms. Having reached and satisfied the Bishop with a figure required by him, the foundation stone was laid by the late Rt. Rev. B. C. Roberts on St. Lukes Day 1940, at No: 1 Dorset Road, and was dedicated by the then Commissary of the Archbishop, the Ven. Graham White on the Eve of Palm Sunday 1941. As we had to give up St. Peter's in the beginning of 1941, the Chapel in St. Andrew's School was used for some weeks. This Parish remembers and is grateful and thank

God for their assistance, and concern in the building of this Church, people such as the late Rev. A. C. Parr, and Mr. J. B. Appadurai and all those friends and well-wishers, who contributed their very best in one way or the other. We also thank God for using non-Christian friends to raise funds, special mention must be made of Dr. Chota Singh for his efforts.

The Tamil Parsonage Of Christ Church:

It was during the time of the late Rev. S. Charles, the Parsonage at 118 Keng Lee Road was built, on October 8th 1932, and dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Basil, the Lord Bishop of Singapore for the use of Tamil Priest. The first occupant was the late Rev. Canon C. D. Gnanamani.

The history of the Church will not be complete if one does not add the difficulties that this Tamil Church went through during the war in East Asia. Not very long after the dedication of this Church the war in the East started on the 8th December, 1941. Singapore fell into the hands of the Japanese on 15th February, 1942. The Church and the Parsonage were damaged due to shelling. But within 3 months the repairs to the Church was completed and realizing God's blessing more than ever, the members learnt to depend on Him and were brought together in Unity.

Much of the Church articles being looted, the Parish faced much difficulties. The members learnt to face them trusting more of God's guidance. It is good to remember these days of cloud and thank God for His help and humble ourselves before Him. The Punjabi Congregation of this Parish, a good number of them stayed in the Church compound and watched the place.

Finally, it is not out of place to mention a few words of what had happened after the Peace (1946 — 1972). The Parish worked through to built a Parish Hall and a Tamil School. The members at Seletar Air Base erected a small thatched house as a Prayer House. Funds were raised by concerts and cinema shows and funfairs. Loans were also raised from Banks. The opening and dedication ceremony of the hall, the tiffin shed and the upper floor, on the 4th October, 1959 by the Rt. Rev. Henry Wolfe Baines, M.A. the Lord Bishop of Singapore was an important and outstanding event in this Parish history.

The people who worshipped at the thatched house at

Seletar, were also blessed by having a modern Indian-structure building just outside the Camp to serve both members who live inside and outside the camp at Jalan Kayu. The Church was named "Epiphany" and was dedicated on the 1st May, 1967, on the feast of St. Philip and St. James by the Rt. Rev. Joshua Chiu Ban It, Bishop of Singapore and Malaya.

By God's Grace we were able to put up all the buildings in the Church compound and buy two houses. All the debts were cleared by the end of 1972.

General: Besides Tamil work, the Parish was taking care of the Malayalam and Hindustani speaking congregations as well. The Priest was assisted by lay workers like the late Mr. I. N. Benjamin and Mr. J. G. Pisharody in the Malayalam work. The Anglican Malayalam members, with the consent of the Diocese invited a worker from India in 1955 and was later succeeded by three Priests. They do not have a separate worker now but worship at Christ Church, the Vicar being assisted by Mr. K. E. Mammon a lay worker. It was not possible to find a separate Priest for Hindustani work. Lay workers, Messrs. Gulam Masih and Isaac were assisting during the war and after. There was also a catechist for about 2 years at one time. Services are regularly held for them by the Vicar and prayer meetings held at homes with the help of Lay Worker Mr. Dunpath and Miss Kadir, a Theological Student at Trinity College Singapore, who has come from Pakistan. The Vicar of Christ Church was also helping the Tamil work in Johore until 1956. He was assisted by many lay workers as Messrs. C. C. James, S. Cathiresoo, G. D. Selvarayan, V. Stephens, A. Sandhosham, P. D. Rajamoney and D. Jeyaraj, both at Seletar and at Christ Church.

Records show that it was in April 1910 the Rev. A. R. Thevasiappan, the first Indian Priest arrived at Singapore to take charge of the Tamil work. He worked till 1914. There was no one until April 1916. Then came the Rev. R. K. Abraham and worked until May 1920. After a lapse of 2 years came the Rev. D. J. Devapriam. He was in charge of the Tamil congregation from May 1922 to August 1926. He was succeeded by the Rev. S. Charles in May 1928. Rev. Charles was succeeded by the Rev. Canon C. D. Gnanamani who was in charge of the Parish until February, 1939. The Rev. Canon P. I. Samuel Baboo took charge from February 18th 1939 and worked the longest and retired on 31st December, 1972.