



**ST. PAUL'S CSI CONGREGATION**  
AHMADI - KUWAIT

# CHOIR

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise,  
and rejoice, and sing praise. ~ Pslam 98:4

**Prepared by:**  
Jerry George, Choir Secretary

---

## PREFACE

---

**Psalms 69:30 “I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.”**

First and foremost, I would like to thank our God Almighty for blessing us and providing us with all our needs. It has been a wonderful year! The choir has continued to grow in their overall musicality and singing abilities.

**Psalms 100:1 “O be joyful in the LORD, all ye lands: serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.”**

Opportunities to “come before His presence with a song” are a weekly blessing for the members of St. Paul’s CSI Choir. Music enhances worship at St. Paul’s through regular and special services. It is with great pleasure and gratitude we present the annual report of our Choir for the year 2018-2019. The Choir has again proved itself to be a vibrant, unique community of singers, who have proved themselves capable of almost anything in their efforts to showcase that singing is a positive, inclusive activity for all who participate. The Spirit of the Choir continues to grow with 35 members now recorded.



It’s only by the grace of our Lord; the leadership of the then choir master Mr. Lukose M. Paul, the efforts of the Choir Secretary, Mr. Jerry George along with Jt. Secretary. Mr. Joji Iype, Vice President Mr. Jolly M. Joseph and the choir committee members (Dani Sam, Ivin Koshy, Vidhu Lenan & Sheena Joji), the support of the Church Committee and the dedication of each and every choir member that we could fulfill our responsibilities as a Choir. Our sincere thanks go to all the choir members, and office bearers for their wonderful services.

As always, the main efforts of the choir this year was also directed towards the Christmas Carol Service. Choir members were in much disciplined mode, with regular attendance at practices from 24<sup>th</sup> August onwards. It has also been decided to continue with regular practice every week before service.

---

## EXCITEMENTS

---



The choir performing on ICC Carol Competition



Receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> prize trophy from YMCA Carol Competition



The choir participated in St. Paul's Anglican Church's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It has been an amazing year filled with opportunities to praise the Lord Almighty. The choir is very excited in participating various events and competitions in Kuwait and showcasing our talents. We came home with a shiny trophy by winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the ICC Carol competition held at St. Paul’s Church on Friday, 1 December, 2018 and we have secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the YMCA carol competition that was held on 4, January 2019 in Salmiya.

It was an honor for the choir to participate and sing in the Carol Service of the St. Paul’s Anglican Church Ahmadi. We performed four carols; three English and one Malayalam which was well appreciated by the

Anglican Congregation. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Shine Cherian Sam from the city church for accepting our invitation to lead and conduct the choir on the St. Paul's Anglican Church's carol service.

Another excitement for the choir for the year 2018 was taking part and leading the service of St. Paul's Anglican Church on its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that was held on 16 November 2018. Thank you, Rev. Michael Mbona and the Anglican Church committee for inviting us to be a part of your excitement.

---

## CHOIR PRACTICES

---

There were 35 members in the choir in 2018 and God kept us together amidst numerous challenges throughout the year. Choir meets on every Friday at the church youth center before the service for practice. Christmas Carol practice began on 24 August 2018 at the youth center and the practice session for the 2019 Easter Symphony which is scheduled to be held on 23 April 2019 has begun on the second week of March 2019.

---

## CHOIR DAY

---

7 September 2018 was observed as Choir Day. Mr. Joji Iype delivered from the word of God and the Choir performed a special song during the service. Each part of the Service was led by choir members and everyone did their part well up to the mark.

---

## EASTER SYMPHONY – 'EMFANISTIKE'

---

A busy April culminated in another collaboration concert; Kuwait United Church of South India (KUCSI) conducted an Easter Symphony entitled 'Emfanistike' on 12 April 2018 at NECK, Kuwait City. Our choir sang two anthems and our performance were received with high acclaim by the audience and other choirs.

---

## CAROL SERVICE – 'CHRISTMAS CANTICLES'

---



Christmas Carol was celebrated by our congregation on Thursday, 6 December, 2018 at the church. The choir sang many pieces at the traditional Christmas eve candle service. Very Rev. Dr. C. K. Mathew, vicar of Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Ahmadi was the chief guest and delivered the Christmas message. The theme of this year's Carol was "Christmas Canticles". The melodious carols by our Choir under the leadership of Mr. Lukose M. Paul was applauded by the over packed audience. Church Secretary Mr. Ajay Mohan welcomed the audience and the choir secretary Mr. Jerry

George proposed the vote of thanks. Suzanne Ann Pothan supported the choir and did an excellent narration ahead of each carol.

A very special thanks to Neha Ann Joji, Milan Joji, Aleena Sara Abraham, Jacob Kurien and Eric Thomas Kunnil for playing organ during the carols. To Giby Sanjeevi George for support in editing and arranging the song book. To Mr. Babu Mathew for the great support he rendered to build the stage and for printing the song book. To Mr. Ajay Mohan, Sheena Joji and Dani Sam for taking various printouts. To Mr. Mammen V. Thomas for being our silent guide. To all the members for coordinating the food during our numerous practice sessions and to all those who contributed towards food. Thanks to all who gave rides. Thanks to all the youth members for their contributions, especially for their enthusiasm and energy.

A big 'Thank you' to Mr. Lukose M. Paul for his leadership and patience in training us. It is an undeniable fact that it was not an easy job to get the quality out of a mediocre group like us. Congratulation to him and may God continue to bless him abundantly. A ceremony, honoring Lukochan was held right after the carol service. Andrea Jovianne Padiath, the youngest chorister presented him with a bouquet as a symbol

of our love and on behalf of all the choristers the eldest member Mr. Mammen V. Thomas honored Lukochan with a shawl as a token gesture of affection.

And last but not least, Thanks to our very own Rev. Levin Koshy for being our guide, mentor and an amazing companion. Needless to say, it is and continues to be a collective effort. And my sincere apologies if I left anyone out by mistake.

---

### KUCSI JOINT WORSHIP

---

This year's CSI Joint worship was hosted by CSI Ahmadi and was held on Friday, 4 January 2019 at St. Paul's Church Ahmadi. A joint choir from 4 parishes participated and took lead in the service and the message was given by the St. Paul's Anglican Church chaplain Rev. Michael Mbona.

---

### ANNUAL RETREAT & QUARTET COMPETITION

---



Our choir held its annual retreat on Thursday, 11 October 2018 at the Malabar Kayal Auditorium in Mangaf. Choir Jt. Secretary Mr. Joji Iype welcomed the chief guest and other attendees. Rt. Rev. Dr. Oommen George, Bishop of Kollam Kottarakkara Diocese was the chief guest for the event and we were so privileged to hear a meaningful message and to perform in front of the Honorable Bishop.

A quartet competition for the choir members was also conducted in conjunction with the retreat. The members grouped into different teams to compete in the quartet competition. The choir master Mr. Lukose felt that there was a need for the choristers to come and sing their hearts out so that they could feel confidence in themselves. The event was a great success and made dynamic impact on each member. Mr. Balaji I. Kuruvilla and Mrs. Renu Sam Mathew, former members of the choir judged the competition and prizes to the winners were distributed on 4 January 2019 during the service. The family members of the choristers also took part in the event and supported. The program ended by 10:00 PM with fellowship dinner.

---

### KECF CAROL SERVICE

---

We made our presence in the KECF Carol Service which was held on Friday, 28 December 2018 at the NECK church. This event had the participation of over 17 parishes from all over Kuwait and we performed a Malayalam carol which was well received by the audience and other choirs as well.

---

### CSI – MARTHOMA JOINT SERVICE

---

"To be united in Christ's love in today's world is a call to unity in humility, hospitality and solidarity. Only then can we bear a witness which is in creative fidelity to the gospel of Christ". The St. Paul's CSI Ahmadi Church and St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church Salmiya observed the joint ecumenical service on Friday, 12 October 2019 in Salmiya. The service was in CSI Liturgy and included the Holy Communion by Rt. Rev. Dr. Oommen George, Bishop of Kollam – Kottarakkara Diocese. CSI choir led the service and it was an honor and privilege for us to be a part of it.




---

### ICC CAROL SERVICE

---

We made our presence in the ICC Carol Service that was held on Friday, 14 December 2018 at the Sabahiya Tent. The senior choristers performed the competition winning carol followed by the reception

of the prizewinner trophy of the ICC Carol Competition that was held on 1 December 2018. The trophy was received from the ICC President Rev. Michael Mbona and other distinguished guests.

---

## NEW MEMBERS / REJOINING

---

I am delighted to share that we have had a new addition to the choir this year. Master Milan Joji Iype joined the choir and we are so happy to have him with us showcasing his talent by playing the organ as well. It also gives me immense pleasure to welcome back Ms. Vinitha Mammen who has rejoined the choir family after being away for few years for her higher studies.

---

## NEW CHOIR MASTER

---

It is a great joy for the choir as a family that Mr. Manoj Jacob Kurien has accepted our invitation to lead us and to be the choir master, and we are extremely pleased to have him join us from 1 March 2019. He is an outstanding and a gifted musician who will add to the tradition of the choir family. I am in no doubt that his expertise will be invaluable as we continue our mission of transforming people's life through musical excellence. I also hope that we can create something exciting that will assist the choir ministry and the congregation. Manoj, Welcome aboard!

---

## RETIREMENT & FAREWELL

---

Last year we said goodbye to Mr. John Mathews T. (Suresh), Lisamma Mathews (Lissy), Lima Susan Mathews, Meenu Mary Mathew & Diya Ann George who have relocated from Kuwait. Aaron Ajay has moved out to Kerala for higher studies.

---

## GET-TOGETHER & FAREWELL TO LUKOSE M. PAUL

---



Presenting of the Memento to Lukochan by the choir members



Andrea presenting Lukochan bouquet as a symbol of our love.



Mammen V. Thomas honoring Lukochan with a shawl

The 2018 annual get-together was conducted on Saturday, 8 December 2018 at the Periyar Hall in Mangaf. A farewell ceremony was also arranged in honor to the then choir master Mr. Lukose M. Paul (Lukochan) in conjunction with the annual get-together.

The year 2018 has brought profound change to the congregation and to the choir as well and yet, much remains as it has been. The biggest change for the choir, undoubtedly, has been the departure of our choir master Lukochan which has forced us to take a slightly simpler approach to the music in Friday worship.

Lukochan was a vibrant and enthusiast presence for our congregation and has played an integral part in reforming the church choir. He has been leading the choir for over 5.5 years and is leaving us with an amazing legacy. He has been a phenomenal leader of the choir and the reformation made during his leadership is invaluable.

Nearly all of the choristers expressed their deep love and gratitude to Lukochan for his dedication and his unique way of training. A whole-hearted contribution by the choristers as a token gesture of love was handed over to Lukochan during the official farewell meeting.

Lukochan has finally decided to relocate to his homeland in Kerala to be with his beloved wife and children and we wish him and his family God's blessings. He will surely be missed for his professional expertise and his cordial relationship with each choir member.

---

### CHOIR COMMITTEE DISSOLUTION

---

The choir committee was dissolved in a special general body meeting that was held on Friday, 01 February 2019. The crucial decision was taken in the meeting that was presided over by the vicar Rev. Levin Koshy and in the presence of the key church committee members; and it was unanimously decided that only Secretary and Joint Secretary is required to administer the choir henceforth.

---

### IN CONCLUSION

---

It has been an amazing year filled with opportunities to praise the Lord Almighty. Not many in this world are privileged like this. The feedback on each and every program that we participated has been great and I would like to personally thank each and every member of the choir, parents and family members for their commitment. In the midst of your busy schedules at work and school, all the members volunteered their time and talents for our Lord. It is the greatest charity. Thank You!

Although we have shortcomings in the current year operations, I request everyone to strive hard and pray for improvements in the years to come. The choir needs to socialize and sing together more often. We ask for your prayers that we may continue to glorify God through our beautiful singing.

I take this opportunity to thank Rev. Levin Koshy for enriching, encouraging and guiding us in the right path, the former choir master Mr. Lukose M. Paul who has worked hard to motivate the choir members to sing more challenging repertoire, the Church Executive Committee and other office bearers, all organization leaders and members of the congregation who directly and indirectly supported and prayed for us, to enable us to function in this church effectively and for the glory of our God Almighty.

A set of children who have been trained in piano from this generation are the hope of the choir. They are Neha Ann Joji, Aleena Sara Abraham, Milan Joji Iype, Jacob Kurien and Eric Thomas Kunnil who serve as assistant organists. Continue to be the inspiration for youngsters and keep the torch lighted. Parents, please encourage the children to sing with choir whenever they can. Each time is a learning experience.

A very big thanks goes to our dedicated, passionate choir members who not only prayed but dedicated their time and efforts for coming for practices and singing on Friday services. This is a great heritage and model we leave behind for our new generations to come. The untiring efforts and selfless service of a group of youngsters who are committed to the church and choir has been the foundation of the growth and progress of the choir as we see today.

Let us pray for everyone's health and wellbeing and that the next year be a year of transformation for the choir. May God almighty immensely bless us now and for the years to come.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Jerry George, Choir Secretary**

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

---

Joji Iype  
Joint Secretary

---

Manoj Jacob  
Choir Master

---

Jolly M. Joseph  
Vice President

---

Revd. Levin Koshy  
President