



PREFACE

Praise the LORD for the LORD is good; Sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant. ~ Psalms 135:3

It is with great pleasure and gratitude we present the annual report of our Choir for the year 2019-2020. As in previous years, the choir continued to provide the musical leadership for the regular Friday communion service, Choir Day Service and Christmas Carol Service. It's only by the grace of our Lord; the leadership of Mr. Manoj Jacob, Choir Master; the efforts of the Choir Secretary, Mr. Jerry George along with Jt. Secretary. Mr. Joji Iype, 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 goes to all the choir members for their wonderful services.

The year 2019-2020 was both a memorable and an eventful tenure for the Choir which started off with the practice session for the years Easter Symphony which was to be held in 23 April 2019 and concluded with the Combined CSI Service (Malayalam & Tamil Congregations), which was held on 11 January 2020. It was quite a challenging and a tough year since many performances were carried out within and outside of the church. The Choristers had a wonderful time enjoying musicals and live choral performances, and it was also a great learning experience for the Choir.

EXCITEMENTS

We have won 1st price in the ICC Carol Singing Competition, in senior category that was held on 30 November 2019 at KOC Kubara Assembly Hall, Ahmadi which was again an exciting moment and we are proud to have our name listed once again in the winners list for the third consecutive year. Special Thanks to our Choir Master Mr. Manoj Jacob and the senior choir members.

CHOIR PRACTICES

Choir practice continued without any halt.

Practices for the Carols, "His Name Shall be Called Wonderful" started from 11 July 2019 at the basement in Mangaf.

EASTER SYMPHONY – AFXITHEI (HE HAS RISEN)

St. Paul's CSI Choir participated in the Kuwait United Churches of South India's (KUCSI) Easter Symphony which was held on 23 April 2019 at the St. Paul's Anglican Church, Ahmadi. The event was blessed with the presence of the St. Paul's Anglican Church Chaplain Revd. Dr. Michael Mbona and the choir performed two anthems (1) All Hail the Power of Jesus name (2) Karthaave Ninn Paadhathil.

CHOIR DAY

Choir celebrated Friday the 6 September, 2019 as Choir Day. Adv. P. John Thomas delivered the word of God and the Choir performed a special song "Rise Ye Children" during the service. Each part of the Service were led by the following choir members and everyone did their part well.



- Cross Bearer – Joji Iype
- Opening Prayer – Jomon Mathew
- Service Lead by – Jancy Joboy
- 1st Lesson – Ajay Mohan
- Psalms – Ivin Koshy
- 2nd Lesson – Ani Rejimon
- Intercessory Prayer – Joe Annie Mammen
- Kiss of Peace – Dani Sam & Vidhu Lenan
- Offertory – Cijimol Sajan & Jolly Joseph
- Elements for Holy Communion – Giby George

ICC CAROL COMPETITION & ICC CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

St. Paul's CSI Choir participated in the ICC Carol Singing Competition which was held at KOC Kubara Assembly Hall, Ahmadi on 30 November 2019 and became the winner. It's the third consecutive year we are bringing home the shiny winner's trophy and for that each member deserves a great round of applause.

The senior choristers performed the competition winning carol followed by the reception of the prize-winner trophy of the ICC Carol Competition. The trophy was received by the Choir Secretary Mr. Jerry George on behalf of the choir from the ICC President Rev. Michael Mbona and other distinguished guests.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Annual General Body meeting was held on 3 May 2019 at the Church, soon after the Friday Service. The report for the previous years was proposed by the Choir Secretary Mr. Jerry George and was approved unanimously.

CAROL SERVICE – "HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL"

The Festival of Seven Lessons and Carols, was held on Thursday 12 December 2019 at the Church. The Choir started the Advent Service by singing 'O Come O come Emmanuel'. The candle lit chapel availed the congregation to indulge in the atmosphere of the Service. The Choir also sang various other songs from English and Malayalam.

Rev. Fr. Jibu Cherian, Counselor of United Indian School, Kuwait was the chief guest and delivered the Christmas message. The theme song of this year's Carol was "His Name Shall be Called Wonderful"; a Christmas anthem that weaves Isaiah's well-loved verse into a modern lyric, keeping the verse intact and in order. The melodious carols by our Choir under the leadership of Mr. Manoj Jacob was applauded by the over packed audience. Choir Joint Secretary Mr. Joji Iype 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 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.

The Choir extends its most sincere gratitude to our very own Rev. Levin Koshy for his tremendous support in all the events of the Choir as well as his advocacy. Needless to say, it is and continues to be a collective effort. And my sincere apologies if I left anyone out by mistake.

NEW MEMBERS

Annie Mahima and Neha Aleyamma William has joined the choral ministry in the year 2019.

RETIREMENTS AND FAREWELLS

The choir bid adieu to four devoted members of the choir in the year 2019.

Mrs & Mr. Mammen V. Thomas one of the founding member of the St, Paul's Choir in Ahmadi has departed Kuwait for good after completing their long service in Kuwait. Mrs. Vinitha Mammen, daughter of Mrs & Mr. Mammen V. Thomas has also departed Kuwait for good after her marriage.

Mr. Benjamin Thomas another active member has also left Kuwait after completing his contract with the company that he has been working for.

The choir honored each members with a memento for their dedication and hard work while being in the choir.

CHOIR GET-TOGETHER

The 2019 annual get-together was conducted on Friday, 13 December 2019 at the D'lites Hall in Mangaf. A farewell ceremony was also arranged in honor to the founding senior members Mrs. & Mr. Mammen V. Thomas in conjunction with the annual get-together. A whole-hearted gift contributed by the choristers as a token gesture of love was presented to both during the farewell meeting. The family of all the members also joined in this event.

KECF CAROL SERVICE

It was a privilege to participate in the KECF Carol Service which was held on Friday, 27 December 2019 at the NECK church. This event had the participation of over 19 parishes from all over Kuwait and we performed a Malayalam carol which was well received by the audience and other choirs as well.

OTHER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

This year the choir had the privilege to perform many wonderful musical feast with beautiful and diverse sounds and it also gave the opportunity to foster relations and "harmony" with other choirs and congregations.

- ✚ St. Paul's Anglican Church took lead and conducted a joint Christmas Carol Service for the Anglican denomination churches in Ahmadi which was held on 15 December 2019 at the church. All the 4 CSI churches in Kuwait, The English, Mandarin and Urdu Congregation also made their presence and performed beautiful Carols.



- ✚ We were invited by the St. Paul's Anglican Chaplain and the Anglican community as a whole to lead the Dedication service of the newly built chapel which was held on Friday, 20 December 2019. The service was led by Rev. Michael Lewis, Archbishop of the Diocese of Cypress, Gulf and Jerusalem. This event was also graced by the representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Kuwait State Leaders, KOC Chairperson, US Consulate representative and Ambassadors of Great Britain, Netherlands, South Africa, India and various other dignitaries.
- ✚ We were once again invited by the St. Paul's Anglican Chaplain and the Anglican community to join in their Christmas Eve Service (24 December 2019). Despite of low attendance we managed to lead the Christmas Eve Service. Refreshments were served after the service.

IN CONCLUSION

The Choir continued to play a leading role at the church Service and other obligatory events. Amidst all these events the Choir treads on forward maintaining traditions and core values with a strong sense of brotherhood preserving its rich choral history of 25 years.

A big thank you to our Choir Master Mr. Manoj Jacob, the vicar Rev. Levin Koshy, the set of children assisting in playing the piano and all the choristers who do such a great job and dedicate a lot of hours to making us a great choir. Thank you to all our members for their support, and to our hardworking leaders for all the long days and myriad of little things which often go unnoticed, to keep us going as a great family of choristers. Thank you to our members who go above and beyond in supporting us in all the other ways that have been invaluable to our ministry running smoothly. Give yourselves a clap, because we do deserve it.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jerry George, Choir Secretary

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Joji Iype
Joint Secretary

Manoj Jacob
Choir Master

Rev. Levin Koshy
President



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

We are in the midst of a global pandemic which has stopped us meeting for almost 15 months now and going through a further period of restrictions. It has been extremely tough for everyone but above all I hope that you, your families and friends are all fit, well and safe. We are very much hopeful that we will be allowed to re-start the singing in forthcoming months but it is a fact that many of us won't be in a position to return to practices yet.

CAROL SERVICE – "SWEET CHIMING BELLS"

Of course, 2020 Christmas time was tinged with grim due to restrictions, but we managed to perform a virtual choir and Christmas Carol Celebration titled "Sweet Chiming Bells" on 24 December 2020, 7:00 pm through Zoom Platform. The choir performed the Theme Song "Sweet Chiming Bells" and a Malayalam song "Neeharam Choodum". Lessons were limited to four instead of seven. Rev. Mathews David presided the service, Mr. Ajay Mohan welcomed the audience, Rev. Joseph Samuel, United Theological College, Bengaluru delivered the Christmas Message and the Choir Joint Secretary Mr. Joji Iype gave the vote of thanks.

IN CONCLUSION

A huge thank you to Joji and Ajay for the invaluable roles they play in running the choir during the pandemic.

No one knows how long we will need to endure the present restrictions, but I can say with certainty that we will be back in fine form when it is safe to resume regular activities. Choral music is not meant to be a virtual experience. With your continued support, we will be here when the restrictions are lifted and, I can assure you, that will be cause for celebrating! To each and every one, I wish health and happiness. This too shall pass and I can't wait until we can sing together in person again. Thank you and God Bless!

Respectfully submitted by,

Jerry George, Choir Secretary

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Joji Iype
Joint Secretary

Manoj Jacob
Choir Master

Rev. Mathews P. David
President