



To all choir singing members of Ahmadi St. Pauls CSI Congregation, Kuwait. It is with pleasure that I present our annual report on the activities of the choir for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The pandemic has touched everyone's lives in different ways since we entered the first lockdown in March 2020, and it undoubtedly altered the way we live in the longer term. It has been hard to visualize how our day to day lives might unfold as things gradually return to what has been called 'the new normal'. Our lives will continue to change as we re-adjust, but this time we hope any changes are only for the better.

During the past year, the choir and the church itself have faced the challenge of how to sustain and maintain our membership and keep our members feeling involved. This has not been an easy task because we have been so restricted in what we can provide musically.

Certainly, Zoom has been a good communication medium, but it has its limitations and, in reality, members have been singing solos in their own homes and by the last quarter of the year 2021 gradually we have started singing together. This is better than nothing however, and thankfully the experience has not dampened the enthusiasm of our choristers.

Without the usual traditional Christmas carol service, yet we sang three carols, two Malayalam and one English; in the midst of the regular service held at the church on Friday, 24 December 2021 something for all our members during the difficult times. Apart from that we have also participated in the GCC online carol service titled "Esperanza – 2021" with many other CSI choirs from the Middle East. The song "Neeharam Choodum" was recorded over individually and then streamed live on 22 December 2022 which was blessed with the presence of our honorable new Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Sabu Malayil Koshy.

There is still hesitancy amongst the members and the congregation around an immediate return to normal with restrictions. The choir committee continue to address these issues and have a plan for every eventuality, but it is hoped that we will be able to welcome back members in the coming days.

Last year the Choir master Mr. Manoj Jacob relinquished his position for personal reasons. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all his efforts, lessons and inputs to inspire each one of us to break the barriers and reach new heights in choral singing.

As already set out above, future planning is quiet difficult because of the ongoing uncertainty around the pandemic and the concerns members have around the return to normalcy. Hopefully before 2022 Christmas, we will see a 'return to normal'. In the meantime, a Christmas carol has to be planned and scheduled for the end of the year with new choir master in place.

We are, as a team, extremely grateful for all the support we have had from the choir members, church committee and the congregation. We look to return to rehearsals in good spirits, coming out of the restrictions in reasonable shape both in terms of our membership and events. There were times when we feared the virus, but having ridden out the worst of the pandemic, now is the time to look forward and to plan for the future success of the choir.

Being part of a choir is a commitment and we need to work towards regular rehearsals. Thank you and God Bless!

**Awakening, nurturing and sharing the magic of voices in harmony!**

Respectfully submitted by,

**Jerry George, Choir Secretary**

Reviewed by:

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Joji Iype, Joint Secretary

Approved by:

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Revd. Binoy P. Joseph