

Rev. Godfrey Philip, foreign secretary of LMS, visited Trivandrum. The pastor, evangelist and committee members met him and “made friendly conversation at the LMS Bungalow.”

Following the proposal of Mr. Rekshadas Moses, a united carol party was organised for the first time by the pastor.

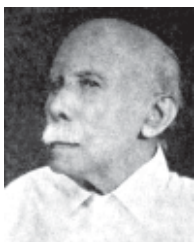
## 1926

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1926, following the resignation of Mr. T. Y. Harris as acting secretary, Mr. Sam A. Samuel was appointed as acting secretary in his place.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 1926, Mr. V. Ponnambalam resigned from the diaconate. Mr. T. Jepagnanam was elected in his place.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October 1926, it was decided to use numbered stones for the graves. Announcements were made in the church services to give opportunity to members for marking old unmarked graves with the new numbered stones. A register also was started for noting the details against the grave numbers.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1926, the Church committee appointed a subcommittee to draw up a plan and estimate for the pastorate house. The Church meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1926 accepted the plan and estimate of Sirkar Rs. 2219. (A fund for the same was started in 1911, and many attempts were made previously. See under “1911”)



S. I. Sumanam

The Church Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1926 elected the following members as deacons for the ensuing triennium: Dr. M. Joseph, Messrs. T. Jepagnanam, P. Gnanabharanam, K. P. Manuel, S. I. Sumanam, T. Y. Harris and J. A. Bhanu. On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1927, Mr. T. Jepagnanam was elected as



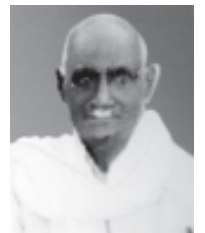
J. A. Bhanu

Church Secretary and T. Y. Harris as Financial Secretary.

The office of the financial secretary consisted of the combined responsibilities of the Church Treasurer and Church Accountant. The custodian of monies of the Church was the general treasurer, who was outside and above the administrative purview of the Church.

## 1927

A committee by the name “Pastorate House Building Committee” was formed with the following members: All Church committee Members, Messrs. Sam. A. Samuel, Rekshadas Moses, S. Gnanabharanam, M. G. Sathyanath, V. Jepamony, P. G. Benjamin and John Samuel. On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1927, the evangelist’s house and land were handed over to the Church for the construction of the pastorate house by Rev. A. H. Legg, the District Chairman.



V. Jepamony

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 1927, it was decided to revive the vestry prayers and to hold it on Mondays at 6 p.m. During this period, circle prayers were held twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The singing of invocation hymns in the beginning of the services was started as per decision on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1927.



Dr. T. H. Somervell

Following Dr. T. H. Somervell’s request for contributions to the Neyyoor Medical Mission Hospital, the Church resolved to set apart one Sunday’s collection every year as contribution to the hospital. This contribution was continued for many years without any break.

## 1928

A reserve fund was created in the Church for providing money for emergent cases, such as buying coffins for poor people etc.



Rose M. Joseph

Mrs. Rose M. Joseph, wife of Dr. M. Joseph was the Sunday school superintendent at this time.

A musical service was conducted by Mr. Paul Joel Singh the famous lyricist and a contemporary and associate of Mr. Moses Walsalam Sastriar, in our church on February 1928 under the auspices of the Indian Christian Association.



M. Paul Joel Singh

A special prayer meeting was held to bid farewell to Mr. Dodwell and family. (could be H.H. Dodwell, a historian under the British Government, who edited the 'Shorter History of India' and many other historical volumes.)

A teak wood box of size 30" x 20" x 14" was made, at a cost of Rs. 15 for keeping communion vessels and table clothes in the church.

Mr. K. P. Manuel who was on the diaconate for a long time, passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1928. A letter of condolence which stated "...has left behind him a name that will be long remembered by the Mateer Memorial Church as that of one who possessed amiable Christian qualities and a good Christian character" was sent to Mrs. K. P. Manuel. On 29<sup>th</sup> July 1928, Mr. S. Enoch was elected deacon in his vacancy.

Mr. T. Y. Harris' resignation as deacon was accepted in the Church meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1928.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 1928, as per the new rules of the Travancore Church Council, Dr. M. Joseph and Mr. S. I. Sumanam were appointed as the Treasurer and Accountant respectively.

## 1929

In the Church meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1929 after the morning service, Mr. Sam A. Samuel was elected as deacon in the place of Mr. T. Y. Harris who resigned. Mr. Sam A. Samuel was appointed as Treasurer on the same day.

Following the resignation of Messrs. P. Gnanabharanam, and J. A. Bhanu on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1929, the Church elected Messrs. Charles N. Ambrose and Benjamin Richards as deacons on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1929.

Rev. A. H. Legg, the district minister requested the Church to release Mr. J. Lazarus, evangelist from their service, for him to be posted as the District Minister's personal assistant. Consequently, he was relieved from the service of M. M. Church on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1929. He was given a send-off on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1929. A Malayalam Bible was presented to him on the occasion.

License was obtained from the municipality for Messrs. Enose and Mathias as grave diggers for the church cemetery. The Church bore the expenses involved.

Mr. J. Gnanasigamony Sailayam was appointed as evangelist in place of Mr. J. Lazarus by the district chairman with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 1929.

Rules for the conduct of the Evangelist and the Catechist were drafted and passed.

Four members of the diaconate viz., Dr M. Joseph, Messrs. S. Enoch, Sam A. Samuel and Benjamin Richards were elected as representatives to the circle council.

The pastorate house was handed over by the contractor Mr. G. Ismail after finishing construction on 3<sup>rd</sup> Alpsy 1104 (19<sup>th</sup> October 1929). Rev. J. E. Kesari was the first pastor to occupy the manse.

The fancy sale for the year 1929 was held on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Mr. P. G. Benjamin was the secretary.

To pay the debt incurred on account of the pastorate house, the Church meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October decided (1) to organise a concert at the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, (2) to send out a carol party, (3) to temporarily divert money from the trust funds as loan to the Church. However, the district chairman, Rev. A. H. Legg objected to the diversion of trust funds and offered a loan of Rs. 300 to the Church.

The election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1929. Messrs. T. Jepagnanam, P. Gnanabharanam, Sam A. Samuel, S. I. Sumanam, Benjamin Richards, Charles N. Ambrose and J. Lazarus were elected as deacons. In the Church meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December, Mr. T. Jepagnanam was elected as Church secretary, Mr. Sam A. Samuel as treasurer and Mr. S. I. Sumanam as accountant. Of the deacons elected, 6 deacons except Mr. J. Lazarus were elected as representatives to the circle council.

The collection from one Sunday of every year was given to the H M S, Bible Society and Neyyoor Medical Mission on a regular basis.

## 1930

The process of electrification of the church was started in February 1930. On 5<sup>th</sup> February a fund called "M. M. Church Electric Installation Fund" was started for the lighting arrangements of the church. Total cost was estimated at British Rs. 500. Mr. G. Ismail, the contractor who constructed the manse donated British Rs. 35 towards the fund.

As Rev. J. E. Kesari was appointed as pastor of Nagercoil Home Church by the Travancore Church Council, he was relieved from the M. M. Church on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1930. The Church could not

give him a send-off as he had to leave immediately to Nagercoil.

As the pastorate house was vacant, it was let out to tenants, Mr. S. A. Issacs, Government Telegraph Officer being the first, for a rent of Rs. 25 per month. (The parsonage was let out regularly during this period whenever the Church was without a pastor, as there was considerable time between one pastor leaving and the call and appointment of another.)

The Christian Endeavour was permitted to go for Carol Rounds on condition that the members should not go out with any other group from the Church. The Church committee had banned Carol Rounds from the year 1926 onwards.

It was decided to conduct Balar Sanghams annually with the first one on January 1931.

The principal of the Divinity School at Kannammoola and the District Chairman requested the committee to establish a Church at Kannammoola.

Mr. T. Y. Harris took charge as Sunday school superintendent on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1930.

Mr. P. Gnanabharanam was the Secretary to the Fancy Sale Committee in 1930. The sale was held on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## 1931

A famous preacher from Madras, Pastor William A. Ritchie conducted special revival services for 10 days from 17<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 1931.

A subcommittee for electrification of the church was formed with the acting pastor Rev. A. H. Legg, Messrs. C. N. Ambrose and S. I. Sumanam as members. The total cost was estimated at Rs. 755-12as-0p. It was decided to utilise the proceeds of the 1931 fancy sale for the electric installation fund. Mr. Rekshadas Moses was the secretary for the sale. Old lights were also sold off to supplement the funds. The electrification was done in December 1931.

The Church tower was illuminated and an arch put up in front to celebrate the investiture of H. H. Sree Chitra Tirunal, the Maharaja of Travancore, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1931.

A wooden table was made for the mortuary chapel at a cost of Sirkar Rs. 11-8Ch-8cs.

## 1932

The "Mateer Memorial Church Members Trust Fund" was formed in which sums might be deposited by Church members for safe custody, and disbursed at the discretion of the pastor according to specified conditions. Mrs. Snehappoo Prakasam deposited British Rs. 25 for the purpose of defraying the expenses of her funeral.

In March 1932 Rev. A. H. Legg went on furlough along with his family. A farewell meeting was arranged on the eve of his departure. An address was drawn up and presented on the occasion.

In the absence of Rev. A. H. Legg, Rev. R. H. Eastaff was the acting pastor.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July 1932, the congregation resolved to use individual cups for communion. Catalogues and specimen cups were got from Madras.

A "Hearse Fund" was started in November 1932 for the purchase of a hearse for use of the Church. The proceeds of the 1932 fancy sale were used for the hearse fund. Mr. Sam A. Samuel was the secretary of the sale.

Mr. S. I. Sumanam and Mr. T. Jepagnanam were requested to make arrangements to purchase the hearse at a cost of not more than Rs. 200.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Christian Endeavour Convention was held in Madras. Two delegates were sent for the convention, the Church defraying the expenses. The delegates on their return gave a brief account of the proceedings of the convention after the morning service on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1932.

As the Properties Board of the London Missionary Society was dividing off land to Churches, a proposal was made to allot land for the Evangelist's House.

Election for deacons was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1932. Dr. Jeevanayagom proposed election of two women members into the diaconate. But as the rules for elections used the term "Men", it was decided not to elect women at present. Subsequently, Ms. Retnabai Rose and 18 others wrote a petition which was forwarded to the executive committee of the Church council stating that, women may be permitted in the diaconate. (Possibly, because of the ruling of the council, women members were elected into the diaconate from the subsequent election onwards. No reservation was involved in this. Reservation for women candidate to the diaconate came only in 1980)

The deacons elected for the ensuing triennium were Dr. G. Jeevanayagom, Dr. M. Joseph, Messrs. P. Gnanabharanam, S. Enoch, S. I. Sumanam, Sam A. Samuel and T. Jepagnanam. In the Church meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1932, Mr. S. I. Sumanam, Mr. P. Gnanabharanam, and Mr. Sam A. Samuel were elected as the Secretary, Treasurer and Accountant respectively.

## 1933

On the New Year evening of 1933, D. Samuel Bhagavathar conducted a musical service in the church.

A magic lantern lecture was conducted by Rev. W. E. H. Organe, secretary of the Bible Society.

Mr T. Y. Harris resigned as Sundayschool superintendent. Mr. S. I. Sumanam was elected in his place.

On March 1933, the Church started the use of individual communion cups. 20 dozen cups were got from Madras and the trays were made



Communion Cups

by Mr. P. Gnanabharanam in black wood with ebony handles.

Mr. D. Samuel Bhagavatar conducted a Kadhakalakshepam on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1933 at the Sangham service.

The Travancore Public Health Department conducted a Cinema Lecture in March 1933 on "Hookworm and Malaria" at the Senior Christian Endeavour Badminton Court. (which was behind the present LMS school building, east of the church) Electric supply was taken from the church.

In April 1933, the Christian Endeavour proposed to the Church committee to admit a delegate from the youth to attend the Church committee meetings. It was not permitted as it was contrary to the rules and regulations which existed at that time. This is the first instance of a request for youth representation in the committee.



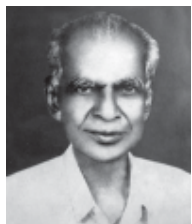
Rev. R. H. Eastaff

Rev. R. H. Eastaff, the president of the Travancore Church Council conducted the induction service of Rev. Paul Nesamony on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1933 at 4 p.m., along with the evening service. After the departure of Rev. A. H. Legg on furlough, Rev. R. H. Eastaff was the acting pastor till Rev. Paul Nesamony took charge.

Rev. Paul Nesamony, M.A, B.D. took charge of the pastorate on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1933.



Paul Nesamony

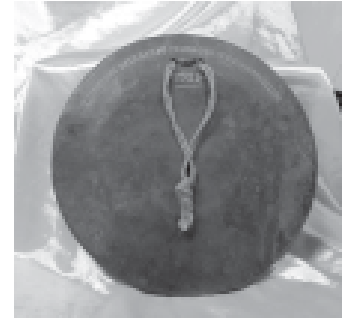


A. S. Samuel

Evangelist Mr. J. G. Seilayam was transferred and Mr. A. S. Samuel was appointed in his place from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1933.

Classes were opened in the Sunday school to teach illiterate people reading and writing.

As the church tower was in a damaged condition, the ringing of the bell was stopped for a few days while repairs were being done. A gong was used instead of the bell at this time.



Gong

Bhagavathar Vedanayagom Sasthriyar of Tanjore conducted religious Kalakshepams from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 1933.

Mr. V. N. Rethinam of Nanthencode donated two electric lights which were fixed outside on either side of the church.

Student Christian Association conducted special service for students on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 1933.

Permission was granted to A. Rachel of Venganoor London Mission Church and Markose Gabriel of Thozhukkal London Mission Church to be married at the M. M. Church on 8-4-1109 (23<sup>rd</sup> November 1933). This is the first instance of marriage of non-members being conducted in our church.

The Fancy Sale for the year was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1933. Mr. S. I. Sumanam was the secretary.

Our Church keeper Mathew Markose retired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1933 due to ill health.

## 1934

A special announcement was made on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1934 and the collections of Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> were paid to the earthquake relief fund through the district. (There was a severe earthquake in Bihar on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1934, which was termed as one of the worst in Indian history, wherein over 30,000 people died.)

As the hearse is about to be bought, a shed to house the new hearse was decided to be constructed.

The construction of the building at an estimated amount of Sirkar Rs. 185 was given to Mr. C. Charles, contractor.

The responsibility and care of the congregation which Mr. Alexandar had gathered at Tamalam was taken up by the Church.



J. Fenn

Mr. J. Fenn was the Sunday school Superintendent during this period.

Rev. Paul Nesamony was appointed as the District Chairman of Parassala District by the Travancore Church Council. He was relieved from the charge of M. M. Church on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1934. A send-off meeting was held on Thursday the ,31<sup>st</sup> May 1934 along with the evening service.

Mr. Viswasam was appointed as church keeper from 1<sup>st</sup> August 1934.



Viswasam

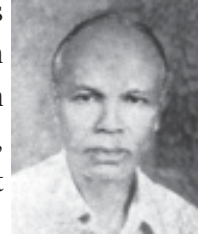
The making of the hearse was completed and the final bill amounting to Sirkar Rs. 204-8Chrs. was sanctioned on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1934, The hearse was given on rent for taking the body of the deceased from the house to the cemetery (usually in procession) for burial. The horse for pulling



the hearse was taken on loan from the Government stables at PMG as and when the need arose. The hearse is housed safely in the

cemetery premises.

The organist Mr. J. John was relieved from his appointment upon his request owing to ill health on 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Subsequently, Mr. Albert Joseph was made organist on an honorarium.



Albert Joseph

The Christian Endeavour Society sent a greeting message and conducted a special service on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1934 on the occasion of the birth day of H. H. Sree Chitra Thirunal Balarama Varma, the Maharaja of Travancore. A special order of service was used and song sheets were printed for the occasion.

## 1935

A fund by the name “Mrs. Joyce John Fund for poor widows” was started by contributions from Mr. S. I. Devaram, the interest of which was to be used for the benefit of the poor widows of the Church in cases of emergency.

The Trivandrum United Evangelistic Campaign conducted a series of devotional addresses by Dr. French Oliver under the initiative of its secretary Mr. P. O. Philip.

As the song books in use contained too few songs to comprehend all occasions, the Church committee recommended the introduction of the Hymns and Lyrics book of CMS, which was in use in Anglican Churches, to be used in M. M. Church from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1935. However, in view of the proposal to use the hymns and lyrics compiled by Rev. A. H. Legg, the latter book was accepted by the congregation and was put into use from March 1935.



Cortège and hearse

Photo provided by Mr. L. Somasuseelan

100

1906 - 2006

Years

MATEER MEMORIAL CHURCH (C.S.I.)

100

1906 - 2006

Years

MATEER MEMORIAL CHURCH (C.S.I.)







Mrs. & Rev.  
Dr. Burchardt

A farewell prayer meeting was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1935 after the evening service for Mrs and Rev. Dr. Burchardt who were going on furlough to Europe.

Mr. V. Y. Ebenezer was appointed temporarily as Tamil Catechist from 17<sup>th</sup> March 1935.

The catechist at Valiyathura, Mr. N. Gabriel who was appointed by our Church passed away. The Evangelist Mr. A. S. Samuel was deputed to take charge of the Valiyathura Congregation. Later, Mr. J. Dennis was appointed as catechist of Valiyathura from 15<sup>th</sup> June 1935.

During the periods of illness of Mr. Viswasom, Mr. John was appointed as the acting Church Keeper.

The front of the church was illuminated with 25 electric bulbs at a cost of Sirkar Rs. 4-25Chs-4cs, in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations of His Majesty George V, King Emperor.

A special service was held in the church by YMCES on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 1935 in connection with the birthday of H. H. the Maharajah, Sree Chitra Tirunal.

The Church committee formulated the following rule: A member of the Church committee who gives his dissent to a resolution of a Committee is not to speak adversely to that resolution at the Church meeting; any member who is not in favour of a resolution should record his dissent at the meeting of the Church committee.

The Fancy Sale for the year was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> December with Mr. S. I. Sumanam as convener.

Election of deacons for the next triennium was held on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> December by the District Minister, Rev. T. W. Rasalam after the morning service.



Elizabeth  
Devasikhamony

The elected deacons were Dr. M. Joseph, Dr. D. Jeevanayagom, Messrs. T. J e p a g n a n a m , P. Gnanabharanam, S. I. Sumanam, T. Y. Harris and Mrs. Elizabeth Devasikhamony (This is the first instance of election of a woman into the diaconate).

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 1935 the new diaconate convened for the first time and elected Mr. T. Y. Harris, Mr. P. Gnanabharanam and Mr. T. J e p a g n a n a m as secretary, treasurer and accountant of the Church respectively for the triennium beginning from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1936.

Mr. J. Fenn resigned from his appointment as Sunday school superintendent and the Evangelist Mr. A. S. Samuel was given charge in his place.



Rev. A. Parker

Rev. Arthur Parker, who was instrumental in constructing our church passed away in England on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1935. The Church constituted a "Parker Memorial Committee" to honour the work of Rev. A. Parker. The committee consisted of Rev. J. Lazarus as convener and Messrs P. Gnanabharanam, T. Y. Harris, P. David, Mrs. Devasikhamony and Miss Mary Isaac as members. The committee proposed the putting up of a tablet at a cost of British Rs. 250. A fund by name "Parker Memorial Fund" was started for collections in this regard. Later Rev. A. H. Legg informed the Church that Mrs. A. Parker wished to present the tablet in memory of her husband and that the tablet could be made in England. The Church gladly accepted this offer and the tablet was brought from England by Rev. George Parker towards the end of October 1937.



Rev. George  
Parker

## 1936

Dr. D. Jeevanayagom was appointed as Sunday school superintendent from 5<sup>th</sup> February 1936.

“The Malayalam Aradhanakramam” published by Rev. A. H. Legg was accepted for use in the Church.

A new road was made in front of the Church leading towards the Mascot Hotel. (Till then the road going west from the front of the Church towards Mascot Hotel did not exist). The clear roadway to the LMS cemetery from the new road was made during this period.

Rev. and Mrs. Eastaff were given a send-off on the eve of their departure on furlough in a special meeting of the congregation.

Special meetings were conducted by Sanyasini Pennamma from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 1936, Mr. C. J. Lucas, M.A., L.T., President, SIUC addressed the Church during the Thursday evening service.

Messrs. J. A. Bhanu, B. Joshua and Mrs. Rekshadas Moses were elected to the United Evangelistic Campaign Committee.

Former evangelist of our Church Mr. J. G. Sailayam passed away. A condolence letter was sent to Mrs. Sailayam.

Mr. Mathew Markos, former Church Keeper passed away.

Following a letter from the general secretary of YMCES, it was decided to celebrate the birthdays of H. H. the Maharajah and H. M. the King Emperor every year by holding a special service in the church. Resolved also to hold the celebration of H. H. the Maharajah Sree Chitra Tirunal, in 1936 under the joint auspices of the Christian Endeavour Society and the M. M. Church. The church and church gates were decorated and a special order of service was

printed for the function. (The birthdays of Maharaja were being celebrated by the Christian Endeavour Society for the past few years. The Church decided to join them only now.)

The Fancy sale for the year was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1936. Mr. S. I. Sumanam was the convener.

The collections from services of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in August, Easter Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in November were paid to NMS, HMS, Trivandrum district of the LMS, Neyoor hospital and the Bible Society respectively.

A request was made to the mission council to grant 20 cents of land in the LMS compound for being used as a site for constructing the houses of the Evangelist and Church Keeper of the M. M. Church. Part of the land value was to be paid by the M. M. Church.

## 1937

Dr. Howard Guinness, (doctor and pioneer evangelist of the Inter Varsity Fellowship, England who worked among the student community and formed the Evangelical Union in many countries) conducted meetings from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 1937 in our church.

A special service was held in celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty George VI, King Emperor on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1937. The front of the church was decorated and illuminated in honour of the coronation.

Mrs. Stella Albert gave a light cluster to be hung on the arch above the choir.

Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam was appointed by the Travancore Church Council following request from the Church committee, as pastor of M. M. Church for a term of 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1937. The period



Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam

of appointment was to be extended after the 3 years, only on the consensus of the congregation ascertained by a majority vote. An induction ceremony was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October as part of the morning service by Rev. A. H. Legg, President of the Travancore Church Council. Dr. M. Joseph welcomed him on behalf of the Church.

As Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam joined as pastor on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1937, the services of Mr. V. Y. Ebenezer, Catechist was terminated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1937.

Upon a request from Rev. Dr. H. C. Lefever, the church was made available to host the general assembly meetings of the SIUC during October 1937.



Rev. H. C. Lefever

A welcome was given to Rev. R. H. Eastaff on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1937 on his return from furlough.

Rev. Norman Goodall, Foreign Secretary of the LMS visited Trivandrum. A warm welcome was given him on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1937 and an address was presented. Rev. G. Parker chaired the function.

Mr. Albert Joseph, organist resigned on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1937.



Mr. Bramwell Thomas

Mr. Bramwell Thomas, B.Sc. was appointed as honorary organist from 11<sup>th</sup> December 1937 temporarily in his place. Subsequently Mr. J. John, former organist was invited to take charge of the choir.

The memorial tablet donated by Mrs. Parker in memory of Rev. Arthur Parker was installed on the Northern wall of the church behind the pulpit. The tablet was unveiled by Rev. Norman Goodall, Foreign



Secretary of LMS and Rev. George Parker on behalf of the Church on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>

December 1937. Mr. T. Jepagnanam addressed the Church about Rev. A. Parker on the occasion.

## 1938

Mr. J. John took charge as organist on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1938.

The properties committee of the LMS granted 11 ½ cents of land south of the pastorate house, for building a house for the evangelist. The Church accepted the offer with thanks and a subcommittee was formed to prepare a plan and an estimate not exceeding Sirkar Rs. 800.

Mr. M. John was acting church keeper when Mr. Viswasom was on leave.

Mrs. G. M. Eastaff took charge as Sunday school superintendent from 13<sup>th</sup> March.



Mrs. G. M. Eastaff

The subcommittee for the construction of evangelist's house submitted the plan and estimate for a sum of Sirkar Rs. 1000. Following the approval of the Church, Mr. S. Gnanabharanam was given the contract for constructing the house.

The Church committee considered the desirability of building a hall in the LMS compound. A subcommittee was formed with T. Jepagnanam as convener to prepare a rough plan and estimate.

Mr. P. John contractor, former deacon of our Church passed away 24<sup>th</sup> March 1938. The funeral service was conducted on the same day.

A special fund was started for installing fans in the church.

The timing of the Sunday morning worship service was shifted from 7.30 a.m. to 8 a.m.

The Church committee resolved to request the properties committee of the mission council to grant M. M. Church 10 cents of land adjacent to the cemetery on the southern side, for a house for the church keeper.

The Church sponsored Mr. J. Russel, as delegate to attend the golden jubilee convention of the Christian Endeavour at Indore.

Funeral service of Mr. Peter Singdom, Evangelistic worker and Mr. C. Benjamin, catechist were conducted in the M. M. Church on 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 1938 respectively.

Mr. Moses Gunamudaiyan, former sexton of our Church passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1938. His funeral service was conducted in M. M. Church on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

On 18<sup>th</sup> August 1938, Rev. R. H. Eastaff, attorney of the LMS corporation communicated the Mission Council's sanction of a plot of land adjacent to the cemetery as requested by the Church as site for the Church keeper's house. The committee thanked the mission council for the kind sanction. The proceeds from the Fancy Sale of 1938 was set apart for the construction of the Church keeper's house.

As a new constitution was being drafted by the Travancore Church Council, the election of deacons for the next triennium which was due on December 1938 was postponed till the new constitution was ready.

## 1939

In connection with the visit of the Viceroy of India, the church gate was decorated in January 1939.

The General Secretary of the LMS, Rev. A. M. Chirgwen visited Trivandrum on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1939. A garden party was held in honour of his visit by the LMS Christians residing in Trivandrum, followed by a special meeting in the M. M. Church at 6.15pm.

The evangelist's house was completed at a total expense of Sirkar Rs. 1120-21Chr. It was occupied by him on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1939 after a short prayer meeting at 8 a.m.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 1939, YMCES conducted a memorial service in memory of Mr. G. B. Das, son of Mr. P. Gnanabharanam, who passed away in England.

Dr. Stanley Jones visited Trivandrum in March 1939 and special meetings were held in the M. M. Church at which he spoke.



Dr. Stanley Jones



Bishop Legg and family

As Rev. and Mrs. Legg were going on furlough, a meeting was held after the communion service on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1939 to offer prayer for them and their children on the eve of the departure.

The collection of 25<sup>th</sup> June 1939 was sent to the Wind Hill Congregational Church, Leeds Road, Wind Hill, Shipley, Yorkshire following an appeal issued by them.

The Children's Special Service Mission (CSSM) held meetings from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 1939 to 16<sup>th</sup> July 1939.

New constitution formulated by the Travancore Church Council came into force on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1939.

Election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1939. The elected deacons were Messrs. P. Gnanabharanam, S. I. Sumanam, William Peter, J. Fenn, T. Y. Harris, Dr. D. Jeevanayagom and Dr. M. Joseph. On the subsequent Church committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July Mr. William Peter, T. Y. Harris and P. Gnanabharanam were elected as secretary, accountant and treasurer respectively.



William Peter

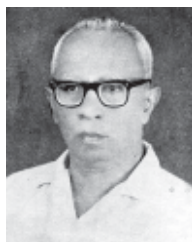
Following a letter from Dr. H. C. Lefever, B.D., Ph.D. regarding communion service to be conducted at Kannammoola, Church committee asked the Church worker at Kannammoola to submit the Church register and accounts for its perusal.

Rev. K. A. Varghese, Vicar, St. Thomas Church (Marthoma) Trivandrum enquired whether he can hold some of their services in the M. M. Church. Church committee conveyed its regret that they could not comply with the request.

Mr. A. S. Samuel, Evangelist was transferred to the mission office in September 1939 and subsequently Mr. A. Isaac was appointed as evangelist in his place.



Rev. A. Isaac



Clarence Thomas

17<sup>th</sup> September 1939 was observed as the Sunday school day. Mr. Clarence Thomas was the secretary of the Sunday school during this period.

## 1940

Dr. (Miss.) Ida Scudder, MD, D.Sc. of the American Medical Mission requested funds to raise the medical school at Vellore to a medical college. A subcommittee was appointed to collect donation in this regard with Dr. (Miss) Esther Samuel as President and Convener and Dr. (Mrs.) Thai Yesudian as Secretary and Treasurer with power to co-opt other members.



Dr. Ida Scudder

Contribution due to the Travancore Circle Council from the M. M. Church was 3% of collection per month.

Mr. S. I. Sumanam resigned from the diaconate on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1940. Mr. Sam A. Samuel who was next in the panel of elected members was invited to fill the vacancy, and he complied.

Mr. J. John took leave from his appointment as organist on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1940. Mr. Albert Joseph was given charge as organist.

During the sick leave of Mr. Viswasom sexton Mr. P. J. John was appointed as acting church keeper.

As the 3 year appointment term of Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam was coming to an end, the Church voted for him to be made permanent pastor. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1940 he was elected as the permanent pastor by a majority vote of 163 out of 164.

Fancy sale proceeds of 1940 were earmarked for the construction of the church keeper's house.

Mr. Sam A. Samuel was appointed as accountant from 12<sup>th</sup> December 1940. The secretary was doing the accountant's duty from 1<sup>st</sup> December, as Mr. T. Y. Harris expressed his inability to continue.

A sacred song service was conducted in the church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1940 at 6 p.m. The collection was paid to the Fancy sale accounts.

A carol service was conducted on the Christmas Eve in the church instead of the usual stereotyped service.

A special service was conducted on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 5.45 p.m. on which Dr. T. Z. Koo preached. Dr. T. Z. Koo was the General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation – the federation of autonomous National Student Christian Movements.

## 1941

Mr. William Peter resigned from secretaryship on grounds of ill health. The committee placed on record their appreciation of his services and appointed Mr. Sam A. Samuel as Secretary with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1941.

Mr. T. Y. Harris resigned from the diaconate on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1941 as he had to leave station.



P. V. Jacob

There was a tie between Dr. N. P. Daniel and Mr. P. V. Jacob in the panel of eligible candidates in the waiting list. Mr. P. V. Jacob was selected of the two, by drawing lots. He was also appointed as the accountant.

A subcommittee with Mr. P.V. Jacob as convener and Messrs. P. Daniel (contractor) and S. I. Sumanam as members was formed to draw up a plan and estimate for the church keeper's house. The plan and estimate of Rs. 300 was approved on 27<sup>th</sup>

February 1941 and quotations were called from contractors who were members of the Church.

A fund by the name, "Fanam Fund" was started by Travancore Church Council. The same was announced in the church services on 20<sup>th</sup> April for contributions.

Following the circular from the District Minister of the central district to observe 25<sup>th</sup> April 1941 as Ringeltaube's day, Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> was observed as above in our church.

Mr. H. L. Hawkrige informed the Church about the six months duration classes of the Women's Bible School of Attingal.

Dr. Ida Scudder and Dr. Wierenga (Arcot American Mission) visited Trivandrum in March 1941.

Sanyasi R. P. John conducted meetings for 3 days from 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Mr. K. Dasan was appointed as acting sexton in June 1941, as Mr. Viswasom went to Neyoor for treatment.

On Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> May, Rao Bahadur S. K. Devasikhamoni addressed the Church in Tamil at the morning service.

An united service was planned on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> July in connection with the visit of Rev. Gladstone Koppole, Travelling Secretary of the Bible Society.

As per the decision of Church meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1940, it was decided on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1941 to organise the pastorate council representing the Trivandrum pastorate group consisting of the M. M. Church and the Churches at Valiathura, Kannammoola, Rekshapuri and Karamana. Karamana, Kattachakonam and Tavanilam were not fully accepted worship centres as per government guidelines and

hence, did not have any license. Inclusion of these centres in the Trivandrum Pastorate group was always a contentious issue, and subject to variation in decisions. Hence, the exact constituents of the Trivandrum pastorate group are not definite.

Mr. J. Fenn resigned from the diaconate. Dr. N. P. Daniel who was next in the waiting list was invited into the committee on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1941.

It was customary to take attendance during communion services during this time as, one of the criteria for being a full Church member with voting rights is participation in the communion. Communion cards were printed with numbers and given to the Church members. The members were to put the cards in the collection box at the time of the communion service. Those who failed to bring the cards had the facility to enter their attendance in the vestry after the service.

Consequent to the change of time from the local time to the Indian Standard Time through out the state, on 1<sup>st</sup> Chingam, 1117 (16<sup>th</sup> August 1941), it was decided to change the time of services as follows.

Morning Service – 8.00 a.m.  
 Evening Service – 4.30 p.m.  
 Sunday School – 3.15 to 4 p.m.  
 Thursday Service – 6.30 p.m.

Because of the difference of opinion regarding the formation of the Trivandrum pastorate group, Dr. M. Joseph, Mr. W. Peter, Dr. N. P. Daniel and Mr. Sam A. Samuel resigned from the diaconate. The Church committee which convened on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1941 recommended the Church to accept the resignations and they were accepted on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1941. To fill these four vacancies, two candidates Mrs. Devasikamony and Mr. J. John who were remaining in the list of eligible candidates in the panel of unelected persons in the

previous elections were invited as per decision in the Church meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1941. Mrs. Devasikhamony accepted the invitation and joined the diaconate. Election was conducted for the remaining 3 vacancies on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941. Rev. J. Lazarus, Messrs. Rekshadas Moses and J. A. Bhanu were elected as deacons in the above vacancies. The newly elected deacons attended their first meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1941, at which, Mr. Rekshadas Moses was elected as the Secretary. Mrs. E. Devasikhamony attended the committee for the first time in the current tenure on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1942.

## 1942

The sexton's house was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1942.

On April 1942, in the context of World War-II, the ARP (Armed Reserve Police) controller requested that the church bell should not be rung for ordinary purposes and to ring it only as an air raid warning. The Church committee extended full cooperation in this regard except that "In regard to ringing of the bell with an interval of 1/5 second, ...it is rather difficult of performance ... Nevertheless I shall arrange to have the bell rung as fast as it possibly be done." "As regards stopping of the bell completely as an air raid warning, I a.m. afraid it will seriously dislocate our services. ...In case of emergency, when there is an imminent threat of air raid, we shall arrange for the bell to be completely stopped except as an air raid warning bell."

The organist was requested to adhere to the resolution passed by the Church that two lyrics should be sung during our Sunday services.

In July 1942, Br. Augustine N. Peters of the Arcot American Mission preached in our church.

Election of deacons were held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1942. Dr. D. Jeevanayagom, Rev. J. Lazarus, Messrs. P. Gnanabharanam, J. A. Bhanu, P. V. Jacob,





A. N. Sathianesan

A. N. Sathianesan and Mrs. E. Devasikhamony were elected. The office bearers of the committee were elected at a subsequent meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August. Messrs. P. V. Jacob, P. Gnanabharanam and Rev. J. Lazarus were elected as Secretary, Treasurer and Accountant respectively.

In April 1942, the Chairman of the central district council proposed raising the Malayalam Primary School in the mission compound to a Malayalam middle school and to provide a hall to conduct Sunday school and other religious meetings for the Church. The Church committee opined that an English middle school will be more relevant than a Malayalam middle school.

In November 1942 the Rev. A. H. Legg, Secretary of the mission council proposed opening a new English middle school in Trivandrum. The Church accepted the offer and sent 4 members to serve in the committee of the mission council viz; Dr. Jeevanayagom, M.A., Ph.D., Principal, Training College, Trivandrum, Mr. A. N. Sathianesan, proprietor of Kerala Vilasom Press, Mr. Charles N. Ambrose BA, auditor, AG's office and Mr. S. I. Sumanam Retd. Sanitary Inspector. The Church promised to contribute not less than Rs. 2500 for the cause. An association "The Trevandram SIUC English Middle School Association" was formed for collecting funds with Dr. M. Joseph, Surgeon as its president, Messrs. T. A. Thomas and A. N. Sathianesan as Joint Secretaries, Rev. T. W. Rasalam and Rev. Sam A. Sobanam as Vice Presidents, P. Gnanabharanam as Treasurer and C. N. Ambrose as accountant.

## 1943

Mr. A. Isaac, evangelist left the services of our Church. A send-off was given to him on 31<sup>st</sup> January

1943 after the morning service. Subsequently Mr. S. Gilbert was appointed in his place as evangelist.



S. Gilbert

On request from Rev. H. C. Lefever, Principal of the Theological Seminary, Kannammoola, the semi public opening service of the new United Theological Seminary, Kannammoola, was conducted in our church on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1943.

Under the auspices of the Trivandrum United Evangelistic Committee, a united service was conducted in our church on 14<sup>th</sup> October by Rt. Rev. Stephen Neill, Bishop of Tinnevelly.

## 1944

A general meeting of the Church with members of other SIUC Churches was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1944 after the morning service for discussing and informing the progress at the school.

Mr. Tilak Daniel, evangelistic preacher visited Trivandrum. He delivered the sermon on Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1944 at our church in the morning service.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 1944, Mr. P. V. Jacob requested that he be excused for two months from his duty as secretary due to his illness and as he is restricted to his house for 2 months.

Mr. S. S. Phanuel, former deacon and Church secretary, passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1944.

## 1945



J. A. Jacob

Rev. and Mrs. Eastaff were given a send-off and an address on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1945 after the morning service. In the same meeting Rev. J. A. Jacob was given a welcome as District minister of Trivandrum district.

The desirability for a hall in the LMS compound was felt and it was mooted in 9<sup>th</sup> April 1938. A subcommittee was also appointed at that time to prepare a rough plan and estimate in

consultation with Rev. R. H. Eastaff. The subcommittee had proposed to send a request to the mission council to grant a site 150 ft long and 75 ft broad to the north of the church for building a hall of dimensions 75' x 30'.

This proposal was put forward again in 1945 and to build the hall on the occasion of the Triple Jubilee of the formation of LMS called "The Triple Jubilee Memorial Hall". A subcommittee was appointed with Mr. Rekshadas Moses as convener and Rev. A. H. Legg as president. The foundation stone for the hall was laid by Rev. A. H. Legg on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 1945 immediately after a Thanksgiving service in the church at 9 a.m.

The election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1945. The members elected were, Dr. D. Jeevanayagom, Messrs. A. N. Sathyanesan, P. Gnanabharanam, Charles N. Ambrose, J. A. Bhanu, Rekshadas Moses and Mrs. E. Devasikhamony. Mr. Rekshadas Moses was the secretary, Mr. P. Gnanabharanam the treasurer and Mr. Charles N. Ambrose, the Accountant.

The Triple Jubilee of the LMS (formed in 1795) was celebrated from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1945.

A committee was formed for the celebration of the first Pastorate Jubilee of our church. It was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December. As per the recommendation of the subcommittee, it was decided to purchase a chandelier and to fit it in an appropriate place near the pulpit in commemoration of the occasion. In October 1946, Rev. R. H. Eastaff was asked to purchase an "Electrolier light" (a chandelier in which the lights are electric) at a cost of about £25 from England when he returned to India. (He had gone on furlough in March

1945) A fund was to be opened called the Pastorate Jubilee Fund for giving scholarship to the poor for educational purposes.

## 1946

The manse and the evangelist's house were installed with electric lights by the Trivandrum Electric and Novelty Stores in November 1945.

Cycles of those who attend the services were kept in the area below the belfry through the eastern door to protect from sun and rain.

Rev. H. L. Hurst, Foreign Secretary of the LMS visited Trivandrum in 1946. An at-home was given in his honour.



V. Devanayagom

In May 1946, Dr. V. Devanayagom presented the communion table that we use now.



Communion Table

The Church choir conducted a sacred song service on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1946 in aid of the Triple Jubilee Memorial Fund.

Mrs. Rebecca Jane Parker passed away in England on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1946. A memorial service was held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August as part of the morning service.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1946, Mr. S. Gilbert Evangelist was appointed as the circle chairman of Aramada by the District Council. He was relieved from his duties in our church on 31<sup>st</sup> October and Mr. J. Seilayam L.Th. was appointed in his stead.

On the request of the organist Mr. Albert Joseph, he was relieved from his duties on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1946. Mr. J. John took over as organist.

Mr. P. Gnanabharanam, long-term deacon of our Church passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1946.



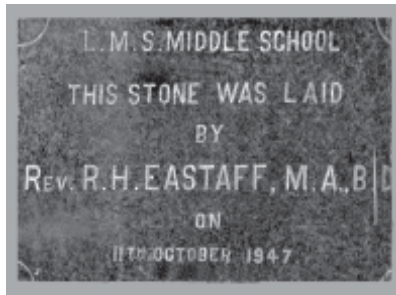
Chandelier

A condolence message was sent to his family. Mr. V. Ponnambalam, B.A., B.L. the next member eligible for deaconship as per the list of election was appointed in the committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1946. He was appointed as treasurer on the same day.

A memorial service in honour of Mr. P. Gnanabharanam and Mr. P. V. Jacob who passed away in 4<sup>th</sup> December 1946 was conducted in the church on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## 1947

The work of establishment of the English Middle School progressed well and the opening function of the new school was held at 8.30 a.m.



on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 1947 in the school building east of the church (old Primary School building). Rev. R. H. Eastaff, M.A., B.D. presided over the function. An advisory committee also was constituted with the pastor, M. M. Church, Dr. D. Jeevanayagom, Mr. T. A. Thomas and Mr. J. Fenn as members, to advise the manager where such advice was sought for by him.

It was decided to suitably name the school when the foundation stone of the new building for the school was laid. Subsequently, the foundation stone of the new building (i.e., the present school building) was laid by Rev. R. H. Eastaff on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1947.

YMCES was given permission to conduct the Thursday evening service once a month in consultation with the pastor.

Rev. Canon Sinker, General Secretary of the Bible Society and Rev. H. C. Ingle, Secretary of the Madras Auxiliary conducted a meeting in our church on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

The Trivandrum United Evangelistic Campaign Committee used to regularly conduct Gospel campaigns on Onam weeks. In August 1947, the preparation meetings for that year's campaign were held in our church from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August. Col. Sheard of the Salvation Army held the first day's meeting. The rest were conducted by the evangelist Mr. Kunjappi. Special meetings for women were conducted by Miss. Taylor. Rev. R. H. Eastaff was the president of the campaign and Mr. I. Paul Sasthri its Joint Secretary.

Messrs. Berty manuel, Ponnann Bhanu, Mrs. Achshah Lazarus, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Rakshda Das Moses, Mrs. Paul Sudahakar, Rev. W. Mathew, Mrs. Andrews

and Miss Joyce Rasagnam Sanyasini were some of those who were actively involved.



Berty Manuel



Joyce



Rev. W. Mathew



Ponnann Bhanu

The last General Assembly of the SIUC was held at Thambaram in Madras. The consecration of Bishops of the CSI including our first bishop Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg was held at Madras from 25<sup>th</sup>

to 27<sup>th</sup> September 1947 at the St. George Cathedral. Rev. S. A. Sobhanam, the pastor, Dr. D. Jeevanayagom and Mr. A. N. Sathyanesan were selected and sent as delegates for the General Assembly. The Church sent a greeting telegram on the occasion of his consecration.

Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg returned from Madras after his consecration on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1947. On that day an advance party consisting of Rev. J. Lazarus,

Messrs. Berty Manuel, J. R. James, A. N. Sathyanesan, J. A. Bhanu, C. N. Ambrose and V. Ponnambalam met the new bishop at the railway station. He was brought to the church compound by car, where the congregation met



J. R. James

him and led him by procession to the bishop's house. A bouquet was presented to him, a short speech was made by Mr. A. N. Sathyanesan and Rev. J. Lazarus offered a prayer.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 1947, the installation of the new bishop, Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg took place at the M. M. Church at a special service held for the purpose. The church was decorated, pandals were put on either sides to accommodate large number of people and loud speakers were arranged for the occasion.



Bhakt Singh

Bro. Bhakt Singh, a fiery speaker converted from the Sikh religion conducted meetings from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October in 1947.

The Church started conducting communion services regularly on the first Sunday of every month. Serving of Holy Communion in houses of members who are unable to take part in the church was also started.

The collection taken on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1947 was given to relief fund of refugees in Punjab and other places in North India following Partition. Prayers were offered for the restoration of peace and that the Christian Church there may be protected and sustained by the Grace of God and used as a reconciling force between the warring communities.

## 1948

A special prayer meeting was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1948 at 5.30pm in connection with the demise of Mahatma Gandhi on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1948.

Mr. J. M. Venkitaraman, Travelling secretary of the India National Bible Reading Association, Coonoor preached in our church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 1948.

Mrs. Kamalam Rasalam was the Sunday school superintendent during this period. She served in this capacity for many years.



Kamalam Rasalam



J. Seilayam

Evangelist Mr. J. Seilayam attended the South Travancore Young Mens' retreat from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 1948.



G. Devanayagam

Election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1948. Members elected were Dr. D. Jeevanayagam, Messrs. J. Jesudhas, G. Devanayagam, J. R. James, Rekshadas Moses, A. N. Sathyanesan and J. A. Bhanu. J. Jesudhas was elected as Secretary.

A request was received from the Foreign Secretary of LMS regarding collection of money to buy a new ship "John Williams VI" – the children's ship. Collections were taken through the Sunday school and Christian Endeavour Societies from the children and its members respectively, and along with the collection of Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1948 were sent to the district office for the purpose.

The dedication of the new school building of the English Middle School (for which the foundation stone was laid on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1947) on the eastern side of our church was held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1948 at 8.30 a.m. Mr. A. N. Sathyanesan spoke on the occasion.

In a letter from eight members of the Church, it was proposed that two candidates should be nominated from the backward Christians as deacons. (This is the first instance of such a request. This was put into practice in the year 1962, by the nomination of Mr. Daniel Seth by the bishop.)

Evangelist Mr. J. Seilayam left the service of our Church as he was going for B.D. studies at the Serampore College.

## Children's Ship

John Williams was one of the missionaries sponsored by the LMS in the early 1800s. He reached the island of Tahiti in November 1817. His passion was to bring the gospel to the people of the islands of the south Pacific. A major difficulty he faced was transportation between the islands. Once, he discovered a partly built ship on a beach which he spent weeks building to a seaworthy vessel and named "The Messenger of Peace."

He returned to England only once in his remaining years, and that was to raise money for a new boat, 'The Camden'. Cutting short his zealous work in the spread of gospel, he was killed and was made a meal of by cannibals on the beach of the island of Erromonga on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1839. The last journey of 'The Camden' was to return to England.

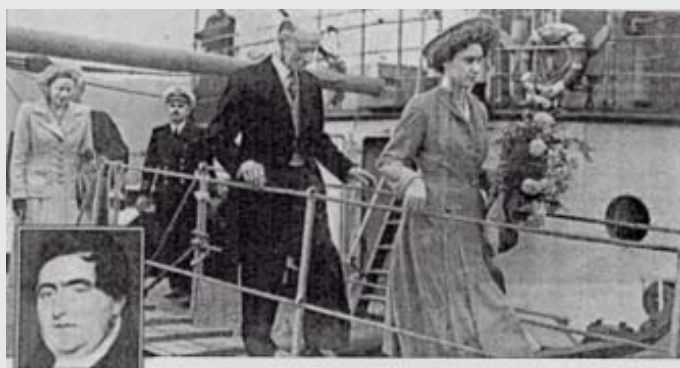
The LMS decided to appeal to Churches for money to buy a new ship to continue the work. In one local church a group of children overheard the anxious discussions and decided to do what they could to help. They wages and by selling their possessions. Gradually, more and more children round the country joined in the challenge. It is written about the children "...selling their toys, their lunches, working extra shifts, a boy working down the mines..." they tried to raise the necessary fund.

A total of £ 6000 was raised, and the first 'John Williams' sailed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1856. Over the years, the



John Williams I, 1856

children continued to save money and a total of seven 'John Williams' ships were commissioned. Considering the extraordinary involvement of the children of the Churches with these ships, they were often referred to as 'The children's ship'. Our Church also had the privilege to contribute our mite to this great legacy in 1948, by contributing for the purchase of the John Williams VI. The last of the John Williams ships, the John Williams VII was decommissioned in the mid 1970s.



Princess Margaret names the John Williams VI in 1948, Inset: John Williams

## 1949



M. Rossbury

Mr. M. Rossbury was appointed as evangelist in place of Mr. J. Seilayam.

Mrs. T. Jepagnanam expired. The funeral service was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1949 by Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg.

## 1950

Dr. Michael Joseph, former deacon of our Church passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1950.

Mr. Albert Joseph took over as organist from Mr. J. John.

## 1951

Mr. Bose Chandran served as organist from 1951 to 1952 as Mr. Albert Joseph had resigned.



Bose Chandran

Election of the members of the diaconate was held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1951. The members elected were Messrs. T. Y. Harris, V. Ponnambalam, S. I. Sumanam, William Peter, J. J. Thomas,