

News from Sri Lanka November 2018

Hello!

I find it hard to believe it is November as it is still hot here and I continue to enjoy swimming in an outdoor pool and never need to wear a jacket! Life continues to be good at TCL but brings surprising challenges from time to time!

A little about Kandy, which is the nearest city around 12 km away. This is Sri Lanka's second city and the cultural capital of the island. It has a long history of independence due to its location among steep hills in the heart of the country. The Temple of the Tooth is an important Buddhist shrine in the centre of the city. There is also a large attractive artificial lake created in 1807 from paddy fields.



Entrance to the temple



Looking across the lake towards the temple.

I watched the final parade of Eslala Perahera which is the annual event, over ten days, when the casket holding the Buddha's tooth is paraded around the city streets in Kandy. The parade included dancers, bands, fire dancers and over 60 elephants, it took over four hours to pass by. The elephants are clothed in bright embroidered fabrics and lights.



The casket containing the tooth

Life at College continues apace. We now have an Acting Principal, the Bishop of Kurunegala, who is with us whilst a new principal is identified and prepared to take on the role. There were internal exams at the end of the first semester-my first experience of setting an exam paper! A three hour paper for English but tea and birthday cake were distributed during this time.



Oh! Why is English so difficult?

Community living brings a variety of tasks including maintaining the environment. Here students are repainting the numbers on the coconut trees for audit purposes. Recently 1,000 coconuts were collected and sold, useful income for the college.



Friendship bands have recently arrived from the Methodist Church in Britain and have been distributed among the college community, bringing excitement and pleasure. Only one each!



Thank you MCB!

The Chapel and Worship are central to our life here at the Theological College of Lanka with three services each weekday. On Wednesday evenings a Community Communion Service is held which includes the spouses and children of the married students who live on campus.



Our time of change continues at TCL

Please pray for

- Our Acting Principal, Bishop Keerthisiri Fernando
- The activities that are underway to find a new principal
- That more lecturers come to live on campus
- The national situation with its many political difficulties.
- For us all as we seek to do God's will

As Christmas approaches

May I wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Thank you for keeping in touch, I really appreciate your prayers, messages and letters. I am returning to the UK for Christmas and New Year to spend time with family, friends and my home church. I will be back at college on 3 January 2019.

Best wishes
Anne

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