

## News from Sri Lanka May 2018

After several months of delays, due to visa problems, I arrived at The Theological College of Lanka in mid-April. It is great to be back and I received a very warm welcome from staff and students.

The College Guest House is my home for the next two years and I am gradually making it my own. I am comfortable here, the college has gone to a great deal of effort to make me feel at home by refurbishing the property. I collected my freight last week and, as I had packed in December, when I opened the boxes it felt like meeting old friends!

I arrived at the end of the academic year, exams were just finishing and students preparing to leave, apart from the married ones who remain in their homes on campus.

Some are away on research projects and the new fourth years are already working on their theses.

The first years have now arrived for their orientation programme and I meet them formally later today for an English conversation session. I trust they will not pick up too much of my Lancashire accent!

A great joy has been seeing the leavers, who I last saw as second years students, moving on to take up their roles in the Methodist and Anglican churches. The four Methodist students took up their probationary minister postings within a few days of leaving college.

I have attended all four Induction Services, the last one was on 5 May. Soon after 5.00am fifteen people, including four children squeezed into the college minibus to travel to Kanthalai. The group consisted of lecturers, fellow students and families. After a couple of hours snoozing tasty sandwiches were passed round for us all to share.

We received a warm welcome as preparations were underway at the church to decorate both inside and out. A typical village church, this one amid coconut palms.



The induction service was led by Rev. Anura Perera, Chairman of the Southern District. As the church was full the service was relayed outside, chairs strategically placed in the shade.

Afterwards we all enjoyed fellowship and a delicious meal of rice and curries followed by a local dish, buffalo curd and honey.



Cooking the rice.



Food and fellowship

We had the opportunity to purchase some curd before we left and stops were made on the way home to purchase fruit and vegetables from roadside stalls.



The newly Inducted Rev Krishantha and his wife

## PRAYER REQUESTS

As we prepare for the beginning of a new academic year at the beginning of June I ask your prayers for:

- The first years as they begin their studies here
- Returning students that they are refreshed and ready to continue their studies
- That I may have understanding and cultural sensitivity in all areas of my work.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support

Anne

email: [annebaldwin21@me.com](mailto:annebaldwin21@me.com)