

*160th Anniversary Souvenir*

**St. Mary's Church  
Kopay  
1852 - 2012**

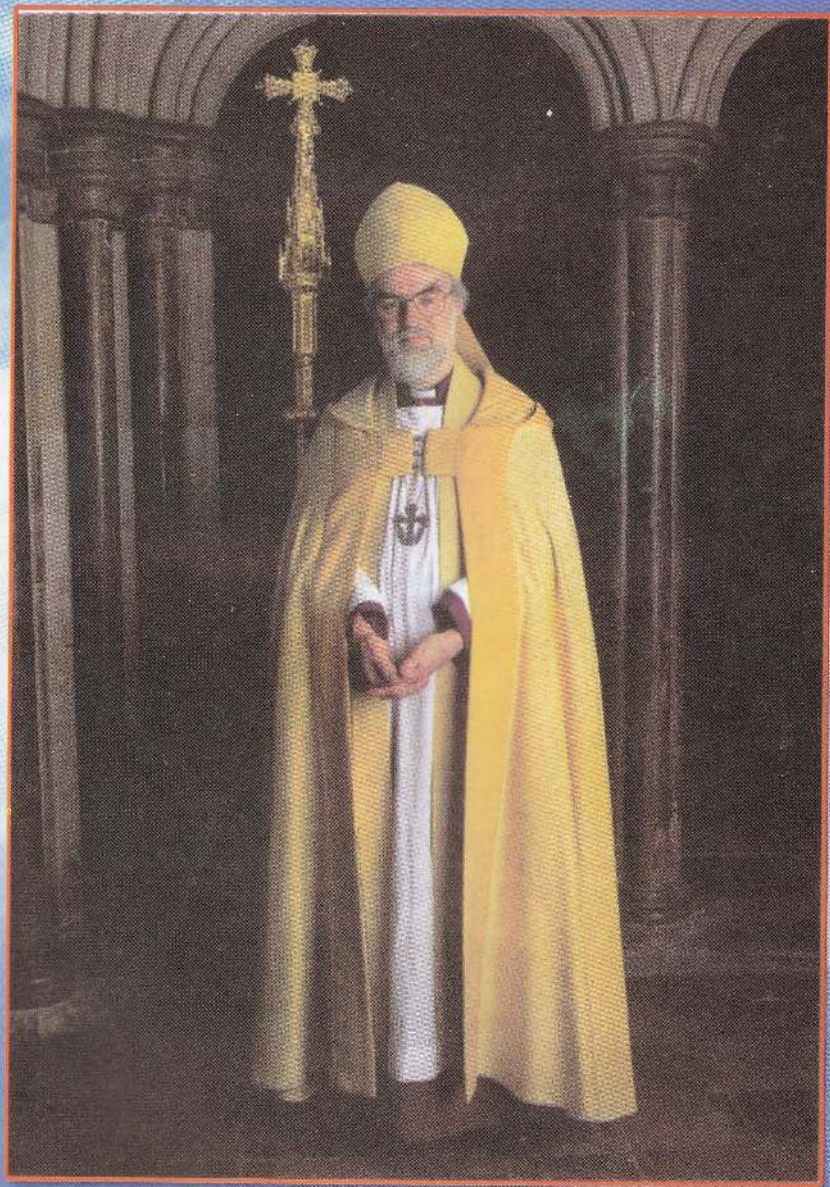




*"Go up to the mountain and  
bring wood, and build the house,  
and I will take pleasure in it,  
and I will be glorified"*

*Haggai 1:8*





*Most Reverend Rowan Williams  
Archbishop of Canterbury*









## *Church of Ceylon*

### *Diocese of Colombo*

#### **Message from the Bishop of Colombo**



I take joy in sending my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Kopay, the Rev. Dr. Jeberatnam Jebamohan, the Board of Wardens and all its Parishioners as they celebrate God's faithfulness to them throughout these 160 years.

The ground situation through which people journeyed on very specially the 30 years of war and the way they endured hardships, pain of mind, and loss of life and property, and yet kept their hope in Christ alive is amazing. May all people whose lives had been battered by the changes and chances of this fleeting world become the seed that falls on the ground, dies and springs up to life, giving new hope and joy to all.

May God's richest blessings be upon the Clergy and the people of St. Mary's Church, Kopay throughout the coming days.

With Prayers and Christian Greetings.

***Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Conagasabey***  
***Bishop of Colombo***

***22nd May, 2012***





## Message to St. Marys' Church Kopay, Diocese of Colombo - Archdeaconry of North

*"THE LORD IS MY SHEPERED WHO WILL ALWAYS GUIDE US"*



My dear and Loving Thamby, Fr. Jebamohan, Mrs. Jebamohan, Daughter, Members of the Board of Wardens and my people who belong to me and my ancestors. It gives me great pleasure to send this message to you as we celebrate a very important land mark of 160 years of the Church and community life of Kopay, in my Archdeaconry.

When one examines the roots of St. Marys' Church of Kopay there is a great Emblem and a great Hall mark of the witness of the Christian community, of the services rendered to the community, and that is a presence of CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OF KOPAY.

Then we move on to another aspect of St. Marys' Church, Kopay which has produced great leaders for the church and the society. Two of the many leaders who were produced by St. Marys' Kopay were the late Rev. Fr. A. C. Thurairajah and the late Bala Arulpirakasam whom I knew as the child. There were many more leaders produced cleric and non cleric whom St. Marys' produced, through the great portals of this great Church, of the "செம்பாடு மண்" (I belong half to Chembardu and half to "குழைக்காடு" Kulaikardu)

At this stage I will like to say of few words personally regarding St. Marys' Kopay as my maternal side belongs to this Church. (I am half Anglican and half CSI Chavakachcheri, as my paternal side belongs to Chavakachcheri). My great grandmother and Kulam annan's great grandmother who was the same was one of the organists of this church at the





inception. My grandparents, Dr.V.P.Sellaiah and Mrs.Louisa Nesammah Sellaiah were married in this church on the 17th of November 1902.

I am so very happy that the church is cared for by a very good Shepherd and Educationalist REV. DR. J. JEBARATNAM and a very good set of wardens who are doing a very good service of keeping the church beautifully and doing a good administration.

I wish Fr. Jebamohan the wardens all the organizations, Gods' richest blessings as they continue the pilgrimage of witnessing in this part of Gods' vineyard, in the Archdeaconry of North and the Diocese of Colombo. My wife Rajitha my Sons Jiten, Diren, Clergy persons and lay workers of our Archdeaconry join me in wishing you and all Gods' Choicest Blessings.

"Let your aim be true in the race you ran,  
Let the work you do be nobly done,  
Let the path of strife be bravely trod,  
And your daily life be lived,  
For God and Fellow Human Beings".

*Yours always loving,  
Jayanth Jeyaveerasingan.  
(9th Archdeacon of North)*





**"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye land. Sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious" Psalm 66:1-2**

**160th anniversary of St.Mary's Church - Kopay  
Greetings from the Archdeacon of Uva, Upcountry and East**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
It is with great honor and privilege that we are here today to give God the highest praise and thanks for His wonderful kindness as we celebrate 160th anniversary of St.Mary's Church- Kopay. It is truly a blessing to be God's mouthpiece for these many years. We are truly excited about how God is continually working in

the lives of all St.Mary's members and the body of Christ as a whole. A church anniversary celebration is a time that we set aside to reflect on our past, but more importantly to appreciate the present while focusing on a divine, strategic vision for the future. I would like to congratulate everyone and give thanks to God Almighty for His continued protection, guidance, and mercies upon us as we celebrate and enjoy 160th Church Anniversary. We love you St.Mary's Kopay and are thankful to be a part of such a great church!

How short a time our church's years  
In Christ's eternal reign!  
But God be thanked for pioneers  
Who did not toil in vain:  
Who served their swiftly-changing age,  
And its unchanging needs,  
And left a Christian heritage  
That still inspires our deeds.

What they believed, we still hold fast;  
Their gospel is our own;  
Yet every age outgrows its past  
And new seeds must be sown:  
For Christ, who is Tomorrow's Lord,  
Shall lead us, when we dare,  
To find new answers in his Word,  
A more perceptive care.

Come, Lord, your gathered Church endow,  
In this decisive hour,  
With varied gifts to serve you now,  
And Pentecostal power.  
Our worship, witness, work improve,  
Our fellowship increase;  
And one, in your undying love,  
Bid us go forth in peace.

**The Ven.S.P.Nesakumar**  
**Archdeacon of Uva, Upcountry & East**  
**Diocese of Colombo Church of Ceylon.**





## Message From the Archdeacon of Colombo



It's with great pleasure I send my greetings to St. Mary's Church, Kopay as they have celebrated 160 years of spirituality. This church in Kopay has been one of the oldest Churches in the northern area. I still remember few years ago that I visited this Church and met some people with Bishop Duleep.

I am sure there are several Anglicans who have gone through this church and receive their spirituality and growth and now serving in many parts of the world.

Anniversaries of Churches are not only history but also special milestones where we remember the work and commitment of both Lay people and Clergy in the past.

Please accept my prayers and good wishes as you have launched into a New Year.

***Ven. Chrishantha B. Mendis***  
***Archdeacon of Colombo***





## Message From the Archdeacon of Galle



I am delighted to send you greetings as you come together to issue a souvenir to mark the 160th Anniversary of St. Mary's church Kopy. I have visited this church in 1972 and sung a song in Tamil for the first time in a Divine Service.

St. Mary's church is rooted in the local community and its welfare and I am delighted to rejoice with you as you look back in gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

May god bless you all in future.

***Ven. Devapriya de Silva***  
***Archdeacon of Galle***





**Message of Greetings from the Vicar,  
St. Mary's Church, Kopay**



It gives me great pleasure and joy to deliver my message of greetings to St. Mary's Church, Kopay and to its members as they celebrate their 160th anniversary of God's ministry in His vineyard at Kopay.

St. Mary's Church, Kopay has a long, valuable and vibrant history which cannot be ignored or forgotten in the life of the Church of Ceylon in the Diocese of Colombo. In 1849, when Kopay was made a separate Mission District, seven Christians previously belonged to Kopay, who were members of St. James' Church, Nallur formed the nucleus of the new church at Kopay. When it was decided to form into a separate mission station, it was found necessary to build a new church. The inconvenience of holding services in a temporary church at Kopay necessitated the laying of the foundation stone of a new church and the community at that time in order to worship the one true and living God in a church at Kopay, laid the foundation stone on May 09, 1850 on the piece of land given by the then Government Agent Mr. P.A. Dyke. The completed building of the church was pronounced and publicly opened for worship on January 09, 1852, costing about 400 pounds.

For the past 160 years, faced with many challenges, difficulties and hardships, St. Mary's Church, Kopay has preserved God's kingdom values and witnessed to the calling to which they were called for. The church building was damaged twice by natural disaster such as lightening thunder and many times by human disaster like war against humanity and displacement;





still the church building remains the same, giving light, life and hope to the community around Kopay and to the entire community at large. This reveals us the quality of the faith and courage St. Mary's Church, Kopay have towards the one and only living God who dwells at their church. Though many had been displaced and living in Sri Lanka and in abroad far away from their mother church at Kopay, still they continue their tireless support to their mother church directly and indirectly in many ways. With their generous help and support, we have repaired and renovated the damaged church to continue the journey. For their continuous generous support and encouragement we are much grateful to them all. May the good Lord bless them all abundantly..

We also remember with gratitude those who have already departed from this world and being in the presence of God eternally. The contribution that they have rendered towards the life of the church and the community at large at Kopay when they were alive is immense. We salute them for their work and witness they have rendered and left before us to continue their role model towards the glorification and the extension of the Kingdom of God at Kopay. May their soul rest in peace.

We are also very much grateful to the present members who are here at Kopay and in other parts of the country, now worshipping at St. Mary's for their love and concern and the continuous support they have towards their mother church. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and for ever more.

Finally, my beloved in Christ, St. Paul says that the Church is the body of Christ. Therefore, let us always keep that in our minds and maintain the unity in diversity with Christ Jesus here at Kopay at any cost.

"The new Temple will be more splendid than the old one, and there I will give my people prosperity and peace." (Haggai 2:9)

May God's grace be with you all now and for ever. Amen

**Rev. Dr. Edward J. Jebaratnam**

**Vicar**

**St. Mary's Church, Kopay.**





## அருட்பணி. தோமஸ் ஜோர்ஜின் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி



எனதன்பின் கோப்பாய் திரு அவையினருக்கு எனது உளம் கனிந்த வாழ்த்துக்களை பகிர்வதில் எனதுள்ளம் இறைவனில் இணையில்லா இன்பம் கொள்கின்றது.

சகோதர சகோதரிகளே, நண்பர்களே திருஅவையின் 159ம் அண்டின் நிறைவிலும் 160ம் ஆண்டின் மலர்விலும் திரு அவை திருப்பணியில் பேருவகை கொள்வதோடு, இறைவனில்

இணைந்துள்ள எமது உள்ளங்கள் ஆன்மாவில் அடையும் ஆத்ம திருப்தியை மானிட வார்த்தைகளில் வர்ணிக்க இயலாது எனது நான்கு வருட திருப்பணியில் என்னோடு இணைந்த உள்ளங்களின் உறவுகள் இன்றும் தொடர்கின்றது. அது அன்பில் வேருன்றி ஆரம்பமானது அதன் ஆழம் வேரே ஆண்டவர் தான்.

அன்பிற்கும் உண்டோ அடைக்குந் தாழ் (திருக்குறள்)

உன்னைப் போல் உன் அயலானையும் நேசி (ஆண்டவர் இயேசுக்கிறிஸ்து)

அன்பாய் இணைந்த நாம் அகிலத்தையே  
அன்பால் ஆழ அழைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளோம்  
அன்பில் அணையா நெருப்பும் இல்லை  
அன்பில் அடங்கா நீரும் இல்லை

எனவே அன்பால் இணைக்கப்பட்ட உள்ளங்கள் கறையற்றவை அவை கடவுளின் பார்வையில் கருணையின் தீபங்கள்.

திரு அவையின் 160ம் ஆண்டை நினைவு கூரும் நீங்கள் ஆன்மாவில் ஆண்டவரோடு அன்பெனும் சுரங்களில் கருணை எனும் கீதங்களால் யாழ் மண்ணிற்கே இறைபற்றை எடுத்துரைக்கும் திருஅவையாய் மிளிரட்டும். யாழிசை குழலிசை, இசையால் அகிலத்தை ஆள்வது போல் அன்பெனும் இறைஇசையால் உங்கள் உள்ளங்கள் அகிலத்தையே ஆழ என் உளம் கனிந்த வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

அன்புடனும், ஆசிகளுடனும்  
அருட் பிதா தோமஸ் ஜோர்ஜ்





## அருட்பணி. லலித் லக்ஷேந்திரகுமாரின் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி



கோப்பாய் வாழ் கிறிஸ்தவர்களின் வழிபாட்டு தலங்களில் தூய கன்னி மரியாளின் ஆலயம் பல தசாப்தங்களாக முன்னிலை வகிக்கின்றது. வரலாற்றில் கல்வியுடன் கிறிஸ்தவ மத விழுமியங்களை கோப்பாய் மக்களுக்கு கிடைக்கச்செய்வதில், மக்களின் ஆன்மீக வழிநடத்ததல்களில் முக்கிய இடம் வகிக்கின்றது. இப் பிரதேச மக்களின் வாழ்வாதார செயற்பாடுகளிலும் இவ் ஆலயம் செல்வாக்கு செலுத்தியதை மனதார நினைவு

கொள்ளுதல் சிறந்தது. இன்னல்கள் நிறைந்த காலப்பகுதியில் மக்களின் ஆறுதல் தளமாக அமைந்ததை மறுக்க முடியாது. என் சிறுவயது முதல் இவ் ஆலயம் பல் வேறு வகைகளில் செல்வாக்கு செலுத்தியுள்ளது. குடும்பமாக ஆலயத்தில் வழிபடும் வழமை இவ் ஆலயத்தில் தொடர்ந்துமிருப்பது சிறப்பாதொன்றாகும்.

கிராமிய வாழ்கை அடித்தளங்களுக்கு குடும்ப வாழ்வின் நிறைவு முக்கியமானது என்பதை எடுத்துக்காட்டும் இறைவனின் ஓர் சிறப்பு இல்லமாக அமைந்துள்ளது என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது. இவ் ஆலயத்தின் மைந்தர்கள் பலர் இன்றும் ஆன்மீகத்திலும், சமயம் சாரா பல தொழிற்துறைகளிலும் சிறந்து விளங்குகின்றனர். ஆலயத்தின் முகாமைக்குருவுக்கும் காப்பாளர்களுக்கும், திருச்சபையினருக்கும் எனது இறை ஆசீர்வாதங்கள் உரித்தாகட்டும்.

அருட்பணியாளர் ஆ.ல.லக்ஷேந்திரகுமார்  
பிரதேச முதல்வர் - ஊவா மற்றும் கிழக்கு  
கொழும்பு மறைமாவட்டம்



# PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

*Dear Lord, please bless our church today, and as we gather here,  
We ask that You'll prepare our hearts to hear your message clear.*

*Although we are unworthy of Your Holy Name we bear,  
We pray that through our lives the world will feel Your tender care.*

*Anoint our lips to testify of all Your love and grace,  
And use our hands to aid each needy person that we face.*

*Help us to be responsive to the Spirit's still, small voice,  
And may the way of Godliness be always our first choice.*

*Equip us with Your armor for the battles that we fight,  
And give us strength and courage as we walk the path of light.*

*Increase our understanding of the Scripture that we read,  
And help us not grow weary as we scatter precious seed.*

*We pray our church will always be a beacon to all men,  
Proclaiming truth and righteousness till Jesus comes again.*



## ஆலய செயலாளரின் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

பரி. கன்னி மரியாள் ஆலயம் தனது 160ம் ஆண்டு நிறைவை கொண்டாடுவதையிட்டு நான் மிகவும் மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன். ஆங்கிலேய மிஷனரிமாரின் வருகையின் விளைவாக பல்வேறு கிறிஸ்தவ ஆலயங்கள் ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்டன. அவ் ஆலயங்களிலே அங்கிலிக்கன் மிஷனரிமார் ஸ்தாபித்த கோப்பாய் பரி. கன்னி மரியாள் ஆலயமும் ஒன்றாகும். அவ் ஆலயம் இப்பொழுது தனது 160 வது ஆண்டை எட்டியுள்ளது.

பரி. கன்னி மரியாள் ஆலயத்தைப் பொறுத்தவரை பல சவால்களை சந்தித்து புதுப் பொலிவுடன் தலை நிமிர்ந்து உள்ளது. இதற்கு அக்காலங்களில் கடமையாற்றிய குருமார்கள் பல சவால்களை எதிர் கொண்டு அவற்றிற்கு சாதாரியமாக முகம் கொடுத்ததேயாகும். இராணுவ நடவடிக்கை மற்றும் அனர்த்தம் காரணமாக ஆலயம் சேதமடைந்தது. மின்னலினால் ஆலய கோபுரம் இரு தடவை சேதமானது. பொருளாதாரத் தடை, போக்குவரத்து தடை, விலைவாசி என பல இன்னல்கள் நிலவிய காலத்தில் புனர்நிர்மாணம் செய்வதென்பது இலகுவான காரியமல்ல, சபைக்குருவும் ஆலய நிர்வாகத்தினரும் தடைகளின் மத்தியில் மனம் தளராது செயற்பட்டதனாலும், வெளிநாடுகளில் உள்ள சபை அங்கத்தவர்களினது அன்பளிப்புடனும் உள்ளூர் அங்கத்தவர்களின் உதவியுடனும் புனர்நிர்மாணம் செய்யப்பட்டது. இதுவரை காலமும் இவ் ஆலயத்தில் பணியாற்றிய குருமார்களுக்கும் பணியாளர்களுக்கும் சபையின் சார்பில் நன்றியைத் தெரிவிக்கிறேன்.

**தரு. க. ஞானோதயன்**

**செயலாளர்**





## பரி. கன்னிமரியாள் ஆலய பாலர் பாடசாலை பொறுப்பாசிரியரின் செய்தி

ஒரு மனிதனின் உடல் உள வளர்ச்சியின் ஆரம்பத்திற்குப் பாலர் பாடசாலைகள் பெரும் பங்களிப்பைச் செய்து வருகின்றன. இவ்வாறான பங்களிப்பைச் செய்யும் பாலர் பாடசாலைகள் மத்தியில் கோப்பாய் பரி. கன்னிமரியாள் பாலர் பாடசாலை முக்கிய இடத்தை வகிக்கின்றது. இப் பாலர் பாடசாலை 1983ம் ஆண்டு ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. இவ் பாடசாலை கோப்பாய் மத்தியில் அமைந்துள்ள பிரபல்யமான பாடசாலையாகும். இது பரி. கன்னிமரியாள் தேவாலய வளவுக்குள் அமைந்துள்ளது.

இம் முன்பள்ளியில் ஏறத்தாழ இருபது பாலர்கள் தற்பொழுது கல்வி கற்றுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இச் சிறார்களை இரண்டு ஆசிரியர்களும் ஒரு பொறுப்பாசிரியருமாக வழிபடுத்திக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இங்கு ஆண்டு தோறும் விளையாட்டுப் போட்டியும் ஒளி விழா போன்ற நிகழ்வுகள் சிறார்களின் திறமையை வளர்த்துக் கொள்ள நிகழ்த்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றமையுடன் வகுப்பறையில் பிள்ளைகளின் ஆக்கத்திறன் செயற்பாடுகளும் வளர்க்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. இங்கு கல்வி பயிலும் சிறார்கள் சிறு வயதிலேயே ஆசிரியர்களின் வழிகாட்டலில் சிறந்த ஒழுக்க விழிமியங்களைக் கடைப்பிடித்து வருகின்றனர்.

இத்தகைய பணிகளைச் செய்து வரும் இப் பாலர் பாடசாலை இங்கு கல்வி பயிலும் ஒவ்வொரு சிறாற் களையும் பள்ளிப் பருவத்திற்குச் செல்வதற்காக ஒரு பூரணமான தயார் படுத்தலைச் செய்கின்றது என்ற ரீதியில் கோப்பாய் கிராமத்தில் பெருமை அடைந்து நிற்கின்றது.

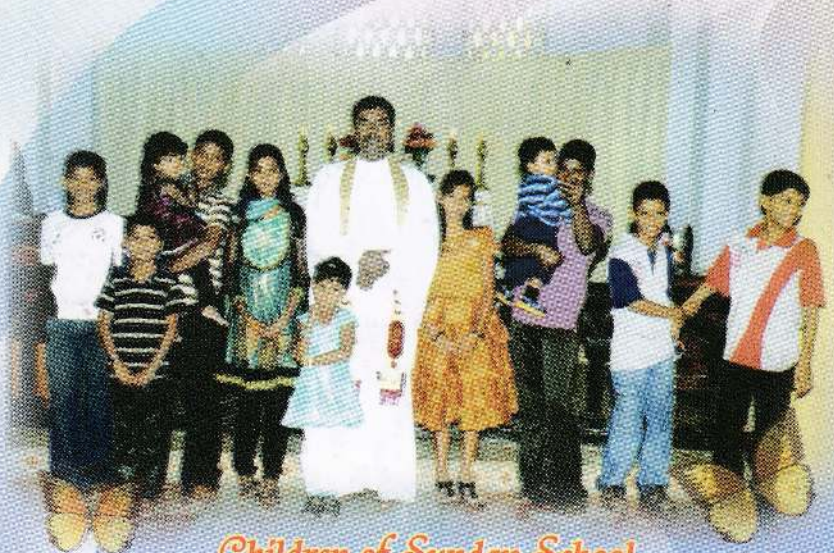
த்குமதி. ச. ஆறுமுகவழுவேல்  
பொறுப்பாசிரியர்







*Board of Wardens - 2012*



*Children of Sunday School*







*Youth Fellowship of St. Mary's Church*



*Mothers Union of St. Mary's Church*



# *160th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 8th January 2012 at 8.00 am*









## Church Jokes

### Sleeping in church

A man sobering up from the night before is sitting through the Sunday sermon, finding it long and boring. Still feeling hung over and tired, he finally nods off. The priest has been watching him all along, noticing his apparent hangover and is disgusted. At the end of the sermon, the preacher decides to make an example of him. He says to his congregation, "All those wishing to have a place in heaven, please stand." The whole room stands up except, ofcourse, the sleeping man. Then the preacher says even more loudly, "And he who would like to find a place in hell please STAND UP!" The weary man catching only the last part groggily stands up, only to find that he's the only one standing. Confused and embarrassed he says, "I don't know what we're voting on here, Father, but it sure seems like you and me are the only ones standing for it!"

### Mark 17

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17.

Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

### Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God

After a very long and boring sermon the parishoners fled out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" The pastor was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why." "Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"





## 159th Anniversary Celebration







*Congregation of St. G.*







*Mary's Church, Kopy*







## **A Short History of St. Mary's Church, Ropay**

When the Dutch took possession of the Island of Ceylon in the seventeenth Century, they forced the inhabitants to forsake idolatry and to accept Christianity. Churches were built in every district to the people were compelled to attend services in those churches and to receive the rite of Baptism without which no native would possess a title to land or obtain Government employment. This system of compulsion not only failed in its objects or making the people Christians, but also embittered their minds against Christianity.

After the British conquest of Ceylon in 1796, there was a period of religious indifference. Consequently, churches were allowed to fall into decay, and no provision was made for spiritual needs of the people. And the result was that most of the people of the country who had been compelled to profess Christianity, forsook the faith and relapsed into their former religious, and the foreign missionary was looked upon with great suspicion and even hated.

It was when the country was in this condition; the missionaries of the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S) came to evangelize the Island. The C.M.S was formed on the 12th April 1799, three years after the surrender of Colombo to British Crown; and Ceylon was one of the first fields to which C.M.S sent their missionaries. The six pioneer missionaries, four men and two ladies of the society for Ceylon left England on the 20th Dec. 1817 in a ship "Vittoria", arrived at point de Galle on the 29th June 1818, have taken 200 days for the journey from England to Ceylon. Soon after their arrival, one of





them, the first C.M.S Missionary, the Rev. Joseph Knight, born at Stroud on October 17, 1787, who was ordained by Bishop Ryder of Gloucester, came over to Jaffna in November 1818 and commenced evangelistic work at Nellore.

From this year on words, Nellore became the mission station for the C.M.S Missionaries to do evangelistic work in places like Nellore, Chundikuli, Kopay, Kokuvil, Pallai, Uduthurai, Vanni and Vavuniya.

In 1847 the first Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. Dr. James Chapman visited Jaffna. His Lordship held two confirmation services, first ever held in Jaffna; one was at St. John's Church, Chundikuli in English where 56 candidates were confirmed, and the other was at Nellore in Tamil where the candidates were 57.



In 1949, Copay was made (adopted as) a separate Mission District. Of the Christians previously were members of Nellore Church seven belonged to Copay and these formed the nucleus of the new church there.



When it was decided to form Copay into a separate mission station, it was found necessary to build a new church. The Government Agent of the province Mr. P. A. Dyke, kindly gave a piece of land of about five acres belonging to him as a site for the new church and a residence for the missionary. The foundation stone of the new church was laid on the Society's Jubilee Day, 1st November 1849 and another source says it was on 9th May 1850. The Rev. Robert Pargiter, who came to Ceylon in 1844 under the Wesleyan Missionary Society and joined the C.M.S the following year and was ordained in 1847, was then in charge of the station, had soon to leave it to take Chundikuli station.





The inconvenience of holding services in a temporary church necessitated the laying of the foundation stone of a new Church. The completed building was pronounced and publically opened for worship of the one and true living God on the 9th of January 1852, costing about 400 pounds. The money was raised by the Ceylonese, friends from England and the parent committee in England.



*Opening Day*

On the opening Day, 9th January 1852, despite the very wet weather, several turned up from villages quite distant from Copay. At the service 3 adults were baptized. The first service was at 8.45 am. The second service started at 12. 30 pm.

The different parts of the services were read by Messrs. Pargiter, Bren (wife of Rev. Robert Bren who arrived at Copay in 1849 and returned to England in 1858) and Arndt (wife of Rev. J. C. Arndt, the first colonial chaplain ministered in the Dutch Presbyterian Church in the fort (1843-1863)).

Rev. James O'Neill (1846 - 1855) who was in charge of the work in Nellore, who enlarged and beautified the St. James's Church Nellore and constructed also the present beautiful tower of 60 feet height to serve as the church belfry, preached a very



*The Holy Table*

appropriate sermon from Haggai 1:8. 'Go up to the mountain and bring wood, and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified' says the Lord. 130 persons participated in the Holy Communion. The Chalice and Pattern finished in silver were presented by Rev. James O'Neill, who was ordained in 1846 and Mrs. O'Neill. The Holy table and the two chairs were the gifts of the women of the congregation. The missionary meeting of the afternoon was postponed on account of the bad weather and it was held in the 19th January.





In the evening at 6.30 a service was held in English. Many of the European residents, including a Wesleyan missionary, were present. The Rev. Robert Pargiter officiated and also preached on the text taken from Ps 38: 7 & 8 "I am burning with fever and I am near to death. I am worn out and utterly crushed: My heat is troubled, I grown with pain."



REV. J. HENSMAN

The Rev. Robert Bren, who was ordained as Deacon in 1885 and wrote 'Christianity and Hinduism Compared' in Tamil, arrived at Copay in 1849 and returned to England in 1858. In 1853, the Copay Training Institution for catechists, readers and teachers was opened. In September 1863 a most important step was taken by the C.M.S. towards the establishment of the Native Church. The Head

Catchiest Mr. John Hensman was ordained deacon by the Second Bishop of Colombo, Rev.Rt. Dr.Piers Calverly Claughton and was made priest two years later. He was one of the first pupils of the Nellore English Seminary. After his ordination, he was posted to Copay. He was thus the first Tamil Clergyman to be placed in charge of a CMS congregation. The Rev. J. Hensman was a most energetic and enthusiastic worker till his death in 1884. The experiment made with Rev. J.Hensman of placing a Tamil congregation in charge of a



Rt. Rev. Piers  
Calverly Claughton  
Second Bishop of Colombo  
1862 - 1871

Tamil clergyman having proved successfully and other Catechists, Messrs.T.P.Handy, G.Champion and E.Hoole were ordained as Deacons in 1865 and subsequently as priests in 1870.

During the decade 1858-1868, the congregations of the three Districts (Nellore, Chundikuli and Kopay) appear to have more established in character and shown greater signs of vitality by number of members increasing steadily.

In 1868, when the Jubilee of the mission (C.M.S) was celebrated, the statistics of the mission were, two European missionaries, four Tamil clergy, ten catechist, three readers,





thirty four schoolmasters, ten schoolmistresses, one bible woman, one colporteur, 677 Christians, 237 communicants, nineteen boys' schools with 961 pupils and seven girls' schools with 397 girls.

In September 7, 1870, the Bishop, Dr. Piers Claughton visited the Mission and held his visitation in St. John's Church, Chundikuli and in the afternoon a confirmation was held at Copay where thirty candidates were presented, and the Bishop afterwards visited the English School and Training Institution. After sunset he attended a moonlight meeting two miles from Copay, and at 9.0'clock returned to Nellore.

In 1871, the Rev. David Wood, who was ordained in 1869, wrote the "Brief History of Prayer book" in Tamil was removed to Colombo for a time and Rev. J. Hensman took oversight of the Copay Training Institution.



In 1901, Mr. Charles Wadsworth, whose name will be long remembered with affection and esteem, especially at Copay, where he worked for forty years as Head Master of the Training Institution, was called to rest. A large hall was built at Copay as memorial to him and is known as the 'Wadsworth Memorial Hall.' The foundation stone was laid by the Fifth Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Ernest Arthur Copleston, and on July 10, 1912, the hall was opened by him.

In 1903, the Rev. Charles Tissaverasingam Williams, who was ordained in 1896, left Copay to work at Anuradapura, and Rev. Arulpragasam. Matthias, who was ordained in 1898 succeeded him, who had spent thirty one years in Vavuniya. In 1909, Rev. William John Hanan, who was ordained in 1897 moved to Copay in order better to supervise the training Institution.

Rev. A. Matthias commenced branches of the Cleaners' Union and the Y.M.C.A. in his pastorate. In 1915, he retired from Incumbency of Copay pastorate and his last report says, "The Christians number 373, communicants 161 and vernacular schools thirteen with 919 scholars. The starting of the



‘Christian Union’ helped the congregation.” The Rev. C. T. Williams was appointed pastor on the retirement of the Rev. A. Matthias in 1915. In this way many other clergymen toiled and laboured at St.Mary’s Church, Copay from 1915 to the present days. The detail of the list is shown in this souvenir for easy reference.

In 1950, the Christians previously were members of St.Mary’s Church, Copay belonged to Urumpirai formed the nucleus of the new church there and became a separate church as Holy Emmanuel Church, Urumpirai.



To mark the 160th anniversary of the church, on 9th January 2012, a thanksgiving service was held on 8th January at 8.00 am. There were about 250 participated from various congregation of the Anglican churches in Jaffna.

The vicar Rev.Dr.E.J.Jebaratnam preached the sermon on the history of the St.Mary’s Church, briefing the vision and mission of the church at Copay. Ven.S.P.Nesakumar, Archdeacon of Uva, Upcountry & East officiated the Holy Communion service. Rev.N.J.Gnanaponrajah, Vicar of St. James’ Church, Nellore, Rev.I.Dixon, Assistant Curate of St. James’ Church, Nellore, and Rev.N.J.Gnanakaruniyan, Vicar of Holy Emmanuel, Urumpirai and Holy Trinity, Kokuvil assisted the service. After the service, cassock materials were presented to the clergymen as a token of appreciation for their services to the church. Soon after that, all who present on that day participated in the fellowship meal. With that the celebration came to an end.

During the past 160 years of service, the church has faced many challenges and difficulties by nature and human violence to keep and maintain the values of the Kingdom of God at Copay and the community at large. Even keeping all these

uncertainties in their minds, the members of the church are here in Sri Lanka and in abroad, continued their tireless support to keep the standard of the faith and the life of the church at Copay. Normal routine of the life of the church is going on; the







*New Vicarage*

Nursery school which was stated in 1983 is carrying its service to the community around Copay. Mothers' Union, Youth fellowship and the Sunday school are doing their part for the development of spiritual life of the church. The church has built a new vicarage for the vicar in 2009 with the help of the members of the church. At the same time, with the aid of the Board of Social Responsibility for the Diocese of Colombo, two new houses were built for two poor families at Copay.

*Two New Houses*



*Old Vicarage*

The civil war has cost a lot in the life of the church; Most of the long standing members have left Copay and gone to the other parts of the country and to

abroad. The old vicarage and the small chapel in the graveyard were completely damaged during the 1995 civil war which has to be repaired and renovated. The present strength of the congregation is 60. With these, the present church is rich enough in its welfare and in the growth of its spiritual life.



*Small Chapel in the Graveyard*



*Present Congregation*

We hope and pray that St.Mary's Church, Copay would prove to be a tower of strength and help to the people at large in its growth and service for the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom in Jaffna.

**Rev.Dr.Edward J. Jebaratnam**  
Vicar  
St.Mary's Church  
Kopay.





## *A Letter From Jesus*

*Dear Friend,*

*How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love you and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with Me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you - and I waited. You never came. Oh yes, it hurt me - but I still love you because I am your friend. I saw you fall asleep last night and longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight upon your face and pillow. Again, I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awakened late and rushed off to work without ever thinking of Me, and I still love you. My tears were in the rain.*

*Today you looked so sad - so all alone. It makes My heart ache because I understand. My friends let Me down too and hurt Me many times, but I love you. Oh, if you would only listen to Me! I LOVE YOU! I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colours of flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest want or need that you will ever have. Oh, if you only knew how much I want to walk and talk with you. We could spend an eternity together in heaven. I know how hard it is on this earth. I really know! And I want to help you. I want you to know my father. He wants to help you too. My father is the way, you know. Just call Me - ask Me - talk with Me! Oh, please don't forget Me. I have so much to share with you! All right, I won't bother you any further. You are free to choose or reject Me. It is your decision. I have chosen you and because of this, I will wait - because I LOVE YOU!*

*Your Friend,  
Jesus,*

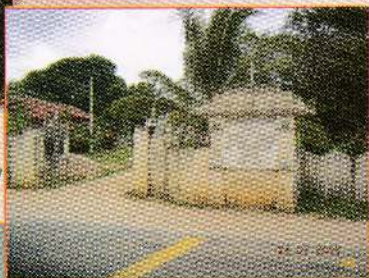


*'Upon this rock I will build my church and  
the gates of hell shall not prevail against it'*

*Mathew 16:18*



*The front view of the Church*



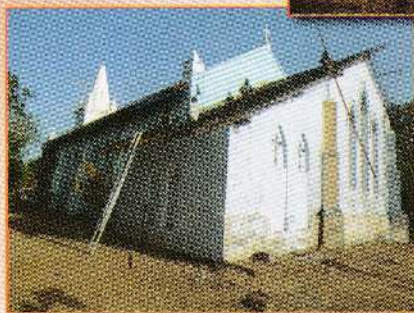
*The road side view*



*The Church tower*



*The inside view*



*The back view of the church*



*The side view  
of the church*



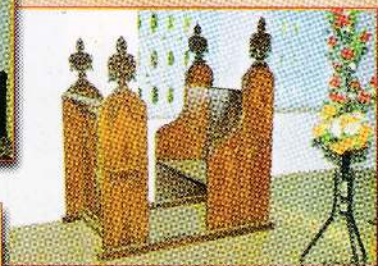








*The Church Altar*



*Bishop's Chair*

*Vicar's  
Chair  
&  
Table*



*The pulpit*



*The Choir Seats*



*The Book Shelf*



*The  
Lectern*



*The Baptismal  
Font*



## Christian Alphabet

*A*lthough things are not perfect  
*B*ecause of trial or pain  
*C*ontinue in Thanksgiving  
*D*o not begin to blame  
*E*ven when the times are hard  
*F*ierce winds are bound to blow  
*G*od is forever able  
*H*old on to what you know  
*I*magine life without *H*is love  
*J*oy would cease to be  
*K*eept thanking *H*im for all the things  
*L*ove imparts to thee  
*M*ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
*N*o weapon that is known  
*O*n earth can yield power  
*P*raise can do alone  
*Q*uit looking at the future  
*R*edeem the time at hand  
*S*tart every day with worship  
*T*o thank is a command  
*U*ntil we see him coming  
*V*ictorious in the sky  
*W*e'll run the race with gratitude  
*X*alting God's Most High  
*Y*es, there will be good times, and yes some will be bad, but...  
*Z*ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad.





## IN THE SERVICE OF THE DIOCESE OF COLOMBO A LIST OF THOSE WHO SERVED EPISCOPAL JURISDICTION IN CEYLON

1. 16.2.1796 - 1818 *Lord Bishop of London*
2. 1818 - 1835 *Metropolitan Bishop of Calcutta*
3. 1835 - 1845 *Bishop of Madras*
4. 7.11.1845 *First Bishop of Colombo installed in the Presiding Seat*

### BISHOPS OF COLOMBO

1. 1845 - 1861 *James Chapman*
2. 1862 - 1871 *Piers Calverly Claughton*
3. 1872 - 1875 *Hugh Willoughby Tormyn (later Primus of Scotland)*
4. 1876 - 1902 *Reginald Stephen Copleston (translated to Cukutta as Metropolitan)*  
8.7.1886 *Independent Synodical Administration in the Church of Ceylon*
5. 1903 - 1924 *Ernest Arthur Copleston*
6. 1924 - 1938 *Mark Rudolph Carpenter - Garnier*  
1.3.1930 *Autonomous Province of India, Burma & Ceylon*
7. 1938 - 1947 *Cecil Douglas Hoeseley*
8. 1948 - 1964 *Archibald Rollo Graham-Campbell*
9. 1964 - 1971 *Charles Harold Wilfred De Sopsa, First Sri Lankan Bishop*
10. 1971 - 1977 *Cyril Linden Abeynatke*
11. 1978 - 1987 *Swithin Watson Fernando*
12. 1987 - 1992 *Iabez Sebasir Smanapragasam*
13. 1992 - 2001 *Kenneth Michael James Fernando*
14. 2001 - 2011 *Duleep Kamil de Chickera*
15. 2011 - *Dhiloraj Ranjith Cananagasabay*

### ASSISTANT BISHOP IN COLOMBO

1. 1945 - 1950 *Aliphanirundu Lakdasa Jacob De Mel*
2. 2.2.1950 *First Bishop of Kurunegala installed and enthroned*

### BISHOPS OF KURUNEGALA

1. 2.2.1950 - 1962 *Aliphanirundu Lakdasa Lakdasa Jacob De Mel (Metropolitan 1962 - 1970)*
2. 1962 - 1983 *Cyril Lakshman Wickremasinghe*
3. 1984 - 2000 *Andrew Oliver Kumarge*
4. 2000 - 2010 *Kumara Bandara Samuel Allangasinghe*
5. 2011 - *Grey Shantha Kumar Francis*



## *Bishops of Colombo*



**1**



**2**



**3**



**4**



**5**



**6**



**7**



**8**



**9**



**10**



**11**



**12**



**13**



**14**



**15**





## ARCHDEACONS OF JAFFNA

1. 1925 -1935 Ven. Francis Lorenz Beven
2. 1937-1940 Ven. Eric Horace Denper
3. 1941-1969 Ven. John Abraham Richard Navaratnam
4. 1969 -1978 Ven. Gabez Gebasir Snanapragasam
5. 1978 -1988 Ven. Samuel Devathasan Horshington
6. 1988 -1995 Ven. Donald Sepapalan Kanagaratnam
7. 1995 -2001 Ven. Joseph Sarvananthan
8. 2002 -2011 Ven. Selliah Philip Nesakumar
9. 2012 - Ven. Samuel Sepanthikumar Sepaveerasingan

## LIST OF CLERGY SERVED AT ST.MARY'S CHURCH, KOPAY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1847-1848 Rev. Robert Pargiter                 | 1969- 1974 Rev. Alfred Chinnappah Thuraiarajah |
| 1849-1858 Rev. Robert Bren                     | 1975- 1982 Rev. Isaac Selvaratnum              |
| 1859-1863 Rev. Robert Pargiter                 | 1983- 1984 Rev. Ananandakumar Anandanapogam    |
| 1863 Rev. John Hensman                         | 1985- 1987 Rev. Separatnam Norman Sepachandran |
| 1864 Rev. Henry Dixon Buswell                  | 1988- 1990 Rev. Edward Arumugam Separajah      |
| 1865-1869 Rev. John Hensman                    | 1991- 1992 Rev. Edward Gebamohan Sebaratnam    |
| 1870-1871 Rev. David Wood                      | 1994 - 1995 Rev. Selliah Philip Nesakumar      |
| 1872 Rev. Thomas Good                          | 1995 Rev. C. Dilrukshan T. Joseph              |
| 1873 Rev. John Hensman                         | 1996-1998 Rev. Selliah Philip Nesakumar        |
| 1874 Rev. William Edwards Rowlands             | 1999- 2001 Rev. Thomas George                  |
| 1875- 1884 Rev. John Hensman                   | 2002- 2003 Rev. Edward Gebamohan Sebaratnam    |
| 1885-1891 Rev. John Niles                      | 2004- 2005 Ven. Selliah Philip Nesakumar       |
| 1892 Rev. Charles Chelliah Handp               | 2006- Rev. Dr. Edward Gebamohan Sebaratnam     |
| 1893- 1896 Rev. Kathiresar George Daniel       |  |
| 1896- 1899 Rev. Charles Tisserasingam Williams |  |
| 1900 Rev. Hugh Horsley                         |  |
| 1901 Rev. Kathiresar George Daniel             |  |
| 1902 Rev. Charles Tisserasingam Williams       |  |
| 1903- 1916 Rev. Arulpragasam Matthias          |  |
| 1917- 1926 Rev. Charles Tisserasingam Williams |  |
| 1927- 1935 Rev. Samuel Chelvanapogam Daniel    |  |
| 1936- 1944 Rev. Samuel Sinnathurai Richard     |  |
| 1955 Rev. A. B. Kanagaratnam                   |  |
| 1956- 1968 Rev. A. E. K Lewis                  |  |





## Archdeacons of Jaffna



*Ven. Francis Lorenz  
Beven*



*Ven. John Abraham Richard  
Navaratnam*



*Ven. Jabez Sebasir  
Inanapragasam*



*Ven. Sam  
D. Horshington*



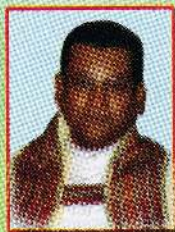
*Ven. Donald Sepapalan  
Kanagaratnam*



*Ven. Joseph  
Sarvananthan*



*Ven. Selliah Philip  
Nésakumar*



*Ven. Samuel Jeyanthkumar  
Jeyaveerasingan*





# Pictorial



*First baptism record  
of our church*



*The first dag cover which has the  
picture of our church*



*Destruction of old vicarage during the war 1995*



*Construction of new vicarage*



*New vicarage 2009*



*While rehabilitation  
of the church 2010*



*Renovated parish hall*



*Damaged parish hall  
1995*





*The burial ground in the churchyard*



*The cemetery in 'Rasapathai'*



*A gathering in front of the new vicarage before opening*



*Blessing of the new vicarage by Ven. S. P. Nésakumar*



*Opening of new vicarage by Mrs. R. I. N. Panchathirusingam*



*Present pre school kids with their teachers*



*Pre school kids in 2000*



*Rev. Dr. E. I. Sebaratnam with his wife & daughter*







*Vicar & Server  
during a Sunday service*



*Our new Archdeacon's  
visit on  
Harvest festival  
thanksgiving service  
2012*

*Bishop's  
visit  
2011*



*Adult baptism 2012*



*Bishop Duleep de Chickera  
addressing to the congregation  
2004*



*Our vicar with the cow*



*A fellowship breakfast during  
Rev. George's time*







*Farewell to Rev. & Mrs. T. George*



*Bishop  
Kenneth Fernando's  
visit - 1999*



*A wedding  
on 24th April, 1964*



*A  
concert in 1988*



*Sunday school children & teachers with  
Rev. E. A. Ieparajah in 1988*



*Mr. & Mrs.  
Victor & Molly  
Daniel  
the eldest members  
now living in  
Australia*



*Rev. S. S. Richard,  
wife & daughter  
(incumbent 1936 - 1944)*



*Rev. Samuel Chevanayaham  
Daniel  
(incumbent 1927 - 1935)*





*It is with great pleasure that we the compilers of this souvenir have worked to put together this book in honour of the monumental occasion, The 160th anniversary celebration of St. Mary's Church, Koday.*

*What was achieved in the past is more than history, it is a call for our commitment to carry the torch and continue the race. We must continue to hold the torch of hope and love.*

*On behalf of the community of St. Mary's Church, Koday, we thank you all who send the messages of greetings*

*We are very thankful to Rev. Dr. E. J. Jebaratnam for his encouragement support and for providing the impetus towards the making of this souvenir.*

*We also thank those who send contributions from all over the world when we needed financial assistance.*

*As the compilers of this souvenir, we express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the staff of Mathy Colour Printers in making this souvenir a memorable one.*

*We hope that you have enjoyed reading this book as much as we have enjoyed working on it. It has truly been a blessing.*

*We dedicate this souvenir to those who have given their time and lives in service in this church.*

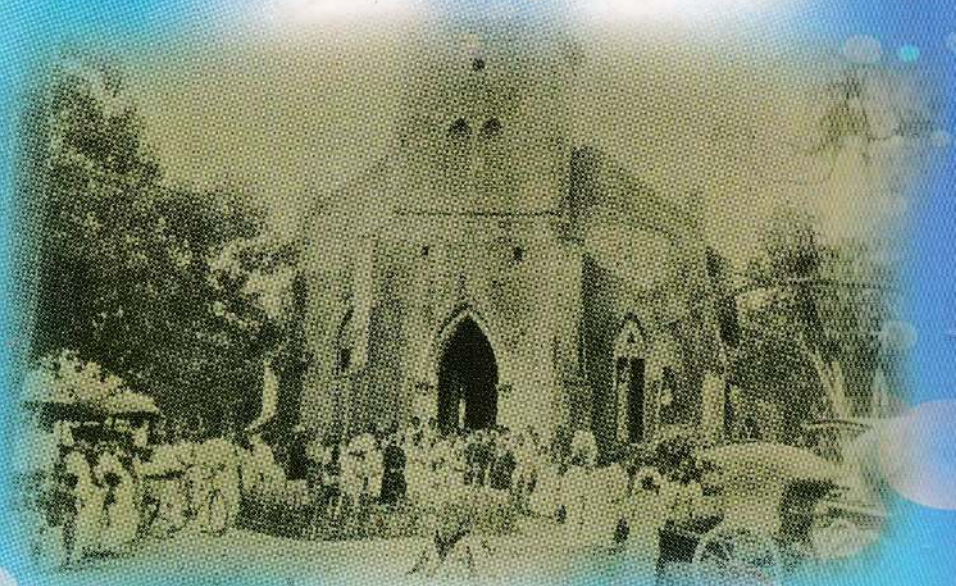
*To God be all Glory & Honour.*

*Compilers*



Gunnarsson master G.H.





**Foundation Stone Laid on  
09.05.1850**

**Building Inauguration of the Church on  
09.01.1852**

**Cost of Building of the Church  
£400**