

## Golden memories

Putney Church was started by the late Revd Arasaratnam in Putney Methodist Church in 1972.

Amazingly, the Church was started with 10 people in the Putney Methodist Church at our first gathering, but the church grew and grew into 200-300 or more numbers for special services during Christmas and other festive services, by the immense grace of God.

All our founder members honoured what God had blessed and worked towards bringing people into the Putney Church. My husband, the late Mr Jela Selvarajasingham, was one among them who used to pick up people from different homes to worship together with us. Members understood one another's needs and generously came forward to help each other. When people were brought from Srilanka as Nurses, they were encouraged to join the Putney Church as newcomers to Britain. The Putney Church was friendly and very supportive to the newcomers from Srilanka as they settled in London.

Obviously, the number of the congregation increased. The "Fellowship Tea" was given after the worship services by volunteers. Worshippers were always very generous in their giving to support the church.

One of the things I remember, as people sometimes remind me, "Akka, you and Jela Annan only, helped us to marry." This encourages me to realise how Putney church was a channel of building families in a foreign land. Many marriage proposals were promoted through the congregation members too. I know from my house many couples went out as bride and bridegroom because of our life with Putney Church. I never forget faithful people like the late Ranjit and Vathany Thangaiah, Guru and Subitha Arasaratnam, Jeyarajah and Padmini, Sam Anna and Indira, the late Psakkiam Perinbarajah and Punitha Perinbarajah, Thanju, the late Suguna Ghandi and Devi Ghandi and others who helped in supporting this work.

We were blessed by the late Revd Arasaratnam and all ministers until now. My brother Revd Wesley Ariarajah was the second minister in the Putney Church. His marriage was also held in Putney church. Many people were married and many were baptised in the Putney church.

We never forget all our 9 ministers including our present minister Revd Jessie Anand and Pothagar Revd SA Asir Anand for their ministry with us. My husband Jella was a Communion Steward from 1972 to 2012 (40 years).

When the late Revd Jacob and Mrs. Jacob were with us they worked hard to solve many problems during which some of our members left the church and started a new Tamil Church in London. When the late Revd Barnabas Alexander was working with us, due to His vision we started worshipping in 3 different worshipping Centres such as South Harrow Methodist Church, United Reformed Church at Hounslow and River Court Methodist Church at Hammersmith.

I praise God for all members and ministers for their faithfulness to the Putney Church, which is now called the London Tamil Christian Congregation

I can write more and more but I stop here as God's deeds are endless and very beautiful at the right time! I thank God He has given me the time to celebrate His wonderful deeds in the Golden Jubilee!

With love

Leela Selvarajasingham (Leela Akka, Leela Aunty)

One of the Founder members

21st June 2022

