

Inward Letters

CORRESPONDENCE - 2017

Fr.Nihal Fernando has sent us the following email on November 24 ,2017

Dear old boys

May I take opportunity to thank each and everyone one of you for paying your last respect to my father in law,late Mr.Shelton Perera and extending your support in numerous ways.

Thank you for showing your solidarity at this moment of sorrow and grief.

Thank you for supporting me in cash and kind.

May you all be blessed! Sorry if I did not thank you personally.

I invite you for the Almsgiving on Sunday the 26th of November 2017 at my residence at Bird Park Corner,Madiwela,Kotte from 12 noon onwards.

Yours sincerely,

Fr.Nihal Fernando,Chintha Fernando and the family

Ananda Amaranath has sent us the following email on November 9 ,2017

Rajan was my team mate in an unbeaten STC 1st Eleven Hockey team in1964. He was the Goalie. Fond memories. RIP Rajan.

Ananda

Sriyan jayasekera has sent us the following email on November 9 ,2017

To The DSA Era Group,

It is with much sadness we note the following deaths and give below the funeral details.

Our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the family members.

Rajan Yatawara, Former Chairman, Hayleys Group.

Rajan Yatawara, brother of the late Joe Yatawara who was also a school prefect, passed away.

Cortege leaves residence 39, Kawiratne Place, [Pamankada, Colombo 6](#) at 3.30 p.m. on Friday 10th of November. Cremation at Borella Cemetery.

Ana Medonza has sent us the following email on September 17 ,2017

To The DSA Era Group,

It is with sadness we note the passing away of Oncologist, Dr Sarath Abeykoon. He was attached to the Maharagama, Cancer Hospital for a long time and presently was working for the Ceylinco Cancer Center at Park Road. <http://www.tyretracks.com/showthread.php?t=72>
When he was in School was the Head Prefect in 1971.
Senior Prefect of the Boarding House.
Tent Secretary, Royal Thomian Cricket Match.
Asst Secretary, English Literary and Debating Society.
Represented the College at Hockey, Athletics, Basket Ball and was the Fives Captain.

Wife Lakshmi, is with the daughter in Australia and the funeral details will be on the below link.

May his sansara wanderings will be short and attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana.

With kind regards

Sriyan
on behalf of The DSA Era Group.
<http://www.tyretracks.com/newthread...newthread&f=19>

On Sep 16, 2017 09:15, "Prabodha Kariyawasam" <pdkari@gmail.com> wrote:

Our very dear friend Dr Sarath Abeykoon died in a car crash today.

We still cant believe it's true.

According to what Renga told me,he had gone to his usual Supermarket in Boralesgamuwa & had a blackout there.The Staff there had immediately wanted to get down an Ambulance but he had turned it down & insisted on driving himself.No sooner he had reached the junction a vehicle had slammed into him & it's very likely he had suffered a second blackout at that time & lost control.He had passed away by the time the Ambulance arrived.

Lakshmi & daughter are in Australia & are rushing back.

How cruel this life is for it to happen to the most decent person you could find on this Planet.

Send the message round.

With much sadness.

Kari

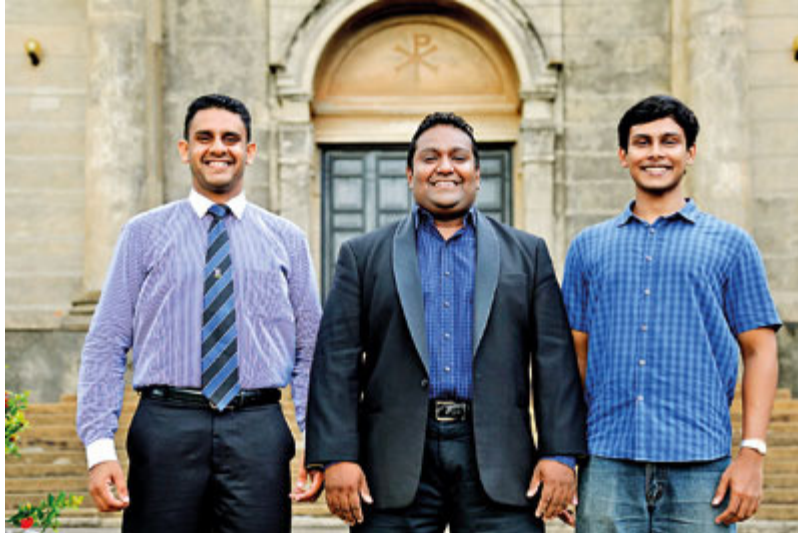
Ana Medonza has sent us the following email on September 4 ,2017

S. Thomas' College celebrates 100 years at Mount Lavinia with song

By Joshua Surendraraj

View(s):

After its move from the dusty neighborhood of Mutwal in 1918, for almost a hundred years, S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia nestled by the side of the beach, has grown throughout the years to become an endearing landmark.



To the men, who are proud to call this school their alma mater, S. Thomas' College has played a major role in their lives. Today they come together, with the present students of the college to showcase 'The Musical Perpetua', a concert which is part of the College's 100 year celebrations since its move to Mount Lavinia. It will take place at the Bishop's College auditorium on September 19, starting at 7.30 pm.

It's after school hours as we make our way past security and into the college grounds. The slight drizzle had left a chill in the air and the lush landscape adds to the pleasant surroundings of the college. It is here that we meet Dyan Fernando, Joy De Alwis and Niran De Mel.

Their age definitely sets them apart, but the one thing they have in common is their Thomian background. "Once you say you're a Thomian, you belong to one family. You just say 'machan you're from college' and that's the beauty of it," Dyan is the first to share. The trio will be showcasing their individual performances alongside, the De Lanerolle brothers, Gananath Dassanayake, the college Western Band, and the lower and middle school choirs.

Over the years, the school had been popular for several things, one of which has always been their choir. As our conversations with Dyan, Joy and Niran indicated, these three individuals had started off their singing back in school. In fact both Dyan and Niran had been choir leaders, during their respective years in the college. It is this training, which pushed them to be who they are today.

"I've never been to a voice trainer or anything like that," Dyan tells us. He began singing in the school choir, since his young days and that developed his voice and also gave him the confidence to speak to a crowd. Today Dyan is an energetic presenter, speaker,

trainer and management consultant. He is also the Warden of Lyceum International School, Nugegoda.



Some of the youngsters who will participate at Musical Perpetua. Pix by M.A Pushpakumara

Dyan's connection with the school goes back to when he was baptized at the College chapel. As we take a trip down memory lane, he also recalls the many fond memories, which he had from school. He says this concert means a lot to him as Thomians "we are very proud of our history and to be a part of it, is a great thing."

He reveals that he plans on dedicating the song 'You Raised me up' to the school, "because it was S. Thomas that raised me up to who I am today."

Unlike Dyan, Joy had never been a part of the school's choir. But that certainly did not stop him from taking part in several school productions, which involved singing, he tells us.

Joy is a banker by profession. He also sings on a professional level at various events as a solo artist and has a few songs of his own.

Joy adds that no matter where he goes in school, there's always fond memory, which hits him. "St Thomas means everything to me," he tells us adding that it's not just a school that teaches you your ABC, rather it gives you personality, recognition and a good name. Now that he has a chance to give back, Joy looks to showcase his take on an Elton John classic and a single by Ed Sheeran, at the show.

Niran is the youngest out of the three and is fresh after completing his degree. He tells us that he is into operatic, classical and gospel solo singing and is currently a part of the Menaka singers, opera ensemble. This is Niran's first show on behalf of the college, which is a "really big deal" for him, because he feels that this is his chance to give back. In his days at St Thomas, Niran was a head prefect and also the choir leader. He shares that the time he spent in the choir and the drama society are his fondest memories from school. "They are what molded me. Be it my education, singing and extracurricular activities. All I am today is because of college and that's why I want to give back."

'Musical Perpetua' promises to be a wonderful celebration of the school's past and present. The music that it has to offer, definitely brings with it a series of treasured memories and endless gratitude which both the young and old generations have towards the College.

Tickets are priced at Rs. 3000, 2500, 2000, 1500, 1000 and 750 (Balcony). They will be available at the Bishops College Auditorium.



Fr.Nihal Fernando has sent us the following email on August 17 ,2017

Dear Lakshman
Kindly give a publicity to this event in 62 website.
Fr.Nihal Fernando

Gentlemen of S. Thomas' at Gurutalawa,

We are celebrating 75 years of our beloved College this year and bow in reverence to Dr. Hayman who provided much of the funds needed apart from the contribution of Mr. Leslie De Saram who donated the land and the esteemed assistance of Warden De Saram. Therefore the development of the College and its very existence depended on philanthropy and generosity, Guru Thomians must continue to repay their nurture fee to their College, modeled in line with a unique College in Scotland, which was not found elsewhere in Sri Lanka.

It is our duty to re-live the Dr. Hayman spirit and give back to our College, as a mark of eternal gratitude, not once but repeatedly within our ability as priority.

The Gurutalawa Thomian Dance this year will be a Fund Raiser with the absolute need to fulfill, of purchasing our own School Bus, which helps the students and College in many ways.

Therefore I respectfully solicit your unfailing generosity to secured donations, using the Official Letter to be formulated in this regard. Let us celebrate our 75th Anniversary by donating towards a priority cause..... YES WE CAN.

It is also as a thanksgiving to our respected Dr. Hayman who came by foot to this Farmland to build a College for future generations and for the solid upbringing given , not forgetting Warden De Saram on this historical year .

Please contact following members for souvenir advertisements

Mr. Athula Talagala - 077 105 3562

Mr. M. A. V. Maddumage - 077 744 3177

Mr. Rajendran Kandiah - 077 012 1700

Mr. Shiraz M. Khan - 077 915 1199

Mr. Leo Sebbastian - 077 733 8113

Mr. M. T. Moorthy - 077 329 0192

Mr. Peter Pereira - 071 417 9745

Thank you very much & Esto Perpetua

Gamini Jayasuriya has sent us the following email on July 14 ,2017

Dear LAKSHMAN,

Thank you for yet another wonderful evening among the old Gurutalawa friends with delicious food to add.

Please find the dinner theatre information below. I have reserved a table for you but please persuade your friends to join.

Meanwhile can you please forward the contact details of our Guru friends to me.

Thanks

GaminiJ

Aluwihara J has sent the following e mail on February 06 , 2017

When the Late Mr. Laffir spotted us and wanted to take the last few shots in his Kodak camera to be sent to Nuwara Eliya to develop the photos.

Looking back, Guru days were happy days....it gave us a complete rounding

Gamini J has sent us the following e mail on February 06 , 2017

“Thank you - yes most welcome!”

Kamal Nilaweera has sent us the following e mail on February 06 , 2017

“Thanks Lucky, for the picture

I am with my pal, OCR Jayasinghe, younger bro of ERV., now resident in Cambodia.

It was on Sunday afternoon both of us were by the pool trying to head for the mulberry tree.

When the Late Mr. Laffir spotted us and wanted to take the last few shots in his Kodak camera to be sent to Nuwara Eliya to develop the photos.

Looking back, Guru days were happy days....it gave us a complete rounding

I am hoping to attend the AGM at Guru on the 18th, mainly to ensure that we get a decent Committee for the next year.

let's keep in touch

Best Rgds to you and yr family”

Kamal

Dan Jinapriya has sent us the following e mail on February 07 , 2017

“Hello Lucky

Of course, I do remember the good old days. Thanks for the photo, even I don't have a copy of it.

Sorry I missed the get together but met a few M P D Perera's place.

All the best”

Dan Jinapriya

Harish Nilaweera has sent us the following e mail on January20, 2017

“My dear Lucky,

I am sorry for the delay in sending this mail but I have been extremely busy with trips out of Colombo including two horrendous drives to Kandy and back on Monday and Tuesday. If I kept a count I must have spent at least 40% percent of my three weeks here on the road!

Any way machang may I thank you and Pradeepa and all members of your family for hosting what was for me a memorable and unforgettable evening. Needless to say you had pulled off all stops and your attention to detail was something to behold. I was delighted and also moved to meet everybody there and in particular Jabir, Sure, Mahen Waidyaratne NGT Rajapakse who I have not seen since the early and mid sixties.

Everything for me was perfect and I thank you once again. It was also good to meet your family including your sister with whom I had a long chat. It was also a pleasure to meet your son and I am grateful for letting me have a copy of his book which I shall read. It will have prominent place in my collection of Sri Lanlan books and which will continue to remind me of our long association not only the two of us but our families spanning at least two generations.

I shall be leaving to UK tonight and shall keep in touch.

Finally my best wishes to you Pradeepa the girls.”

Yours ever,
Harish

Nihan Wanniarachchi has sent us the following e mail on January 19, 2017

“Dear Lucky,

A little note to thank you profusely, for affording us the opportunity to meet up with our school buddies of the 60’s. Your continuous support in linking all of us dating back to year 2002 is very commendable.

Esto perpetua !”

Wanni

Jurair Hameed Marikar has sent us the following e mail on January 19, 2017

“Dear Lucky

This is to thank you for the lovely dinner you hosted to some of our friends from College. It was really great. We got the opportunity to meet (in some cases) after 50 years !

We have to really thank you for giving us this opportunity. Apart from this, we had a Very enjoyable evening.

It was so great to meet your family too - Son and daughter in law from Hayleys, wife a good friend of Jayanthi. Small world !! I was indeed happy to meet them. Please convey our regards to your family members.

Thanks again for the lovely evening.”

With kind regards,

Jayantha Sellahewa has sent us the following e mail on January 19, 2017

“Thank you Lucky”

Karu Amarasinghe has sent us the following e mail on January 18, 2017

“Hi Laksman

It was a great evenig. Catching up with old friends is always a pleasure.

Thanks for organizing the get together.”

Karu.(Amare)

Nimal Senaratne has sent us the following e mail on January 18, 2017

“Dear Lakshman,

Thank you for the invitation extended and hosting the well organized get together.It was a great pleasure to have met our old buddies after a long time.

Thanking you once again and wishing you all the best”

Nimal (Puncha)

Sunil Watawala has sent us the following e mail on January 17, 2017

“Dear Lakshman,

Tks indeed for the wonderful get together of the Guru oldies whom i met for the first time (some of them) since leaving school. I must also compliment u for the fantastic dinner that u gave us. In fact I was telling my wife and daughter(who is here on a holiday from Australia) of the fabulous dinner.

Not only the dinner but the bites and the deserts as well.

It was truly a fantastic evening and I really enjoyed myself in the company of Guru oldies.”

Regards.

Sunil.

Kamal Nilaweera has sent us the following e mail on January 17, 2017

“Dear Lakshman,

It was a wonderful evening, meeting so many Guru Old Thomians. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and thanks once again for hosting us.”

Rgds

Kamal

Terence Rajapakse has sent us the following e mail on January 17, 2017

“It was a great pleasure to attend your lavish party on the 15th and I am very thankful to you for providing an opportunity to meet up with old college mates after a considerable number of years and some since leaving school.

We all enjoyed the party and exchanged pleasantries with each other. There was a wide array of drinks and food wise ,a very big spread. So Lakshman, I would like to thank you and your family once again for hosting such a lovely event. With best wishes” - Terence Rajapakse

AHM Razeek has sent us the following e mail on January 17, 2017

"Dear Lucky,

Many thanks for the lovely evening get together we had on 15 th. It was indeed a grand do!

Good food, well equipped bar, above all good company. I observed you and your wife to be very generous hosts! It was nice meeting your lovely daughters and handsome son.

Thanks for the book authored by your son and I never knew he was a literary award winner in 2015.

It was almost after 50 odd years I met Haris N and Mahen W. Brian W after almost 20 years !

Why don't you accept the invitation to address the special assembly in June. Most of us will attend. Please re consider. I like to accommodate you and your family (if you want to take them) in Navy Commanders bungalow at Diyatalawa if you decide to attend.

This bungalow is given out to Flag Rank officers and does not cost me anything."

Warm Regards
Razeek

Brian Wicks has sent us the following e mail on January 17, 2017

"Many thanks for coordinating and hosting the event. It was a great evening meeting people after half a century and ending with the College song sung with much gusto!!"

LNDES Jayasooriya has sent us the following e mail on January 16, 2017

"My dear Lakshman,

I write to thank you very much for inviting me for STCG get -together at your residence.

It was very well organized. The food was delicious and we all enjoyed to our heart's content.

Once again let me thank you and your family very much for everything."

Warm Regards
Nihal

(LNDES Jayasooriya)

Gamini J has sent us the following e mail on January 16, 2017

Dear Lakshman,

I wish to thank you for a wonderful evening of camaraderie and exquisite cuisine . You made us feel so much 'at home'. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly mostly delving in to the stories of the past of 54 yrs.

I think you did justice to the occasion in true Royal (Thomian) fashion.

You and family are excellent hosts.

Thank you once again

Esto Perpetua

Gamini J

Kamal Nilaweera has sent us the following e mail on January 13, 2017

“Dear Lakshman,
Thks for the mail and the contents noted.

I will be attending the Dinner hosted by you.

By the way, Jayantha Sellahewa retired British Diplomat who served in Colombo is in Colombo. I mentioned to him about the function.

Should you want to invite him his number is 077 647 3509.”

Rgds
Kamal
077 047 11 90

Terence Rajapakse has sent us the following e mail on January 05, 2017

“I will be attending. Thanks. Wishing you a very happy and a prosperous new year” - Terence Rajapakse

AHM Razeek has sent us the following e mail on January 02, 2017

“Dear Lucky,

Thanks. I was wondering if you would like to invite Mrs. Amerasinghe and Mrs Laffir. If so, I can pass on their contact numbers. My wife is in touch with Christine, her daughter.

Also, is GNR De Silva in your list? He was a day boy, if you remember. He was in UK for a very long time and now settled down in Colombo. I am in touch with him.

A very happy and prosperous New Year to you and your family.”

Regards
Razeek

Sunil Watawala has sent us the following e mail on January 02, 2017

“Lucky let me reconfirm my attendance on the 15th instant.”

Regards.

Sunil W.

B A Mahipala has sent us the following e mail on January 02, 2017

“Thank you LAKSHMAN for organizing a get together -please let me know my contribution apart from my presence”

Regards

Mahi

David Claasz has sent us the following e mail on January 02, 2017

“Dear Lakshman,

Thank you for your e-mail. Best Wishes for the New Year.

I confirm my participation.

Thanks and Best Regards,”
David Claasz.

CORRESPONDENCE – 2016

Gamini Fernando has sent us the following e mail on December28, 2016

“ Dear Lakshman,

I will be pleased to attend the Get together on 15th January 2016.”

Gamini

Kamal Nilaweera has sent us the following e mail on December18, 2016

“Thks Lakshman,
Will check my junk mail folder
Look foreword to catching up
with you on my return”
Regards

Kamal

Kamal Nilaweera has sent us the following e mail on December 16, 2016

“Amare, hi

Thks for yr mail, as mentioned to you earlier I will be travelling on the 19th to Beirut, Zurich and to London.

I will be back only on the 6th of Jan.

Pls pencil me down for the event as I have not seen KLD and others for a long time.

Rgds

Kamal

Lakshman J,

My apologies I have not received yr mail but have now noted the date.”

KN

Karu Amarasinghe has sent us the following e mail on December 16, 2016

“Hi

Mahendra is leaving on the 9th, so he will not be available. However Kamal may be here and he will respond to your

KLDs email- KPerera@starrculinary.com; He is coming to SL on Dec. 27th. Don't know whether he will be free on the 15th.

I am certain that this is going to be a nice get together of guys of our vintage”

Regards

Karu

Karu Amarasinghe has sent us the following e mail on December 09, 2016

“Hi Lakshman

Kamal Nilawera, Bucka (M.U.Liyanage) and KLD Perera also will be in Colombo during this period.

Can forward your mail to them as well

Cheers”

Karu. (Amare)

Philip Jayawardena has sent us the following e mail on December 09, 2016

“Hi Lakshman,

Thanks for your kind invitation but regret that I will not be able to make it.

Have a blast!

Esto Perpetua!"

Philip

Milinda Jayatilaka has sent us the following e mail on February 10, 2016

"Dear Lucky Mama,
Rajindra, who is contesting for one of the two vacancies on the Board of Governors, asked me to forward to you his message to the Old Boys (set out below) with his request that you circulate same.

Hope you can accommodate his request.

Thanks,

Milinda

Milinda Jayatilaka

M: +94.77.7705456

F: +94.11.2885984

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:To strengthen the "Thomian Advantage"

Date:Wed, 10 Feb 2016 13:54:08 +0530

From:rajindra jayasinghe <rajindraj71@gmail.com>

Dear Fellow Old Thomian,

To strengthen the "Thomian Advantage"

The system of electing two OBA representatives to the Board of Governors unfortunately or fortunately obliges candidates to approach the Old Thomian fraternity, not to play trivial politics but rather to disclose and discuss how each candidate will add meaningful value to the Board and ultimately to the College. An informed decision in nominating the OBA's representative to the Board, is essential. More of the same, or alternatively someone who will bring a fresh perspective in to Board level policy making, representing your voice over the next 4 years.

Over the past 165 years STC has produced game-changers in every sphere. Having no sons in College, I would like to bring in a pragmatic and unbiased view as to how we could further strengthen and sustain that 'Thomian Advantage' for generations to come. It's not just a question of how College remains viable, maintaining its established high benchmark but how do we own the continued accolade of sending out men of character and stature into the world.

With a view to strengthening the holistic educational experience I will work with the Board and administration specifically on the following areas;

1. We have a talented and committed faculty. The college is working on upgrading the quality of faculty on a continuous basis. I will work through the Board and with the College's administration to introduce more benchmark practices where visionary 21st century teaching skills will inspire innovative classrooms.

2. A committed and motivated faculty inspired to modern teaching methods, will then in turn ease the pressure the curriculum brings to both students and parents. An environment conducive for a student to find the time and energy towards sports and extra-curricular activities is essential because the spirit of learning that goes beyond the classrooms is the heritage that makes a Thomian, different. The concept of a 'Thomian Advantage' must be *grass rooted* both in our classrooms and on our playing fields.
3. I will also work through the Board of Governors to strengthen and mutually uplift the Thomian branch network by leveraging the synergies of the four schools to create a stronger and wider Thomian fraternity.

Additionally, fundraising must be streamlined. I will work to expedite the current plans of the Board to create a cohesive framework for sustainable funding and financial management where the needs of the schools do not repeatedly exert pressure on the fraternity of Thomians.

An informed, forward thinking plan is my agenda. I look forward to your thoughts and to meet you at College on the 12th of February.

Yours faithfully,

Rajindra Jayasinghe”

The Warden / Hony President, STC OBA, Rev'd Marc Billimoria has sent us the following e mail on February 10, 2016



**Old Boys' Association
S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia**

E-mail: stcmloba@sltnet.lk

Website: www.stcmloba.org

Telephone: 2727607 / 4955047 / 2730420

Hony. President
Rev. M. Billimoria

Vice President
R. Renganathan

Hony. Secretary
Dilshan Jayasuriya

Hony. Treasurer
Shanil Jayasekera

9th February 2016

Dear Fellow Thomians,

Further to my letter to the membership last week I am writing to keep you informed about a decision I have made in terms of the Rules of the Association regarding the six candidates for the two posts of Representatives to the Board of Governors.

I have received numerous requests over the past couple of weeks to allow each candidate to address the Annual General Meeting for 3 to 4 minutes to give a brief introduction to themselves that everyone will know who they are, what they have done for the College in the past and what their vision is were they to be elected. I do not think this is a practice that we should encourage especially when it comes to these two posts and I do not intend allowing same. Nor will I be allowing any members present to make speeches on behalf of candidates during the meeting.

I do acknowledge however, that it is always good for the membership to know exactly who they are voting for, as the two representatives we send to the Board of Governors will be expected to play a crucial role not just on behalf of the OBA but also on behalf of all four schools governed by the Board. As such after meeting all six gentlemen together last evening I have decided to officially send out attached to this letter brief profiles of each of them which the candidates themselves have prepared and forwarded to me, so that the membership will be more than aware of who these gentlemen are and will be able to make an informed choice when casting their votes. Please note that I am sending these profiles out just as they have been received from the candidates with nothing altered or added by me.

I have also informed the other five candidates at our meeting last night that at my insistence Mr Dilshan Jayasuriya will address the Annual General Meeting in his capacity as incumbent Honorary Secretary in presenting the Secretary's Report for the year under review and in the context of the 130th Anniversary of the OBA. Mr Jayasuriya has assured me that he will restrict his speech to the presentation of the Report. The other five candidates have all acceded to this position.

I am also pleased to inform you that there will be no election for the post of Assistant Secretary as one of the two candidates has withdrawn his nomination. Elections will be therefore conducted as per my last message to you only for the two representatives to the Board of Governors and the 10 persons to serve on the executive committee to represent the 30 to 40 age group.

Please refer to my earlier email for further details of the electoral process that will be followed and the guidelines clearly explained therein.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the **AGM on Friday, 12th February 2016 at 6.30 p.m.**

With fraternal greetings to all,

Rev'd Marc Billimoria
Warden/Hony President STCML OBA
