



Church of Scotland

Geneva

Easter 2022



LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Greetings!

When you think about it, over the last two years, you've probably had more emails from the minister, than you've ever had in your life!

I've certainly enjoyed the opportunity to range far and wide, reflect on issues of the moments, changes and developments, explore the life of the congregation as it has risen to extraordinary challenges, and share moments in my own story...like the birth of grand-daughter Eilidh...with people who have become more and more important to me, as the months have gone by. I think we have worked hard to turn negatives into positives – and that enhanced communication has definitely been, for me, one of the positives.

Nonetheless, I am delighted that for many of the congregation, **simply being together** has become the norm again...and that, in so many ways, trumps all the emails in the world...

As we know from our own family experience, or meeting up again with friends, **"live"** has a quality of its own, precious, refreshing and warm. The more we can return to life at the Auditoire pre-Covid, the more we will come to appreciate that!

It was great to read Mary Coupar's article about the Church Away Day...and people who were there, certainly speak of it with great enthusiasm and appreciation...Let's hope we can manage another similar event that brings us together in that informal and bonding way!

And finally...

I like to cheat a little in my approach to Easter!

Although I know how the story ends...or rather how the new beginning begins! I like to **suspend that knowledge**, and feel myself into the timetable of Lent...leading into Palm Sunday... the shattering events of Holy Week culminating in Good Friday, with all its darkness, betrayal, desertion and loss.

That, I agree, is an uncomfortable journey to make...but what it means is that, with something like the same sense of astonishment, wonder and uncertainty...you can experience Easter Day in all its miracle, in the spirit of the first disciples...the element of surprise and shock felt by the followers of Jesus – who were so busy licking their wounds, and facing their failures, they had neither energy nor faith to be anticipating Easter

Sunday...until, pow! It was there...and He was there...and the world was waiting to hear the Good News.

If you haven't done the Holy Week journey for a while...why not make an effort this year to share in the moments that are being offered... to become part of the story...see the incidents, hear the conversations, ask the questions...dare to believe the miracle.

The Programme for Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday is here in the Newsletter. Perhaps we shall meet on the road!?

Love as always

Laurence

HOLY WEEK EVENTS:

MONDAY-THURSDAY this week – Holy Week
Lunch-time meditations on Easter themes –
12.30.p.m.- 1.00 p.m



THURSDAY EVENING 7.30 p.m. Communion for
Maundy Thursday – The Auditoire.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 11.00 a.m. The
Auditoire.



EASTER MORNING: 11.00 a.m. Morning Service

Let Holy Week and Easter be a special time for you as you share in the journey to Calvary and beyond.

Laurence Twaddle is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Holy Week Lunchtime Meetings

Time: Apr 11, 2022 12:30 Amsterdam, Berlin, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna

Every day, until Apr 14, 2022, 4 occurrence(s)

Apr 11, 2022 12:30

Apr 12, 2022 12:30

Apr 13, 2022 12:30

Apr 14, 2022 12:30

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Daily: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEvcu2hrzosH9Flcm203kFIAkBLIPMWxOP-/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtrD4uE9WUthyCRpwMAI_4LPPzmH5dgvp7kBzoUXAAaSXfF-lgHr5PPe_l

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85254911655?pwd=QnVOZ2hWSXArcVRDVfVsd3ZpOTV3dz09>

Meeting ID: 852 5491 1655

Passcode: 534442

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb3UrrRds7>



Church Fair

Plans are taking shape for the much-anticipated return of the Church Fair in November!

The good news is that stall-holders, contributors and others are being recruited, and folks are keen to help! The Pipe Band will be there, along with all the usual stalls and treats!

After two years without a Fair, there is a real appetite for making a success of November's event!

We do still need someone to oversee the evening Ceilidh.

The team that has dealt with the arrangements in the past has moved away and so, the need arises for someone to put together the arrangements for Ceilidh 2022!



If you were wondering what this might involve...the good news is that it is a pretty straightforward process.

The Band has been booked, so that is taken care of!

The Hall is ours for the whole evening, so that is taken care of...

Tickets need to be sold, though that has never been a problem...people love a Ceilidh.

The Bar needs to be arranged and manned/womanned

The hall needs to be set up. with tables and chairs round the edge of the Hall after the Fair...though that is a very simple if physical task.

Food is served at the interval during the evening, and the kitchens are immensely well-equipped. One course has been the norm. In the past everything from curry to salmon...has been the meal of choice. But that is entirely up to the organiser...Up to 100 might attend...so something low in labour might be a good idea!

And, at the end...clearing up the hall and kitchen, to the satisfaction of the Mairie!

In the past, the Ceilidh has been a considerable source of revenue for the Fair Day...and an integral part of the event.

It would be disingenuous - not to recognise that it is a commitment and a challenge...but **you** might be just the person to be able to make it happen, to put together the team that will make it happen. If you think you might be...then please let either Lindy or Christine Buhler know. They will be very happy to hear from you...and to be helpful in any way they can. To make a hundred people happy and raise a few thousand Swiss Francs for the Church...in one evening...sounds good!



Church Away-day March 2022

What a glorious day Saturday 25 March was! The sun shone brightly as we gathered to renew friendships and to make new ones at the Ecumenical Centre in Bossey. We were truly blessed in so many ways.



The day started with coffee and croissants. After that, we gathered in the chapel for a short service led by the Reverend Matthew Ross. Unusually he chose a Christmas carol to set the tone for the day. However we soon realized it was a fitting choice. The beautiful words: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing." reverberated throughout the chapel as we prayed for peace on the earth.



We made our way back to the allocated room where we were treated to three inspiring presentations. To kick off we heard from the Reverend Wesley Ariajah. He talked about the Christian attitude to war and violence. Of course, in the Old Testament there seem to be an endless stream of stories of violence. How can we justify this? Where is God? On the other hand, there are so many passages, particularly in the Psalms, of hope. And then we turn to the New Testament where God made a new covenant with His people in the form of Jesus. Wesley went on to tell about the origins of the concept – "A Just war" and briefly outlined the conditions. We then turned

our thoughts to a presentation by Dr Isobel Phiri wherein we heard of her recent visit to the refugee sites on the borders of Hungary, Poland and Romania. Who could fail to be moved by the pictures of need that showed more graphically than words of the situation there? Turning again to Matthew we heard of the necessity for long-term response. The trauma after this conflict is ended will continue for generations. There will a great need for reconciliation for many years to come.

During an all too short lunch – was it really an hour and a half – we laughed, talked and argued. The atmosphere was extremely animated.

Reluctantly we returned to our room but no sooner were we there than a truly inspiring, animated discussion took place. Questions such as "What do we make of God ordaining war?", "How do we reconcile God making man in his own image?", were raised. The answers to most of the questions lie in our understanding of the Bible. It cannot and should not be taken literally since if we did we would condone slavery and the treatment of women. Finally, we talked about how to deal with trauma – we must let go and allow the Spirit of God to reform us.

All too soon, we had to stop talking but we finished the day with a brief service singing the hymn Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine.

Altogether a highly successful day; a big thank you to all our speakers and those who organized the event.



Report from Session

The session continues to discuss major issues surrounding the work of the Church. This report outlines a few of the important discussions.

Presbytery Our minister has been appointed Moderator of the International Presbytery. He has also been appointed Interim Moderator for the Scots Kirk in Paris.

A controversial matter concerns the Presbytery Plan as defined by the International Presbytery, which will see the reduction of Church of Scotland Ministers serving from 15 to 5. Exploratory talks have been held as to combining Geneva and Lausanne. With the amalgamation of two congregations, the financial saving could be put towards a Youth worker, or secretary etc. A further meeting was held with elders from the two congregations in Geneva and Lausanne moderated by Reverend Aaron Stevens, the minister in Budapest. During an animated discussion on possible scenarios, two major options were put forward. One option would be of a team ministry led by one full-time Minister for both congregations. The other option would be to have a minister of another denomination serving in each congregation for a fixed two year contract. No firm decision has been taken.

Laurent Djamen has been Presbytery Elder for two years. Jane McKenzie would be happy to take over from June 2022.

Bible studies have been well received. We are currently nearing the end of series of Bible studies for Lent. Thanks were given to Christine Colliar who had assisted the Minister.

Prayer A proposal for a Prayer Group was discussed. It was felt important to create the space for a prayer group. A few people in the congregation expressed interest.

Confirmation A new confirmation member class has been held. Three girls attended.

Sunday School There are about 12 children regularly attending Sunday School. The rota of teachers is working well.

Safeguarding Coordinator There is an urgent need to appoint a new Safeguarding Coordinator since Freda Craye wishes to stand down from this role. She and Christine Colliar are willing to be on a panel supporting whoever takes on the job."

Choir The choir is hoping to recommence for Easter.

The Caring Group held a successful afternoon tea chez Jane Broere. It is hoped that a series of other events hosted in different geographical locations could be held. Caring continues to be high on the agenda.

Away day A highly successful Away Day, which is reported elsewhere was held in the Ecumenical Centre in Bossey.

Reader in training Christine Colliar advised that, following a period of discernment, she had been recommended to continue for Reader in training. This entails two periods of six months; one she is currently carrying out in Lausanne, and then will need to find a congregation in Geneva. She will attend several conferences, covering communication and safeguarding and has commenced a two-year study course with Aberdeen University.



Finance Update



To update the Church on what has happened since the last update, the main development has been the submission of the 2021 accounts for audit. While still technically unaudited at this point, it gives a fairly reasonable picture of how 2021 turned out. As expected before, with the additional inclusion of the Mission and Renewal payments (a sort of membership fee, if you like) to the central Church of Scotland, the Church essentially broke even in 2021. There will be more detail on this in the annual report but as stated before, it basically implies that the Church is living within its means but only just. It's not bad news but it's not awesome news.

2022 has started out much the same way. There's rarely anything all that interesting to report during the first couple of months in a year and again, it has been more or less business as usual - no huge donations, no massive bills but a roughly even process.

What is interesting at this point, though, is the range of innovations which we're in the process of rolling out, and which were discussed to some extent at the Congregational Committee at the end of March. The online giving possibilities are under serious development and we hope that they will be in service soon, making donations easier for those who don't have Swiss accounts and also opening up the possibility of remote access from multiple sources. The idea of a finance retreat to consider how revenue can be increased, not only as a finance stream but as part of the broader Church life, is under consideration. This would be a way through which we could leverage much of the existing professional talent and imagination across the Congregation (it would be open to anyone interested, of course) and we might be able to bring in some professional expertise from 121 George Street as well.

While we work on these exciting plans for improvements, the Freewill Offering Scheme (FWO) continues to operate as it has done for many years. The scheme offers a way for members to contribute financially to the church and to have their donations be duly recorded. Initially, before the advent of online banking, the main avenue for donating was through the use of pink (FWO) and blue (Mission) envelopes. These were submitted to the collection plate on Sundays and the FWO treasurer was able to individually assign and record the donations throughout the year. As people became accustomed to using online banking services, the scheme also offered a way to donate by direct transfer to our church bank account. Although anyone or any organisation was free to donate to the church in whatever way that was possible, the FWO provided a stable view of a significant portion of our income which allowed us to produce our budgets and to plan for the future.

During the past two years, when in-person church services were discontinued, the weekly donations through envelopes were no longer possible and many FWO members switched to online giving. It was through the steady support of our members that we were able to meet our budget commitments. At the end of 2021 with the return of in-person services, the first task was to re-establish contact with the current FWO members by sending out the annual letter with the pledge form for 2022. Of the 51 letters sent out, 15 have returned their pledges to which we thank you for your continued commitment. Some of our members have returned to regular giving via envelopes, while many others have committed to make their donations by bank transfer.

If you did not receive our annual letter, then it is likely that you are not on our membership list for the FWO. We hope you would consider joining us. Our church has relied on our members' personal engagement in many different ways and a small part of this is a commitment to the FWO. To become a member, please cut out and fill the pledge form below and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or send an email to fw.treasurer.cos.geneva@gmail.com with the information.

Finance remains a key part of the Church's life but it doesn't have to be simply about bean-counting. We would like to boost it by building commitment, engaging the Congregation and making the most of all the imagination and talents which we can bring together.

With best wishes as ever,

Ewart MacKenzie (Treasurer) and Mak Ikeda (FWO Treasurer)

FWO Pledge Form

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

I pledge to the work of Christ through the Free Will Offering programme during the coming year:
the sum of CHF _____ () per month () per year

In addition, I pledge to the Mission Partnership(s):
the sum of CHF _____ () per month () per year

I would like to donate:
() by offering envelopes () by bank transfers

I would like to receive an attestation of my () 2022 donations

For information, the bank details:

UBS

Bank account: Church of Scotland GE

No: 279-C7114389.0

IBAN: CH13 0027 9279 C711 4389 0

Thanks again to the team who did the garden make-over.
It has been looking great this Spring!



Mission Committee

A few words about our friends in Nepal and Malawi



At our recent Congregational Committee meeting we received a "Thank you Note" from Graeme and Meena Clugston, who are now in their 15th year working at Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital.

Graeme wrote:

"Truly everyone here is so very grateful – our doctors, nurses, patients, all the staff, and of course Meena and me. Our yearly patient numbers (in a non-pandemic year) usually amount to some 12,000 leprosy patients, and about 110,000 – 120,000 patients of all sorts, including 20,000 children. Just yesterday (Monday) we treated 506 patients in our Outpatients clinics – 65 leprosy and 441 other tropical diseases. Numbers are increasing each week as COVID seems to fade, and as hot weather, and diseases due to heat, mosquitoes and water-contamination (eg typhoid, skin diseases) increase.

"Your fabulous faithful support has helped transform this place with better equipped new wards, much-needed equipment such as wheelchairs and crutches, our beautiful child-friendly Children's Unit, our Isolation Unit, our wonderful life-saving ultrasound machine ("Janet"), and then your support for a doctor - Dr Ananda (himself an ex-leprosy sufferer) and a nurse - Staff Nurse Panina.

"Then there are our special projects that you have helped with – focused on extra-needy children in high difficult-access remote areas, for whom your support has helped with educational and health materials, warm clothes, and health clinics and finishing the rebuilding of their earthquake wrecked school.

"Please remember that each morning, in our gratitude, at our regular morning devotions in the Children's Unit with nurses, doctors and leprosy patients, we always give thanks for you and your wonderful far-reaching sustaining love and support for people and work here."

This brief note epitomises the warm, caring, Christian work that he, Meena, and their colleagues are able to do in a majority Hindu area of a majority Buddhist country.

Although we are by no means the only providers of financial support to Lalgadh, we have made major contributions to its work in the past and hope to go on doing so.

At the Committee meeting, we reviewed the funds currently available for Lalgadh and Ekwendeni. The Church has already made substantial contributions to both in January of this year, and these are having notable benefits. However, the "kitty" for Lalgadh in particular has been quite depleted as a result, and stood at around CHF 1,650 at end-February. If we are to continue to help Graeme and Meena in their wonderful work, we would need to bring this up to roughly CHF 6,000 by mid-year and to 12,000 by the end of this year. We hope sincerely that our momentum of giving, both to Lalgadh and to Ekwendeni, can continue.

Thank you for your generosity in the past and in the present. Please consider both Lalgadh, and our other friends in Malawi, when you are thinking about your givings for the year.

You may contribute through the "Freewill" offering scheme (details from Mak Ikeda) or simply by transfer to the Church account, mentioning (if you wish) that it is for Mission work in Nepal or in Malawi, as appropriate.



Hey there,

Have you heard of the *International Youth Presbytery*? If not, we'd love to introduce ourselves...

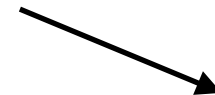
We are a community of young adults (ages 18-30) who are members of the Church of Scotland's international churches: From Paris, France to Bermuda! Usually we meet once a year (February time) to encourage one another in our faith, explore a new city and get to know each other.

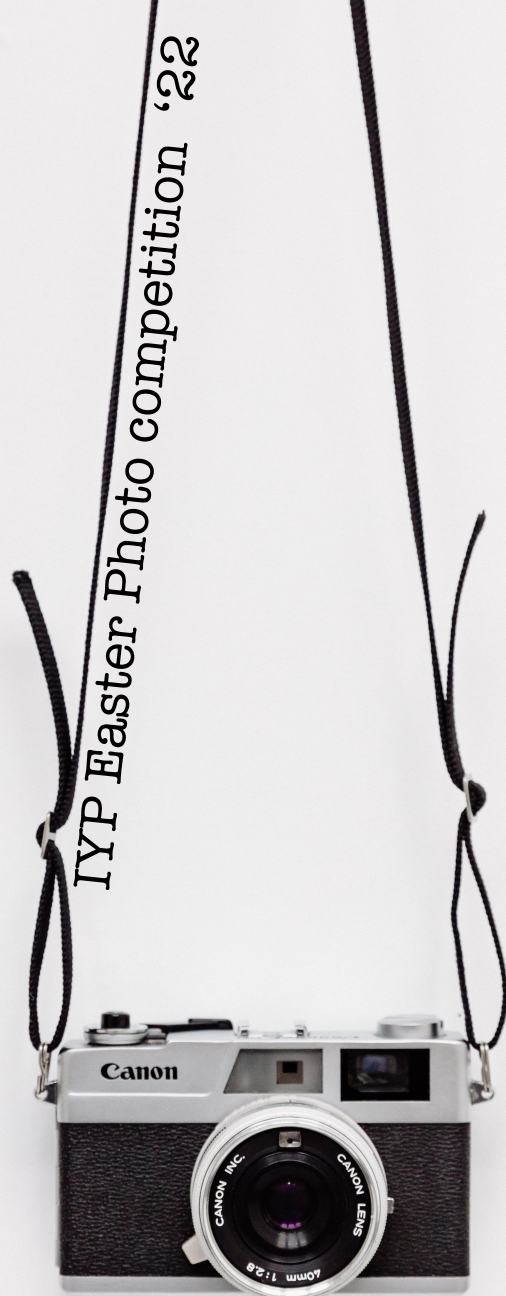
The fun doesn't stop there though! We have a WhatsApp group, for IYP members to keep in touch throughout the year. There's fun photo competitions, discussion questions and chat!



To join the group contact:

Hannah Wolfenden (IYP Rep)
+447788141369 or
hanvonwolf@outlook.com





Theme: Who am I?

Deadline for enteries: Easter Sunday, 17th April
Winner announced: Easter Monday 18th April

Now that spring is here and in-person concerts are possible,
please come along to support these worthy causes in our
beloved Auditoire

Concert de soutien à l'Ukraine

Une heure musicale consacrée à des chants d'amour
universel face aux heures sombres vécues par le peuple
Ukrainien

Peter Jeffes – ténor

(un chanteur exceptionnel – Le Monde)
et

Rebecca MacDonald – piano

Vendredi 29 avril à 19h

Auditoire de Calvin
1, Place de la Taconnerie
La vieille ville
Genève

Vos dons seront intégralement versés à **monstrov.org**, une
fondation créée à Odessa en 2014 au moment où la Russie
a envahi l'est de l'Ukraine. Cette fondation s'engage
maintenant à fournir médicaments, nourriture et toute l'aide
nécessaire à la survie du peuple ukrainien dans ces
circonstances tragiques.

SOUFFLE DE PRINTEMPS



Concerts d'orgue 2022 à l'Auditoire de Calvin

SAMEDI 23 AVRIL À 18H

Nayoung Kim

Ubi Caritas – J.S. Bach

SAMEDI 30 AVRIL À 18H

Alessio Corti

Lumières italiennes dans
l'œuvre pour orgue de J.S. Bach

SAMEDI 7 MAI À 18H

Machi Tonaka

Concert de mai – notes printanières
D. Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, L. Rogg

SAMEDI 14 MAI À 18H

Duo Aeoline

Charlotte Schneider – flûtes
Guy-Baptiste Jaccottet – orgue
J.H. Schmelzer, J.S. Bach, D. Castello
A. Vivaldi, A. Marcello

En partenariat avec
les Concerts de la Cathédrale

Auditoire de Calvin

1 Place de la Taconnerie, Genève
(à côté de la cathédrale St. Pierre)

Toute information utile sous
www.aoa-calvin.ch

Entrée libre - collecte

