

Combined Church Profile of
the Scots Kirk Lausanne
and
Church of Scotland, Geneva
in deferred linkage



August 2024

Introduction

The Scots Kirk Lausanne and Church of Scotland, Geneva, are in deferred linkage: a linkage between the two congregations will occur once the current minister in Geneva retires (anticipated to be in 2025). The minister being called will be based in Lausanne and will serve initially in Lausanne. Following the linkage, they will become minister of both congregations, assisted by an associate minister (yet to be called). The minister and associate minister will each have use of the manse of their respective congregation.

Lausanne and Geneva are diverse and lively international churches. All age groups are included in our congregations, although the majority of worshippers are middle aged and above. We are keen to attract new members of all ages, particularly families with young children.

Both congregations include many committed members who play an active role in church life. In addition to Sunday worship, both churches offer a range of social and outreach activities.

We are looking for a minister who will be part of a team to grow the resources we have, and build our community across generations through outreach and pastoral care. The minister should have an ecumenical approach, and be able to communicate God's message in a way that is relevant to everyday life. They should be comfortable in an international environment, have a working knowledge of the French language, and have an openness to Swiss culture.

The Kirk Sessions of both Lausanne and Geneva have voted to depart from the Church's traditional position in respect of ministers in civil partnerships and same sex marriages.

For any questions or further information, please feel free to contact:

The Clerk to the Nominating Committee

Email: nominatingcommittee@scotskirklausanne.ch

Section 1: The Scots Kirk Lausanne

Section 2: Church of Scotland, Geneva

The Scots Kirk Lausanne, Switzerland

Deferred Linkage Charge



Congregational Profile

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History & Organisation

The congregation was founded in 1876 by the Free Church of Scotland to meet the spiritual needs of the many English-speaking people who regularly visited the area at that time. Now it continues to serve English-speaking people from all over the world, and from many different Christian traditions. The church was designed by the noted Parisian architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc and was dedicated in 1877. The adjacent St. Andrew's House, which opened in 1962, incorporates the church hall, church offices, Fellowship Centre and manse. In 2017, we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the Scots Kirk Lausanne with a special thanksgiving service and were delighted to welcome a descendant of Rev. A.-F. Buscarlet, the very first minister, on this joyful occasion.

Since 2010, the Congregation of the Scots Kirk Lausanne has functioned under a Unitary Constitution with different teams who report to the Kirk Session. It also devised and approved its own Statutes, confirming its status as an Association under Swiss Law.

The Kirk Session is composed of 13 elders, 2 of whom were ordained in May 2023.

The Scots Kirk Lausanne is not a traditional "parish church" but a gathered, truly international congregation, drawn from a variety of denominational backgrounds. Some members have been attending for 40 years or more; others are employed by many of the international companies, sport

or other organisations, either permanently or on fixed time contracts. Worshippers live throughout the Canton of Vaud and a few even further afield.

The current congregational roll is 110 members and 12 adherents. One hundred attend regularly — with an average weekly attendance at Sunday worship of 50-60. The profile is mainly middle-aged and upwards with only a few young people and very few children. The latter is a concern for the Kirk Session.



Community Profile – Lausanne and its Region

Lausanne, the capital of Vaud, the largest French-speaking canton of Switzerland, is some 60 km (36 miles) east of Geneva. A longish walk from its northern boundaries, for example from the Sauvabelin Forest, takes one down a difference in elevation of about 500 metres, meandering along historic streets, past the beautiful cathedral, a variety of museums and theatres, through lovely parks, with frequent panoramic views over the lake and the Alps, until one gets to the lively and picturesque lakeside quarter of Ouchy. Along the shores to both east and west lie the extensive wine- growing regions of Lavaux (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and La Côte. These are areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The population of the greater Lausanne area is about 420,000. The city houses several multinational companies with headquarters within 20 km. In addition, it hosts some prestigious international organisations, universities and schools. These include, amongst others, the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, some 40 international sport organisations,

IMD, one of the top business schools in the world, the world-famous Lausanne Hotel School, the University of Lausanne (UNIL), and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), a top technical university. It further benefits from a rich cultural life, a vibrant legacy of the many musicians, writers and artists who have called the area home.

Sport in every form, ranging from hiking and skiing to sailing, curling and even golf, is an integral part of the environment in Lausanne. A number of water sports are available and swimming in the lake is popular (increasingly in winter too). There are plenty of tours on the lake in magnificent paddle steamers, with attractive local destinations, including Geneva, Montreux, Vevey and, a few km across Lac Léman (Lake Geneva), France.

Lausanne has an internationally recognised university hospital (CHUV), and Switzerland enjoys an excellent (paying) health care system.

Lausanne also has good state schools for children of all ages, and great care is taken to integrate English-speaking children into the local French-speaking system.

Worship Life



Weekly Sunday worship begins at 10.30 am, with the Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. The format and music are generally traditional.

- A healing service follows morning worship on the second Sunday of each month.

- A prayer group meets before services to pray.
- Elders and the congregation are involved in services.
- Communion is also celebrated at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- There is a harvest thanksgiving service in September, a Remembrance Sunday service and a lessons and carols service on Christmas Eve as well as a pre-Easter Taizé service.
- Short “senior services”, followed by afternoon tea, are held twice a year before Easter and Christmas.
- There are occasional baptisms, funerals and weddings when required.

The main joint services are:

- Service of lessons and carols organised in turn with the English-speaking Anglican and Roman Catholic churches at Église St. François in the town centre at 5 pm on the third Sunday of Advent.
- World Day of Prayer in March, a joint midday service held in turn with English-speaking Anglican and Roman Catholic churches in the area.
- We also share various ecumenical services with local French speaking congregations, notably during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

There is an active Worship Team which contributes to services through reading, prayers for the world etc. We have a Reader, three worship leaders, one of whom has completed the preaching course with Aberdeen University, and a couple of elders who also occasionally lead worship. We use audio-visual equipment, with PowerPoint slides that indicate the order of service during worship. We have two regular organists who play the pipe organ during services, and we use the CH4 hymn book.

Social Activities

Our congregation value the opportunity for the fellowship offered by social events. Coffee is served after the service every Sunday and we are reassessing having a picnic lunch after the monthly communion service. There are mid-week monthly soup & cheese lunches (raising money for a local charity) and occasionally BBQs in the church garden. Others are:

- Scottish country dance class on Monday evenings.
- Wednesday Bring & Buy book sales.
- Occasional “Open Mic” nights.
- Summer walks.

- Picnic following the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.
- Annual Bazaar (first Saturday in November) which is a major fundraiser.
- Occasional fundraisers, Scottish evenings, wine tasting, etc.



Cornerstone, our bi-monthly magazine, and the “What’s On” tab on our website keep members informed about forthcoming activities and events in the life of the Kirk. The Minister contributes a section called “Musings from the Manse” to Cornerstone.

Pastoral Care

A Pastoral Care Team, consisting of ten caring individuals, under the convenorship of an elder, is dedicated to supporting our church family and others, depending on their needs. These can range from home / hospital visits, support to bereaved families, transportation, provision of occasional meals, or to simply listening with respect and in confidence. The convenor is in regular contact with the minister and team members and holds at least two meetings per year.

All members have undergone safeguarding training and are identifiable by the badges they wear on a Sunday. They learn of the needs of individuals either directly, from others in the congregation or from the minister. We have a caring congregation, ready and willing to support the manse family.

Christian Education

The number of children in the congregation has decreased due to children having grown up and families repatriating as well as the challenge of attracting new members and families. There are very few children/teenagers who attend Sunday worship and they don't all attend on the same Sunday. As a result, there are currently no regular crèche or Sunday School activities. Children usually stay in church with service-relevant colouring activities available in the front pew. There is currently no active youth group in the congregation.

Having discovered the possibilities of Zoom during Covid, we continue to offer seasonal or topical Bible studies on an ad hoc basis. In-person attendance is now lower for these sessions, but a good number – more than pre-pandemic – usually attend online. (We tend to avoid hybrid sessions for these studies.) We have also been able to open some studies to congregations across Presbytery and also had a couple of ecumenical ones with local English-speaking churches. People who are less familiar with technology appreciate in-person studies during the day. After Covid restrictions were lifted the Scots Kirk again organised its Away Day, usually facilitated by an external person. Under the leadership of a new minister, we look forward to taking this aspect of our congregational life further – discussions with the minister are always much appreciated!

Ecumenical Context

The Scots Kirk is part of the Church of Scotland's International Presbytery, which meets twice a year over a long weekend. Meetings are hosted by the congregations in turn. There are good relationships with other churches of the English-speaking community: Christ Church, Anglican, Lausanne; Our Lady of Faith, RC, Lausanne; All Saints Church, Anglican, Vevey; and St. John's Church, Anglican, Montreux-Territet. The church engages in the work of the "Communauté des Églises Chrétiennes dans le Canton de Vaud" (CECCV), and the minister of the Scots Kirk is invited to meetings (in French). Through the CECCV there are numerous opportunities for ecumenical links, including the "Nuit des Églises". The Scots Kirk is a member of a small ecumenical group with neighbouring French-speaking churches, namely the Reformed Church: Église Saint Jacques and the Catholic Church: Église du St- Rédempteur. With them we organise a "Marche aux Flambeaux" (on hold since Covid), and the annual service for Christian Unity held in

one of three local churches (including the Scots Kirk) in rotation. During Lent, each church hosts a “Soupe de Carême”, which attracts around 40 or 50 people from the three congregations.

Stewardship & Finance

Our financial results for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 were a deficit of CHF 1,952, a surplus of CHF 53,923 and a surplus of CHF 129,637 respectively. The results of the two most recent years were impacted positively by several exceptional non-recurring items; lower than expected contributions to Mission & Renewal, an important pension recovery, a legacy and the effect of having a full-time Minister for only six months in 2023. Ordinary income in 2023 amounted to CHF 222,795 against expenditure of CHF 171,679. We anticipate a close to break-even result for the time when we will have a full-time Minister in place.

- We have a Renovations Fund of CHF 274,241 which contributes towards ongoing renovation needs, but which will need replenishing from time to time from our annual offerings and donations. We have recently received confirmation that our Church Building will very soon be granted Historical Monument status, which will open up potential sources of funding for future restoration.
- We have an Operating Reserve Fund of CHF 140'000 to cover future operating needs.
- Our contribution to the Church of Scotland under the Giving to Grow scheme amounted to some CHF 3,000 for 2023. This contribution may increase for 2024, during our vacancy period, but then fall again due to our high local Ministry costs, which are fully borne by members of the congregation. We receive no funding from Scotland or locally.
- We are fortunate to have St Andrew's House (owned by the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh) which, in addition to having the Manse on the top floor, generates significant rental income – approximately CHF 100'000 in 2023.
- A few years ago, we pursued a stewardship campaign to counteract a decline in offerings and donations; this succeeded in rebalancing our finances. We are conscious that costs generally have risen in the past couple of years and many members of the congregation are feeling this. We therefore recognise that we might have to launch a new campaign to ensure that we continue to balance our finances.

Safeguarding

We adhere to the Church of Scotland's safeguarding guidelines (as far as possible in a country where Scottish law does not apply). We have a safeguarding coordinator and a safeguarding

panel. We are committed to creating a secure environment for all, implementing regular training, thorough background checks for volunteers, and maintaining open communication channels. We strive to create a place where everyone feels valued, respected, and safe

Charity

Part of our ethos is to support charitable works. We have a small Charity Committee which provides guidance on charities to support. Funds collected at after-service coffee and cheese lunches are donated to the Lausanne-based soup kitchen, Mère Sophia. Collections from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services have been donated to the local Salvation Army for the past ten years.

Half of the proceeds from the Annual Bazaar is split between an international and a local charity. Currently, we are donating to The Vine Trust and Point d'Eau. The Vine Trust is based in Scotland and works in Peru and Tanzania. They provide medical and dental care to remotely located people using small ships to access them. The Point d'Eau, based and working in Lausanne, provides hygiene facilities such as showers, haircuts, and laundry facilities for homeless people. They also make basic medical and dental care accessible.

During the course of the year there are usually a few one-time collections. In 2023, funds collected during the Lenten lunches, in collaboration with two local churches, were given to L'Entraide Protestante Suisse. Two retiring collections were held in November to benefit the children attending the Ukrainian Day Centre.

Staffing

The Scots Kirk has no permanent designated staff, other than a caretaker, who also deals with the lettings of the church and St. Andrew's House. The Session Clerk, the Treasurer, other elders and members of the congregation offer support to the minister on an ad-hoc basis.

Church, Manse & Halls

The Scots Kirk is an architectural gem, which gives the people who worship in it a sense of peace and beauty. At various times during the church year (Advent, Holy Week, summer period) the church is open to the general public for a few hours a day for quiet time, private prayer and for visiting. Volunteers are on hand to assist those wishing to take a look inside. Outside of these times the church is locked during the week.

The church and its buildings are centrally located. St. Andrew's House, consisting of four floors and a basement, is adjacent to the church. There is a lift to all floors (except the basement). The basement houses a cloakroom, toilets, a recently renovated small kitchen, and various storage rooms. The ground floor houses the church hall, which is rented to various community organisations for events like gym classes as well as to private individuals. The first floor has a church office, various meeting rooms and another small kitchen. Since 2022 the Ukrainian Day Centre, which supports Ukrainian refugees, has been using various parts of the church facilities on different days of the week. Part of the first floor and all of the second floor is rented out to medical professionals and provides significant rental income.



The furnished manse is on the third floor and comprises a modern kitchen, large lounge, dining room, three bedrooms, a guest toilet and a full bathroom. There is central heating throughout the building, a garage and a small, open garden between the church and St. Andrew's House, which is put to good use for occasional barbecues in the summer. The roof of St. Andrew's House was entirely renovated in 2017 and solar panels were installed.

Web Links

Scots Kirk Lausanne website: www.scotskirklausanne.ch

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ScotsKirkLausanne/>

Church of Scotland International Presbytery: www.internationalpresbytery.org

<https://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en/lausanne-in-short/>

<https://www.vaud.ch/en>

<https://www.region-du-leman.ch/en/>





CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE
Church of Scotland, Geneva, Switzerland

A lively international congregation, gathering people of many backgrounds and of all ages for worship in the Reformed tradition

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History and Congregation

The Auditoire de Calvin, in which our congregation worships, was in pre-Reformation times the chapel of Notre-Dame-le-Neuve. Located beside the Cathédrale St. Pierre in the Old Town of Geneva, it acquired its current name when, in the mid-16th century, it became the place where John Calvin (1509–1564) lectured in theology. It was also where John Knox (1514–1572) ministered to the Marian exiles and led them in English-speaking worship. In 1558, Catholic Mary was succeeded by her Protestant sister, Elizabeth, on the English throne, and the English exiles began to return home. In 1559, Knox returned to Scotland, where he played the leading role in reforming the Church of Scotland. In the same year, the Auditoire became the original home of the University of Geneva.



When Scottish Presbyterians returned to worship in Geneva in the last third of the 19th century, it was thanks initially to the Victorian craze for tourism in Switzerland; and it was not always to the Auditoire. On July 7 1867, the first service was held in the Auditoire according to the custom of the Church of Scotland. From 1867 to 1925, various ministers led worship in the Auditoire; the Chappelle des Macchabées in the Cathedral, and elsewhere.

In 1954 the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) general council, in an agreement with the (National) Protestant Church of Geneva, launched a program to restore the Auditoire, which over the years had deteriorated badly. This was funded by Reformed churches throughout the

world, and most notably by the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The restoration was completed in 1959.

In 1957 a kirk session was constituted, and by 1959 the congregation was firmly installed in the newly renovated Auditoire, where, except for occasional interruptions, it has stayed ever since.



In April 2007, modern stained-class windows were installed in the Auditoire, in which the German artist Udo Zembok presents his interpretation of the historical associations of the building and its connection with those 16th-century Reformers who brought light into the world.

2014 saw a complete refurbishment of the Auditoire to bring it into the 21st century.

In the same year, a new organ, by the master organ maker, Bernard Aubertin, was inaugurated. This has led to numerous concerts in the Auditoire, enabling many more people to worship, experience and appreciate our beautiful, historic building.

We treasure our history and our heritage, but we are at the same time a lively international congregation. We prize our diversity. Our 120+ members come from many countries in many continents. They also come from a variety of denominations but choose to worship in the Reformed tradition.

We are a gathered congregation and not a parish church. Many of us live far from the city, in the cantons of Geneva, Vaud (and two in Valais!) and the départements of Ain and Haute-Savoie in neighbouring France. Some travel up to an hour to attend our Sunday worship. Average attendance is between 40 to 50, with 20 to 25 on Zoom online. Wednesday online services have an attendance of about 25. Numbers increase in the summer months with many tourists visiting the Auditoire.

Ours is an all-age congregation, ranging from parents with young families to those who are happily retired.

Currently we follow the model constitution, with a kirk session and a congregational committee. It has been suggested that we should move to the unitary constitution, but so far we have taken no action on this. Our kirk session includes 13 elders, 8 female and 5 male, 2 of whom were ordained in 2023. We plan to ordain new elders in 2024. One of our elders is the Safeguarding Coordinator and we have a Safeguarding Panel in place.

The most recent Local Church Review was in November 2022; a copy of the report is attached. In January/February 2024 over 40 participants attended two Future Focus sessions, copy attached. The key area of concern for all was in respect of a decline in attendance. A third session was held in April 2024 to set out action plans.

Only after Presbyterian reunion in 1929 do we find mention of the Scots Kirk, Lausanne, in our congregational records. The Lausanne church was founded in 1876 by the then Free Church of Scotland. In 1929, in the same month as the Church of Scotland united with the United Free Church of Scotland, the minister in Lausanne came to preach in Geneva.

There have long been friendly relations between the two congregations, which are both members of the International Presbytery. But only since discussions of linking began have we begun to appreciate the advantages that can accrue to both congregations from working more closely together. We hope to make the most of these opportunities.

Community Profile – Geneva and its Region

Geneva is a beautiful city, located at the end of Lac Léman, nestling between the Jura mountains and the French Alps, with the Mont Blanc as a backdrop. It is the capital of an eponymous republic and canton, with a population of 540,000 inhabitants, 206,000 of whom live in the city. Despite its small size, it is one of the most international cities in the world. 41.6% of its population are foreigners, with 196 nationalities. 180 States are represented by a permanent mission to the UN, with 39 international organisations and 461 NGOs. Geneva airport is a major hub for EasyJet with frequent flights to all major European cities. Over 100,000 workers cross the borders into Geneva daily from France.



Geneva has a strong population of scientists and other academics thanks to the presence of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) and various United Nations agencies including the International Meteorological Organisation (IMO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the World Health Organisation together with many multinational technology companies. The World Council of Churches is based in Geneva. All of this is reflected in our congregation.

Worship Life and Social Activities

English-speaking worshippers in Geneva can choose from more than a dozen congregations. Our distinctive form of worship is in the Reformed tradition, with a strong emphasis on preaching in a thoughtful and sensitive manner to meet the needs of a multicultural, 21st century congregation. We have used CH4 as our hymnary since its publication.

We meet every Sunday at 11am for worship in the Auditoire de Calvin. This historic site attracts many visitors to worship. The building, which includes an upstairs hall (the Salle Théodore de Bèze), is rented from the Protestant Church of Geneva. We share it with the local Genevan parish of St Pierre who use it for their children's programmes. The location of the Auditoire in the old town of Geneva creates accessibility issues, as it is difficult to park nearby and the building is not easy to access for people with disabilities. With an increasingly ageing population, the latter is a challenge that will need to be addressed in the near future.

Communion is currently celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, Holy Thursday, and Easter.



Resources for worship within our congregation include two retired ministers; a Methodist lay reader; one member who has completed training for the readership and has just been accepted to train as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM); three who completed the worship leading course, two of whom also completed the preaching course through Aberdeen University. All are keen to play a role in leading worship. We have a rota of over 20 to read scripture in worship. For music, we have a small but dedicated choir, one principal organist and pianist but several others who help out, and other instrumentalists and singers who regularly contribute to worship.

We have a small but lively Sunday School, with a small but dedicated staff. They use Godly Play materials. There is at present neither a crèche nor a youth group.

In March 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, we moved to live online worship on Zoom. In addition to the regular Sunday worship, we added a Wednesday lunchtime service at 12:30 that lasts about half an hour: this continues to the present day.

When normal services in the Auditoire resumed on Sundays, we arranged for a Zoom connection that continues to attract 20-30 people each Sunday in addition to the congregation in church: members who are less mobile, our mission partners, ex-members, and others from all over the world.

Many committed members play an active role in church life and leadership. Our annual congregational report gives a picture of the activities which take place in addition to regular Sunday worship. The congregation is self-supporting financially, although this has sometimes proved to be a challenge.

A congregational newsletter is produced about six times a year, and the minister sends out a personal email twice a week, with details of upcoming services as well as important notices.

An annual congregational away-day is often organized at the Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey, which provides an opportunity to combine spiritual and social time together.

Social Activities

In a congregation which is geographically widespread, social and other activities provide a focus where people can meet, make friends, and give service. Coffee and tea are served after the service every Sunday. On the last Sunday of the month, we have a congregational lunch.

Other activities include:

Craft group

Annual BBQ

Annual St Andrew's Fair (major fundraiser)

Ceilidh

Social fundraising dinners for Burn's night; Harvest supper

Quiz nights



Strengthening and Deepening our Community

Covid-19 knocked our congregation sideways, as it did many others; and we have been recovering and rebuilding ever since.

A financial scare in late 2023 prompted us to invite Rob Rawson, mission development worker, to lead two Future Focus afternoons with us in January and February 2024. We followed this with a third afternoon, organized by ourselves, in which we focused on how to implement what we had learned.

The result this autumn should be

- Neighbourhood groups in which we can deepen our community and our common spiritual life
- New thematic groups of various kinds: a book readers' group, a group on making the Auditoire more accessible, even a men's group
- An expanded range of social events

Pastoral Care

Welcoming newcomers and helping them integrate into the congregation is a priority for us. For those who are new, the warmth of the welcome and sense of community can be as important as worship in deciding whether to stay with the congregation. The fellowship of our community has been one of its major strengths which can give us coherence despite our wide variety of cultures and viewpoints.

Pastoral ministry here is important, both in nurturing our community and in caring pastorally for individuals and families. In a very real way, the church takes the place of the extended family for its members and joys and sorrows are often shared. Stressful jobs, travel, redundancy or its threat can all create problems for employees and their families.

Our Caring for One Another Group aims to ensure that all members are in contact with others who will extend a friendly hand. We are currently determining who needs to do safeguarding training in this group.

Christian Education

Our Sunday School includes about 10 children, not all of whom attend on the same Sunday. We have a dedicated team of teachers, and we are looking at ways to increase the number of children. The Sunday School teachers have started safeguarding training and background security checks.

One of our members has recently completed training for the readership and has now been accepted for training as an OLM. Three of our members have successfully completed online courses in worship leadership, two of whom also completed a preaching course, and are involved in worship.

Ecumenical Context

The Church of Scotland, Geneva is part of the Church of Scotland's International Presbytery which meets twice a year over a long weekend. Meetings are hosted by congregations in turn. There are good relationships with other churches of the English -speaking community: The Lutheran Church, American Episcopal Church, John 23rd Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, La Côte Anglican Church amongst others.

Our minister is regularly invited to participate in Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday services at other churches including All Saints Anglican Church, Vevey.

We have been involved with TEAG Témoigner Ensemble à Genève – Witnessing Together in Geneva [Who we are | témoigner ensemble à Genève \(temoignerensemble.com\)](http://temoignerensemble.com) for many years. The presence of international church bodies, contact between English speaking churches, a local ecumenical council, and the Geneva Ecumenical Cursillo community create a much valued ecumenical environment.

World Church

We have longstanding overseas mission projects in Malawi and Nepal. In Malawi, we support HIV/AIDS prevention and advice for vulnerable youth and young adults. In Nepal, we support Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital.

We are also a Fair Trade congregation.

Stewardship and Finance

- What was the surplus/deficit in the last two years?

2022 deficit = CHF (23,783)

2023 surplus = CHF 37,635

- What does the congregation contribute to the wider Church of Scotland?

Our combined Giving to Grow contribution and presbytery dues in 2024 are budgeted at CHF 7,500.

- How is stewardship explored and developed within the congregation?

Our members give quite generously and are quick to respond to financial needs. In the autumn of 2023, our treasurer alerted us to a shortfall in income that he diagnosed as not in itself a financial problem so much as a shortage in members. We overcame the immediate financial problem through an appeal to existing members and are now working hard on increasing our numbers (see “Strengthening and deepening our community” above.)

Staffing

The Church of Scotland, Geneva has no designated staff other than the minister. The session clerks, the treasurer, other elders and retired ministers, and members of the congregation assist the minister as volunteers.

Church, Manse and Halls

The current manse is an attractive first floor flat rented by the congregation in a pleasant suburb with local shops, near the airport and about 10 minutes by bus from the city centre. It has a good-

sized living room, two bedrooms, a study, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, shower and extra toilet, entrance hall, and two balconies. There is also a garage. The manse is partially furnished and is well maintained.

Web Links

The church website is at <https://churchofscotlandgeneva.ch/>.

We have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoSGeneva>

And are to be found on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/>

Church of Scotland International Presbytery www.internationalpresbytery.org

More general information on the region <https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-ch/destinations/geneva/>