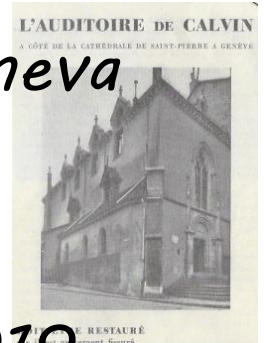




Church of Scotland Geneva

Auditoire de Calvin

Newsletter March 2019



LETTER FROM THE MINISTER:

Religion and politics? Where do you stand? Two separate worlds best kept apart? Or both addressing the kinds of life-issues that shape the destinies of individuals and nations and therefore, inevitably required to connect, dialogue and meld? Or, one dealing with the abstract, and the other earthed in the real world, so what have they in common and what has either to learn from the other?

Pulpits are no places for playing politics, some would argue, not least because there is seldom a right of reply – apart from walking out, complaining loudly at the church door or just not coming back. I know colleagues who have engendered all of those responses – and sometimes from the same person!

And yet, if we are going to talk about principles and values, about justice, and about dealing fairly with people – all these being fundamental ingredients of a Biblical understanding – and if we are to be true to the prophetic traditions that saw fit, indeed felt obliged to speak truth to power...there will inevitably be occasions when, at the very least, it sounds as if the preaching is challenging some assumption of the powerful, tilting at this windmill or that, in the name of gospel truth. It is hard to talk about welcome, inclusion, the all-embracing love of God, without noting that not everywhere in the world are those ideals valued still less put into practice. And we live in that world with some responsibility for how it turns, how it functions...the tone it sets.

The mistake is to abuse the privilege of the pulpit, to pursue a personal agenda that disempowers those who see the world differently - and have no comeback. Because it is a place of proclamation rather than a forum for debate, that square foot has to be honoured by never being a sounding board for personal

prejudices – come they from the Left or the Right, no matter how sure we are of our viewpoint and how certain we are that it comes from the heart of the Gospel. Church people are smart enough and spiritual enough to know where the shoe pinches – where the gospel rubber meets the issue-strewn road. They don't need ministers, however well-meaning to spell that out for them.

So, you are unlikely to come to the Auditoire and find yourself offended by a biased, one-sided rant about this political issue or that. You will find, I trust, no important issues of the day ducked – but no kites flown. The Gospel addresses real people, living in the real world, with its all too pressing challenges. From *that* reality, there is no escape!

Love and blessings as always.

Laurence T



An Appeal from our Mission Committee

We are writing to thank you for your ongoing help with our Mission Partnerships, or to invite you to become a contributor to this valuable outreach work if you are not one already.

Our Church supports two main mission partnerships outside Europe: the Youth HIV/AIDS resource centre attached to Ekwendeni Hospital in northern Malawi, and the Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Service Centre in Lalgadh, south-eastern Nepal.

Our links with both Ekwendeni and Nepal are highly personal. Our previous Minister, Rev. Ian Manson, began the Ekwendeni connection via Carol Finlay, a Church of Scotland worker engaged in the hospital at the time, and was the spur to our growing connection.

The important work of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital has been largely developed through the Christian commitment of our Elder, Dr Graeme Clugston, and his Nepali wife, Meena.

Malawi has been one of the most successful countries in Africa in reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS, and particularly in reducing the number of AIDS-related deaths: however, around one million out of Malawi's 19 million population still live with the disease. Young women and their babies, as well as men, are particularly at risk. The prevention, diagnosis and social work undertaken in the Resource Centre at Ekwendeni are essential to keeping the message concerning prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS alive in the country.

The programme in Ekwendeni began with a small centre devoted to giving young people information, diagnosis and testing for HIV. It has expanded to take in development of more than 50 village youth clubs in the area supporting thousands of young people, sports teams to occupy their time and energy (one of their netball players has made the national team!), community development with promotion of village gardens, chicken farming and other income-generating activities, and recently a school meals programme which helps to keep children in school and attentive.

We are blessed in having excellent, energetic contacts in Ekwendeni, with Shupo Kumwenda, the supervisor of the Youth Resource Centre, as the key. Our main support goes to pay Shupo's salary as well as a caretaker and a night watchman for the Centre, and essential running costs. We are the only significant supporter of the Centre.

We plan to welcome two young adults from Ekwendeni to Geneva in September 2019. These visits and the return visits that members of our congregation make to Malawi give new strength and support to the work there. The Malawians' travel to Geneva is financed through a Faithshare grant from the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

On Graeme's retirement from the World Health Organization, he and Meena went to work in Nepal as Medical Director and Nursing Supervisor of Lalgadh Hospital.

You may think of Nepal as the home of high mountains, but Lalgadh is situated in the hot, humid south-east, near the border with Bihar province of India – one of India's poorest areas. You may also think that leprosy is a disease of the past and of Biblical times; however, in that area, it is very much alive. If diagnosed early, it can be treated; but the stigma attached to leprosy often prevents patients and their families from seeking treatment in time to avoid irreparable damage.

Lalgadh is the world's busiest leprosy hospital, as well as a major general hospital for south-east Nepal and for patients crossing from India. Leprosy patients are all treated free of charge.

Our basic support is for the salaries of a local doctor and nurse. However, members of our congregation have also helped to finance the construction of a sparkling new unit where children and their families can be cared for appropriately, and made a major contribution to work undertaken by the hospital following the 2015 earthquake.

While we are not the only contributors to the work of Lalgadh, the valuable newsletters we receive regularly from Graeme and Meena let us realise that our support is of major importance in promoting healthcare and development in this very poor region of the world, in line with our Christian values.

Christianity is very much a minor religion in this region. Nevertheless, Lalgadh has a thriving Church community celebrating worship on Sundays and major feast days.

We give thanks for our links with these two outreach partnerships, and invite you to become (or continue as) contributors. You may contribute via the "blue envelope" scheme of the Freewill offering in the plate on Sundays, or through direct transfer to the Church of Scotland, Geneva bank account,

the reference for which is below. Please contact our Freewill Offering convener, Tom Snow (sneaux@gmail.com) to confirm your commitment or for any information you may need.
If transferring funds directly to the account, please ensure that the payment is marked as being expressly for Mission work (including which project, should you wish to prioritize one).

Thank you!

Your Mission Committee:

Rev. Laurence Twaddle, Lindy Twaddle, Han Broere, Jane Broere, Christine Bunn, Dr Ailsa Craig, Eric Gerelle, Ewart MacKenzie, Douglas Murray-Jones, Jenny Rietbergen and Peter Tulloch.

www.churchofscotlandgeneva.com

Bank Account: Church of Scotland, GE

UBS Account No: 279-C7114389.0

IBAN: CH13 0027 9279 C711 4389

Photos from Ekwendeni



The Resource Centre



Young people tending a garden



Girls' champion netball team (it can be wet in Malawi!)



Junior footballers on a sunnier day

Photos from Lalgadh



The staff of Lalgadh Leprosy Trust



Leprosy affecting feet



The 2015 earthquake

In the new Children's unit



Flowers For Easter



Leading up to Easter in our busy, secular world, we all need times of reflection and renewal. Lent can be such a time. (Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 6th March and ends on the Saturday before Easter, the 20th April). Lent is above all a time to remember Jesus, to walk with him in study, prayer and service to others. Yet in order to be the body of Christ, Christians need to come together to worship and study with others.

To help us have a joyous celebration of the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday we would like to have a large display of flowers around the Auditoire on that day. We will sell these flowers after the Service and all donations will go towards church funds.

Would you be able to provide some flowers or donate something towards their costs and perhaps come and help decorate the church on Saturday 20th April?



Please let me know

– Janet Askew.

Tel: 022 758 14 45.

Email:

janetaskewge@bluewin.ch

LENT STUDIES – 2019

Wednesdays during Lent

6TH MARCH – The Minister – VENUE - Chez Mawunu Chapman.

2-00pm and 7-00 p.m.

$$=$$

13TH MARCH – The Minister – VENUE - Open House, Ecumenical Centre

7-00 p.m.

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20th MARCH - THE SALLE – JIM SHARP 7-00 p.m.

$$=$$

27TH MARCH – The Minister: MANSE 2-00 p.m. and 7-00 p.m.

$$=$$

3rd APRIL – The Minister - MANSE - 2-00 p.m. and 7-00 p.m.

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10TH APRIL – PARAIC REAMONN- VENUE TBA

7-00 p.m.

$$=$$

17TH APRIL- The Minister- MANSE 2-00 p.m. and

7-00 p.m.

This year we will be using the Lent course prepared by the Mission and Theology Advisory Group of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Called "The Mystery of God", it delves into the mystery of God - seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. The course can be downloaded from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Website - <https://ctbi.org.uk>

GODLY PLAY AT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our Sunday school continues with its presentation of Godly Play sessions based on the Montessori method of education. Children age 4 - 12 are presented with stories from the Bible through the use of well-working, accessible art response materials that enable them to develop an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Our Sunday school sessions continue this year with a new Sunday school team of parents, grandparents and other youth enthusiasts. Each session involves two adults, a story teller and a door keeper. With Cornis van der Lugt as new Coordinator, the Sunday school team includes story tellers Starr Benyon, Arthur Askew, Lyndsey Hamilton, Gerald and Marianne Lewis, and Alice Tulloch, as well as door keepers Georgina Cofie, Suzan Meier-Ewert, Chris Sutton and Andrew McCallum. Following the February school break, Sunday school will recommence again on the 3rd of March. Do encourage parents to send their kids along!



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Women's Group continues to support the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) by collecting 5ct pieces. Most years we manage to collect about CHF 200 to contribute towards this really worthy cause. In 2018 – largely thanks to one big contribution – we raised wonderful sum of CHF 800.- (i.e. some 16,000 coins!). The fellowship supports local projects with grants of USD 5,000 each to cover wide-ranging needs on a global scale.



Some snap-shot examples include:

- Sanitation and Hygiene Program, Bangladesh
- Dignity and Social Inclusion: Socially vulnerable children and youth, Argentina
- Iwaki Food Radiation Measurement Project, Japan
- Awareness Creation on Gender Based Violence Crimes, Tanzania
- Rehabilitation and Sessions of Intensive Vocational Training at the Central Women's Prison in Baabda, Lebanon,
- Seeking wisdom to care for God's creation, Pacific Region
- Young Egyptian Women as Agents of Peace Building and Consolidation, Egypt.

Much more information can be found on their website at <http://flc.net.ph/>.

Anyone in the congregation can participate – simply collect your 5ct pieces for the FLC and support of their projects and give them to Christine Bunn or Nan Braunschweiger or put them in an envelope clearly marked for the FLC in the collection plate.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
and
CONGREGATIONAL
COMMITTEE

Annual Congregational
Meeting (ACM)

This will take place on the evening of Tuesday 28 May 2019 in the Salle Théodore de Bèze. We will begin with a moment of fellowship with a finger buffet and refreshments then move into the business part of the meeting where we approve the 2018 accounts and 2019 budget, appoint auditors for the 2019 accounts, receive the Annual Report 2018 and elect new members on to the Congregational Committee. Following this, some lively discussion - prepared by the Kirk Session - will take place about our wider church life. As an example, the recently held series of Big Conversations were an initiative that grew out of discussions at the ACM last year. We hope as many members of the congregation will join for this important event in our church calendar.

Membership of the Congregational Committee

The committee oversees the practical issues related to the smooth running of the church. Regular agenda items include finance and fabric. Other matters discussed can cover issues such as Church Fair organisation, the church website, flowers in the church and facilities for persons with disabilities.

Being a member provides the opportunity to learn about, contribute to and influence the way the church's practical affairs are handled. The regular meetings are normally held on Tuesday evenings in January, March, April, June, September and November. If you feel you would like to volunteer or know more about serving the church in this way, please contact either the minister, the session clerk Alice Tulloch or me.

Secretary of the Congregational Committee

I will have completed two 3-year terms of office as secretary of the committee at the 2019 ACM and the time has come to step down so we are looking to appoint a new secretary, if you would be interested in taking on this role, which I can strongly recommend as very enriching, please let me, Alice or the minister know.

Nan Braunschweiger
Congregational Committee Secretary



CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Every church congregation places a high value on pastoral care – caring for the needs of those associated with the congregation, whether these be physical, emotional or spiritual.

In some congregations, there is an expectation that the Minister is the one person responsible for delivering that kind of caring. But that's an impossible task for any one person – even the best Minister in the world – to accomplish.

In many congregations, therefore, teams are set up to work with the Minister in providing pastoral care. Such teams often include both Elders and others with skills and talents they can bring to the task.

That was the approach taken in the Church of Scotland, Geneva, up until almost 15 years ago, when it seemed appropriate to adopt a different approach.

Jesus said to **all** his followers, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* (John 13:34-35)

And so the theme of 'Caring for One Another' was adopted to guide the provision of pastoral care within our congregation. Instead of only a limited number of people sharing the responsibility for providing pastoral care to the congregation, **everyone** within the congregation shares that responsibility.

What does that mean in practice? Well, here are just some ideas...

- Saying "hello" – with a smile – to the person sitting beside you in church on Sunday morning and having a chat with them after the service is over...
- Shaking hands and having conversation with the visitor to our service over a cup of coffee in the Salle...
- Sitting at the same table as someone you haven't met before, or whom you don't know well, at our monthly Sunday lunches...
- Phoning someone whom you haven't seen in church for a couple of Sundays to ask if they are OK...
- Dropping in to visit someone who is ill in hospital or at home, or who isn't able to get out and about as much as they used to... or sending them a card or a note...
- Encouraging a friend to come with you to church... or to the choir practice... or to bible study... or the women's group meetings...
- Inviting someone from the congregation – new or well-established – to come along to your house group... or to join the forthcoming Lenten studies...
- Keeping any and all of these people in mind, as you bring them – and yourself – before God in your daily prayers...



These are all ways in which we can 'Care for one Another'. And there are, of course, many more ways in which we can do that, as we go about our daily lives thinking of others around us – whether or not they attend the Church of Scotland!

And please do mention to the Minister or any of the members of the 'Caring for One Another' core group, whose role it is to try to facilitate and encourage pastoral care within the congregation, any concerns you may have.

When the 'Caring for One Another' concept was being introduced to the congregation in 2005, one of the aspirations that was described was that we hoped everyone in our congregation would know someone else with the church community well enough to be able to turn to them in a time of any kind of trouble to ask for support if needed – even if that was just for a friendly chat. We can all try to "do our bit" to make that a reality.

Blessings to you all.

Jim Sharp – for the 'Caring for One Another' core group: Terry Angleys, Janet Askew, Christine Bunn, Jim Sharp, Eleanor Strittmatter, Laurence Twaddle, Rosaleen Walker

* * * * *

One of the initiatives which the 'Caring for One Another' core group has introduced recently is to offer folk in the congregation the possibility to lodge with the Minister, for confidential safekeeping, a note of contact details for their next-of-kin or others which could be used in the event of serious illness or death.

There is no denying that we are an ageing congregation, with an increasing number of us living alone, often a long distance away from other family members. It can be a concern for anyone in that situation, worrying what would happen if they had an accident or needed to be hospitalised – or when they passed away. It's not always easy to know with whom you could confidently leave details of who should be contacted under any of these kinds of circumstances.

A simple "Contact Information" form has been designed, which can be completed with the name, address and telephone number of your next-of-kin. Once completed, this is placed in a sealed envelope bearing your name and will be held in confidential safekeeping by the Minister. It will be opened only in the event of your death or serious incapacitation requiring the intervention of others.

If you would like to take advantage of this, and complete one of these forms, please speak to the Minister or any member of the 'Caring for One Another' core group.

WE ARE SAILING...WE ARE SAILING!

Or at least we will be - on the evening of Friday, June 7th!!

For, we are chartering the amazing, classic lake-barge **NEPTUNE**, for a church outing across, along and around Lake Geneva!! Time to be together, to soak up the summer sunshine and enjoy good fellowship and company in a rather special context and amazing setting.

If you've ever caught sight of the **Neptune** making its way back to port on balmy summer's evening and thought "that would be great!" – well, this is your chance. Tickets will be on sale very soon and since numbers will be limited – do make sure you get yours as soon as they come on stream!

This is a trip you can invite friends to join – and introduce them to the church family, as well as show them a good time.

So put the date in your diary, and listen out for the announcement of ticket sales.

(On June 8th, you'll either have great memories of a wonderful and unique trip...or be kicking yourself that you missed it!!)

JUNE 7TH – a three hour lake cruise aboard the good ship NEPTUNE.
Brilliant!!



ORGAN CONCERTS AT THE AUDITOIRE DE CALVIN 2019



Souffle de Printemps

THE 2019 ORGAN FESTIVAL IN A NUTSHELL

The “Souffle de Printemps” Festival features four local performers, each with their own take on the Aubertin organ.

For information about the festival, contact:

Rebecca Macdonald [+41765321173](tel:+41765321173)

Linda Revkin [+41763673960](tel:+41763673960)

[May 4, 2019, 6 pm](#)

Olga Grigorieva, established organist, originally from Russia, but now a long-time Geneva resident.

[May 11, 2019, 6 pm](#)

Benjamin Righetti, brilliant, up-and-coming young organist, based in French-speaking Switzerland.

[May 18, 2019, 6 pm](#)

Vincent Thévenaz, freshly-appointed organist at Geneva’s St-Pierre Cathedral.

[May 25, 2019, 6 pm](#)

Alan Woodbridge, trained as an organist, now working as Chorus Master at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Their recitals will reflect the fresh burgeoning of organ music at the Auditoire. All festival recitals will take place at the Auditoire de Calvin, 1 Place de la Taconnerie, Geneva, and are free with a retiring offering.

AOA

Association « Amis de l’orgue de l’Auditoire de Calvin »

Web : aoa-calvin.ch

E-mail : contact@aoa-calvin.ch

Committee

President: Jean-Jacques Buard

Secretary : Rebecca MacDonald

Membership Secretary: Janis Schlatter

Treasurer : Peter Eugster

Banking Details: Postfinance

Amis de l’Orgue de l’Auditoire de Calvin
(A.O.A.)

CCP: 14-48532-6

IBAN CH71 0900 0000 1404 8532 6

If you want to become a member of the Association or make a donation, please contact us:

By email: contact@aoa-calvin.ch

By telephone: +41223698215

Dimanche 10 mars 2019 à 17h

Auditoire de Calvin

1 Place de la Taconnerie, Genève



« Auf Flügeln des Gesanges »
On Wings of Song

Récital de Musique de Beethoven, Elgar, Debussy et Fauré
Voix et Piano

Michael MULVEY, baryton
Rebecca MacDONALD, piano

Concert en faveur de
Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi & l'Association St Julien-St Louis,
Sénégal

Entrée libre - Collecte à la sortie
Verrée de l'amitié après le concert

Renseignements : (022) 366 72 17 / +33 (0)450 75 36 22