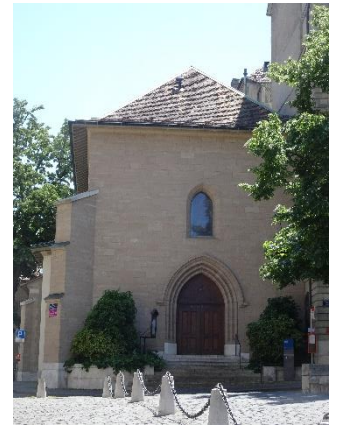


Special Newsletter

October 2021

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS FROM LAST YEAR?

Letter from the Minister



Warmest greetings, as always!

Do you remember when things were normal? It's kind of hard to keep a handle on how things used to be, when so much is **not** as it used to be.

Round about now, in any ordinary year, we would be gearing up for our Church Fair and Ceilidh in November.

- The bakers would be planning their baking programme...
- The bookstall people would be figuring out how to get all those books in the right order from the Salle to the Salle Communale, in Grand Saconnex:
- The lunch-makers would be calculating their quantities,
- The jam-makers jamming, the crafters crafting, the Christmas hampers assembled...
- The "Scottish" stall-holders gathering up their goods,
- The Bric a Brac and jewellery and children's' toy stall-holders would be collecting their rich bounty
- The Christmas cards would be ordered and good to go:
- Who knows when the champagne and smoked salmon, the Irish coffee, and the bacon rolls would be being readied...
 - The Pipe Band would be selecting their programme
 - And the Ceilidh Band would be tuning up!

And, the Church Treasurer would be looking forward to the possibility of balancing the annual budget, courtesy of the 13,000 Swiss Francs the Fair would bring into Church Funds.

But not this year! Not this year! (October 2020)



And not this year either!

The Kirk Session and the Congregational Committee have reached the decision that because of on-going Covid measures, pressures on helpers, restrictions on location, and a whole raft of unknowns and uncertainties, we will not be holding a traditional Church Fair in 2021. This will disappoint some, be a relief to others, remove stress from still more - but is a necessary decision, that takes account of the realities of the situation in which we find ourselves.

Given that the loss of income involved in this second year without a Church Fair, will impact on our Church finances, and on the charities we have been in the habit of supporting out of our Fair income, the decision has also been taken to re-visit the concept of a **Virtual Fair**.

The response to this last year was wonderful, heart-warming and encouraging!

It was as if people realized that we had to do something, brave and bold and imaginative...and the response was magnificent and magnanimous!

Well, once again, we have to do **something!** And our approach is from two directions.

Some of our stall-holders are able and willing to take orders directly for cakes and jams and even items for sale as Bric a Brac...Details of what's available and contacts for ordering can be found on the church website: with pick-up arrangements for 10-00 a.m. – 12 noon on Saturday 6th November at the Church, or on Sunday 7th November in the Salle, following the morning service.

www.churchofscotlandgeneva.ch



Last year, for those who preferred a more direct response, members and friends were invited to make a special gift, to help offset the loss of the Church Fair income.

So, for instance, someone like me, who enjoyed a bacon roll, some lunch, some champagne and smoked salmon, an Irish coffee, buying some jewellery for that special lady in my life, (Lindy!!!) and perhaps something interesting from the bric a brac – two years ago, a rather splendid standard lamp!! – well, *someone like me* was asked to contribute the money I **would not be spending** at the Fair this year, **direct** to church funds...so that an equivalent sum might be raised:

though the bacon roll and the smoked salmon were notional...virtual...the gift to the Church would be very real!

Special situations require special responses.

Last November, this was our chance to respond to this challenge with imagination and good-natured generosity.

AND PEOPLE DID!

The response to the Virtual Fair, revealed the level of commitment and the sense of responsibility felt within the congregation. As our American cousins would say

“People stepped up to the plate!”

Of course, this is a hugely difficult time for many people – and no-one, please, should feel pressured, or put upon, by this approach.

Once again, in the second year of Covid, we have to do something, and this is what we are doing.

So, please, place your order at the website...and/or send your gift direct, either by bank transfer to the Church account mentioned below or, in cash form, to Lindy or to Peter Tulloch.

Next year...surely!! things will be back to something we recognise as normal

(I can almost smell that bacon roll – those African dishes, that Irish coffee!!

I can almost hear the skirl of the pipes– roll on 2022!!!)

Blessings, as always

Laurence

Bank Details:**UBS****Bank Account: Church of Scotland, GE****No. 279-C7114389.0****IBAN: CH13 0027 9279 C711 4389****Virtual Fair Website page**

We are creating a special page on the Church website where items being sold for the “Virtual Fair” will be mentioned.

To date, these include:

Bric-à-brac (aka Interesting Objects) Rosaleen Walker - rmwalker@bluewin.ch

(Please see the pages in this Newsletter, and order before end-October!)

Marmalade and jams- Peter Tulloch +33450 411723 or
tulloch.peter1@gmail.com

Shortbread - Lindy Twaddle - 0227880831 or lindy.lynn1956@gmail.com

Christmas cakes – Mawunu Nyaho Chapman 022774 11 65
mawunu01@yahoo.com

Baking – Nicola Hollyman 022 346 8047
nicolahollyman@hotmail.com

Other items may be added to the list as the inspiration hits!