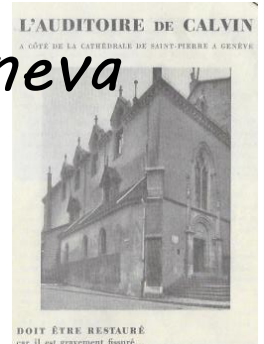




Church of Scotland Geneva

Auditoire de Calvin

February 2022

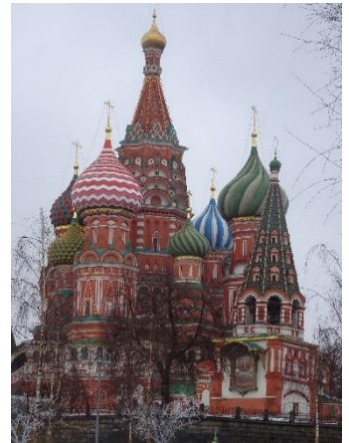


Letter from the Minister

Salutations! It's true! Travel broadens the mind!

When we are wrenched from our comfort zone and our easy certainties, and required to consider afresh what we think of this, or how we understand that, it can be unsettling, but refreshing; stimulating, but disturbing.

Our recent trip to Moscow - of which you just might have heard!! – took us to new places and exposed us to different thinking, other life-styles, and offered fresh eyes on the familiar world. The Russian way of telling the story, their take on the news, their analysis of the political landscape, was very different from the received wisdom in the West, and their understanding of how things had come to be as they are, offered a slant little heard down our way!



The rights and wrongs of historical interpretation, and responses to unfolding situations, might vary according to perceptions and prejudices, but this much was clear to me...people are people! They love, they lose; they laugh, they question; they hope and they dream: they work and they play...they are the same wherever you are...not some strange alien race...just men and women, trying to live their lives, trying to make life work.



Whatever politicians may enact, and whatever fictions they may invent to get their way...most people simply want to live in peace, and get on with their life, without alarms or crisis.

So, however things evolve in the coming weeks, and months...I will find it impossible to demonize the ordinary people...who pretty much look the same as we do, want the same things that we do...need the same things that we do!

Lent is almost underway, as I write. A precious time of walking the road, following the Carpenter wherever his love will take him. He invites us to go with him on the journey.

Love as always,

Laurence



We are happy to offer a Lenten Bible Study series this year again, and we are planning to use the Churches in Britain and Ireland programme. It has been useful and creative over a number of years, and is fairly low tech. People interested in being involved can check out the website.

At 7.00 p.m till 8ish on Thursday evenings - (except the 22nd which is a Tuesday!)

Dates are below, with Zoom links to be sent closer to the time.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/St-Winefride-Lent-Journey-2022.pdf>

March 3rd

March 10th

March 17th

March 22nd (TUESDAY)

March 31st

APRIL 7th.



I hope you can be there, as we walk the story towards Good Friday and Easter.

Church Away Day gets closer!

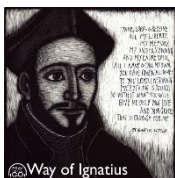
We have missed one another! No coffees after the service, no Lunches once a month, no Church Fair, Ceilidh or Burns Supper! Too long, too long!

However, things are very much in place for our Congregational Away Day on March 26th. In the beautiful setting of Colley Bossy, with the mountains and lake in view, and people who are precious and special close by, it offers a wonderful opportunity to have some catch-up time...some important re-connecting...good food, good fellowship, some discussion and lots of laughter and love.



Maybe you **meant** to put your name down and just haven't done so yet...but, don't miss out, on what will be a lovely and precious day. Please let any of the Elders, or the Minister know you want to come. If transport is a problem, we can sort that for you.

And, if the sun shines on the 26th March...that will be a bonus!



The Ignation Way 2022

Living in the Light of Love in Times of Change

An **Ignation Way Day** offers a chance to *open to silence*, with time for personal reflection on scripture passages and group sharing on related questions

Where? Close to Geneva at the Ecumenical Institute-
Chateau de Bossy,

1298 Céligny

Up-coming dates (Saturday, 9.00-17.00): March 5,
2022

Cost per day: CHF 45 (includes lunch).

Registration: Contact Patricia Laurie on vervel10@gmail.com or Tel: +33(0)954-410-339



**World Day
of Prayer
2022**

**Friday 4th March
16:00 – 17:00 hrs***

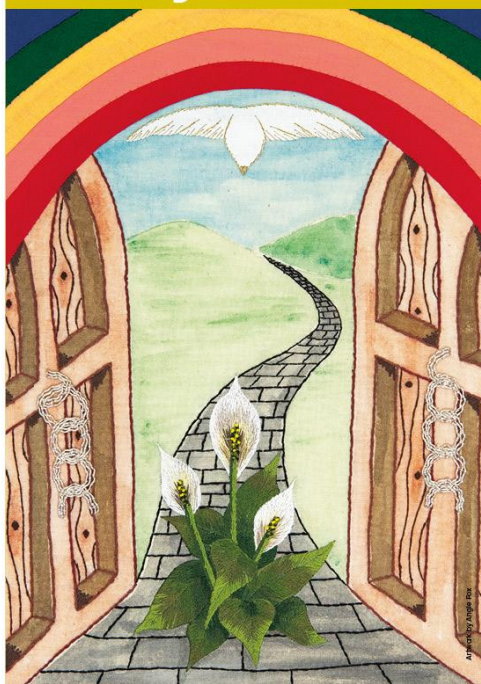
Ecumenical Centre
Route des Morillons 1
1218 Grand-Saconnex
(bus 5, 28, F. Crêt de Morillons)

An offering will be collected during the service to support editing of the UK Pivot's podcast videos *UnMute Now*. UK Pivot offers anti-racism and diversity training, workshops and mentorship in Northern Ireland.

For further information, please contact:
Caterina Lemp
worldoffice@worldywca.org
Maritza Vitale
maritza_vitale@yahoo.com

* COVID Certificate will be requested

I know
the plans
I have
for you



actalliance



GENEVALUTHERAN

Church of Scotland Geneva

– Finance Update, February 2022

The main question most people have at the start of the year regarding finances is usually, how did things turn out last year? Of course, the big disappointment for a lot of people is that at this stage, the answer, if you're cautious, is to say that we don't really know. This is because it takes a bit of time to close out all the accounts, reconcile the accounts payable and receivable, and carry out a bunch of other functions which are as equally thrilling and interesting to most members of the Congregation as the prospect of watching a live-action television documentary on paint drying.



The final picture will be presented later this year to the Annual Congregational Meeting when it meets to (among other things) approve the audited accounts. Nonetheless, the big picture is essentially there and it looks reasonably encouraging. Right now, the Church is actually showing a small surplus, which is an amount of income received in excess of the expenditures. This will inevitably be reduced once a few, final invoices from 2021 are received but it does mean that the Church essentially broke even in 2021. Given the impact of lockdown until the last third of the year and the fact that 2020 had resulted in a substantial deficit, this is a source of what I could describe as, “encouraging relief”. The Church had actually budgeted for another large deficit but this has been avoided which is very good news. I would hasten to add that a bigger surplus would have been ideal since a breakeven point still leaves us vulnerable, but at least we can move forward without having to dig into reserves.

In this regard, the Congregation is to be highly commended in how it responded to the situation in 2021. With Church Services in the Auditoire only re-starting in September and with quite limited numbers attending, the Congregation has carried on supporting the Church generously with bank transfers and online donations. Some very generous donations have been made and the huge response to the virtual Church Fair meant that it actually raised an equivalent amount to what a regular Church Fair would have earned pre-COVID.

Other developments are also encouraging. Work has been ongoing to boost income sources and significant progress has been made towards getting an online income function onto the Church website. You may not realise it but there have already been healthy contributions received via a central Church of Scotland account for online donations which were directed to Geneva. Our own presence in this environment should be a strong step forward. Another strong development has been the assumption of the role of Freewill Offering Treasurer by

Mak Ikeda who is bringing some new energy into the role as it moves back to being a combination of physical donations and bank transfers. Mak has revived the pink and blue envelopes and encouraged as wide a registration as possible in the Freewill Offering scheme. If you haven't joined yet but would like to, please get in touch with him at fw.treasurer.cos.geneva@gmail.com or just talk to him on a Sunday if the internet is not such an exciting prospect for you. All are welcome in this place for sure.

And that would be a good point at which to conclude. The point is that the Church has kept going through difficult times and is taking new steps forward to support its work thanks to the generosity and dedication of its Congregation. If you look at the names filling up the Freewill Offering scheme, the dozens of bank transfers, and the kind contributions made on a Sunday offering plate, it is clear that there is real commitment to the Church and even in the less spiritual realm of finance, this coming together makes a visible and valuable difference.

Ewart MacKenzie, Treasurer



Someone passed on this picture of the Sunday School in 1990!



Our Mission Programmes

We maintain ongoing links with outreach programmes in two of the world's poorest countries. In Malawi, our connections are with the Youth HIV-AIDS Information Centre at Ekwendeni mission hospital in the north of the country, where Shupo Kumwenda is the supervisor (Shuporvisor?). And in Nepal, our Elder Graeme Clugston and his Nepali wife Meena have served for the past 14 years as Medical Director and Head of Nursing Services in Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Trust, a Christian foundation in the south-east of a Buddhist and Hindu country. We provide them both with basic support and, on occasion, emergency financing when particular difficulties occur (earthquakes, tropical storm damage, etc.) In Nepal, our congregation has also generously funded the construction of a children's ward and an isolation ward, and individual members have given substantial donations to buy important medical equipment. In Malawi, we have paid for the building of an outdoor meeting hut, enabled the Centre to buy a pickup truck and supplied bicycles for outreach work.

Jane and Han Broere are our main contacts with Shupo in Ekwendeni, also via their school feeding programme "Nourishing Minds". With the Covid pandemic it has unfortunately not been possible to visit Malawi for the past two years but they hope to make a trip later in 2022. In the past, we have also welcomed people from the Youth Centre here in Geneva – including Shupo – both in summer and in winter!

Graeme and Meena keep regularly in touch with newsletters from Lalgadh and were recently able to take some leave in the Geneva area – it was great to see them looking so well and participating in Auditoire worship.

The regular budgets for both programmes approximate to CHF 12,000 per year. In Nepal, our basic support pays the salaries of a doctor and a nurse. In Malawi, we finance the salaries of Shupo and two other staff members, and administration expenses. Our contributions are the only financial support for the Youth Centre and provide Shupo and his team with the foundation for their work in villages such as distribution of clothing, wheelchairs etc.



Both centres have major outreach programmes.

Ekwendeni's youth spread the message of AIDS prevention, treatment and healthy living throughout the local area via village visits, band concerts and many other activities; they also help poor families with housing, access to medical care, and maintain a large number of village vegetable gardens.

Sport is also a major outlet for the energies of young people and has become highly successful; a number of the Ekwendeni female netball players were selected for training with the Malawian national squad. One of their special projects for 2022 is the reconstruction of the netball court – an essential training facility; the estimate is that this will cost the equivalent of CHF 1500. On the young men's side, the football club is also having big successes at the local level.

Lalgadh hospital, which offers free leprosy treatment to all patients and is also a very busy general hospital, works with many poor villages in very difficult terrain - mountainous roads, often washed away by floods, either very hot or very cold. Recently they have completely rebuilt a school in one of the most inaccessible districts – sending back dramatic photos of the journey and the building process.

Support for our mission outreach can be given either by direct donations to the church bank account or through the "Freewill" offering scheme, either by bank transfer or via the blue envelopes to put in the offering plate each Sunday. We encourage you to be generous and continue your wonderful encouragement for these two excellent programmes, helping people in two of the world's poorest countries.

Thank you!



2022 Fair- 5th November

After a gap of two years, a date has been booked for the return of the fair in the Salle Communale in Grand Saconnex. As always, we are looking for volunteers to organise and man stalls. If there is anyone who would like to take on the overall organisation of the event- liaising with stall holders, coordinating publicity and information and managing the logistics on the day—we would be delighted! Also, the ceilidh cannot happen unless we have someone to organise the band, bar and food. This can be a separate group from the daytime activities.

In the first instance, can you let Lindy Twaddle know if you are willing to run a stall or would like to volunteer for one of the above jobs.

Scottish Stall

Due to the wonderful enthusiasm of the congregation the Scottish stall was left completely bare after the last in-person St Andrew's Fair in in 2019 (is that the right year). Not even one tin of haggis remained.

We would therefore be more than happy to receive Scottish themed gifts, trinkets, donations etc to sell on the stall at the next Fair projected for November 5th 2022.

It may be worth mentioning that Scottish themed goods are also available on www.Amazon.fr for those living in France.'

We thank you in advance for any help that you can give replenishing the Stall for the big day.

Sherree Atkinson
Douglas Murray-Jones
Fiona Parrott

And...

Calling all gardeners..... We plan on having a garden themed stall at the Fair. We are looking for donations of spare plants, (indoor or out), shrubs, seedlings, or cuttings you might want to take for us. Thank you!

Contact: Christine Buhler





Church News

Church Flowers

Now we are back in the Auditoire, we would like to reinstate the flower rota. You can either provide and arrange the flowers yourself or make a financial donation. The rota can be found in the Salle upstairs, or you can contact one of us should you have a special date you would like to mark with flowers. Thank you in advance for enhancing our Sunday worship.

Christine Buhler

Hazel Griffith

Rosaleen Walker



....Need a Hand?

Maybe a lift to an appointment; some shopping, medication collected or perhaps a visit? Don't hesitate to contact the Caring Group. We're there for you!

Jane Broere

+33 6 84 27 45 03

or jane.broere@wanadoo.fr



Hatches and Matches:

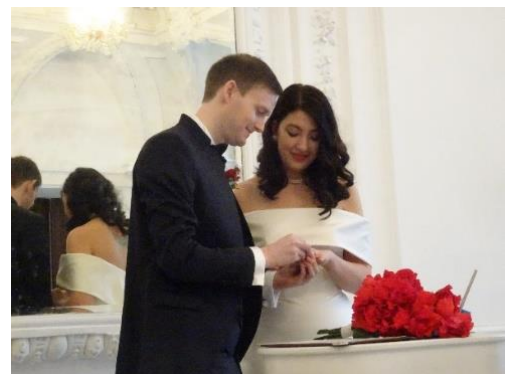
Robert and Rosaleen Walker are very happy to announce the birth of their grandchild Anabel, daughter of Karen and Neil.



Rebecca Bunn and Nathaniel Smith are married and now are the proud parents of Oliver Andrew Smith.

February 19th 2022, in Moscow-

Mr and Mrs John Twaddle!



And proud Dad!

