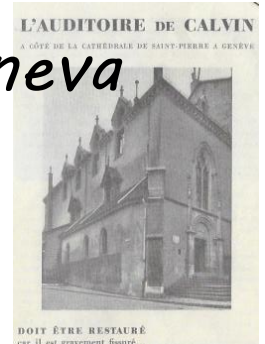




Church of Scotland Geneva

Auditoire de Calvin

July 2022



Letter from the Minister

Warmest greetings, as always!

Travel chaos!

Certainly, it seems like the romance of travel is somewhat demythologised...crammed airports full of disgruntled passengers...cancelled flights, rail-strikes, petrol-costs through the roof, farmers' protests slowing down traffic- a perfect storm for those about to embark on family holidays.

We learned, as we were packing our suitcases on the morning of our flight to Ireland to see granddaughter Eilidh and her heavily pregnant mother, that our flight had been cancelled four hours before take-off! Here's hoping our second attempt is more successful!

But hard luck on all those families, eager with anticipation - who have had all the uncertainties, pressures, and frustrations of disruption and disappointment.

No one is doing it deliberately, and no one wants it to be like this...the old/new mantra of these being "strange times" certainly applies at this point!

And can the Church be untouched by these social adjustments, demands and uncertainties? Definitely not!

Which is why it is particularly unfortunate that difficult issues are being presented to

congregations about their futures, in some cases their existence - just at a time when many are clinging by their fingertips to the life they knew pre-Covid...when things were more settled, secure, confident and familiar.

Uncertainty in a time of upheaval is a toxic cocktail and every congregation



is trying to pick its way through the scattered debris of *how things used to be*...to find a route towards *how things are going to be*!

Fortunately, we are blessed with committed members, who know how to be resilient, patient, generous and courageous - and leaders who are eager to see us be a church filled with compassion, faith, and vision...living and moving in the Spirit of Christ - and confident in the gospel we proclaim, the Christ we follow, the loving people we serve alongside.

I am grateful to Matthew Ross who will lead worship on Sunday 24th July, while Lindy and I are on holiday, (not far away!) And to the Reverend Gillean Maclean of Lausanne who will be taking care of pastoral matters.

Much love to all,

Laurence

The Congregational Committee

The Congregational Committee (CC), which oversees the temporal matters of the church, is looking for new volunteer members to join its ranks. Regular Agenda items include finance, fabric, Mission and fundraising. Other matters regularly discussed range from the St. Andrew's Church Fair Organisation, the Church website, flowers in the Auditoire and facilities for persons with reduced mobility. The Committee meets five times a year plus the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) usually held in May/June.



The Congregational Committee is also looking for a volunteer Secretary to be a Committee Member and take minutes at the five yearly meetings and the ACM. Participating in the meetings is very rewarding and gives the opportunity to learn about, contribute to and influence the way the Church's practical affairs are handled.

If you are curious and would like more information please contact The minister, Revd. Laurence Twaddle, any of the Church Elders or Congregational Committee Members or the current CC Secretary Sherree Atkinson (+33 679441787). We would be happy to give more information.

Church BBQ

Please book Sunday afternoon, 4th September 2022, to join in the annual Church barbecue chez Michael and Antonia in Mollens.

All you need to bring with you is your favourite food and drink (and preferably some fine weather!); salads, bread, water and soft drinks will be provided as well as a welcome glass of rosé.



If you need directions to Mollens, please telephone 021-864.3490 or e-mail mgb1937@outlook.com for directions and a map.

Church of Scotland Geneva – Finance Update, June 2022

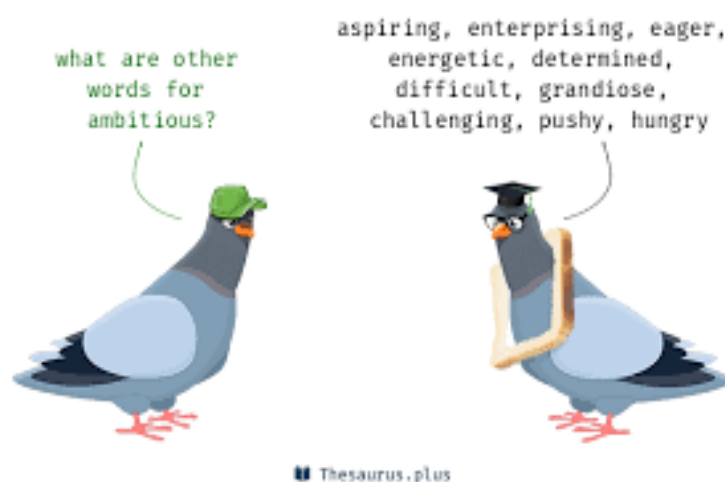
The Annual Congregational Meeting this year saw the approval of the accounts of the Church for 2021. The long-awaited (by those of a curiously number-crunching disposition) result was that in 2021 the Church managed to finish 2021 with a net surplus of CHF 3,604. In other words, against a budget of CHF 150,000, the Church made ends meet. At the risk of re-running the message I've been putting forward for some time now, this is good in the short term (we're not going broke) but not quite so good in the longer term (we don't have much room for manoeuvre in the face of the unexpected).

An interesting point was made at the ACM considering whether the 2022 budget should be "realistic" or "aspirational". For those unfamiliar with the terms, a realistic budget is based on projections of income and expenditure which are either highly predictable or based on previous experience. This gives a budget which is very useful to plan and monitor against but which does not convey much in the way of ambition. An aspirational budget is based on the same elements but also adding in some targets based on ambition, planning for the achievement of goals rather than just what is known already. This is much harder to deliver on but it does show much more clearly what the Church would like to achieve.

The budget approved is realistic. It plans for income of around CHF 128,000 and expenditure of CHF 152,000, i.e. for a deficit of CHF 24,000 (these figures are rounded). Planning for such a deficit is not exactly healthy but it is realistic, going by the experience of 2021 where only an unexpectedly generous, one-off contribution of CHF 20,000 halfway through the year avoided a deficit similar to that seen in 2020.

The key thing now is how the Church would like to plan its way ahead. Planning for a "realistic" income of CHF 128,000 is simply not going to be good enough, even if it is a figure we might well meet. To maintain our Church, especially as we move forward into an uncertain future as discussed recently by both the General Assembly and the International Presbytery, we need an aspirational target of at least CHF 152,000 in income. At the end of June 2022, our income had reached CHF 56,000 so we still have some way to go. This will be increased, we hope, by the Church Fair later in the year, but it still needs a bit of a boost. If we want to be genuinely ambitious, then we could plan for even more, with ideas to do a whole lot more as a Church but again, that is for a Church plan to define. The budget simply sets out what it will cost to deliver it.

So let's consider our target in 2022 at least, based on the budget approved by the ACM, to be CHF 152,000. It's ambitious but it's also what we need if we want to keep going as a Church. How do we get there? Once again, I would like to stress that this is a question not just for the Finance Sub-Committee (although it remains an important part of this) but for the Kirk Session, the Congregational Committee and indeed, for the whole Church. If the budget defines the cost of what the Church needs and wants to do, then it has to be based on a vision and a plan. Our ambition can't be blind (that's why the realistic side of budgeting is useful) but it should not be limited to the lowest common denominator either. If the Church plans comprehensively, then it should be able to plan its mission, its life and its finances at the same time.



One practical example of this would be the idea posed of a finance day. The idea behind this is to mimic, in some ways, the Church Away Day but with a focus on sustaining the Church financially. However, it would not be envisaged as some sort of accountants get-together where some people sit and discuss accounts receivable in an animated manner while everyone else goes for a coffee and checks the time of the next bus home. Rather, it would

be a gathering of finance specialists together with people bringing experience of marketing, publicity and communications, events management and all the related skills which are present in the Church. Anyone could join and the objective would be to pool that talent to plan ways ahead which will benefit the Church's life and strengthen its finances.

The timing isn't yet fully defined but that's the idea, or at least part of it. It should not be limited to a single event but be part of our life as a whole. There's a lot of talent in our Congregation and it's something we can make real use of. If you see a role for yourself or simply have a creative idea for moving us forwards, please get in touch. The Church needs to plan ahead. The finances demonstrate that but they are not the be-all and end-all. If we bring together the talents we have, perhaps we can find the ambitious way forward which we need.

Ewart MacKenzie, Treasurer

Mission Committee

Ekwendeni and Lalgadh: an update

Thank you all for your wonderful ongoing support for our two mission partnerships in Malawi and Nepal. We are pleased to say that, thanks to you, we have been able to continue our support for the HIV/AIDS Youth Centre in Ekwendeni and, in addition to our general budgetary support, to respond to a special request for funds to repair and upgrade the basketball court there. Sports - football, basketball and netball - are becoming an increasingly important feature of life there and great progress is being made on all fronts.

We have also just sent a half-yearly donation of CHF 6'000 to Lalgadh, where we support a doctor and nurse. Graeme Clugston, the Medical Superintendent, and his wife Meena, are currently in Australia, where Graeme is undergoing medical treatment. Please pray for the success of his treatment and for his full recovery.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks for all your support.
The Mission Committee

Netball cup holders from Ekwendeni

Nurses and doctors at Lalgadh





Volunteering Opportunity

Ever thought of joining the team on Iona?

We have a few short-term volunteer spaces, for specific roles, at Iona Abbey this summer.

You'll find details on our website-
- www.iona.org.uk/about/vacancies

The Abbey team welcomes guests from many countries to Iona each week to explore issues of common concern - including the environment, peace-building, poverty & inequality, racism, refugees, inclusion & diversity, interfaith dialogue. We work together, we worship together and we share meals as part of our common life.



We look forward to hearing from you

Get in touch with us, VolunteerApplications@iona.org.uk if you'd like to find out more.

Speaking of volunteering....

After a three year absence, our Fair, and ceilidh, will be held on Saturday 5 November 2022. Whilst most of the stallholders have signed up, we are still looking for people to look after the publicity, help with lunches and take the lead in organising the ceilidh.

Any assistance would be welcome in making the 2022 Fair a success!



Appeal for Readers

You may or may not know that I co-ordinate a small band of regular readers of the bible passages at each service in the Auditoire. They are a very faithful lot and can always be relied upon to step up. For that, they have my sincere thanks.

During the period in which Covid sent us wholly on line, the number of people who read at the services shot up. Our connections from around the world joined us for worship and readers were to be found anywhere and everywhere. What a joy!

We've been back in church for live services for a wee while now but, sadly, for a variety of reasons, not everyone has been able to return in person.

That presents us with a challenge, as the numbers of available readers on my list has, well, shot down.

So...

I need you!

We need you!

Your church needs you!

This is an appeal to the whole congregation. You may come to church every week. You may come to church now and then. Whatever the regularity of your presence, please would you consider offering to read? It's not difficult. In fact, it's very enriching, and once you've been up at that lectern the first time, you'll see how easy it is.

If you're game (and I do hope you are), please drop me an email. I'll answer any question.

Thank you,

Nicola Hollyman

nicolahollyman@hotmail.com



Paths to Ministry and Worship Leader Training

The Education, Training and Safeguarding Committee of the International Presbytery looks at opportunities for people in congregations across presbytery to further their knowledge and understanding. This could be through Bible study, discussions or online study. For those who feel called to be more involved in our congregational life, perhaps helping in services, there are different possibilities open to you.

There are four paths to ministry. The following is taken from the Church of Scotland website:
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/faith-nurture-forum/ministries-in-the-church>

1. Minister of Word and Sacrament

Someone who is ordained after special training, takes vows and is set apart for the task of leadership. They provide pastoral care and support people in need, or who are affected by tragedy or crisis. They also have an enabling role in the Church in developing a congregation through their leadership and vision.

2. Ordained Local Ministry (OLM)

This is a non-stipendiary form of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, aimed at engaging those with an appropriately tested sense of Call towards ordination, but who wish to serve primarily in a localised ministry. An OLM can be part of a ministry team, for example.

3. Deacon

Someone who is ordained and works in a professional supportive role in a parish or elsewhere. They do not celebrate the sacraments.

4. Readers

Someone whose duties are principally concerned with the ministry of the word and the conduct of public worship. They do not celebrate the sacraments. Readers can be attached to the ministry team of a parish, or to a group of linked parishes, preaching regularly in one or more congregations, and sharing in pastoral work associated with worship.

There is also an opportunity to train in worship leading/preaching without taking the more formal routes outlined above. Aberdeen University is offering two online courses for Church of Scotland congregations. If you feel a call to help lead worship, one or both of these may interest you (see the flyer below).

It would be wonderful for a wider group of people within the congregation to feel equipped to contribute to leading worship from time to time. These courses would be an excellent way to move towards that, and an opportunity for potential worship leaders to connect online with others within the Church of Scotland who are similarly motivated.

I am currently training to be a Reader, which involved studying part of the undergraduate Theology degree at Aberdeen University and having placements in other congregations. I have just finished six months at the Scots Kirk, Lausanne and will start another six months with Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Geneva.

If you have any questions about the path to ministry or the Worship Leader and Preaching courses, please contact me: reader.in.training.ge@gmail.com

Christine Colliar



Worship Leading and Preaching Courses

In collaboration with the north-east of Scotland Presbyteries, the Centre for Ministry Studies at Aberdeen University would like to offer the opportunity to people who want to be trained in worship leading and preaching during 2022-23.

Each course will include six sessions and will be held online. Students wishing to participate will be required to seek approval and sponsorship from their Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions.

Worship Leading Course 2022

(Wednesdays: 7.00-9.00pm)

5 October: Leading Christian Worship
19 October: History and Theology of Worship
2 November: Seasons of the Christian Year
16 November: Bible, Prayer and Praise
30 November: Intergenerational Worship
14 December: Orders of Service

Preaching Course 2023

(Wednesdays: 7.00-9.00pm)

11 January: Exegesis
25 January: Hermeneutics
8 February: Homiletics
22 February: Composition
8 March: Rhetoric
22 March: The Gospel

To Apply contact:

Aberdeen and Shetland: Rev Edmond Gatima; EGatima@churchofscotland.org.uk

Buchan: Rev Hugh O'Brien; HOBrien@churchofscotland.org.uk

Gordon: Rev Dr Alison Swindells; aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk

Kincardine and Deeside: Rev Tony Stephen; TStephen@churchofscotland.org.uk

Moray: Miss Margaret King; margaretking889@gmail.com

For more information contact:

Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey

ksjeffrey@abdn.ac.uk

'A centre of excellence that provides world class education and training for people involved in Christian ministry at home and abroad.'

www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/centreministrystudies

IP Mission Project 2022: Tent of Nations, Bethlehem

Memo #3



Persevering Despite Another Delay

Your solidarity and prayers have buoyed the spirits of the whole Nassar family! Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic (when international visits to the farm suddenly had to stop), the Tent of Nations Farm has endured continual attacks on their land resulting in destruction of terraced fields, infrastructure, and trees. They also must continuously respond to intense legal attempts to confiscate their land and endure physical attacks from a group of misguided Palestinian neighbors. This is a time of fierce urgency at Tent of Nations. The destruction of the past 2.5 years has been devastating, "placing us back to the time when we first began Tent of Nations in 2001," Daoud says. "The road ahead is long, but we journey it together."

On April 29th, the long awaited date (May2) for the final hearing on the re-registration of the family farm was postponed again by the Israeli civil authorities; this time indefinitely. After 32 years of a legal battle to acknowledge their ownership of the farm through an unjust legal system the Nassar family continues to pray and hope that it will be settled in the near future. Until then, their situation, like that of all Palestinians, is extremely vulnerable at this time. The Israeli government has approved and has begun massive home demolitions in the West Bank which will render approximately 1,200 people homeless.

Despite all this, the Nassars are again hosting many international visitors and volunteers, who come to help out with their summer camps and cultivating the land - planting new trees of hope. These volunteers go home to spread the message of faith, hope and love, having experienced it themselves, and invite more people to accompany the Tent of Nations on its long journey for justice.

What we can do:

- Keep them and the Palestinian/Israel situation in continual prayer.
- Daoud suggests for us to continue to shine a light on the Tent of Nations story – share it with your friends and family. View the Carter Center's 3:16 video of Jihan and Daoud and their 4th way; a non-violent resistance to injustice and violence : [Film](#).
- Plan to participate in our Presbytery-wide tree sponsorship campaign towards the end of the year. Buying a 'Tree of Hope' is a good Christmas gift idea for those who already "have everything" or a meaningful way to remember a loved one.
- Publicize this fundraiser in your church and beyond.



Jo Brown

For those who could not make it to Jo's funeral, here, in full, is Laurence's eulogy to her.



Jo Brown was a phenomenon...a force of nature...

A big character with the vibrant and colourful personality.

You met her, you did not forget her.

You can live life bold, or you can live it scared.

You can take the wolf by the ears and give it a darn good shake.

Or you can be timid and tentative...

You live like an eagle

Or you can live like a chicken.

You can take little sips at life,.

Or sup deep and full from the well.

Jo Brown took the bold option...

And she saw to it that she filled her days, her long years, with creative, productive, interesting, imaginative things... she didn't hide for a moment.

But rather, saw the world as full of possibility, beauty and opportunity, and was determined not to waste a moment.

Her busy, productive life, her sharp mind committed to solving the problems thrown up by her considerable responsibilities,

underpinned and informed the long and distinguished service she gave.

A woman of strongly held opinions, she was not afraid to share those. She knew her own mind and was not afraid to speak it!

She knew what she liked, what she expected - and she made sure we all knew what she expected!

It was never dull!

Definitely old school in her requirements and standards - she expected the best from people - that as she did, they would give their best. She did not do half-hearted but embraced causes and purposes with a true passion and zeal...was not afraid to do the work required to get things done!

But that restless energy and intellectual capacity needed more than even the rigorous disciplines of her good works could offer.

The world was bigger - much bigger - and she was eager to explore it, experience, enjoy it - in all its difference colour and magic.

So, while other people were tentatively dipping their toe in the possibilities of foreign travel - Jo was boldly going...taking life by the ears!

Truly a pioneering spirit, she was always prepared to try a new thing, investigate a new possibility...at a time when adventures truly were adventures....

Jo was pushing the envelope before most folk realised there was an envelope.

Her insatiable interest in so many things, made her open to new ideas, and new potential - and she had the courage and wisdom to try, to see, to be amazed.

She had a "can do" take on life, a "why not?" view of things... long before anyone invented the phrases.

And, so, the world opened up its possibilities, presented opportunities that had to be taken to live bravely. Life was not for hiding behind the sofa...and the wonderful world was a gift to be embraced and a chance to be taken.

So, life in the company of Jo was never dull.

Exhausting...but never dull! Breath-taking – but never dull!

And to share the story with friends who went back all the way with her...knew her through and through and loved her for all her strong character and firm opinions – was a real joy and a profound and prolonged blessing...to have those friendships strong and true into her eighties and nineties was a special delight and privilege. She proved a loyal friend when a loyal friend was just what was needed.

Even growing old to a grand old age did nothing to less her spirit,

Her can do mentality...and she was fortunate to be supported in those hard demanding moments by people who knew her well, loved her deeply, and never stopped being amazed by her indomitable character, her uncompromising will power...and her capacity to surprise with kindness and humour. Good neighbours were key to her coping, kind friends of all ages who watched over her, and did all they could to ease the burdens of the years.

You took her as you found her, or the loss was yours.

Everyone lives by some set of values or another.

For Jo...without standing at a street corner banging a drum about it...her faith was core...its values the rock-bed of her integrity...

Worship was integral to her life...and even when the hill to the Auditoire grew ever

steeper with the years...she would bus her way Sunday by Sunday...keeping a watchful eye to ensure that everything was being done as it should be ...everything was in order...so that God could be honoured...and the people blessed.

This is not to make her into Mother Theresa – for that she certainly wasn't – she could speak strong words that left you licking your wounds – and there were times when she made it very clear that fools were not to be suffered at all...never mind gladly.

But there was a uniqueness there an integrity there – that made its mark...and as the end came closer – a surprising gentleness and calm that spoke of a settled heart...

We acknowledge the imprint she has made on the lives of so many – and the passion with which she lived her life.



Jo Brown -Quiet, shy and retiring?...

not so much...

unforgettable...definitely.