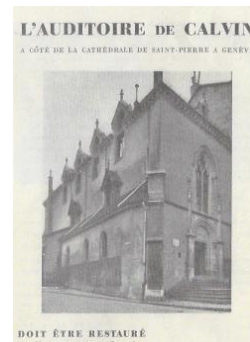




Church of Scotland Geneva

Auditoire de Calvin

Newsletter June 2018



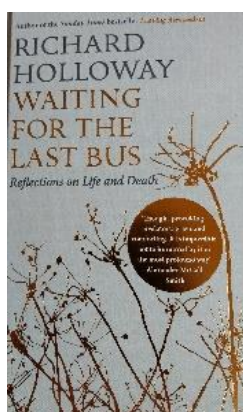
Letter from the Minister

My mind is in a whirl! Things I've read, people I've met, situations that have arisen, duties to perform...

I've just read a wonderful book by Richard Holloway – "*Waiting for the last bus*" – which, as you might guess, is a reflection on the way things are going for him as he reaches eighty years of age and thinks how to deal with that interesting and challenging stage of the journey.

Beautifully written and powerful, it moved me to tears.

Recommended!



Lindy will tell you that I am often moved to tears – by beautiful moments of reconciliation and healing in dramas on screen, or stories of redemption - when someone has reached out in compassion and lifted someone up, given them hope, a second chance.

I was, of course, moved to tears at the funeral last week of my wonderful sister, Lorna. The remembrance of her courageous loving life, and the experience of meeting person after person who was so eager to tell me how kind my sister had been to them, or how she had found time to listen to their story and followed up on that connection with loving thoughtful action...I was proud of her and humbled by the effect for good of her life. She never rated herself very highly – yet the effect of her life of faith and love was deeper than any of us ever knew. A true daughter of encouragement and a real follower of her Lord.

Some of the tears of that day came from being surrounded by Christian people and their prayers and faith, upholding and including myself and my nieces in a wonderful caring bond of shared vision and understanding of life, and what it's for, and how best

to make the journey. Many of the people there had watched me grow up and nurtured me in the faith, and, being back among them was moving and healing.

The emotional roller-coaster keeps hurtling along nonetheless...there is a vacancy in Lausanne and I am appointed Interim Moderator, which, as you might imagine, brings many responsibilities and tasks – not least, helping the congregation find a new minister, with all the arcane rules and procedures involved in that. From an emotional whirlpool right back into the nuts and bolts, forms and edicts that the church has, over the years, made the apparently necessary steps to take in order to call a new Minister. The people in Lausanne are a great bunch, hard-working and committed to the witness of their church. It will be a privilege to walk with them on this journey. It will take time, but it will need to be done.

However, all this will happen and be dealt with while enjoying a summer in Geneva – worshipping in the Auditoire and sharing the story of my days with the people of the Church of Scotland, Geneva. Not too shabby!!!

Love to all, as always

Laurence Twaddle



Caring for One Another

As we approach the summer months, we look forward to some time for recreation – and re-creation.



Holiday plans, often involving travel to faraway places, loom large on our agenda and in our minds but, at the same time, we are reminded too of the importance of staying in touch with those around us: our immediate families and friends, those whom we usually see daily or weekly but whom we may miss during the holiday period. Consider sending a postcard – or the latest tech equivalent, if that's appropriate – to your "neighbour" while you're gone, or phone them up or send a text message. It will be greatly appreciated by those from whom you are separated, even temporarily – especially if they are not able to go away for the "holidays".

Staying in touch with one another is of great importance, especially in this fast-changing world. Personal contact is essential for good well-being. Who usually sits close to you in church on Sunday morning? Do you know them by name? If not, why not introduce yourself next Sunday morning? If you do know someone who is usually there but seems to have been absent for the past couple of weeks, do you think to give them a call to say something like "Hi there. We missed you. Are you OK?" And, if the people sitting next to you next Sunday seem to be visitors – and we have many of them every week, especially during the summer – reach out to them and say, simply, "Welcome!"

In the Church of Scotland here in Geneva, we try to promote the idea of 'Caring for one another'. That means that 'caring' is not just the responsibility of the Minister or the Elders but of all of us who are called by Jesus to love another as we love ourselves (Matthew 22: 39).

Have a blessed summer!

Jim Sharp (for the Caring for One Another core group: Revd Laurence Twaddle; Terry Angleys; Janet Askew; Christine Bunn; Jean Murray; Eleanor Strittmatter; and Rosaleen Walker)

Women's Group BBQ

Dear Ladies,

We will have our annual barbecue on **Tuesday 26 June from 16.00** at the home of Ann Caloz, [22 la Voie du Coin, Grand Saconnex](#). Ann's home is quite near the hall where we hold our annual Fair. She suggests that anyone coming by car uses the underground parking just opposite the hall which is a few minutes walk from her house. If you are coming by bus - 5, 28, 53, or F - then Grand Saconnex Place is the stop you need. From there walk along route de Colovrex, go up Ancienne route and turn left into Voie du Coin.



You are asked to bring along some meat or fish to grill for yourself plus something we can share like a salad or dessert.

Please let Ann know if you are coming. Her phone is 022 798 66 71 and email is anncaloz@bluewin.ch

Christine Bunn has also asked me to let you know that she will probably arrange an outing to Champéry in September.

Fête de la Musique, 2018

Every year, on Midsummer weekend, the Old Town area of Geneva goes a bit mad with the Fête de la Musique. This year is no exception.

The Fête will take place between Friday evening, 22 June and Sunday evening, 24 June. Every possible venue (including the Auditoire) and open space will be occupied by musicians of all ages and varieties from baroque and classical to hip-hop and heavy metal. And it's all free!



Sunday morning is clear of Fête activities, and we shall hold our normal worship service at 11 as usual. However, car access to the Old Town will be severely restricted. If you have a “handicap” badge for your car, you will be able to come into the Old Town and use the designated parking spaces. However, you will have to be out of the area (using the Rampe de la Treille and the Rue de la Corraterie – not Place Neuve) by 2 p.m.

Others are asked to park outside the area, for example in the Parking St.-Antoine, and come on by foot.

We shall, of course, have a great musical offering in the Auditoire for our own service. So come to worship without fear, and enjoy the Fête afterwards!

Find out more about the Fête de la Musique at <https://www.ville-ge.ch/fetedelamusique/>

Book the date!

The annual Church Barbecue will be held after the Service on Sunday 19th August, chez Michael and Antonia Bruce, in Mollens.

From 12.30 onwards, there will be a glass of rosé, plus soft drinks and water to welcome you as you bring your delicious items to barbecue, with the opportunity to chat with many friends during the afternoon.

Salads, bread, soft drinks and water will be available throughout the afternoon.

The suggested contribution: CHF 10 adults/5 children for church funds.

Please let Michael and Antonia know if you are free to come on “mgb1937@outlook.com” or call (021) 864 3490 and if you need directions to their home.



The Queen's Birthday

All members of the congregation are invited to attend the Garden Party being organised by the Romandie West Region of the British Resident's Association of Switzerland at 18.30 on Thursday 21 June to celebrate HM The Queen's 92nd Birthday.

It will take place in the magnificent grounds of the Geneva English School, Route de Malagny 36, Genthod.

Full details are available in the Salle.



ARTS AND CRAFT GROUP

Following its creation in January, the group has been meeting every month. Some of us bring WIP (work in progress), others not. Some of us are very talented, others less so, but the common thread is a time of fellowship, much laughter and interesting debates about what to make.

Our objective is to have a craft stall at the Church Fair, exhibiting the diverse creative skills and talent of our group.

Please do feel free to join us – it's open to all!

Our next meeting is chez Gillian Friedli in Collonge-Bellerive on **Tuesday 3 July at 14h00**. Please contact Gillian on 022 752 22 29 for directions.

A brief report from Graeme and Meena Clugston in Lalgadh

We have been with NLT/LLHSC for 11 years now. Thanks to you - your prayers, your funding and your encouraging support – LLHSC has seen a huge increase in patient numbers, increasing clinical compassionate care with free services for the leprosy- affected, increasing international visibility, and amazing infrastructure developments.

The hospital gets busier and busier as the hot weather approaches – it's around 40 degrees at Lalgadh each day now. At present we are managing 600 – 800 outpatients (patients coming for consultations) per day, and our nearly 100 Inpatient beds are full, our new Children's Unit is full, and our diagnostic services (laboratory, X-Ray, ultrasound, pharmacy) are stretched.

Opening our Children's Unit on World Leprosy Day (28 January 2018) was so amazingly appropriate. The World Health Organization (WHO) had declared "Children" as the major focus for 2018 World Leprosy Day worldwide, with goals -

- **zero leprosy-disability in Children,**
- **zero Children with Leprosy**

It has taken some 3 years to build our Children's Unit. It has been achieved through wonderful support - funds, encouragement, prayers - from churches and friends around the world, and an enthusiastic visionary building team here at LLHSC.



There are still some amazing finishing touches going on. For example we are painting the walls of the Children's Unit with Himalayan scenes – and with the help of a painter, **some of the leprosy affected children inpatients are helping to paste an amazing array of multi-coloured animals on the walls. Mind-blowing!**



Support for Ultra-needy schools in high remote earthquake-affected areas

Two weeks ago we went up to high areas of Sindhuli District, to help support a new needy school – Nakajuli School, and continue with support for an even higher remoter school – Kalika School, which is still badly earthquake affected.

We are helping build a new school at Kalika, but meantime are providing the children with school- clothes, schoolbags, reading and writing materials, books, soap and towels, toothbrush, sandals, and a snack. We are also installing solar panels, and have already helped put in a piped water-supply from a spring about 1 km away up the mountain-side.

We also run a health-check-up clinic at Kalika.... Firstly for the children, but then also for the parents. We are the first doctors to ever go there.

The trip getting there is initially a 2-hour winding, reasonable-road ascent to the top of the Sindhuli range, then another 1½ hour rough hair-raising road, only possible with a high-base land-rover. That gets us to Nakajuli School.

After Nakajuli School there is another ½-hour rough steep “road” to where the “road” finishes. Then it’s a steep steep 1-hour climb on foot.... To reach Kalika School.

Some of the mothers and local young folks come down to help carry up the equipment we are bringing – the school equipment, the medical supplies for our clinic there, and the solar panels.



Up and down to Kalika School....



Health checks at Kalika School

Graeme and Meena will very soon be in Geneva for a break from the extreme heat in Lalgadh (we hope it's not too hot here!) Don't forget to speak to them and hear more about their life-changing work in Lalgadh, and to give them your prayers and support.



THE FAIR and CEILIDH

It's that time of year again, when we are looking for your help to make this year's Church Fair a success. It will be on

Saturday 24 November 2018

at our usual location in Grand Saconnex.

I know the date seems a long way off, but should you be travelling to Scotland during the summer, especially by car, items for our Scottish stall would be gratefully appreciated.

Stallholders, and those involved, will be contacted shortly to see if they are able, and willing, to continue this year. However, we are always looking for newcomers and new ideas.

Our hugely popular Ceilidh will also be held in the evening, so book the date and tell your friends. The tickets sell out very quickly!

Many thanks
Christine Buhler
buhlerchristine@hotmail.com
079 417 09 93

The Young People of the Church

The Youth Group

The Youth Group has continued to meet every Sunday except Communion Sundays when the young folk have the chance to join in fellowship with the main congregation. Just before Easter we enjoyed an informative presentation from the Church's Eco Congregation Officer, Cornis van der Lugt and felt challenged in our role as stewards of God's creation. In our weekly study time we have looked at the Resurrection then Pentecost, the early church with Stephen, Paul's conversion and missionary journeys with his letters to the early church. We also looked at the non-Pauline books and will finish the academic year with a study of Jesus' parables and some games on June 17th and 24th. I'll be stepping down from leading but the Youth Group will start again on September 2nd with your Youth Group Team: Antoinette Djamen, Ailsa Craig and Franklin Ngantcha.



From Christine Colliar

After 15 years of teaching in Sunday school and teaching and leading youth group, I have decided to step down. I will look back on this period with many happy memories, especially the thrill of watching the children conduct Christmas and end of year family services that I wrote. It will be bittersweet sitting in the next Christmas service without having to wonder whether everyone has turned up and remembered their lines and props! After a 6-month transition period I have handed over to a wonderful team of young leaders and I wish them all the best. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with our young people. Some I first taught as toddlers in Sunday school then followed to youth group, and I have felt the emotion of seeing them go off to university. I can truly say our congregation is blessed with a wonderful group of young people. I wish them well!



The Sunday School

This term, apart from the traditional stories of Easter and Pentecost, we focused on the prophets and other Old Testament Stories from our Godly Play programme. To wrap up the year we used the Scripture Union Bible Time line. This time line helped us to review the most important stories and people we had heard about all through the year and the children were able to take a pocket size version home to share with their parents.

The highlight of the term was our Family Service. Activities began shortly after 10 am as the children helped with the preparation for the Service; preparing the table, arranging the flowers, folding and putting the Order of Service into the hymnals and practicing their song. As the Bible reading was from Luke 15: 1-7, the parable of the good shepherd, the children also helped





sticking up 'potentially lost sheep' all over the church. It was lovely to see them welcoming the congregation, distributing the hymnals, doing the collection and reminding us that Jesus put the children in the centre of our faith.

The Family Service also marked the end of the Sunday School year, classes will start again on Sunday 2 September 2018. We would like to thank all the children, parents and congregation for your support and wish you a wonderful summer break.

Freda Craeye

Sunday School

From Freda Craeye

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your support over the years that I have been the Sunday School Team Leader. As you know I am standing down as leader. It was a great pleasure to work with the children. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words, flowers and the gift I received today during the Family Service. I will always cherish the moment in my heart.



Church Information

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Church website: churchofscotlandgeneva.com

Bank Details:

Bank: UBS, **Name:** Church of Scotland, **GE Number:** 279-C7114389 0, **IBAN:** CH13 0027 9279 C711 4389 0