

# The Church of Scotland Geneva

Linked with

## The Scots Kirk Lausanne



## Introduction

The Church of Scotland, Geneva and the Scots Kirk Lausanne are linked. Rev. Dr Enikő Ferenczy is the minister of the linked charge and is based in Lausanne. The associate minister will be based in Geneva and is first and foremost responsible for the congregation in Geneva. The minister and associate minister will each have use of the manse of their respective congregation.

They, with our Ordained Local Minister, Rev. Christine Colliar, will work together to serve both congregations.

Geneva and Lausanne are diverse and lively international churches. All age groups are included in our congregations, although most worshipers are middle aged and above. We are keen to attract new members of all ages, particularly families with young children.

Both congregations include many committed members who play an active role in church life. In addition to Sunday worship, both churches offer social and outreach activities. We have joined together in on-line Wednesday lunchtime worship sessions and have had our first Away Day together in September 2025.

We are looking for an associate minister who will be part of a team to grow the resources we have and build our community across generations through outreach and pastoral care. The minister should have an ecumenical approach and be able to communicate God's message in a way that is relevant to everyday life. They should be comfortable in an international environment, have a working knowledge of the French language, and have an openness to Swiss culture. They should work well in a team ministry.

The Kirk Sessions of both Geneva and Lausanne have voted to depart from the Church's traditional position in respect of ministers in civil partnerships and same sex marriages.

**For any questions or further information, please feel free to contact:**

The Clerk to the Nominating Committee

Email: [nominatingcommittee@scotskirklausanne.ch](mailto:nominatingcommittee@scotskirklausanne.ch)

## Table of Contents

SECTION 1: GENEVA.....	4
HISTORY AND CONGREGATION.....	6
COMMUNITY PROFILE – GENEVA AND ITS REGION.....	8
WORSHIP LIFE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES .....	10
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES .....	12
STRENGTHENING AND DEEPENING OUR COMMUNITY.....	12
PASTORAL CARE.....	13
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.....	13
ECUMENICAL CONTEXT .....	14
WORLD CHURCH.....	14
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE.....	15
STAFFING.....	15
CHURCH, MANSE AND HALLS.....	16
WEB LINKS .....	16
.....	17
SECTION 2: LAUSANNE.....	17
HISTORY & ORGANISATION .....	19
COMMUNITY PROFILE – LAUSANNE AND ITS REGION .....	20
WORSHIP LIFE.....	21
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES .....	23
PASTORAL CARE.....	23
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.....	24
ECUMENICAL CONTEXT .....	24
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE .....	25
SAFEGUARDING .....	26
CHARITY.....	26
STAFFING.....	27
CHURCH, MANSE & HALLS .....	27
WEB LINKS .....	28

# **SECTION 1: GENEVA**

# Church of Scotland Geneva, Switzerland



## Congregational Profile

## History and Congregation

The Auditoire de Calvin, in which our congregation worships, was in pre-Reformation times the chapel of Notre-Dame-le-Neuve. Located beside the Cathédrale St. Pierre in the Old Town of Geneva, it acquired its current name when, in the mid-16th century, it became the place where John Calvin (1509–1564) lectured in theology. It was also where John Knox (1514–1572) ministered to the Marian exiles and led them in English-speaking worship. In 1558, Catholic Mary was succeeded by her Protestant sister, Elizabeth, on the English throne, and the English exiles began to return home. In 1559, Knox returned to Scotland, where he played the leading role in reforming the Church of Scotland. In the same year, the Auditoire became the original home of the University of Geneva.



When Scottish Presbyterians returned to worship in Geneva in the last third of the 19th century, it was thanks initially to the Victorian craze for tourism in Switzerland and it was not always to visit the Auditoire. On 7 July 1867, the first service was held in the Auditoire according to the custom of the Church of Scotland. From 1867 to 1925, various ministers led worship in the Auditoire and the Chappelle des Macchabées in the Cathedral.

In 1954 the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) General Council, in an agreement with the (National) Protestant Church of Geneva, launched a programme to restore the Auditoire, which over the years had deteriorated badly. This was funded by Reformed churches throughout the world, and most notably by the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The restoration was completed in 1959. In 1957 a kirk session was constituted, and by 1959 the congregation was firmly installed in the newly renovated Auditoire, where it has stayed ever since.



In April 2007, modern stained-glass windows were installed in the Auditoire. The designer, German artist Udo Zembok, presents his interpretation of the historical associations of the building and its connection with those 16th-century Reformers who brought light into the world.

2014 saw a complete refurbishment of the Auditoire to bring it into the 21st century. This included dealing with asbestos in the ceiling surface, improvements to the heating, change of lighting to provide for LEDs and improved efficiency, as well as new chairs made by a member of the Woodland Heritage in the UK.

In the same year, a new organ, by the master organ maker, Bernard Aubertin, was inaugurated. It was made in France from oak originating in forests in Alsace and Franche-Comté, managed sustainably by the Office National des Forêts. The new organ enabled numerous concerts in the Auditoire, enabling many more people to worship, experience and appreciate our beautiful, historic building. We treasure our history and our heritage, but we are at the same time a lively international congregation. We prize our diversity. Our 120+ members come from many countries and continents. They also come from a variety of denominations but choose to worship in the Reformed tradition.

We are a gathered congregation and not a parish church. Members of our all-age congregation range from parents with young families to those happily retired. Many of us live far from the city, in the cantons of Geneva, Vaud and the départements of Ain and Haute-Savoie in neighbouring France.

Some travel up to an hour to attend our Sunday worship. Average attendance is between 30 and 40, with 15 to 20 on Zoom online. Wednesday online services have an attendance of about 20. Numbers increase in the summer months with many tourists visiting the Auditoire.

We are currently moving from a model constitution (kirk session and congregational committee) to a unitary constitution (thematic committees reporting to Kirk Session), a transition to be completed in 2026. Our kirk session includes 12 elders, seven female and five male. One of our elders was ordained as an OLM in 2025. We plan to ordain new elders in 2026. One of our elders is the Safeguarding Coordinator and we have a Safeguarding Panel.

The most recent Local Church Review was in November 2022. In January and February 2024 over 40 participants attended two Future Focus workshop sessions (report available). The key area of concern for all was in respect of a decline in attendance. A third session was held in April 2024 to define action plans. Related issues were discussed at the joint Away Day of the Geneva and Lausanne congregations held on 27 September 2025. A second joint Away Day will be held in September 2026.

The Lausanne church was founded in 1876 by the then Free Church of Scotland. Only after Presbyterian reunion in 1929 do we find mention of the Scots Kirk, Lausanne, in our congregational records. In 1929, the same month as the Church of Scotland united with the United Free Church of Scotland, the minister in Lausanne came to preach in Geneva.

There have long been friendly relations between the two congregations, which are both members of the International Presbytery. Since establishing the linkage in 2025 we begin to really appreciate the advantages of working more closely together. This was confirmed during joint Away Day discussions held in September 2025.

### **Community Profile – Geneva and its Region**

Geneva is a beautiful city, located at the end of Lac Léman, nestling between the Jura mountains and the French Alps, with the Mont Blanc as a backdrop. It is the capital of an eponymous republic and canton, with a population of 540,000 inhabitants.

Over 200,000 of these live in Geneva city. Despite its small size, it is one of the most international

cities in the world. Over 40% of its population are foreigners, with 196 nationalities. More than 180 states are represented by a permanent mission to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva.

Geneva airport is a major hub for EasyJet with frequent flights to all major European cities. Over 100,000 workers cross the borders into Geneva daily from France. The city is just over 250 kilometers away from Basel, on the border of Germany, and 80 kilometers from the Mont Blanc tunnel entry into Italy.



Geneva hosts over 40 international organizations and 460 NGOs. The World Council of Churches and International Committee of the Red Cross are headquartered in Geneva. All of this is reflected in the composition of our congregation.

The city has a strong population of scientists, hosting the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva University, the teaching and research hospital Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG) and the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland, as well as the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. The local UN system entities, funds, programmes, and specialized agencies include the International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Of well over 1000 multinational companies in Geneva, an estimated 130 have their (regional) headquarters in the city. The secretariats of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) are also based here.

## Worship Life and Social Activities

English-speaking worshippers in Geneva can choose from more than a dozen congregations. Our distinctive form of worship is in the Reformed tradition, with a strong emphasis on preaching in a thoughtful and sensitive manner to meet the needs of a multicultural, 21st century congregation. We have used CH4 as our hymnary since its publication. We meet every Sunday at 11am for worship in the Auditoire de Calvin. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, Holy Thursday, and Easter.



The historic Auditoire de Calvin attracts many visitors to worship. The building, which includes an upstairs hall (Salle Théodore de Bèze), is rented from the Protestant Church of Geneva. We share it with the local Genevan parish of St Pierre who uses it for their children's programmes. The location of the Auditoire in the old town of Geneva creates accessibility issues, as it is difficult to park nearby and the building is not easy to access for people with disabilities. The city authority (Ancient Monuments) is working on a plan to address the mobility access.

Resources for worship within our congregation include two retired ministers; a Methodist lay reader; one Ordained Local Minister (OLM); two who completed the worship leading course, and one of the latter who also completed the preaching course through Aberdeen University. All are keen to play a role in leading worship. We have a rota of over 20 to read scripture in worship. For music, we have a small but dedicated choir, one principal organist and pianist but several others who help, and other instrumentalists and singers who regularly contribute to worship.

We have a small but lively Sunday School, with a dedicated staff composed typically of parents. They use Godly Play materials and the Montessori method in presenting Sunday School. We have a group of up to 10 children, ages five to twelve. There is at present neither a crèche nor a youth group.

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, we moved to live online worship on Zoom. In addition to the regular Sunday worship, we added a Wednesday lunchtime service at 12:30 that lasts about half an hour. The online Wednesday lunchtime services continue today, as well as online coverage of our Sunday services.

The Zoom connection for normal services attracts 15 - 20 people each Sunday in addition to the congregation in church. Online participants include members who are less mobile, our mission partners, ex-members and others from all over the world.

Many committed members play an active role in church life and leadership. Our annual congregational report provides an overview of activities in addition to regular Sunday worship. The congregation is self-supporting financially, although this has sometimes proved to be a challenge.

A congregational newsletter is produced about six times a year. Weekly emailing is managed by the Kirk Session Clerk and the OLM (in the absence of an appointed minister).

Before the joint Away Day held with Lausanne in 2025, an annual congregational away-day for the Geneva congregation was often organized at the Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey. These events provide an opportunity to combine spiritual and social time together.

## Social Activities

In a congregation which is geographically widespread, social and other activities provide a focus where people can meet, make friends, and give service. Coffee and tea are served after the service every Sunday. On the last Sunday of the month, we have a congregational lunch.



Our social activities have included a Craft group, annual summer BBQ, annual St Andrew's Fair and Ceilidh, fundraising dinners for Burn's night, Harvest Supper Quiz nights and Eco-Congregation awareness raising. The annual church fair includes cultural contributions from all continents and with its Ceilidh in the evening it is an important fundraising event. Following the recent Future Focus workshops the congregation created five geographically determined (neighbourhood) groups who regularly organise social events and provide pastoral care.

## Strengthening and Deepening our Community

Covid-19 knocked our congregation sideways, as it did many others; and we have been recovering and rebuilding ever since.

A financial scare in late 2023 prompted us to invite Rob Rawson, mission development worker, to lead two Future Focus afternoons with us in January and February 2024. We followed this with a third afternoon, organized by ourselves, in which we focused on how to implement what we had learned. As a result, the following has been undertaken:

- Neighbourhood groups in which we can deepen our community and our common spiritual life;
- New thematic groups of various kinds e.g. a book readers' group, a group on making the Auditoire more accessible, and a men's group.

## **Pastoral Care**

Welcoming newcomers and helping them integrate into the congregation is a priority for us. For those who are new, the warmth of the welcome and sense of community can be as important as worship in deciding whether to stay with the congregation.

The fellowship of our community has been one of its major strengths which can give us coherence despite our wide variety of cultures and viewpoints. Pastoral ministry here is important, both in nurturing our community and in caring pastorally for individuals and families. In a very real way, the church takes the place of the extended family for its members and joys and sorrows are often shared. Stressful jobs, travel, redundancy or its threat can all create problems for employees and their families.

Our Caring for One Another Group aims to ensure that all members are in contact with others who will extend a friendly hand. We have worked to ensure that all members of this group do safeguarding training.

## **Christian Education**

Our Sunday School includes 8 - 10 children, not all of whom attend on the same Sunday. We have a dedicated team of teachers and apply the Godly Play method, a Montessori-based approach to Christian education that encourages children to explore their faith through storytelling, wonder, and play. We are looking at ways to increase the number of children participating, mindful that the presence of various English-speaking international schools provides many opportunities. All Sunday School teachers have done safeguarding training and background security checks.



One of our elders has just been ordained as an OLM. Three of our members have successfully completed online courses in worship leadership, two of whom also completed a preaching course.

### **Ecumenical Context**

The Church of Scotland, Geneva is part of the Church of Scotland's International Presbytery which meets twice a year over a long weekend. Meetings are hosted by congregations in turn. There are good relationships with other churches of the English-speaking community: The Lutheran Church, American Episcopal Church, John 23rd Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, La Côte Anglican Church amongst others.

Our minister is regularly invited to participate in Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday services at other churches including All Saints Anglican Church, Vevey.

We have been involved with TEAG Témoigner Ensemble à Genève – Witnessing Together in Geneva ([temoignerensemble.com](http://temoignerensemble.com)) for many years. The presence of international church bodies, contact between English speaking churches, a local ecumenical council, and the Geneva Ecumenical Cursillo community create a much-valued ecumenical environment.

### **World Church**

We have longstanding overseas mission projects in Malawi and Nepal. In Malawi, we support HIV/ AIDS prevention and advice for vulnerable youth and young adults. In Nepal, we support Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital. We are also a Fair Trade congregation.

## **Stewardship and Finance**

The Church has no fixed assets and its income depends on offerings (mainly cash, freewill and online donations) and the Church Fair. These are broadly linked to Church attendance and have been broadly declining since the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.

In terms of our contribution to the wider Church of Scotland, our combined Giving to Grow contribution and presbytery dues in 2025 were budgeted at CHF 7,500 but realized at just over CHF 9,000.

Our members give quite generously and are quick to respond to financial needs. In late 2023, our treasurer alerted us to a shortfall in income related to a shortage of members. We overcame the immediate financial problem through an appeal to existing members and continue to work at increasing our numbers (see “Strengthening and deepening our community”).

The special appeal of 2023 re-set the level of net assets to 2019 levels with a CHF 37,635 surplus. However, the net surplus in 2024 decreased to CHF 16,942. For 2025 the surplus may be considered to be effectively increased to some CHF 18,000 if certain employment costs paid after the last Minister's departure are reimbursed as foreseen. This is a one-off benefit which will not technically show until mid-2026. The Church is sustaining itself for now but has to grow its income base soon to remain sustainable. There is no space to decrease expenditure significantly.

Mission income has fallen in recent years from CHF 42k in 2022, to CHF 30k in 2023, CHF 27k in 2024 and CHF 21k in 2025. It has fallen twice as much for the Malawi project as for the Nepal project.

## **Staffing**

The Church of Scotland, Geneva has no designated staff other than the minister. The session clerk, the treasurer, other elders and retired ministers, and members of the congregation assist the minister as volunteers.

## **Church, Manse and Halls**

The current manse is an attractive first floor flat rented by the congregation in a pleasant suburb

with local shops, near the airport and about 10 minutes by bus from the city centre. It has a good-sized living room, two bedrooms, a study, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, shower and extra toilet, entrance hall, and two balconies. There is also a garage. The manse is partially furnished and is currently being refurbished.

### **Web Links**

The church website is at <https://churchofscotlandgeneva.ch/>.

We have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoSGeneva> And are to be found on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/>

Church of Scotland International Presbytery [www.internationalpresbytery.org](http://www.internationalpresbytery.org)

More general information on the region <https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-ch/destinations/geneva/>

## **SECTION 2: LAUSANNE**

# The Scots Kirk Lausanne, Switzerland



## Congregational Profile



## History & Organisation

The congregation was founded in 1876 by the Free Church of Scotland to meet the spiritual needs of the many English-speaking people who regularly visited the area at that time. Now it continues to serve English-speaking people from all over the world, and from many different Christian traditions.

The church was designed by the noted Parisian architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc and was dedicated in 1877. The adjacent St. Andrew's House, which opened in 1962, incorporates the church hall, church offices, Fellowship Centre and manse. In 2017, we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the Scots Kirk Lausanne with a special thanksgiving service and were delighted to welcome a descendant of Rev. A.-F. Buscarlet, the very first minister, on this joyful occasion.

Since 2010, the Congregation of the Scots Kirk Lausanne has functioned under a Unitary Constitution with different teams who report to the Kirk Session. It also devised and approved its own Statutes, confirming its status as an Association under Swiss Law.

The Kirk Session is composed of 13 elders, two of whom were ordained in May 2023.

The Scots Kirk Lausanne is not a traditional “parish church” but a gathered, truly international congregation, drawn from a variety of denominational backgrounds. Some members have been attending for 40 years or more; others are employed by many of the international companies, sport or other organisations, either permanently or on fixed time contracts. Worshippers live throughout the Canton of Vaud and a few even further afield.

The current congregational roll is 107 members and 13 adherents. One hundred attend regularly — with an average weekly attendance at Sunday worship of 40-50. The profile is mainly middle-aged and upwards with only a few young people and very few children. The latter is a concern for the Kirk Session.



### **Community Profile – Lausanne and its Region**

Lausanne is the capital of Vaud, the largest French-speaking canton of Switzerland. It lies some 60 km (36 miles) east of Geneva. A longish walk from its northern boundaries, for example from the Sauvabelin Forest, takes one down a difference in elevation of about 500 metres, meandering along historic streets, past the beautiful cathedral, a variety of museums and theatres, through lovely parks, with frequent panoramic views over the lake and the Alps, until one gets to the lively and picturesque lakeside quarter of Ouchy. Along the shores to both east and west lie the extensive

wine-growing regions of Lavaux (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and La Côte. These are areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The population of the greater Lausanne area is about 420,000. The city houses several multinational companies with headquarters within 20 km. In addition, it hosts some prestigious international organisations, universities and schools. These include, amongst others, the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, some 40 international sport organisations, one of the top business schools in the world IMD, the world-famous Lausanne Hotel School, the University of Lausanne (UNIL), and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), a top technical university. It further benefits from a rich cultural life, a vibrant legacy of the many musicians, writers and artists who have called the area home.

Sport in every form, ranging from hiking and skiing to sailing, curling and even golf, is an integral part of the environment in Lausanne. A number of water sports are available and swimming in the lake is popular (increasingly in winter too). There are plenty of tours on the lake in magnificent paddle steamers, with attractive local destinations, including Geneva, Montreux, Vevey and, a few km across Lac Léman (Lake Geneva), France.

Lausanne has an internationally recognised university hospital (CHUV), and Switzerland enjoys an excellent (paying) health care system.

Lausanne also has good state schools for children of all ages, and great care is taken to integrate English-speaking children into the local French-speaking system.

## **Worship Life**

Weekly Sunday worship begins at 10.30 am, with the Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. The format and music are generally traditional.

- A healing service follows morning worship on the second Sunday of each month.
- A prayer group meets before services to pray.
- Elders and the congregation are involved in services.
- Communion is also celebrated at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

- There is a harvest thanksgiving service in September, a Remembrance Sunday service and a lessons and carols service on Christmas Eve as well as a pre-Easter Taizé service.
- Short “senior services”, followed by afternoon tea, are held twice a year before Easter and Christmas.
- There are occasional baptisms, funerals and weddings when required.

The main joint services are:

- Service of lessons and carols organised in turn with the English-speaking Anglican and Roman Catholic churches at Église St. François in the town centre at 5 pm on the third Sunday of Advent.
- World Day of Prayer in March, a joint midday service held in turn with English-speaking Anglican and Roman Catholic churches in the area.
- We also share various ecumenical services with local French speaking congregations, notably during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



There is an active Worship Team which contributes to services through reading, and prayers for the world. We have a Reader, three worship leaders, one of whom has completed the preaching course with Aberdeen University, and a couple of elders who also occasionally lead worship. We use audio-visual equipment, with PowerPoint slides that indicate the order of service during

worship. We have two regular organists who play the pipe organ during services, and we use the CH4 hymn book.

## Social Activities

Our congregation value the opportunity for the fellowship offered by social events. Coffee is served after the service every Sunday and we are reassessing having a picnic lunch after the monthly communion service. Every month there are mid-week soup & cheese lunches (raising money for a local charity) and occasionally BBQs in the church garden. Other events are:

- Scottish country dance class on Monday evenings,
- Wednesday Bring & Buy book sales,
- Occasional summer walks,
- Annual bazaar (first Saturday in November) which is a major fundraiser, and
- Occasional fundraisers.



Cornerstone, our bi-monthly magazine, and the “What’s On” tab on our website keep members informed about forthcoming activities and events in the life of the Kirk. The Minister contributes a section called “Musings from the Manse” to Cornerstone.

## **Pastoral Care**

A Pastoral Care Team of caring individuals is dedicated to supporting our church family and others, depending on their needs. These can range from home or hospital visits, support to bereaved families, transportation, provision of occasional meals, or to simply listening with respect and in confidence.

All members have undergone safeguarding training and are identifiable by the badges they wear on a Sunday. They learn of the needs of individuals either directly, from others in the congregation or from the minister. We have a caring congregation, ready and willing to support the manse minister.

## **Christian Education**

The number of children in the congregation has decreased due to children having grown up and families repatriating as well as the challenge of attracting new members and families. There are very few children/teenagers who attend Sunday worship and they don't attend on the same Sunday. As a result, there are currently no regular crèche or Sunday School activities. Nonetheless the 'all ages address' early in the service has been maintained and children usually stay in church with service-relevant colouring activities available in the front pew. There is currently no active youth group in the congregation.

Having discovered the possibilities of Zoom during Covid, we continue to offer seasonal or topical Bible studies on an ad hoc basis. In-person attendance is now lower for these sessions, but a good number – more than pre-pandemic – usually attend online. (We tend to avoid hybrid sessions for these studies.) We have also been able to open some studies to congregations across Presbytery and also had a couple of ecumenical ones with local English-speaking churches. People who are less familiar with technology appreciate in-person studies during the day.

## **Ecumenical Context**

The Scots Kirk is part of the Church of Scotland's International Presbytery, which meets twice a year over a long weekend. Meetings are hosted by the congregations in turn. There are good relationships with other churches of the English-speaking community: Christ Church, Anglican, Lausanne; Our Lady of Faith, RC, Lausanne; All Saints Church, Anglican, Vevey; and St. John's

Church, Anglican, Montreux-Territet. The church engages in the work of the “Communauté des Églises Chrétiennes dans le Canton de Vaud” (CECCV), and the minister of the Scots Kirk is invited to meetings (in French). Through the CECCV there are numerous opportunities for ecumenical links, including the “Nuit des Églises”.

The Scots Kirk is a member of a small ecumenical group with neighbouring French-speaking churches, namely the Reformed Church: Église Saint Jacques and the Catholic Church: Église du St-Rédempteur. With them we organise a “Marche aux Flambeaux” (on hold since Covid), and the annual service for Christian Unity held in one of three local churches (including the Scots Kirk) in rotation. During Lent, each church hosts a “Soupe de Carême”, which attracts around 40 to 50 people from the three congregations.

## **Stewardship & Finance**

We receive no financial support from the Church of Scotland, and no support from any other external bodies. We are entirely dependent on the efforts of our own Members and friends. We are fortunate to have St Andrew’s House, built in the 1960s thanks to the support of our Members. It is owned by the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. It serves as the Manse on its top floor and generates significant rental income – approximately CHF 100’000 annually.

Our financial results for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 were a surplus of CHF 53,923, a surplus of CHF 129,637 and a surplus of CHF 101’599 respectively. The results of recent years were impacted positively by several exceptional non-recurring items, the effect of having a full-time Minister for only six months in 2023 and having no full-time Minister in 2024. Ordinary income in 2024 amounted to CHF 222,564 against expenditure of CHF 124,534. We anticipate a surplus again for 2025, but a close to break-even result for 2026, when we will have a full-time Minister in place.

We have a Renovations Fund of CHF 299,241 which will contribute towards ongoing renovation needs, but which will need replenishing from time to time from our annual offerings and donations. We have recently received confirmation that our Church Building will very soon be granted Historical Monument status, which will open up potential new sources of funding for future restoration. We have an Operating Reserve Fund of CHF 190’000 to cover future operating needs.

Our contribution to the Church of Scotland under the Giving to Grow scheme was some CHF 5'365 for 2024. For the subsequent years, impacted by lower Ministry costs, our contributions for 2025, 2026 and 2027 are expected to be in the region of CHF 18'000 annually. This contribution should fall again from 2028 due to our comparatively high local Ministry costs, which are fully borne by our Church.

We communicate regularly with our Members and friends through our Church magazine on the importance of financial support, and the offering of talents and time. We write individual mails to our Members and friends at the start of each year, inviting them to pledge their contributions. We are conscious that costs generally have risen in the past couple of years and many members of the congregation are not able to maintain their contributions; others are invited to reflect on increasing their contributions.

To ensure our continued financial independence, we will undoubtedly need to grow our Membership.

## **Safeguarding**

We adhere to the Church of Scotland's safeguarding guidelines (as far as possible in a country where Scottish law does not apply). We have a safeguarding coordinator and a safeguarding panel. We are committed to creating a secure environment for all, implementing regular training, thorough background checks for volunteers, and maintaining open communication channels. We strive to create a place where everyone feels valued, respected, and safe.

## **Charity**

Part of our ethos is to support charitable works. We have a small Charity Committee which provides guidance on charities to support. Funds collected at after-service coffee and cheese lunches are donated to the Lausanne-based soup kitchen, Mère Sophia. Collections from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services have been donated to the local Salvation Army for the past ten years.

Half of the proceeds from the Annual Bazaar is split between an international and a local charity. The charities receiving funding from the 2025 & 2026 Church Bazaars are Desired Motherhood and

Mission Evangélique Braille. Desired Motherhood is a small, Swiss-based charity which works in Benin to teach a natural method of birth control to couples. The Mission Evangélique Braille is a 60-Year-old local charity which provided services to the visually impaired. These include making the Bible and other Christian literature available in braille and audio format, organizing a vacation week and collaborating with similar organizations in sub-Saharan Africa.

During the year, there are other collections and regular donations. We held a retiring collection on two Sundays in October 2025 with the proceeds going to the International Presbytery charity for 2025 – Mediterranean Hope. This charity works with migrant to support their legal entry into Italy. The collections from the Christmas Eve and Day services are routinely donated to the local Salvation Army.

### **Staffing**

The Scots Kirk has no permanent designated staff, other than a caretaker, who also deals with the lettings of the church and St. Andrew's House. The Session Clerk, the Treasurer, other elders and members of the congregation offer support to the minister on an ad-hoc basis.

### **Church, Manse & Halls**

The Scots Kirk is an architectural gem, which gives the people who worship in it a sense of peace and beauty. At various times during the church year (Advent, Holy Week, summer period) the church is open to the general public for a few hours a day for quiet time, private prayer and for visiting. Volunteers are on hand to assist those wishing to take a look inside. Outside of these times the church is locked during the week.

The church and its buildings are centrally located. St. Andrew's House, consisting of four floors and a basement, is adjacent to the church. There is a lift to all floors (except the basement). The basement houses a cloakroom, toilets, a recently renovated small kitchen, and various storage rooms.

The ground floor houses the church hall, which is rented to various community organisations for events like gym classes as well as to private individuals. The first floor has a church office, various meeting rooms and another small kitchen.

Since 2022 the Ukrainian Day Centre, which supports Ukrainian refugees, has been using various parts of the church facilities on different days of the week. Part of the first floor and all of the second floor is rented out to medical professionals and provides significant rental income.

The furnished manse is on the third floor and comprises a modern kitchen, large lounge, dining room, three bedrooms, a guest toilet and a full bathroom. There is central heating throughout the building, a garage and a small, open garden between the church and St. Andrew's House, which is put to good use for occasional barbecues in the summer. The roof of St. Andrew's House was entirely renovated in 2017 and solar panels were installed.

### **Web Links**

Scots Kirk Lausanne website: [www.scotskirklausanne.ch](http://www.scotskirklausanne.ch)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ScotsKirkLausanne/>

Church of Scotland International Presbytery: [www.internationalpresbytery.org](http://www.internationalpresbytery.org)

<https://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en/lausanne-in-short/>

<https://www.vaud.ch/en>

<https://www.region-du-leman.ch/en/>

