



## ALL WE MAY BECOME

*Greetings friends!*

I recently learned the story behind Picasso's painting of the American-born novelist Gertrude Stein from [an article written by Peter Marty](#) of *The Christian Century*. Being an avid lover and supporter of the arts, Stein commissioned Picasso to paint her portrait in 1905, and she reportedly sat for it for as many as 90 times. The outcome delighted Stein but puzzled the critics.



Left: Alvin Langdon Coburn, Photograph of Gertrude Stein, 1913 ([George Eastman House Collection](#));  
Right: Pablo Picasso, *Portrait of Gertrude Stein*, 1905–06, oil on canvas, 100 x 81.3 cm (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; photo: [Steven Zucker](#), CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Instead of offering a traditional perspective, Picasso's portrait captures Stein through the lens and artistic sensibilities of Cubism. "Everybody says that she does not look like [the portrait], but that does not make any difference; [in time] she will." This was Picasso's response to his critics. Perhaps what the artist tried to drive home is that a portrait does not capture all that a person was, or is, or is yet to become. In other words, Stein was not fully the person who she would yet become. There was more to her life, her personality, to emerge in the years ahead.

I love this story because it rings so true for us too, both individually and as a community. We are growing into something more than our lives at the present moment. We are not a finished product, but are constantly changing, becoming something new, something not yet fully revealed.

In [Jeremiah 29:4–11](#), the prophet reminds his people living in exile – stuck, trapped even in what felt like a constant state of hardship and hopelessness – that God calls them into a future with goodness and wellbeing. People are reassured of God’s faithfulness to them. As Jeremiah puts it in verse 11, God offers a plan – a vision for “your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” They are not left to their own devices to figure out how to live, especially when things seem difficult, when the future seems uncertain. They are promised to become a people with a hopeful future and grow where they are planted (vs.7).

Friends, as schools and universities open for a new year of learning, as we enter a new season of ministry, we are reminded that we are called to grow into fuller, more wholesome versions of ourselves as the community of God’s people planted here in Geneva and its wider neighbourhoods.

Jeremiah gives what feels like “just take one day at a time” guidance... as though he were to say, “You can do this. Just start with the basics. First, build houses – create spaces that feel like home to you and to others. Garden – make sure you have enough nourishment, not merely for your body but also for your spirit. Be fruitful – be creative, make things that are good for you and for others too. Multiply – nurture the next generations.”

According to the prophet, we will experience goodness and wellbeing when we cultivate relationships, offer welcome and sustenance to others, when we seek joy in everyday life. We grow into wholeness when we trust in God’s faithfulness and allow God’s Spirit to shape our lives.

“It’s not you who shape God,” the [second-century Greek bishop Irenaeus of Lyons](#) wrote. “It is God who shapes you. Let the clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of God’s fingers.” May we recall this image when too much in our lives seems beyond our control or stagnant, or when we struggle to remember who God in Christ believes we can become.

*Grace and peace,  
Reverend Enikő*

#### **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Since our last update at the time of the annual congregational meetings, we have done the following work:

- studied CVs and application letters and watched several online sermons
- shortlisted candidates
- finalized a list of interview questions
- created two groups of interviewers: One for understanding the person and one for understanding their ministry.
- set dates for online interviews in the last week in August and the first week of September.

A meeting in mid-September will discuss the interviews and decide on next steps.

Due to work commitments, one of the Scots Kirk, Lausanne, members had to step down from the committee. Morven McLean has stepped in as replacement. As she was on the previous nominating committee, she is familiar with the process.

*Hannelyze van Zyl, convener*



## ST ANDREW'S FAIR & CÈILIDH

**Saturday November 7, 9h30 to 15h**

**Salle communale des Délices**

**route de Colovrex 20**

**1218 Le Grand-Saconnex**

Scottish pipes & drums

Scottish gifts & specialities

Homemade cakes, biscuits & jams

Christmas goodies | Toys | Puzzles

Coffee, Irish coffee, smoked salmon & champagne

Delicious African food

Hearty Scottish cuisine for lunch ...and much more



## CÈILIDH, 19h-22h. Doors open 18h30

Adults CHF35. Children under age 12 free

Tickets must be booked in advance:

[ceilidhchurchofscotlandgeneva@gmail.com](mailto:ceilidhchurchofscotlandgeneva@gmail.com)

Food and drink will be on sale



[www.tympanon.ch](http://www.tympanon.ch)

## Coordinators

Former coordinator Christine Buhler stepped down last year after years of sterling service. Jason Leger stepped up and did an excellent job, but earlier this year he and Amy returned to the US. We replaced them with a whole gaggle of coordinators, shepherded by Nan Braunschweiger, to ensure that the fair and cèilidh continue. To that end, we are looking for folk to help: see below.



## HELP WANTED

*Contribute stuff. Or contribute yourself. Or both.*

## ST ANDREW'S FAIR

### Stalls

#### *Cake Stall*

This is my first year running the cake stall. I could do with volunteers to make cakes or to help on the day. Please contact me if you feel you can help in any capacity whatsoever. 😊🙏

*Beryl Hobson ([hobsonberyl123@gmail.com](mailto:hobsonberyl123@gmail.com))*



#### *Christmas Stall*

A great array of cards, gifts and decorations to allow you to stock up ahead of the day. Anything Christmassy that you can donate will be very welcome. A few hours' help on the day would also be greatly appreciated.

*Gabi Slater-Allaz ([gabi.slater@icloud.com](mailto:gabi.slater@icloud.com))*

#### *Christmas Cakes (for order)*

One example of each of the three sizes (S, M, L) will be on display on the stall.

*Mawunu Chapman Nyaho ([mawunu01@yahoo.com](mailto:mawunu01@yahoo.com))*

#### *Face Painting (in the morning only)*

Bring your face. Or someone else's face.

*Iona Murray-Jones*

#### *Guess Name of Dog & Jigsaws*

Guess the name of the (toy!) Dalmatian right and you win it. Jigsaws met with much enthusiasm last year, so the more we have for sale the better. They are a great fun way to keep minds sharp and spend time with friends and family. Contact me if you have complete jigsaws in good condition to donate.

*Stephanie Fitzjames ([stef.fitzjames@gmail.com](mailto:stef.fitzjames@gmail.com))*

#### *Accessories & Interesting Objects*

If you have some unwanted gifts (!) or other items in good condition, put them aside for this stall. Scarves, bags, jewellery would be very welcome. If you would like to help on the stall, even for an hour, let me know.

*Rosaleen Walker ([rmwalker@bluewin.ch](mailto:rmwalker@bluewin.ch))*

#### *Pantry Stall*

Donations of jam, marmalade, chutney or lemon curd would be greatly appreciated! Even a few jars would make a big difference to the success of the stall. Please contact me before the fair to let me know what types and quantities of preserves you are able to donate. I am also looking for a volunteer or two to help run the stall for a few hours during the fair.

*Lyndsey Bochaton ([lyndsey.bochaton@gmail.com](mailto:lyndsey.bochaton@gmail.com))*

#### *Scottish Stall*

Visitors to the Fair typically appreciate such goods as calendars with beautiful views of Scotland, Scottish-themed tea towels, edible produce such as biscuits etc, scarves, knick-knacks, paper napkins, mugs and other souvenirs. We would very much appreciate it if anyone travelling to Scotland could pick up Scottish themed goods for our stall. Please bring any donations on the day or contact Sherree Atkinson Bret ([sherreeatkinsonbret@gmail.com](mailto:sherreeatkinsonbret@gmail.com)) or Fiona Parrott ([fiona.parrott@bluewin.ch](mailto:fiona.parrott@bluewin.ch))



### *Toy Stall*

Toys in good condition welcome!

Children in good condition too.

Cornis Van Der Lugt ([cornis.lugt@gmail.com](mailto:cornis.lugt@gmail.com))

### *Scottish Treasure Hunt*

So, how well do you know Scotland ? Well enough to follow the five clues across the map and find Rob Roy's treasure? Pin one or more flags (CHF 5 each) on the map.

The one closest to the treasure wins the prize ! What is it? Surprise !!

All who wish to donate goodies or money towards the prize are welcome.

Alex Craeye ([alexcraeye@gmail.com](mailto:alexcraeye@gmail.com))

### **Food & Drink**

#### *African Food*

Georgina Cofie ([Gk.cofie@yahoo.fr](mailto:Gk.cofie@yahoo.fr))

#### *Irish Coffee*

Hazel and Arthur Griffith ([hazelandarthurgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:hazelandarthurgriffith@gmail.com))

#### *Smoked Salmon and Champagne*

Rebecca Dirks MacDonald ([rebdirks@gmail.com](mailto:rebdirks@gmail.com)), Chris Sutton

#### *Tea, Coffee and Drinks*

Contributions of cakes/traybakes and offers of help on the day will both be welcome.

Judith Peacock, Wilbert Broeksmit ([fambropea@bluewin.ch](mailto:fambropea@bluewin.ch))

#### *Lunch*

Helpers very welcome!

Serge Passini and Christina Moses Passini ([chpassini@vtxnet.ch](mailto:chpassini@vtxnet.ch))



### **CÈILIDH**

#### *Coordination and Bar*

Lyndsey Bochaton ([lyndsey.bochaton@gmail.com](mailto:lyndsey.bochaton@gmail.com))

#### *Food*

Ann Peden ([ann.peden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ann.peden@yahoo.co.uk))

## A DAY AWAY THIS MONTH!

You are warmly invited to the second joint awayday of our two congregations, the Church of Scotland Geneva and the Scots Kirk, Lausanne.



We meet on Saturday, September 26, in the Salle communale in Duillier, Vaud, home village of our two former session clerks. The Salle can be reached by public transport: the bus B 820 from Nyon Gare to Burtigny stops next to it.

Children and adults all welcome! *Please bring a picnic lunch.* Coffee and tea provided. Arrival (and coffee) from 9h. Start at 10h. Finish at 15h.

Our hope for the awayday is to deepen relationships within and between our congregations and nurture our capacity to live with wonder.

To nurture this grounding capacity that we are born with as children, we need to practise how to notice the good and the beauty that is possible in the midst of all that is not right with our world. So here is a sneak peek, a little teaser to whet your appetite: when we gather on September 26, we will be invited to notice within us, around us, within our communities things that we care about, that we love... things that have begun to grow that fill us with joy and wonder. We will be asked to think: what is worth carrying forward? What do we feel called as a community of Christ's disciples to nurture?

According to [Kate DiCamillo](#), author of many beloved children's books, when we live with wonder in a world with a lot of understandable despair and show it to others, we help others to make sense of the world and find solace and comfort and hope.

*Please email Christine Colliar ([ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk)) with numbers of adults and children, if you are able to attend. Or fill in the awayday form in the Auditoire and hand it to any elder or usher.*





## A FRESH BATCH OF LOCUMS TO GLADDEN OUR HEARTS

*Rev David Cameron has already started work with (on?) us, on August 30. The Very Reverend Susan Brown arrives on the last Sunday of this month, and Rev Dr Alex W Evans follows her on the last Sunday of November (Advent Sunday and, as it happens, our service of nine lessons and carols).*

### DAVID CAMERON



I was brought up on the south side of Glasgow and, upon leaving school, worked as a quantity surveyor. In the mid-1980s, I was called to the ministry of the Church of Scotland. I am married to Lesley, with three great kids: Lyndsay, Matthew and Mark.

In 1993, I was called to my first charge, Maxwell Mearns Castle – interestingly still on the south side of Glasgow! Big changes came again in 2009 when I was called east, to the linked charge of Dalmeny Kirk and South Queensferry, and for 14 years, until my retirement in 2023, we enjoyed life – free of midges and a bit sunnier – on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

Upon retirement, Lesley and I moved some 15 minutes across the famous Forth bridges (of which more during my time here), to the village of Aberdour, with a five-minute walk to the beach. We are now able to spend more time with our growing family of seven grandchildren, as well as attempting to play a bit of golf, grow potatoes and support our local congregation in Burntisland.

Recently I was invited to become chaplain of local football club Cowdenbeath FC, who this season haven't got off to the greatest of starts in the fifth level league having lost their first seven games. A victory at the end of my first week in post was a big bonus!



### SUSAN BROWN



Hello from the Scottish Borders! When Enikő asked me to serve as one of your locums, having now retired, I thought it would be an amazing opportunity to spend time with a Church of Scotland congregation worshipping and serving in an environment that's very different from Scotland, with all the joys and challenges that brings.

All of my ministry has been in parishes – firstly on the Black Isle, just north of Inverness; then in Dornoch Cathedral even further north, before a much briefer, three-year stint in Greenlaw in the Borders. This last parish included a broader remit to encourage and train congregations without a minister in worship leading.

I am married to Derek, who is also a minister. He spent 35 years as a healthcare chaplain in NHS Highland and served on the European network of healthcare chaplaincy, meeting and working with colleagues from across the continent.



We have two children, grown up and married, living at the opposite ends of Scotland. (We also have a very elderly black labrador called Finn whom a friend will care for while we are with you.)

In addition to our own two, we have three “borrowed” children, who stayed with us for varying periods of time, one of whom is living in Zurich now, with his own wee family.

In 2010, I was appointed a chaplain to her majesty the queen in Scotland and remained so until her death. I am now one of the king’s chaplains. I served as moderator of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2018, an enormous privilege and a wonderful (if busy!) time.

Derek and I enjoy the natural world. Derek cycles for miles – me not quite so far! We like music and reading and, of course, dog-walking. We are looking forward enormously to worshipping with you!

## ALEXANDER W EVANS

Alex Evans grew up in Richmond, VA, and Atlanta, GA, USA. Alex has a bachelor’s degree from Davidson College, NC, master’s degrees from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and Yale University, CT, and a doctorate in ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

For 35 years, pastoral ministry shaped Alex’s life. He served as pastor/head of staff at three different churches, and retired from Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, in 2023. His ministry was devoted to preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, along with community involvement and ecumenical projects. He served on numerous community boards and as chairman of the board, Union Presbyterian Seminary.

His significant work as chaplain with the Blacksburg police department, especially through and following the mass shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech in 2007, reframed much of his life and ministry with those affected by trauma, especially violent trauma. He has written articles, led workshops, spoken at conferences and seminars, and published papers from his experience. He also served as a lead chaplain to the Richmond division of the FBI.

Following his retirement, Alex has served as locum minister for Church of Scotland congregations in Amsterdam, Lausanne, Brussels, and the Orkney Islands. He has also served as interim pastor at Cove Presbyterian Church in Virginia, USA.

Alex has been married for 46 years to Virginia (Ginger) Taylor Evans, a career Christian educator. They have three grown children with their own spouses/partners, and eight grandsons.

Alex and Ginger now reside in Decatur GA and enjoy golf, tennis, cooking, kayaking, biking, traveling, and time with family and friends.





## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

*From January 18 to 25 each year, Christians across the globe observe a [week of prayer for Christian unity](#), an invitation to pray together, encounter one another, and renew our hope for full communion between all who seek to follow Christ.*

On Wednesday January 21 this year, Jaco Seoane Van der Lugt and I took part in an ecumenical service at Holy Trinity church to mark the week.

The theme of the week was “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (*Ephesians* 4:4). The title of the service, “Light from Light for Light”, was inspired by the [Nicene Creed](#) (325AD, CH4 649) – strictly speaking the Nicene-Constantinopolitan creed. This proclaims Christ as light from light – both who he is *and* his being sent into the world to shine God’s light into dark places and to draw all human beings into communion with God and one another.

Resources for the week this year were prepared by the [Armenian Apostolic Church](#), from its mother see in Etchmiadzin, together with Armenian Catholic and Evangelical churches.



Christine and Jaco with Fr Goossan Aljanian of St-Hagop Armenian church, Troinex

Drawing on centuries-old Armenian traditions of prayer, our service incorporated hymns and texts that originated in ancient monasteries and churches, some dating back to the fourth century. It was adapted from the Armenian church’s *Sunrise Service*, one of the daily prayer hours compiled by [Nersess the Gracious](#).

Nersess composed this service with a clear ecumenical purpose, seeking to draw sun-worshipping pagans back to Christ through a rich and creative Christian witness. Rather than argument or coercion, he offered the beauty of prayer, scripture, and hymnody centred on Christ the light.

The Armenian church’s emphasis on light is rooted deeply in its history. Armenia was the first nation to declare Christianity its official religion, following the conversion of [King Trdat](#) in 301AD through the ministry of [Gregory the Illuminator](#).

This shared service offered a powerful reminder that Christian unity is nurtured through prayer, hospitality, and the faithful sharing of the riches of each tradition.

Christine Colliar ([ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk))

*The theme for the week of prayer in 2027 is “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). It was selected by the Irish Episcopal Conference and the Irish Council of Churches, reflecting a journey in that island, from division toward peace and reconciliation, that still continues.*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Linking with Lausanne is a learning curve, and we're still learning. The dates of our two annual fairs (November 7) clash. And on June 7 the dates of our two annual congregational meetings clashed too. Faute de mieux, Enikő asked me to chair our Geneva meeting, while she chaired the meeting in Lausanne.*

Thirty-three members attended our annual congregation meeting, in the Auditoire or online. We duly *adopted* the minutes of the annual congregational meeting in 2025; the accounts for 2025 as presented by our treasurer, Ewart Mackenzie; the revised budget for 2026; and the provisional budget for 2027; and *appointed* Andrew McCallum and Robert Walker to serve again as independent examiners for the 2026 accounts.

### C&J Innovation

*Since the previous ACM, in 2025, our two session clerks, Christine Buhler and Jane Broere, stepped down from that office. Christine also resigned from the kirk session.*

*During the meeting, their successor, Cornis Van der Lugt, paid them this tribute:*

My wife, Marta, and I recently had to get work done at our apartment, and the plumbing company doing the work was called C&J Innovation. In our congregation we also have a C&J Innovation, a team that knows the plumbing of our congregation intimately.

By C&J, I am of course referring to Christine and Jane. The two of them have been doing terrific work for our congregation. This includes their role as session clerks, following Alice Tulloch, their long-standing work for our congregation operations, and well beyond. They have also been supporting community work, helping initiatives on cancer, assisting mission work in Africa, coordinating our church fairs, you name it...



Looking on the Internet to find more information on Christine, I came across an old 1993 staff directory of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Gland, and it had listed as head of personnel a certain Christine Buhler. So they have been saving the planet and supporting social activities.

You all know if one talks to Christine or Jane, they are always on the run somewhere. They both look and act like they are 26 years old. (Their real age remains a matter of speculation.)

I wish to thank them both for their role in our congregation today. But in particular Christine Buhler, who recently stepped back from the session, needing more time to play grandmother. But she stays involved in our congregational activities in different ways. No surprise there!

My name is Christine, and I'm a recovering session clerk

Thank you Christine for your incredible work. Thank you to C&J Innovation for the example you have given us!

**“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth...” (Isaiah 43:19)**

Since the summer of 2025, we have been moving gradually towards a new, more streamlined, and hopefully more effective way of running ourselves. After discussion, the meeting agreed *in principle* to move from our current “model” constitution, with kirk session and congregational committee, to the [now preferred](#) “unitary” constitution, with the kirk overseeing everything.

It was noted that the biggest challenge our congregation faces at present is external outreach. We need to attract new members into our life and work. It was said in response that the changes are to free us up for other initiatives, to liberate us to be an outward-looking and -reaching congregation.

Arthur Askew spoke in favour. As congregational committee secretary for many years, he had witnessed a heavy structure, with the session and the committee often dealing with the same issues in parallel. He lauded the flexibility the new structure would afford.

The move is accompanied by a new way of providing and replenishing members for the kirk session. It is part of our Presbyterian polity that elders, like ministers, are ordained for life. But more and more, congregations are realizing that it’s bad practice to ask elders *to serve on the kirk session* for life.

In future, we shall continue to ordain elders, but we shall ask them, and existing elders, to serve on our session for one or, at most, two terms of four years, before taking some time off. This allows for a regular rotation of elders on and off the session and avoids an excessive burden on those serving.

*The kirk session will shortly be looking at recruiting new elders and would like to involve the whole congregation in this. If, therefore, you would like to suggest other members – or even yourself! – as potential elders, please email our session clerk, Cornis Van der Lugt ([Cornis.lugt@gmail.com](mailto:Cornis.lugt@gmail.com)) with your bright ideas.*

The move also goes hand in hand with setting up a more elaborate structure of committees, reporting to the kirk session, and overseeing all the many areas of our congregational life and work. At the ACM and still at the time of writing, these include: Christian education; communications, events and fundraising; fabric; and facilities; finance, mission and outreach; and worship. Each committee will include at least one elder, and we already have members offering their services through the online form, <https://forms.gle/dx5qxBnyFDYhYjxy5>, or in other ways.

The work of our session and congregational committee covers a wide range of activities, including support for the minister, liaison with our sister congregation in Lausanne, liaison with the international presbytery and the Eglise protestante de Genève (EPG), Sunday services, upkeep of the manse, lunches and refreshments, care and flowers for the fragile, communications and promotions, missionary outreach and finance. I am hopeful that our new constitutional setup will enable us to operate in a more decentralized manner and with a greater pool of individual congregation members each playing their part. – Cornis Van der Lugt

*These committees will meet, for the most part, online and, in most cases, not more than once every two months (and sometimes less). If you would like to volunteer for one or more of them, please fill in the online form or email me ([paraic.reamonn@gmail.com](mailto:paraic.reamonn@gmail.com)). We hope to have a full set of committees up and running before the end of this year.*

The move to a unitary constitution requires the concurrence of the [international presbytery](#), following which the constitution will be issued by the [delegation of assembly](#) of the [general assembly](#).



It also requires us to amend our congregational constitution adopted in 2002 and amended in 2012, in such a way as to preserve our status as a tax-exempt association under Swiss law. For this, we shall need to take legal advice.

*When we are ready to present an amended congregational constitution to the congregation for your approval, the kirk session will convene an extraordinary congregational meeting for this purpose.*

### **A pilgrim prayer**

*We closed the meeting with a prayer adapted from that said by pilgrims on the way – the camino – to Santiago de Compostela.*



O Lord our God, who called your servant Abraham  
out of Ur of the Chaldeans  
and watched over him in all his wanderings;  
who guided your people through the desert;  
watch over us, your servants, who,  
for love of your name, set out together  
on the next steps in our pilgrimage.

Be for us:

our companion on the way  
our guide at each crossroads,  
our strength in weariness,  
our fortress in all dangers,  
our resting place on the journey,  
our shade in the heat,  
our light in the darkness,  
our consolation in all discouragement,  
and the one who enables us to persevere.

Under your guidance, safe and unhurt,  
may we reach the goal of our pilgrimage;  
strengthened by grace and virtue,  
may we arrive at the gates of your kingdom;  
though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Páraic Réamonn ([paraic.reamonn@gmail.com](mailto:paraic.reamonn@gmail.com))*

## REFORMATION SUNDAY 2006

*At 10h on November 1 in the Cathédrale Saint-Pierre, the Eglise protestante de Genève will bring together a wide spectrum of churches of the Reformation to remember and celebrate the Reformation in 16th-century Europe.*



*Our congregation will join others in the Anglican/Episcopalian, Free Evangelical, Hungarian Reformed, Lutheran, Malagasy Protestant, and Seventh-Day Adventist traditions – along with several communities from the Witnessing Together in Geneva (TEAG) network, in which we are represented by Rebecca Dirks MacDonald. Our minister, Enikő Ferenczy, who, along with Christine Colliar, has been involved in planning the service, reports.*

Reformation Sunday this year falls on All Saints' Day, an important holiday in the year for many of our congregations, particularly for our Lutheran siblings. As we explored how to speak to our unity in the Body of Christ, the theme of holiness has emerged. When we think of holiness, we think of the holiness of God, and equally as important in our Protestant traditions, the holiness of life that we are called to as followers of Christ. At a time when Christianity is once again being used to serve nationalist or ideological interests, how can we embrace a way of life guided by the Word of God that brings freedom and liberation and life to all?

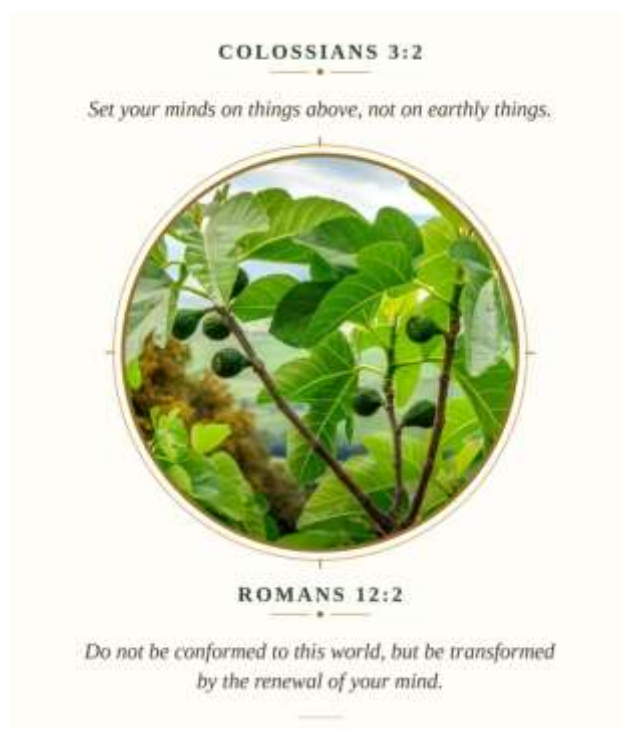
We will explore this theme by engaging our whole being – mind, body, soul – through music and song from various cultures and genres (from organ to bagpipes, to Korean and Malgache choral songs), by reading scripture in different languages, by embodying/interpreting scripture through liturgical dance, to visual representations of the Word of God. The littlest ones among us can learn about the Reformation in conversation with some wise and funny puppets who will join us for the service. Holy communion will also be celebrated, and all are invited to participate.

We hope that this service will deepen connections within and between our Protestant communities in the city and kindle our love and trust in God.

You will receive an invitation with the details closer to the date. For now, mark your calendars: Reformation Sunday Service, November 1 at 10h, Cathedral Saint-Pierre. Hope to see you there!

*Rev Enikő*

## A SHORT COURSE THAT TAKES US A LONG WAY



Seventy-nine members of our congregation have taken part in a Cursillo weekend since these began in Geneva in 1983. If you're not one of them, this is to encourage you to think of joining our number. The next Cursillo weekend is from November 5 to 8 this year, starting on Thursday evening and ending on Sunday night.

Cursillo is Spanish for a short course and is itself short for Cursillo de Cristiandad – a short course in Christianity. Why Spanish?

Because the movement began in the 1940s with lay Spanish Catholics meeting for weekends on the island of Mallorca to help one another grow in understanding and living their faith.

From there, the movement spread geographically. It is now found in many parts of the world

It also spread ecumenically. Ordinary Christians sharing their faith with one another, rather than having it handed down from the pulpit, “six feet above contradiction”, struck a note with Christians in the traditions of the Reformation. Think of it as a shared course of spiritual formation.

In Geneva, the Cursillo community has been ecumenical from the start and has involved over a thousand Christians from pretty much all the English-speaking churches in our neighbourhood. We are not a separate religious group or church – still less a sect or cult! Our only aim is to help everyone to a better appreciation of Christian faith and life as both a gift and a way.



Simon (or Simone) Carelli, young Anglo-Italian husband of Eugenia and father of Valentina and Matteo, is the lay Rector of the November weekend.

He admits that although he was raised Catholic and believed in God, for a very long time his faith sat in the background. He was consumed by earthly pursuits and, in particular, obsessed with running his own business. It took one of those darker moments of life for him to start listening, but it was the push he needed to make some big changes.

For the logo and theme of the weekend, Simone chose the two texts from Romans and Colossians and the picture of a fig tree above. In the light of his personal testimony, the Colossians text explains itself; Romans speaks in like manner of the transformation we need to undergo if we are not to conform to the world around us. But why the fig tree? Simone explains: “On a personal level, it reminds me of my childhood and the many summer holidays spent on my grandparents' farm in Southern Italy. The farm had three beautiful fig trees of different varieties, and there was such an eager anticipation for the harvest to come.”



“Taking that first bite brings back an instant smile to my face. That incredible fragrance and taste make me think just how ‘good’ God made the world and how he wants us to live life to its fullest.”

The logo, he says, is “born of hope and promise that this Cursillo may enable our new participants to grow and mature as they walk with Christ, and that we, as a community, may support them just like the branches of the fig tree.”

If you think you might be interested in attending the November weekend, visit the Cursillo website to learn more: [genevacursillo.org/wordpress/](http://genevacursillo.org/wordpress/)



Or speak to me – or any of the Cursillistas in the congregation: Arthur Askew, Jane Broere, Michael & Antonia Bruce, Christine Buhler, Christine Colliar, Mary Couper, Alex & Freda Craeye, Lily Geissbuhler, Fiona Parrott, Ann Peden, Maria & Moises Oliveira, Mary Quement, or Eleanor & Jürg Strittmatter.

Páraic Réamonn ([paraic.reamonn@gmail.com](mailto:paraic.reamonn@gmail.com))

## GRACE AND GRATITUDE



In July, on the final day of their Reformation tour of Switzerland, students from the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary in Seoul visited the Auditoire. Might they like to sing a hymn?

They left me speechless with a beautiful four-part harmony of 주님을 찬양하라 (Praise the Lord). It was a memorable moment of worship and a reminder of the worldwide fellowship we share in Christ.

And a sincere thank you to the congregation for this beautiful home communion set. Communion is such a special part of our shared faith, and this set will be a privilege to use as I share the sacrament with people who are unable to join us in church.

It will be a lasting reminder of the love, care and encouragement of this congregation. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers and your support. It is a joy and a privilege to serve among you!

Christine Colliar ([ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ccolliar@churchofscotland.org.uk))



## NOTICES

**Saturday September 26** Joint congregational awayday. Salle communale, Dullier (see page 6)

**Saturday October 3** 9h to 17h, *Journey into joy* (Ignatian Way), Chateau de Bossey, Céligny  
Contact Patricia Laurie, [vervel10@gmail.com](mailto:vervel10@gmail.com)

**Monday October 5** 14h30, Book Club in the Salle to discuss *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey  
Contact [gillianfriedli@bluewin.ch](mailto:gillianfriedli@bluewin.ch)

**Sunday November 1** Reformation Sunday, Cathédrale Saint-Pierre, 10h (see page 13)

**November 5-8** Cursillo weekend, Le Cénacle, Promenade Charles-Martin 17, 1208 Genève  
Contact [paraic.reamonn@gmail.com](mailto:paraic.reamonn@gmail.com) (see page 14)

**Saturday November 7** St Andrew's Fair & Cèilidh. Salle des Délices, Grand-Saconnex (see page 2)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP 1 IN NYON

On a lovely sunny evening on Tuesday August 18, our neighbourhood group met at the Château de Nyon. We enjoyed some excellent wines, as well as cold meats and cheese, all locally produced. Ann Peden's Mum, Margaret, joined us, as well as the MacDonald dogs. A super evening, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Hazel Griffith and Rebecca MacDonald for organizing!



*Given that the new church year has officially begun, perhaps all four neighbourhood groups would like to consider what they are going to get up to between now and next summer.*

## FAREWELLS

### Miller Donaldson. d. May 3

We are sorry to announce the death of Miller on Sunday May 3. As many of you know, he had been suffering from dementia for several years. Although we are sad to lose him, he is now at peace.



Miller was ordained an elder in Largs Clark Memorial church, in Ayrshire, Scotland.

He joined our kirk session upon arrival in Geneva in March 1976, under John Hood (1971–1977).

A couple of years into Pat Cambell's time (1977–1984), he became session clerk, a position he held all the way through the tenure of Pat Campbell, Bill Catternach (1984–1990) and Ray Gaston (1990–1994).

He continued to serve as an elder under Jim McLeod (1994–2000) and Ian Manson (2001–2016).

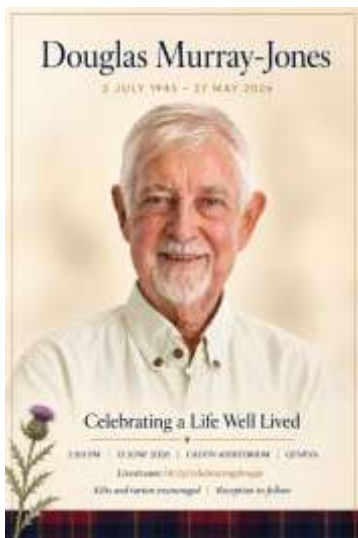
He also taught the youth fellowship. Of that time, Gereint Richard writes: “Miller had a massive impact on my faith and on the Christian life I have chosen to follow since our time in Geneva.”

He was Scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 20 for several years.

*Christine and Colin Donaldson*

### **Douglas Murray Jones, d. May 27**

*Less than two months after we gathered in the Auditoire to celebrate the life of Suzanne Murray-Jones, we met there again to give thanks for the life of Douglas, her husband of more than four decades, who died on May 27. “Our grief for them,” said their son Ross, “is, and will always be, intertwined. They were soulmates in life. They are together again now in death.” Their children Iona and Ross paid tributes.*



When I think of you, Dad, I remember.

I remember how you made people feel. Whether it was me, or simply someone you had only just met, you had a gift for making people feel valued. Like the night at a Burns supper, when you noticed Kathryn's son sitting alone and took the time to speak with him. He talked about you all the way home.

I remember our African adventures. Elephants charging our Land Rover in Kenya. Or lying awake beside you in a tent in Tanzania, listening to lions roaring somewhere in the darkness. I was terrified at the time. And rightly so! But looking back, those are some of my favourite childhood memories.

I remember the things you built. From my Wendy house in Curaçao, to the countless property projects that followed, you were always creating, improving, or fixing something. As many of the tradespeople didn't speak English, I often found myself acting as your translator, which was quite challenging, as I usually only had a vague idea of what I was supposed to be translating!

I remember the music. Through you, I discovered the Beatles and Sting, and I will always treasure going to see the Bee Gees in London with you when I was thirteen. And of course, I still remember being completely mortified when you gave Phil Collins a huge thumbs-up in the middle of Geneva. At the time, I wanted the ground to swallow me up.

I remember you becoming a grandfather. From the day Andrew was born, the bond between you was unmistakable. Whether it was family celebrations or playing ghosts before bedtime, Andrew adored spending time with you. Knowing you and Mum were always there beside me meant I never felt alone. It gave me strength.

I remember the hospital. The last two years were not easy, and the last month was especially hard. I watched you endure more than anyone should, which was heartbreaking. Yet no matter how difficult things became, you never lost your kindness. Even on your hardest days, you still somehow found a wee smile and a “Merci”.

But, most of all, I remember feeling loved. I am so grateful to have been your daughter.

*Iona Murray-Jones*



A proud Scotsman lies beside us today in his Highland dress. A little boy from Alloa, where horizons could seem small. But his dreams never were. From his Scottish accent, to the twinkle in his eye, there was no mistaking who Dad was.

Dad's career began in 1962, earning £6 a month as an apprentice land surveyor. He'd assumed, with a name like that, it must be really outdoors-y. He was perhaps a little misguided... But he stuck at it, and by 1967 he'd made it to Edinburgh. There, at Gibson & Simpson, Dad helped build Stirling University – the first new university in Scotland for over 400 years.

In 1975, Dad's world grew far bigger than Scotland. He left for Malawi, and that move opened the door to a remarkable career in international development. In 1984, he achieved his greatest professional goal: a position with the United Nations.

Over more than 40 years, Dad worked and lived in 27 countries. From Poland to Rwanda, and Bangladesh to Russia, he applied his expertise in land and urban development to improve people's lives. He lectured at Cambridge in the nineties. In later years, he was runner-up for the UN Sasakawa Award and was appointed an ambassador by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He took immense pride in both achievements.

But for all that, family meant the most. Everyone knew about his soft spot for Marilyn Monroe. When he met Mum in Rome in 1976, it was, let's say, manifestation: Mum was the spitting image. They married in 1981, with Dad taking her family middle name as his surname: We became the Murray-Jones family. Together, they built a life full of humour, adventure, and more animals than most people would consider reasonable, from parrots to pigeons. We couldn't imagine either of them with someone who didn't love dogs.

Through all that, church was a constant. He had doubts, like most of us. But he had faith too. Over time, the church became his community. Not through obligation, or dogma. Just friendship, and a quiet sense of peace.

He was never the loudest, but things got done. A loose hinge? He'd fix it. A new organ? He'd help install it. He was central to the major works in this auditorium a decade ago, all without fuss or fanfare.

When Dad went into palliative care last April, we received nearly a hundred messages. They didn't talk about his faith directly. But rather, the fruits of his faith: service, kindness, reliability, humility, and generosity. What mattered most to him was how people treated each other. His theology, in its entirety, was this: "Be pleasant and kind to people. Try to help." That simple creed echoes the words from *Micah* 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." That was exactly how he lived.

Dad: Iona and I watched how lost you were without Mum. We will miss you... but we know you're happier with her. Though let's be honest: I suspect she would have preferred a slightly longer break from you than ten weeks.

But here's what I want you to know. My whole life rests on the bold choices you and Mum made fifty years ago – leaving your home towns, and relative certainty, for a spectacular life filled with adventure. I didn't always realize how lucky I was, but I do now. You were good parents. You gave me roots, and then wings.

*Ross Murray-Jones*

## **Margaret Ross, d. June 16**

Margaret was a much-loved member of our congregation for many years. She died peacefully on the morning of June 16, aged 88.

Margaret and her husband, Murray, moved from Scotland to Nyon in 1967, beginning a new chapter filled with adventure, opportunity, and lifelong friendships. Margaret first worked with the World Council of Churches in Geneva and later joined the recruitment office at CERN, where her warmth, professionalism, and openness to people from all walks of life were deeply valued.

In 1973, Margaret and Murray moved to Thoiry, just across the French border, where they built a wonderful home that remained at the heart of family life for nearly five decades, until it was sold in 2020. That home became a place of welcome, hospitality, and cherished memories for family and friends alike.



She gave generously of her time to our congregation, teaching in Sunday School and helping faithfully with many aspects of church life, including the all-important coffee after services.

Her two sons, Roderick and Euan, grew up within our church family and attended Sunday School here before leaving to attend Fettes College in Edinburgh.

Murray died in January 2008. Some years later, Margaret returned to Scotland, settling there around 12 years ago.

Sadly, over the last five years she lived with dementia and three years ago moved into a care home near her son Euan in Dundee.

Margaret may have been small in stature, but she was remarkable in spirit. Adventurous by nature, she embraced life with enthusiasm and courage. She was a keen glider and an accomplished swimmer, with a lifelong love of travel and discovery. She remained curious about the world and open-hearted towards everyone she met.

I had the privilege of walking part of the camino with Margaret from Thoiry, through France and Spain. Carrying her own rucksack, she completed the pilgrimage to the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela just before her 76th birthday – a powerful reflection of her determination, resilience, and deep faith.

*Chris Sutton*

## **William (Bill) Johnston, d. August 15**

William Johnston passed away on August 15 in Geneva, aged 87.

Bill, who hailed from Northern Ireland, first came to Geneva to teach chemistry at the International School in November 1967 and remained until 1972. After a short stint in England, he returned with his family in 1974 and remained at the International School until his retirement in 2003.



He was a regular and respected Church of Scotland attendee, first joining the congregation under Peter Logan Ayre (1964–1970). He served as an elder on the kirk session and taught Sunday school for a time. But this was all disrupted by ill health and a move to France.

Bill is survived by his wife Kathleen, who also attended the Church of Scotland, and his children Simon, Brian and Nicola, who attended as children growing up in Geneva. He also has four grandchildren.

*Kathleen Johnston*

### **AN ISLAND IN THE SETTING SUN**

Under this title, our former minister Laurence Twaddle (2017–2025) has self-published a selection of the sermons he preached in the Auditoire. Proceeds from the sale of the Kindle ebook, cost £7.99, CHF 8.80, or €9.35, will go to our mission project in Ekwendeni, Malawi. Search on Amazon, or click on this shortcut: <https://bit.ly/4gMoQjf>

### **THREE LOOKING FOR FOUR. OR MORE**

In 1973, Richard Lester directed *The Three Musketeers*, followed a year later by *The Four Musketeers* and in 1989 by *The Return of the Musketeers*. For many, they are cult films.

The “three musketeers” responsible for our print order of service each Sunday are Christine Buhler, Laurent Djamen, and I. We like what we do, but we’d like to share the fun. And it’s easier now, since the order is printed at the manse. If interested, email [paraic.reamonn@gmail.com](mailto:paraic.reamonn@gmail.com).

There are lots of other ways in which you can contribute to the life and work of our congregation:

- Reading in worship or leading prayers in worship
- Ushering on Sundays
- Singing in the choir
- Serving tea and coffee after worship
- Helping with the monthly congregational lunches
- Serving on one or more of our new committees (see page 11)

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