



Swiss Church News

Winter 2010

Swiss Church in London
Eglise suisse de Londres
Schweizerkirche in London
Chiesa Svizzera a Londra
Baselgia svizra a Londra

Editorial

Dear Reader,

Christmas is fast approaching! Some of us can't wait for Christmas Eve, family gatherings, carol concerts, Christmas service and all those other lovely traditions. But others are a bit more sceptical about the whole Christmas business. Some Christmas gatherings don't end up in cosy family get-togethers but instead in heated discussions, maybe unveiling long forgotten hurt feelings. Some think it is pointless to go to a Christmas service, just because of tradition and some can't see the point of the whole commercial side that comes with it. Fair enough - we all have our own personal memories of this period of the year and these memories shape the feelings that we are having today.

This year I wanted to find out how Christmas might feel for people who have not what most of us call "a home". Our church neighbour the hostel "St. Mungo's" is a home for those people whom we call homeless - how do they celebrate Christmas? Janet Martin, the manager of the hostel told me about their Christmas celebration with the "clients" as she calls their residents. To learn more about our next-door neighbours and their Christmas celebration read the interview with Janet as part of the theological article.

Despite all the question marks you might have or not have concerning the Christmas period I wish you a merry and truly blessed Christmas season!

Yours very sincerely,



A Merry Christmas for everyone?

The following article is about our Christmas festivities and the different aspects to it. The main focus is on our church neighbour, the hostel "St Mungo's", and how they celebrate Christmas with their clients. Can we maybe contribute something so that they can have a happy Christmas too?

The Christmas period is for many people a time when they go to church and when they spend a moment in reflection and faith. It is also for most of us a merry time to spend with family and friends. And nearly everyone looks forward to that seasonal holiday (as it is called nowadays). But as much as it is a joyful occasion for some people, it is also a stressful time for others. Not only for doctors, nurses, police and others who have to deal with some

of the negative consequences of the Christmas season, but also for people who are going through a stressful time emotionally. Christmas is loaded with lots of expectations and emotional needs, and on top of this advertisements generate many materialistic desires. But how must it feel for people, who can't afford to buy a turkey, and who can only
(to be continued on page 5)

In this edition

From the Organ Loft	2-4
THEological	5-6
Groups at the Swiss Church	7
Comments	8
Music @ 79 Endell Street	9
Congratulations	10
Art @ 79 Endell Street	10
Kids Corner	11

From the Organ Loft

Minister's report



At the beginning of October I had the pleasure of conducting the wedding ceremony for our Consistoire member Michael van Haarlem and his now wife Susanne. That was the first wedding ceremony to take place in the newly renovated Swiss Church and of course with its new white look it was the perfect background for the lovely couple. A little while ago at the end of July I



Michael and Susanne van Haarlem's Wedding

was delighted to perform the wedding ceremony for Mark and Jenna Mosimann, which took place in Glion, near Montreux. They had chosen this beautiful location in Switzerland for their wedding because they have strong connections to this area. I wish both couples God's blessing for their journey together.

One other highlight during the past few months was certainly the poetic evening with Zoe Jenny and Christoph Denoth. On the 14th October Zoe read from her first novel in English "The Sky is Changing" and Christoph gave a stunning performance on his acoustic guitar. About one and a half years ago I met Christoph at a reception at the Swiss Embassy and this is when the idea for

that event was born. And finally we had the pleasure of listening to these two talented Swiss artists at the Swiss Church!

We also celebrated a Thanksgiving Family service, where every child could bring a vegetable for the soup that they would prepare later during the children's programme. It was encouraging to see so many families with children joining us for this service, some of them had come to the Swiss Church for the first time. Of course if we want this church to continue to thrive we must also focus on the young generation of Swiss living in London. I am very glad that our core congregation is very friendly and open to families. At the end of the service one of our eldest members said to me that he had probably never heard anything so beautiful in the Swiss Church as the last hymn sung by the Jonas Choir. Isn't it wonderful to hear that feedback from the older generation taking part in this rather modern service?

Also in October we went for the Parish Weekend to High Wycombe. Everyone who joined us for that weekend said they had had a great time. In general we were fortunate to be blessed with good weather so we could also explore the area around the Uplands House, where we stayed. The theme of the weekend was the Lord's Prayer and it was interesting to deepen our understanding of this well-known prayer. We are very much hoping that more people and ideally some families will join us next year.

At the end of August we had a very nice VEGSIL meeting, which took place in Berne. Ursula Stocker, the president of VEGSIL, hosted the event at the Salem Hospital, where she works as a Minister for pastoral care. It was good to see so many familiar faces again and we are very grateful for the



Christoph Denoth and Zoe Jenny after the reading

support that we get from VEGSIL.

Apart from that we have the sad news that our organist Hilary Davan Wetton is leaving us by the end of January 2011. On the 16th January we will have a special service for him to say thank you. It has been a pleasure to work with Hilary and it was also a blessing that he brought his choir to many of our Sunday services. Thank you Hilary for everything that you have done for the Swiss Church.

Rev Nathalie Dürmüller

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Editor

Rev Nathalie Dürmüller

Contact

Phone 020 7836 1418
info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk

Website

www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk
You can download the latest Swiss
Church News on our website.

Deadline for the next Swiss Church News

15 January 2011

From the Organ Loft

News from the Consistoire



“Give us this day our daily bread”

Over the weekend of 8-9 October, a number of Parishioners enjoyed a lovely weekend organised by our Minister, Nathalie Duermueller, and our Youth/Parishworker, Nicole Jakubowitz, in Uplands House in High Wycombe. The attractive grounds around this classical mansion and some contemporary buildings offered a relaxing environment.

Besides the workshops there was much time to gather socially, to play and to go on an excursion. On Saturday, some of us visited Bekonscot, a model 1930's village, the first one of its kind, and therefore older than “Swissminiatur” in Melide. Others went to Marlow for a walk along the Thames and tea at Burgers, founded in 1942 by Eric and Marie Burger from Switzerland. On Saturday, Nicole Jakubowitz organised a game evening.

On Sunday morning we celebrated the Service in the usual African style, that

is everybody contributed actively to the Service.

The Lord's Prayer was the spiritual topic that our Minister Nathalie Duermueller chose to reflect upon in various ways. To warm up, we positioned “Jass”cards to the various lines of the prayer and then each group interpreted their associations between the cards and the phrases of the Lord's Prayer. We discussed the historical context and the lines that were difficult



Beautiful countryside near High Wycombe



How tall we are in the Model Village!

to understand such as “lead us not into temptation”. Was it really God's intention to tempt his believers? We discussed the lines that were very important to us. We all appreciated the time to think about and feel the meaning of this prayer, which expresses so much the essence of Jesus's thinking.

I chose to highlight the “give us this day our daily bread”, as I feel that in the past year the snail slow



Outing to the Bekonscot Model Village

progress of the renovation project forced us to live one day after the other; that is, to deal each day with the problems that arose. It was a very difficult year for all of us, stop and go, hope and then disappointment. Finally, now it seems that the design of the heating and ventilation systems has been progressed sufficiently to complete the works by the end of January. There is currently floor heating in the entrance and in the gallery and we will see that we can organise some heaters for the hall in case the weather gets very cold.

Urs Schmid will replace Edi Krall to become the new liaison person between the Embassy and the Consistoire of the Swiss Church. I would like to thank Edi Krall very much for the time and support he has given, and his commitment to continue to give to the Swiss Church. Urs Schmid is the Minister at the Swiss Embassy in London.

At the next meeting of the Consistoire, we will discuss various ways to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Swiss Church in London. Please let us have your suggestions and ideas.

Ursula Jost

From the Organ Loft

Youth and Parish Worker's Report



Every time I walk into the Swiss Church, everything looks pretty similar, and while it can seem empty a lot of the time, there is a lot of activity going on.

And yet we always tidy up after the events, in order to be ready for the next one. Sometimes I wish that there were traces left of what is happening in this church.

In the beginning of September, the au-



Art work from the parish weekend

dience were not exactly sitting comfortably on their chairs, as they watched Switzerland lose the football game against England. You wouldn't know this by looking at the chairs, now. About a week later, for the evening with Ruth Zumbühl and Albert Mehr, there were handmade tea cloths on all the chairs, woven by Bangladeshi women.

The walls of the Church don't tell you, how intensely this

space can be filled with sound, such as at the end of September, during the organ and trumpet concert. In the middle of October, after Zoe Jenny had read extracts from her new novel, Christophe Denoth filled the church hall with his guitar music, and it felt like bathing in the warmth of a summer night in Spain. After both events, the foyer was filled with the noise of people chatting over a glass of wine or juice.

When we had the Thanksgiving family service, at the beginning of October, we could smell soup, already during the service. The children had brought vegetables with them, which they prepared, so Cecile, our devoted cook, could boil them. The soup was delicious, and after the meal, while the children were playing, dinosaur blood was spilled onto the wooden floor, as the adults were having their coffee. And yet, despite the fighting



The children prepare the vegetables for the soup



The au pairs enjoyed their trip to the musical Mamma Mia

and the roaring of the toy dinosaurs, we all enjoyed the time together.

An important part of the Youth and Parish work from the last couple of months has been happening outside of the church. On a Tuesday morning in September a gathering of about thirty people took place in Amersham. Susanne Singh from the metro agency gives the newly arrived au pairs the opportunity to meet each other and to receive important information about their stay. I was given the opportunity to introduce them to the Swiss Connection, our youth programme. Our first outing was two weeks later when

we went to see the musical Mamma Mia. A few days before twelve people had set out together for the Parish weekend. We went to fetch some sunshine in High Wycombe and brought it back to the Church. Can you see it?

Nicole Jakobowitz

A Merry Christmas for everyone?

abstinent. Now the new approach is much more to find out what next steps the client wants to achieve and what has to be done in order to help him or her to achieve this goal. She says that we all have issues in our lives that need to be addressed, but we are not always ready to take the necessary steps. So we might just accomplish little steps on the way to finally achieving the big goal. What I like most about Janet's explanations is that she describes the clients like any other person. Sometimes homeless people are seen as alien or even frightening and people look away when they encounter a homeless person on the street who asks for money. I have to admit that when the one client was watching me in the entrance hall I was feeling uneasy and also tried to avoid his glance.

Later when I ask Janet whether it is recommended to give money when asked for it on the streets, she says most important thing is to treat the person with respect, to make eye contact or if possible to have a short conversation with him or her. Sometimes it can be right to give some money, but in general they would recommend that it is better to give it to their charity directly.

But what about Christmas – how does a “homeless” person experience this traditional family celebration, where the underlying theme is home? It doesn't come as a surprise to learn that those who are living in the hostel will also be celebrating with a special dinner, Christmas decorations and with a big tree in the entrance hall and presents. Many of the clients also have somewhere to go for that special evening, be it with family



Family feast at Christmas

or friends. So it is even more important that those who stay behind don't feel that they are missing out. Although it is in general a positive time for the people in the hostel, the staff also has to be prepared for the possibility of some emotional fallout if something goes wrong, such as someone not being able to visit his or her family as originally expected. But in general Christmas is a good time for

everyone who has a place in the hostel.

Then I wanted to know whether we from the Swiss Church could do something to contribute to a happy Christmas for our neighbours. In the past some members have donated presents. Janet says that this is a good idea but that one has to bear in mind that 76 per cent of the clients are men and that mainly male presents are needed. So not so many lady's toiletries, but more chocolate, socks, woolly hats and gloves and possibly nice men's toiletries!

So if you feel like making a difference by giving some presents to the clients of St Mungo's you can bring your contribution to the Family Christmas Service on the 19th December at 3pm. Or if you cannot make it on that date, let us know and we can make

alternative arrangements. With this perspective let us focus on all the positive sides that come with Christmas and the many things we can look forward to.

Rev Nathalie Dürmüller

For more information visit:
www.mungos.org.uk

Appeal:

If you would like to give a Christmas present to the residents of St Mungo's Hostel, please bring it to the Family Christmas Service on the 19 December 2010 at 3pm. Or if you cannot make it on that date, let us know and we can make alternative arrangements. Please bear in mind that we mainly need presents for men.

Groups at the Swiss Church

The Mothers' Group

This is the first article of a series where we introduce you to the different groups which meet each month at the Swiss Church.

On 13th October I joined Marianne Fisher-Hertig, Erika Dyke, Margrit Rahman and Marlies Davies after the Mothers' Group meeting, to gather the history and key elements of the Mothers' Group. When talking to the different organisers of the Group to arrange this meeting, I realised that it was important to each one of them to do this as a group. I had originally planned to talk to one or two representatives and then send the article to the other leading members of the Group for any amendments. But then I realised that they preferred to meet me together, and they also helped me complete this article later. Maybe this is linked to the fact



Part of the Mother's Group

that a unit of four women has been leading the Mothers' Group for a long time. Currently they are 30 members. They are financially supported by the VEG-SIL and the benefits of the sale of cakes on the Swiss National Day celebration.

The Mothers' Group was founded about 45 years ago by a Minister's wife and two or three young mothers. It was pointed out to me that at the time, flights and calls to Switzerland were very expensive, so the Group offered the possibility of stay-

ing in touch with the home country. The members supported each other in all areas, which helped with homesickness, and they also exchanged tips and hints about living away from home. The present team of four took on the leadership in 1988. The Mothers' Group provided a unique opportunity for the mothers to speak Swiss German, whilst their young children enjoyed playing together and trying out their knowledge of Swiss German, and of course getting to know each other and build friendships which still last today. It was also a time when most mothers did not work outside the home, and when nurseries were only just beginning to come into existence. The children always looked forward to the visit to the Swiss Church.

For many years, an important aspect of the Mothers' Group was the annual spring half term break which the mothers spent together with the children, from Monday to Friday. They went away to a holiday camp, led by the Minister and the Parish Worker from the Swiss Church.

The camps were always very lively, filled with songs, games, Christian teaching and other exchanges, and most mothers returned in a happy, relaxed mood from their time away, although some had to catch up on sleep, as the fun and games often went on till late at night.

The Mothers' Group still meets every second Wednesday of the month at 11.30 am for a short service followed by lunch. The lunch is paid for out of the Group's funds, and is prepared by the



The Mothers' Group enjoying cake and tea at a monthly meeting

members. After the meal, they enjoy a varied programme. Once every three months, Rev. Nathalie Dürmüller organises a Christian programme. The Mothers' Group also invites people to share their knowledge and experience, e.g. through cookery classes or handicraft. The programme is varied, be it presentations of travelling experiences, quizzes, visits to museums or galleries, or again illustrated talks or a theatre visit.

The Mothers' Group is a Christian group of the Church which welcomes people from other denominations or none. There is no age restriction and people who are not parents are also very welcome. The members of the Mothers' Group are involved in many Church events. The Group always welcomes new members (1st and 2nd generation Swiss and also people married to Swiss or associated with Switzerland are equally welcome); why don't you go along and pop in? The Group still provides a safe place to talk Swiss German (and also English), to chat and share about old Switzerland, but also to discuss new, interesting challenges and suggestions about living in London, as well as new updates about Swiss regulations or English law; not forgetting the friendship and fun on a monthly basis.

Nicole Jakobowitz

Comments

As we are a *Swiss Church* we would like to celebrate the fact that people from different language backgrounds are part of our church. This time we are publishing two contributions from our French speaking readers as we didn't get any contribution in German. We encourage you to send us your texts or photos by the 15 January 2011. Next time texts from our Swiss German readers will have priority.

Commentaire d'une jeune fille au pair de la Suisse Romand

Here is a report we received from Estelle, an au pair from Nyon, who stayed in London for almost a year and who returned to Switzerland last July.

J'ai eu énormément de chance et de plaisir tout au long de mon séjour en Angleterre. J'aimerais remercier chaleureusement toutes les personnes qui ont rendu cette expérience possible, tout particulièrement ma famille qui m'a toujours soutenue et encouragée. Merci également à l'agence de placement Metro Agency, spécialement Mrs. Susanne Singh qui a passé de nombreuses heures à chercher la famille idéale. Et bien sûr, un grand merci à ma famille anglaise pour leur accueil chaleureux et familial. Sans oublier Nicole Jakubowitz de la Swiss Connection grâce à qui j'ai pu me divertir lors d'agréables rencontres qu'elle a brillamment organisées.

Devenir jeune fille AU PAIR n'est pas

seulement une année sabbatique dans un pays étranger loin de notre petite vie tranquille, c'est aussi et surtout un engagement, une responsabilité et une découverte de soi. Durant une année, jour après jour, vous ne pourrez pas vous occuper seulement de votre petite



Tous les au pairs ensemble

personnalité, vous aurez aussi la responsabilité d'un ou plusieurs enfants. C'est pourquoi, il est très important d'avoir des gens qui vous soutiennent et

qui croient en vous ! Mais il est encore plus important d'acquérir la confiance et le respect avec la famille d'accueil.

Quelle que soit la famille où vous serez, les difficultés seront étroitement similaires. Que ce soit pour vous exprimer ou à cause du mal du pays, la sensation d'abandon restera la même. Les seuls remèdes sont la confiance en soi et ses objectifs fixés. Il faut aussi de la patience durant les premiers mois jusqu'à une bonne intégration. Mais, finalement, cela reste une expérience unique et inoubliable à ne pas manquer.

Pour finir, je tiens à donner un dernier petit conseil : si une famille ne vous respecte pas ou, si tout simplement elle ne convient pas, je vous encourage à en discuter avec votre agence de placement. Il arrive parfois que ça ne fonctionne pas avec une ou plusieurs familles, mais ne renoncez pas et poursuivez l'aventure.

La 60ème rencontre des Anciens-Londoniens

Le 26 septembre 2010, les Anciens Londoniens se sont réunis pour la soixantième fois. Monsieur Genton nous fait part de cette rencontre qui s'est déroulée comme les années précédentes à Crêt-Bérard, dans les altitudes près de Vevey et Lausanne.

J. Sauter ouvrit notre culte par une intense prière d'intercession. En fait, le secrétaire l'avait, sans le vouloir, tenu au courant des problèmes des Londoniens comme ceux des Anciens, des avatars Endellstretiens comme des nôtres. Des réponses d'appropriées lectures bibliques

entrecoupèrent chaque demande. J. Sauter nous fit apprécier la riche parabole de l'Enfant Prodigue. L'un des vitraux de la chapelle et la reproduction du tableau de Rembrandt lui servirent de support. Le temps manqua pour que chacun puisse développer ses considérations. La vivifiante lecture d'Ephésiens 4/25-32 précéda l'envoi et la bénédiction. De la chapelle où ce culte exceptionnel de la 60ème avait réuni 6 Anciens, on passa à la toujours plaisante cafétéria. Un apéritif festif précéda le lunch habituel. Cette 60ème rencontre valait bien un dessert. De la

jelly amusa fort et régala les convives.

J. Sauter et G. Genton donnèrent ensuite des nouvelles des uns et des autres. La 61ème rencontre est agendée au 25 sept 11 à Crêt-Bérard. A défaut de l'un des conférenciers invités pour nous parler des festivités de novembre 2009 autour de la réouverture de l'Eglise Suisse, l'on se contenta des photos du »Swiss Church News« du printemps 2010.

G. Genton, Lausanne

Music @ 79 Endell Street

Forthcoming Concerts at the Swiss Church in London

On the last Thursday of each month, at 7.30 pm

Sixty minutes of music and a glass of wine with the opportunity to meet the musicians after the concert.

Tickets are available at the door from 7pm. Booking by phone: (020) 7836 1418 or by email: info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk

Entrance: £10, concessions £8.

Series of 6 concerts: £40, concessions £32.

12 December 2010 at 5pm! Carol Concert with the City of London Choir

Members of the City of London Choir, conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton, will be singing Christmas carols. The programme will include well-loved, traditional carols - with audience participation - as well as some beautiful but less familiar settings of Christmas texts. Award-winning organist Stephen Farr accompanies. A lovely concert for all the family.



27 January 2011 Violin recital

Swiss violinist Judith Lötscher from Guildhall School of Music and Drama and London born pianist Stephen Gutmann, well-known as a performer of contemporary music, will perform a varied programme including works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Bloch.



24 February 2011 Junior Trinity Jazz Ensemble and Barber Shop Group

The young jazz players and singers from Trinity will display their varied talents and delight the audience with their virtuoso performances. Their programme will include musical surprises by Swiss composer Stephan Hodel.



31 March 2011 Organ recital by Michael Pelzel

Michael Pelzel will play a colourful organ recital programme including works by Johann Sebastian Bach, by Italian Renaissance composer Girolamo Frescobaldi, by Sigfrid Karg-Elert, by the French composer Louis Vierne, as well as some of his own improvisations.



Congratulations

to Ursula Jones, OBE

Our patrons of the concerts at the Swiss Church will be pleased to hear that Ursula Jones was the recipient of an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year, a well deserved award for "services to music". Ursula who hails from Lucerne has spent most of her life in London. She was co-founder and general manager of the English Chamber Orchestra until 1975 and from 1978 to 1986 managed the Brass Ensemble of her husband Philip Jones, the gifted trumpeter. Music and art were part of her upbringing as her father was one of the very distinguished members on the organizing committee of the Lucerne Festival where Ursula is on the Board of Trustees and being actively involved. Her uncle is the painter Hans Erni.

Apart from music she has other talents. In the early fifties she studied and obtained a translator's diploma from Heidelberg and Geneva Universities for German/French/Italian and English. In 1978

Ursula took up postgraduate pre-Colombian Central America studies at the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London and obtained a Ph.D degree in 1992. Since then she has combined her archaeological and musical interests lecturing on the prehistory of Mexico and organising concerts in England and Switzerland for young talented musicians.



Ursula Jones

I remember well a stimulating talk which Ursula gave some years ago at the Swiss Church on her climbing ex-

pedition of Mount Kilimanjaro. This was a 60th birthday present from her husband and another great achievement.

We are indeed very fortunate to have Ursula Jones as our consultant and advisor to help to organize our music programme during the past few years. Thanks to her many connections and experience we have been able to enjoy some wonderful concerts in our "Soirées Musicales" and now "Music at 79 Endell Street" series, adding a Swiss flavour to them with the participation of young talented Swiss musicians, ensembles or Swiss composers.

Ursula Jones has been invested with her honour by HM The Queen on 20 October at Buckingham Palace. On behalf of our readers we send her our warmest congratulations and best wishes. May she continue and enjoy her various activities for a long time.

Rose-Marie Breitenstein

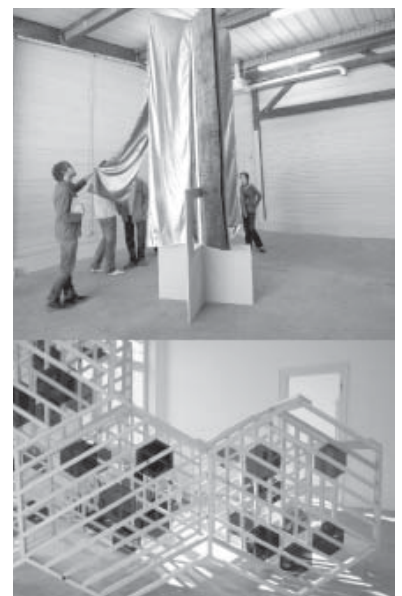
Art @ 79 Endell Street

Curating Show opening on the 10th February 2011

In order to support young artists, living in London The Swiss Church has launched an annual curatorial invitation open to all students of the MFA in Curating at Goldsmiths College, London University, from which one is selected for realisation. This year the selected proposal is an exhibition entitled 'States of Matter', curated by Anca Rujoiu and Manuela Schlumpf. It includes work by different artists, including Davide Cascio (b. Switzerland) and Ilona Sagar (b. UK). These artists will involve the architectural and sacred attributes of the space in their works and will take the context of the church as their content thereby emphasizing its perceptual force and drawing the viewers' attention to their surroundings: its architecture, its, ambience as well as the nature and function of the space. The exhibition will unfold in three simultaneous acts: sculpture, performance and sound installation through which the audience is invited to explore the space.

The exhibition will run from February 10 until February 27 2011. The opening evening will take place on the 10th of February and everyone is warmly invited to come along.

Admission free.



Kids Corner

Find the words!



Skate



Sledge



Santa



Presents

O	S	R	H	R	C	D	I	E	R
Z	K	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S
P	A	D	U	I	F	B	Y	S	Q
S	T	Z	S	N	O	W	M	A	N
L	E	V	Q	D	G	Y	P	N	Z
E	X	O	M	E	B	G	O	T	K
D	B	N	I	E	U	B	S	A	J
G	X	K	T	R	E	E	I	P	Q
E	S	D	H	E	H	C	L	O	U
Z	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S

24 December

Christmas



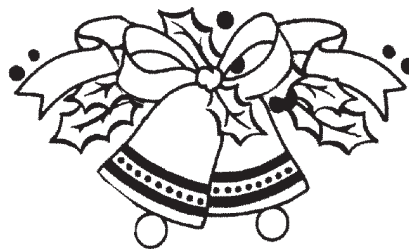
Tree



Reindeer

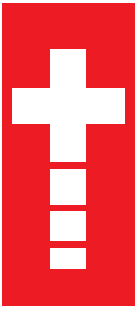


Snowman



Put plenty of lovely colours into the pictures!





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*The Swiss Church in London wishes you a
blessed Christmas and a happy holiday season!*

