



Swiss Church News

Winter 09

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

Editorial

Dear reader,

At the beginning of autumn I heard a few people say: "Winter is the toughest season of the year, especially after Christmas". Is this so? Of course before Christmas we have something to look forward to, as there will be a lot of celebrations: Christmas parties and receptions, gatherings with family and friends, lots of presents and delicious food (in large quantities), and many more good things. After Christmas there are still the New Year's celebrations, but then January comes and with it probably the hardest winter months, as there is nothing to get excited about. Instead we are left with grey and freezing weather, the perspective of a long time without holidays and not a lot of money to spend. Is it really that bad? Well, we shouldn't forget that there are also many great things happening in January and February, such as the first part of the new Concert Series 2010 that starts at the Swiss Church in London. For a reasonable fee you can go to the most wonderful concerts, where you will meet great people to drink a glass of wine with after the performance. Or why not surprise the minister and go to church in January instead of going during Christmas time, when churches are packed anyway? I have heard that going to church can increase your well-being and it is also the perfect opportunity to mingle. Therefore I would say that if you are part of the Swiss Church the winter months might not be that bad after all!

Yours truly,



Children's Christmas Choir

“Jesus has his birthday, but he is in the sky, so he can't celebrate it with us.”

The following article is a dialog between children's answers to questions about Christmas and some reflections on their responses that may inspire the reader to see Christmas in a different light.

In many families three different generations get together for Christmas: grandparents, parents and children, and sometimes even the fourth generation is present too. Also many who - for various reasons - don't have their own family connections any more or who are singles often join other families to celebrate with them. For those who are not part of such a social net Christmas can be a rather difficult time of the year. It seems that the traditional way of Christmas celebrations somehow still

imposes the family setting and it can be quite painful for those who can't celebrate like this. Nonetheless probably the majority of people look forward to celebrating
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From the Organ Loft

Minister's report



Now that it is getting dark and colder again I like to remember the summer months, especially August, when I had time to visit a lot of people and could prepare ahead for the following months. It was good to have this time for organising diverse matters but also for reflection, which can be easily neglected in the daily grind.

On the 23 August the annual VEGSIL meeting took place in Riehen, Basle. This time it was a very special one as it was the 55th anniversary of VEGSIL as well as the last time that Paul Jungi, who has been the president of VEGSIL for many years, was part of the event. Due to his retirement in Riehen he also had to stop his involvement in the VEGSIL group. So we had to say good-bye to Paul Jungi



Roger Konrad with his Alphorn, one of the artists performing at the Opening Event

and his wife Anne, who were off for a long trip to Canada in their caravan. The event was attended by a large number of people. Also quite a few of the former ministers of the Swiss Church were present: Paul and Anne Jungi, Marcel and Vreni Dietler, Ueli and Ursula Stefan, Philipp von Orelli as well as Barbara Brunner. VEGSIL very kindly decided to sponsor an organ pipe at the Swiss Church and as always their support is highly appreciated. I would like to say

thank you to all those who continue to morally and financially support our work.

In September we resumed our Sunday Services. These are still taking place at the Dutch Church, which has kindly continued to extend its hospitality to us. It was rewarding to see a good number of people coming back to the services after the summer break. On the 20 September we celebrated "Dank-Bus und Bettag", sadly still without a Catholic priest. My attempts to motivate the Bishop Conference in Switzerland to send a priest for this occasion have not brought any success. At the moment I am in discussion with the French Catholic Church "Notre Dame de France" in Soho, hoping that we will be able to celebrate ecumenical services once we are back in the Swiss Church in Endell Street.

Apart from the every day duties I have been very busy with the preparations for the Reopening Event of the Swiss Church. I would just like to give a brief impression of the different tasks that had to be done: the design, print and despatch of the invitations for patrons and donors of the Swiss Church renovation project had to be organized; food for the event had to be coordinated and chosen from different caterers; the cultural part for the Saturday programme involved being in contact with different artists; the service on Sunday, the ceremony afterwards and the printed programme had to be prepared. Further I was collaborating with William French, head of communications at the Swiss Embassy, to write a press statement and to invite the press to the event. The reopening event shall also be an opportunity to advertise the future cultural and social programme at the Swiss Church. Therefore we had several meetings with people from the Music and the Art Group and vivid discussions

in the Consistoire. Finally we managed to set up an excellent programme for the concert series for the first part of 2010 and together with Charlotte de Boncourt we created a fundraising brochure, which describes the Cultural Programme of the Swiss Church in London. Hopefully



Autumn in London

we can realise many of these ideas! Many more tasks had to be done for the Opening Event and a lot of them were done by volunteers. Therefore I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who helped to organise this event, in particular to the Consistoire.

Rev Nathalie Dürmüller

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Deadline for the next Swiss Church News

15 January 2010

From the Organ Loft

News from the Consistoire



By the time you read this edition of the “News”, we will have celebrated the Re-Opening of the Swiss Church. It has been a long awaited moment after many years of planning and fundraising and over 12 months in exile at the Dutch Church and the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

As I write these lines at the end of October, the builders are still racing to get the building ready for the reopening festivities. Since the last report, major items now completed are:

- **Redecoration** of the interior walls: Many layers of paint were removed before a long life Keim mineral paint was applied.
- Completion of the **exterior façade**: It was repainted with a Keim mineral paint. Sheets of lead were laid to protect the most exposed parts. Gold leaf was applied to the lettering, the Bible and the sunburst around it.
- Building of the **stairs**: The old stairs leading to the gallery were reused to build the stairs down to the basement. The other two flights of stairs were

custom built in concrete, on site with the help of form-work

- **Floors**: Over several layers of insulation material and under floor heating pipes, a final layer of screed was poured, except for the ground floor.
- **Roof**: New, insulated roof windows were put in and the roof window over the organ was reopened to let light come down into the gallery room.

Major tasks still to do are the laying of the wooden floor, putting in the lift, completing the kitchen, toilets, audiovisual installation and putting the glass into the internal façade, as well as finally installing the organ.

On Sunday 27 September, a number of Parishioners participated in an outing to Canterbury Cathedral excellently organized by the New Helvetic Society. We attended the 11am Service and well versed volunteer guides gave us a tour of the Cathedral and surrounding grounds.

A wonderful new nativity scene will be displayed this year in the Swiss Church. Rita Martin initiated and led a group of women who have created new figures to

tell the story of Christmas and I understand that one of the husbands is building the manger! This is very much appreciated, thank you to all involved.



Ursula Talary, member of the Consistoire since 1985

Ursula Talary who joined the Consistoire in 1985 has resigned after almost a quarter of a century of dedicated service. She was Vice President for many years, several times took on the huge task of organizing the Bazaar, and most recently, was responsible for lettings. In the name of the Consistoire I would like to thank Ursula for being a very loyal member, for her manifold contributions, and for her opinions and commitment to the Swiss Church. We wish Ursula God’s blessings for the coming years.

And finally after a long search we are very pleased to announce that a new Youth and Parish Worker, Ms Nicole Jakubowitz, will start working with us on 1 February 2010. She has worked as a Social Worker in the Reformed Church in Fribourg for the last 5 years.



Freshly laid screed floor on gallery

Ursula Jost

“Jesus has his birthday, but he is in the sky, so he can’t celebrate it with us.”



The Magi with their presents for Jesus

with their families in their own traditional way. Especially for children Christmas is one of the most exciting times of the year and often one of their favourite days of celebration (just after their own birthday). Therefore it is inspiring to listen to what children have to say about Christmas. Quite often they have the same questions or feelings about Christmas that adults do, only with the difference that they

dare to express themselves more freely.

How do you celebrate Christmas and which traditions do you practise with your family?

One girl, age six, answered: “We open presents and give presents to others and we decorate and set up the Christmas tree and sing Christmas songs.” For children it is particularly important to know that

every year there will be certain traditions that are being kept and that the celebrations follow a certain pattern. Of course the first thing they usually mention are the presents. Before Christmas in the shops and on the streets it becomes quite obvious that for many these festivities are mainly about presents and for some about making business out of it. One might regret this, but for children presents are truly important and they have usually a never-ending list of

wishes. One girl said: “I wish that I get more animals, because I really don’t have animals at all.” Isn’t this in a way a very non-material and heart-warming wish? But unfortunately quite a difficult one to fulfil in a London flat... When being asked about her Christmas holiday plans she expresses her wishes more concretely: “I go to my grand-parents, because I can ski and I will get more presents there. [Short break] I want to tell you about my wishes. My wish is to get more animals: a puppy, a parrot, and more gogos. (the latter are little plastic animals). By expressing her wishes, she probably hopes that somehow they will be heard and finally fulfilled. Wouldn’t it be sometimes much easier if adults were able to express their wishes as concretely as children do? One can complain about the material side to Christmas but on the other hand this also forms part of our tradition and especially for children Christmas would just not be the same without presents. On top of this we could even justify this tradition biblically: The gospel of Matthew tells the famous story about the Magi, who bring their presents gold, incense



Children love Christmas presents



Christmas decoration

“Jesus has his birthday, but he is in the sky, so he can’t celebrate it with us.”

and myrrh to Jesus lying in a manger. By offering something to our loved-ones we may also remember this story, which shows very well that we give presents to show our affection for someone.

Do you know why we celebrate Christmas?

In the secular society we are living in we can’t take it for granted any more that the younger generation actually knows why we are celebrating Christmas. Therefore it is intriguing to see what answers the children would give when being asked why we actually celebrate Christmas. The following answer was certainly the most amusing one: “Yes, Jesus has a birthday. Well, I think that I know the story. [Short break] Mum, If I don’t know the story, should I make it up?”

“Well - OK.” “Jesus has his birthday, but he is in the sky, so he can’t celebrate it with us. We celebrate it every Christmas. Actually, Christmas was the day when he was born. He is very kind. Oh, I know, I will get my Bible.” The girl then returns and reads the Christmas story from the Bible. Another answer was: “We have Christmas by celebrating the birthday of God, I think, or maybe Jesus. We celebrate his birth by being nice this Christmas and God is very happy that we celebrate it like that.”

It would probably also be quite interesting to randomly ask adults on the streets,

whether they could tell us the Christmas story. How many would actually be able to tell it by heart? Of course the children were right when they said that we celebrate Christmas because of Jesus’ birth

or maybe Jesus.” This child seems to be a bit uncertain about the difference between God and Jesus and whose birthday we are actually celebrating. By doing so she raises a highly theological question:

“Was Jesus actually God and when did he start being (like) God?” This wasn’t at all clear for the first Christians, on the contrary they fought intensively about this very subject in the beginning of the 4th century. There were different ways of explaining how the relationship between God the Father and God the Son is to be described. In the end, in 325 AD at the First Council of Nicaea, they decided that God and Jesus were the same by nature and that it was wrong to believe that Jesus had only been adopted as God’s son at his baptism.



The Holy Family with Jesus in the manger

but it isn’t really his birthday that we are celebrating, as it was only in the 4th century that Christians started to celebrate Christmas on the 25 December. The date in December initially comes from the pagan celebration of the solstice. By taking the same date the early Christians wanted to make a statement against the Roman cult of the sun and therefore there is no link with the actual date of Jesus’ birth, which we don’t know of course.

One other remark is worth having a closer look at: “We have Christmas by celebrating the birthday of God, I think,

What are your plans for the Christmas holiday?

This girl is truly looking forward to her Christmas holiday: “We will have fun, go to the beach, play games, play with my hamster, Abi will come over for a sleep-over and party with my friends for a Happy New Year.” There are hopefully lots of things that we can all look forward to during the upcoming Christmas season. Children may inspire us to articulate all these good things and to focus on them, so that we will have a great Christmas time this year.

Rev Nathalie Dürmüller

Interview with Ursula Jost

The Swiss Church Renovation Project 1998 to 2009

After 10 years of significant planning, fundraising and great commitment from many people, the Swiss Church Renovation Project has finally been completed. This is definitely the right moment to interview Ursula Jost, President of the Consistoire and one of those involved from the beginning in this huge undertaking.

How and when did it all start?

The initial pebble in the water causing wider and wider circles was the decision in 1998 to move the Church office from the Vicarage to the organ loft at the Swiss Church in Endell Street. This relocation was done to enliven the Building during the week and make it more accessible for visitors. Discussions soon started thereafter concerning whether the organ could be moved in order to arrange the office in a more practical way. A Quinquennial report (comprehensive survey of the building fabric) also commissioned in 1998 identified a number of major repairs that needed to be undertaken in the next few years, such as the complete redecoration of the internal walls (flaking of the paint) and the repair and redecoration of the external façade.

In 1999 the Consistoire tasked the Building Committee (Laurent Lourson, Jean-Marc Tarabori and myself) to interview a number of architects regarding a proposal for repairing the exterior of the Building. The intention was to then submit a funding application to the Joint English Heritage Scheme. As it turned out, Ian Angus from Carden & Godfrey, whom we elected to do the repair proposal for the façade, recommended to delay the application and to first develop a properly thought out plan for the building, addressing both its use and its repair. His suggestion was the impetus for us to start thinking more

broadly and to dare to express what our needs for the future would be.

For the May 2000 Consistoire Meeting, the Building Committee developed a brief based on many interviews with staff, volunteers and groups/organizations using and renting the building. It outlined what activities were then and might in the future take place in the Swiss Church and what facilities would be needed to carry those out.

Re-reading this brief now, it is amazing how so many wishes on the list have become a reality.

How did it turn into such a big project?

We knew what we wanted from a renovated building by mid-2000, but we had no clear vision how to achieve it. An important first step was to find an architect that would honour the historic fabric and venture to make bold, functional and contemporary additions. By February 2001 we produced an outline for a design competition. The then Swiss Ambassador, Mr Bruno Spinner, approached Herzog & de Meuron to see whether they would be willing to be judges for the competition. It turned out that they were interested to be entrusted with the renovation of the Swiss Church, which they estimated to cost £3m.

Now the Consistoire had to make the most difficult and far reaching decision: Should we risk spending £42,300 to commission Herzog & de Meuron to develop a proposal for the renovation. During a special Consistoire meeting on 20 September 2001, the Consistoire took the decision to go ahead. Against concerns that the project was too big and too expensive for the Swiss Church, and that the Architects



Ursula Jost on the building site

might ignore our wishes, it was realized that we had a unique opportunity to work with world renown architects to develop our vision for the future and thus attract potential donors. It helped that we had the necessary funds available to risk this

step thanks to a generous donation to the Building Fund by Mr and Mrs Sigwart.

What were the major difficulties?

One of the challenging and at the same time most enriching experiences was the continuous change of key people, be it Ministers, Consistoire Members, Swiss Ambassadors, Architects, Builders and Designers. It was challenging because valuable supporters left and enriching because each new person brought different and timely new skills and experiences to the project.

Once embarked on the major project, the first difficulty was to realize that by the end of 2005 we had only realized \$1.6m towards the £3m needed for the project. For a number of reasons, Herzog & de Meuron became otherwise occupied and expressed a desire to be released from the project. We did find in Christ

Interview with Ursula Jost

The Swiss Church Renovation Project 1998 to 2009

& Gantenbein, a young and ambitious architectural firm from Basel, interested in taking up the challenge to do the renovation project for just under £2m with help of English partners. Their reputation helped to keep all major donors on board and confident that we could deliver. On 18 November 2005, the Consistoire engaged them to undertake a feasibility study for £50,000.

The second major difficulty was in the autumn of 2008 when we realized that the electrical, mechanical and concrete work tender packages organized by the chosen contractor came in far above the estimated ones. This was alarming and forced us to select another Contractor, Saltash Construction, who submitted a costing proposal more in line with our budget.

How did we raise the £2.23m?

It was through the help and efforts of many people over 9 years. An important first step was the creation of a Patrons Committee in 2002. We had a few large fundraising events such as a dinner at the Church in 2002, dinner and auction at Mosimann's in 2003 and a gala event on top of the Gherkin in 2004. Many fundraising activities were initiated by the Church, individual Parishioners and friends of the Swiss Church such as the London Marathon participation over 5 years, cookery classes at the Residence of the Swiss Ambassador Mr A. Lautenberg and his wife Mrs G. Lautenberg, dinners at private homes, a Jass competition, selling bricks and plants and most recently the still ongoing "Sponsor an organ pipe campaign". However, the majority of money was raised by personal approaches to companies, trusts, individuals and Churches in Switzerland.

As you can see from the table below the project would not have been realized without the early and very substantial donation of André Hoffmann. His donation encouraged many others to have confidence in the viability of the project.

46%: Major Donor
25%: Individual Donors
22%: Companies
4%: Fundraising Activities
2%: Protestant Churches in Switzerland
1%: Trusts

What is your dream for the renovated Church Building?

To see the Church Building as a vibrant and much used centre for the Parish, Swiss Community and the Neighbourhood, with many spiritual, social and cultural activities taking place which bring people together, further faith, dialogue, tolerance and charity.

What was your personal experience with the project?

It is the experience of seeing a project through from vision to reality with so many people leading and contributing in various ways.

It was enriching to work with a number of people very closely at different phases of the project, all bringing different and timely talents to the work. It was unique to see that as a team of people we could overcome difficult phases and always find a solution or experience unexpected help; when a door closed another one opened.

Since, at the time you are reading these lines the Re-Opening Festivities have taken place, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work that has been done to achieve the renovation project.

I am particularly grateful to Rev Andre Feuz, Bruno Spinner and Laurent Loursion, who initiated the project; to Rev David Leuenberger, Andre Hoffmann and Bruno Boesch who were instrumental in raising the money and conceiving a viable second project; to Hilary Davan Wetton for his advice on the organ; and finally to Rev Nathalie Dürmüller and all Consistoire Members for leading the Church in an extended exile, enduring a challenging building phase and organizing the Opening Festivities. A warm thank you goes also to the members of the Patrons' Committee and to the two Co-Chairs Pascal Couchepin and the Swiss Ambassador in London Alexis Lautenberg.

I would like to thank the professional team and the builders for transforming the Building and fulfilling our brief. The Architects, Emanuel Christ, Stephanie Hirschvogel and Victoria Easton from Christ & Gantenbein created attractive and bold new spaces, respecting and reflecting the historical fabric. The architect Tony Redman from the Whitworth Co-Partnership and his team, who restored the historic fabric to its original beauty and preserved it for the future. Peter Gibson and his team from Saltash Construction, who managed to build in a confined space to demanding plans within a tight budget. Rolf Peruzzo, the Project Manager from Castle-Davis led the team in a resourceful, optimistic and sensitive yet firm and committed manner. He liaised between different building cultures and kept everybody to the budgeted costs.

And last but not least the project would not stand without the many donors and we thank them all very much.



John Llewellyn, Re-glazing the roof



Dave Smith (Smith's Roofing), puts on the lead flashing.



View from the gallery onto massive scaffolding



Jeff Searle, Project Manager (Saltash), Giles Derby, Nick Smith, Site Manager (Saltash), Emanuel Christ, Architect (Christ & Gantenbein Architects), Site meeting in the cabin



Rolf Peruzzo, Project Manager (Castle-Davis) and Ursula Jost



View from St Mungo's onto church roof and surroundings



Rolf Peruzzo, Project Manager (Castle Davis), Jeff Searle, Project Manager (Saltash) and Markus Bäumler (Spaeth Orgelbau)



Robert Badder, Carpenter (Saltash), installing the frame



Crane for lifting up the air handling unit to the back of the church



Finishing the elegant new staircase



Tony Redman, Architect (WCP) and Nick Smith, Site Manager (Saltash)



Nick Cunningham and Steve Hitchcock, Electricians, (Stenic), consulting with Rolf Peruzzo, Project Manager (Castle-Davis)



Nick Smith, Site Manager (Saltash), Paul Corrigan, Laid underfloor heating pipes on the gallery floor

55th VEGSIL-Meeting on 23 August 2009



Paul Jungi and Amanda Grob at the Thai buffet



Some familiar faces from the Swiss Church

Paul Jungi invited the members of VEGSIL to Riehen. In the morning we met in the church for a special Sunday service with the local community. Marcel Dietler, Barbara Brunner and Philipp von Orelli, former Ministers of the Swiss Church in London, spoke about their favourite texts in the bible and the meaning that these have in their lives. Nathalie Dürmüller, Ursula Stocker and Paul Jungi presided and served the

Holy Communion. After lots of singing the service ended and we enjoyed an appetizer in the court-yard of the church. This was the first opportunity to say hello to all the people we hadn't seen for a long time. Later Nathalie spoke to the community of Riehen and the VEGSIL group about her work and her current projects in London.

Afterwards the group went to the

Meierhofer house, a Medieval farm house, which has been renovated and is now used as a community room. Here we enjoyed a delicious Thai lunch. Gusti Thüring surprised us with his Flute playing and by singing well known songs in an amusing way. There was also time to chat with old friends and share memories from our stays in London years ago.

Afterwards there was the Annual General Meeting. Nathalie answered questions from the President of VEGSIL Ursula, about difficulties with her daily work, and her visions and hopes for the future. We also decided to support several groups from the Swiss Church financially.

At the end of the meeting we had some coffee and dessert and another opportunity to talk to all the different people.

Very warm thanks to Paul Jungi, who organised the meeting and all who helped to make this a special day. We wish Paul and Anne Jungi the best for the future and their travelling project and hope to see them again soon!

See you next year on **29 August 2010 in Berne!**

Amanda Grob



Some of the (former) Ministers/Parish workers of the Swiss Church in London

Charlotte de Boncourt at the Swiss Church in London

Charlotte de Boncourt has been working for the Swiss Church since August 2009. In this article she gives a brief overview of her involvement, especially with the cultural projects.

Having graduated from the European School of Business (Reutlingen, Germany) and Centre d'Études Supérieures Européennes de Management (Reims, France) last June, I was hoping to gain some experience by working in London for a cultural project, before starting a Masters in Art Administration in 2010.

I had heard about the Swiss Church in London and its renovation project, the opening event and the cultural programme. I contacted Ursula Jost and Nathalie Dürmüller and while discussing their requirements, I realized that the experience I had in consulting agencies and in the cultural field, might be relevant for this project. One month later, I started work as a trainee for the Swiss Church in London.

First I received my job description and an overview of the Swiss Church activities and its mission. I was struck by the words; "to be close to God and close to the people". I found in this statement, an appropriate guideline to be followed by the Music and the Arts groups for the conception and the implementation of the cultural projects.

My job at the Swiss Church consists of three main tasks corresponding to the two projects I am involved in: the Cultural Programme 2010 and the Opening Events.

The fundraising is the task I started first. After establishing which groups we may ask for support, I put a list together of trusts and companies which might be interested in supporting the cultural programme of the Swiss Church, and I started to think about a Friends Club. At the same time, I co-ordinated the creation of informational materials like a brochure and a cultural programme leaflet, for sending to potential donors, with a text written by the Arts Group and illustrated with the artists' works.

Secondly, external and internal communications also form part of my job. On the one hand, I have co-ordinated the creation of the Opening Events invitation and I am currently working on the concept of further communications tools, like the concerts leaflet. I am also about to launch the Commemorative Brochure, which will give an overview of the Swiss Church at this significant moment in its history. On the other hand, internal communications are equally important, and I enjoy liaising with everyone through meetings, notes and feedback.



Charlotte de Boncourt

Last but not least, I am pleased to operate with different groups to help with the development of the overall concept. I really enjoy working with everybody, and would like to thank Nathalie Dürmüller, Ursula Jost and Valérie Lehmann as well as the members of the Arts and Music groups and of the Consistoire.

I enjoy being able to contribute to the cultural side of the Swiss Church in London, in its support of artistic talent, and of having the opportunity to develop my skills in such an inspiring environment. As Victor Hugo said « l'art, c'est le reflet que renvoie l'âme humaine éblouie de la splendeur du beau. »



Concert Series

Concerts in 2010 at the Swiss Church in London - Part I

On the last Thursday 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 £6.

Series of 6 concerts: £40, concessions £24.

For more information, visit our website: www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk

28 January 2010

Organ Recital by Mark Williams

Described as 'the shooting star of the international organ scene' by the international press, Mark Williams will be appearing at the Swiss Church for an inspiring evening. Preceding the recital, Hilary Davan Wetton will be giving an introduction to the Swiss Church's new Späth organ.



Mark Williams

29 April 2010

Chamber Music Evening with Joji Hattori

The leading Japanese violinist will be joined by Isabel Charisius (last violist in the Alban Berg Quartet) and friends in a programme including a Beethoven String Trio as well as a work by a contemporary Swiss composer.



Joji Hattori

25 February 2010

Patrizio Mazzola

In Memoriam Edwin Fischer who died 50 years ago, Patrizio Mazzola, winner of the coveted Edwin Fischer Memorial Prize, will give a piano recital including some of Edwin Fischer's best loved pieces as well as one of Fischer's own compositions.



Patrizio Mazzola

27 May 2010

Jazz Evening with Marc Hunziker

With his phenomenal dexterity, this virtuoso Swiss pianist will carry the audience into the rich and dazzling world of jazz.



Marc Hunziker

25 March 2010

The London Myriad Ensemble

This woodwind quintet won first prize in the 2nd International Israeli Music Competition 2009. They will entertain with a varied programme of inspiring wind music.



The London Myriad Ensemble

24 June 2010

Finale with the World Trio

This Swiss-Japanese group explores new sounds in the fields of classical and popular music. With their unique instrumentation of two marimbas and a soprano voice, they will present newly written music in an animated lighter vein.



World Trio

Coming Events

Jubilee Celebration with Bishop Bolcski Gustàv Bölzcskei

Saturday 28 November 2009, doors open 4pm - Event starts 4.30pm

Swiss Church in London, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY

To conclude the programme around the celebration of Jean Calvin's 500th anniversary all churches, which have taken part in it, will be celebrating with a jubilee service at the newly renovated Swiss Church.

It will be a festive service, which will be led by the Bishop Gusztàv Bölzcskei from Hungary and the ministers of the different Protestant Churches. After the service, everybody is warmly invited to a reception.

Carol Concert

Sunday 6 December 2009, 4pm

Swiss Church in London, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY

Carol Concert with the City of London Choir, reception with mulled wine afterwards, entry fee: £10.

Christmas Family Service

Sunday 20 December 2009, 3pm

Swiss Church in London, 79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY

Family Christmas Service with Father Christmas, in collaboration with Theodora Children's Trust and Jonas Foundation Music School.

News from the City of London Choir

In CS Lewis's Narnia, it was always winter and never Christmas. This year has, so far, felt just the opposite for the City of London Choir – we recorded a CD of Christmas music in July, rehearsing through May and June, and are now accustomed to singing of bleak midwinter's and frosty Christmas Eves in hot studios and rehearsal rooms in midsummer.

The disc – *In Terra Pax: A Christmas Anthology* – is our debut CD for Naxos. It is a collection of 20th century English carols. Many are settings of great English poetry, most are unusual; all are lovely. Hilary Davan Wetton of course conducted us with his characteristic energy and inspiration. We hope you may enjoy it this Christmas, and come when we perform some of the music in the **Swiss Church on Sunday 6th December 2009**.*

Meanwhile, our concert programme has continued uninterrupted. Before Easter we gave a performance of Bach's St John Passion with the Hanover Band to great acclaim, in particular for the drama of the performance and the articulation of our German pronunciation. We have no doubt that we owe thanks to the Swiss church congregation for that. 2009 also saw our first appearance at Cadogan Hall with Haydn's Nelson Mass. We sing that great work again in November – in case you missed it last time! – just before the re-opening of the Church. We much look forward to celebrating its restoration with you.

For more info visit our website: www.cityoflondonchoir.org

Jenny Robinson

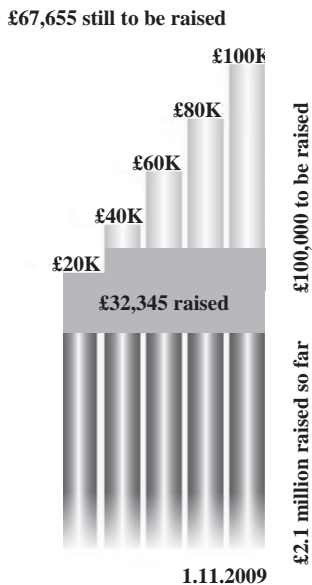
*Tickets can be booked ahead by calling the Swiss Church office on 020 78361418, costs are £10 per ticket.



The City of London Choir recording at St Paul's girls school, picture by Daisy Hutchison

Sponsor an Organ Pipe

Thank you for your support!



1.11.2009

£2.1 million raised so far

We would like to sincerely thank all those who have contributed so generously to the Organ Pipe Appeal so far. As of 1st November, 156 pipes had been sponsored, with a total sponsorship value of £32,345. Every sponsor receives a certificate acknowledging his/her contribution and a permanent record will be kept in the organ case. There are still plenty of pipes available! If you do not receive your certificate within six weeks, it is worth checking with the Swiss Church office (0207 836 1418) in case there has been an administrative or postal problem.



Renovated Swiss Church

The Consistoire

Swiss Church for rent

Hiring of the Swiss Church premises

We are pleased to announce that the newly renovated Swiss Church building will be able to provide a modern and welcoming space in an excellent location in Covent Garden.

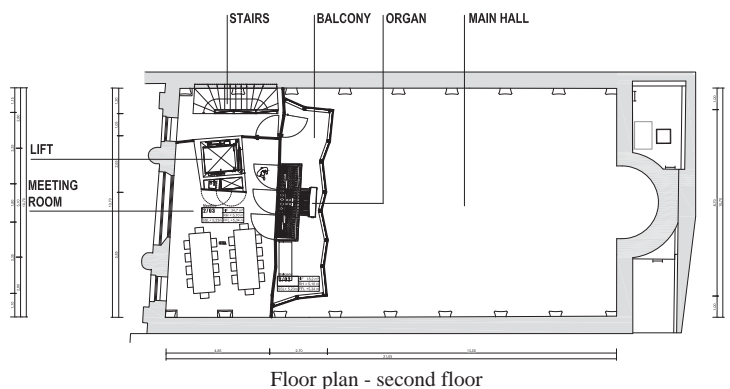
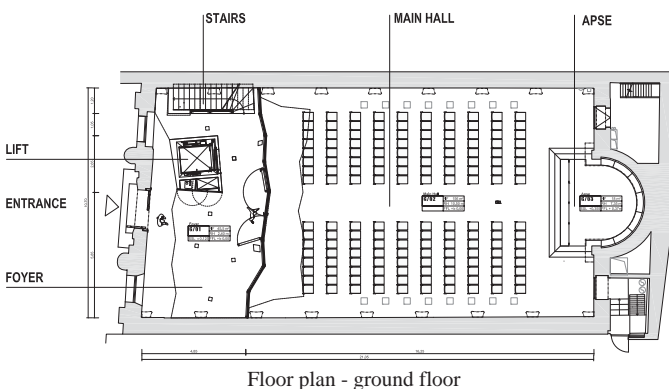
The premises are now fully wheelchair accessible and equipped with audiovisual equipment. It is an attractive venue for diverse groups, such as small charities, choirs, businesses, private individuals, colleges etc. and is available to rent at reasonable rates.

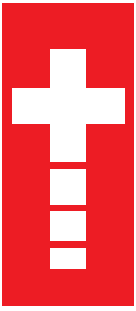
There are two rooms available for hire: the Church Hall and the second floor Gallery Room. The Church Hall is suitable for up to 160 seated persons and the Gallery Room for 25-30 seated persons. Both rooms benefit from generous natural light during the daytime. The Church Hall has excellent acoustics and therefore makes a great venue for concerts, conferences, rehearsals, film screenings and lectures. The Gallery room is suitable for smaller gatherings, meetings, courses and talks.

During the renovation works, we have already received quite a few hiring enquiries and some groups will start renting the building from November onwards.

If you are interested in hiring one or several rooms in the Swiss Church in London, please contact the Church Office (020 7836 1418 or info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk). Further information on our website, www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk.

Valérie Lehmann





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

