



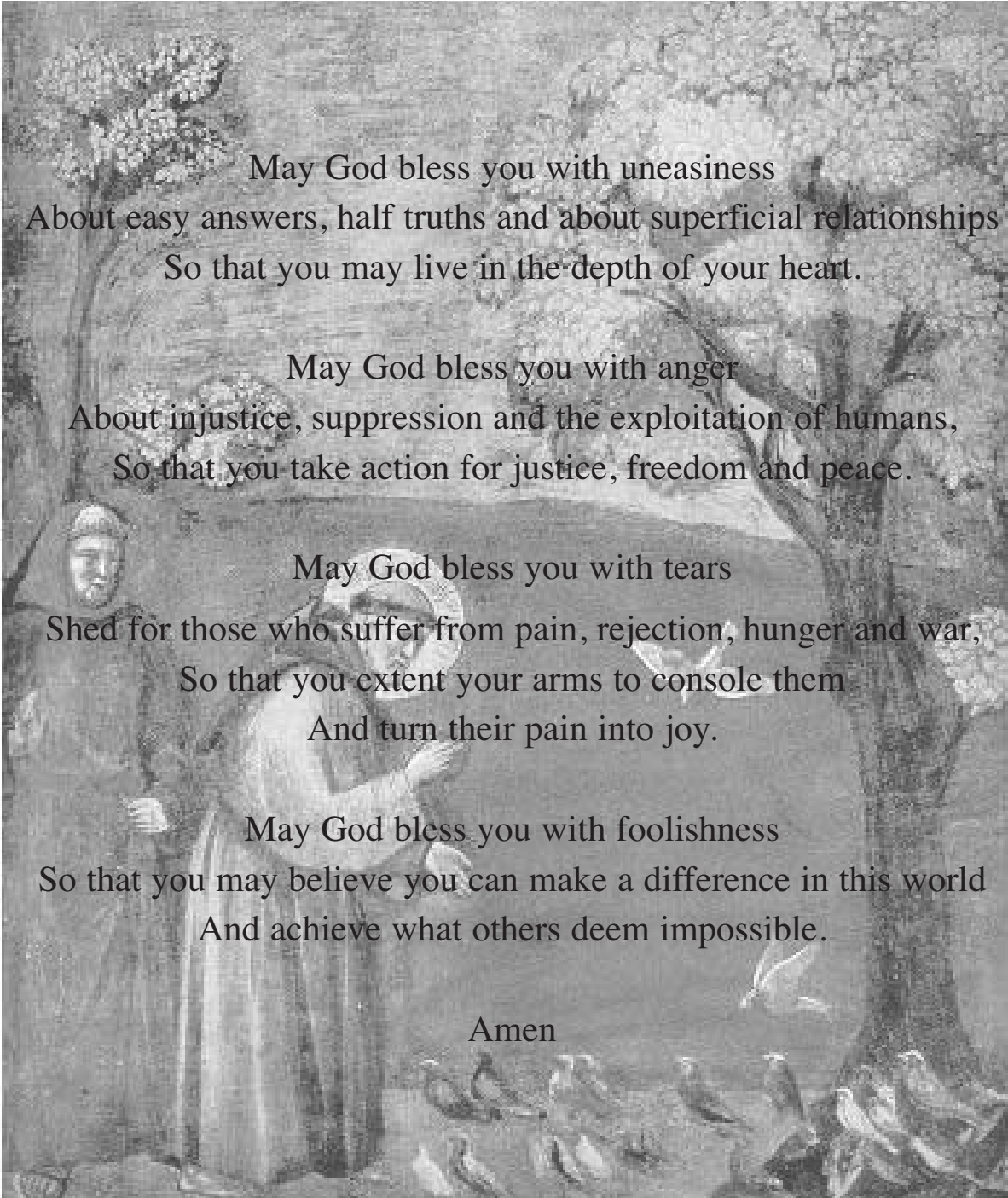
# Swiss Church News

Messenger de l'Eglise Suisse de Londres

Stimme der Schweizerkirche in London

1/06

## A blessing for the New Year



May God bless you with uneasiness  
About easy answers, half truths and about superficial relationships  
So that you may live in the depth of your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
About injustice, suppression and the exploitation of humans,  
So that you take action for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
Shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you extend your arms to console them  
And turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with foolishness  
So that you may believe you can make a difference in this world  
And achieve what others deem impossible.

Amen

a franciscan blessing - continuation on page 8

## Editorial

### Minister's Report

The first months of the new year have already passed – I hope you had a good start into 2006. Last year ended with many successful activities and events at our Church. The time before Christmas was as hectic and varied as ever and it is with great pleasure that I look back at the past few months. We celebrated “Reformation Day” with a showing of a new film about Martin Luther. About 30 people assembled in the foyer of the Church to see the film on a large screen, projected by a beamer. In November, the Swiss Church was host to a Jewish Klezmer Concert. “Baith Jaffe” from Basle performed at our Church and attracted a good number of people. With a glass of wine and Bagels, our parishioners mingled with Jewish visitors and enjoyed the enchanting music



played by the brothers Schoenhaus and their band.

Also in November, the traditional Swiss Church Bazaar took place. We welcomed many visitors and friends of the Church and raised a significant amount of money for the Church. A big thank you to all who helped making it such a success!

The last Sunday of the ecclesiastical year is traditionally dedicated to the dead. In a special commemoration service, members of the parish remembered their dead, gave

thanks for their lives and found comfort in the word of God. Rahel Leiser, a violinist from Switzerland, played during the service. In Advent, the Ealing Abbey Choir once again paid a visit to the Swiss Church. This was the boys' second service at 79 Endell Street and like last year, the service was followed by a reception offering mulled wine and mince pies.

Our traditional Christmas service was enriched by the singers of “Elles Cappellas”, an all female a cappella choir. Of course, Father Christmas paid us a visit again and presented the children with gifts. For the first time in many years, a nativity play introduced young and old to the beautiful story of Mary and Joseph, wandering through the night and looking for an inn to stay... After the service, a Renaissance Ensemble from the Jonas Foundation Music School played and coffee, tea and cake were served.

As I am writing these lines, preparations for our Consistoire Retreat are progressing. Together with our Parishioners and experts from Switzerland, we will discuss the future of the Swiss Church in London, set goals and exchange our visions for the future. We will report on the findings in the next issue of our News! Ideas and comments are always welcome and appreciated. Please also read my article on page 5.

I hope to see many of you at our services and other activities and look forward to meeting you soon,

Best wishes, Rev David Leuenberger

### News of the Consistoire

The New Year provides us with an opportunity to start afresh with new courage, hope and vigour. As I am writing this the Consistoire is about to embark on a retreat at St. Katharine's in the east end of London to discuss our visions of the future of the Swiss Church, our goals for the coming years as well as the financial implications. On Saturday afternoon a number of parishioners and friends of the Swiss Church will join us in our discussions. The retreat will be guided by Hans Strub, who is responsible for the training and formation of the Ministers of the Reformed Church in Switzerland and has a vast practical knowledge of Swiss Reformed Parishes.

The retreat aims to understand where we stand as a Parish and also as a Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in London:

What is special about our Church, how can we gain more members and friends, how can we touch the spiritual side of people, what do the Swiss in London expect from the Swiss

Church what are the activities that we should focus on, what are some new fundraising ideas

During this retreat we will hopefully start to formulate some answers to these questions and start to develop the way forward. We know that it will take time and a continuous and joint effort of many people to progress. Please do participate, come forward with your ideas and join our drive to develop a healthy Swiss Church Parish with God's help.

I would like to briefly step back into last year to report on the Swiss Church Bazaar that took place in November. The Bazaar was a very successful event, not only financially but also in terms of the happy and communal mood that prevailed on the day. It was wonderful to experience the way many individuals and groups worked together and contributed tremendously to make the event memorable and a success. The weather co-operated as well, so that we had many people come and buy the great selection of home made and sponsored

Swiss products.

The net income from the Bazaar was over £8000. I would like to extend a warm thank you to everybody who contributed to the Bazaar, all the people who baked, cooked and handcrafted goods, who organised the raffle and sold raffle tickets, solicited goods and donations, prepared flyers, all the helpers on the day, all the companies and individuals who donated money, all the companies who sponsored goods and all the people who came and purchased goods.

A very special thank you goes to the leader of the event, Lisa Hall who also worked tremendously hard to procure, with the help of many others, an impressive range of Swiss products. Thank you also very much to the Causerie, Frauenverein, Muettergruppe and Parent and Toddlergroup as well as the Embassy for their generous contributions.

Also in December we enjoyed a varied programme by the 5 members of the Brass Maiden ensemble. Very impressive was the piece Van Breakdown by Duncan Ward a young, 16 year old composer who was also present. Duncan Ward, not only composes, he also plays the French horn and piano, takes con-

ducting lessons and is Uk champion in artistic roller-skating besides going to school.

At the end of the year Sybelle Bieri, our secretary, left us to go back to Switzerland. I would like to thank her for her contributions and wish her well in her future endeavours. Ken Waller retired as our organist at the end of the year, those present will all remember his varied and beautiful farewell organ recital. Ken, thank you very much, keep well and do visit us.

I should like to welcome our new Organist, Dr Hilary Davan Wetton who is a very accomplished musician. Also I should like to extend a warm welcome to our new Secretary Sabine Ernst who is very experienced. Our Minister worked creatively and hard to find a replacement for the secretary.

We hope that many of you will be able to come to the Parish weekend in Midhurst from 21 to 23 April. We will have a house to ourselves and the theme will be trust instead of fear, beliefs of the Reformed Church.

Enjoy the season, Ursula Jost

## Youth and Parish Worker's Report

**M**y report for this first edition of the Swiss Church News in 2006 looks back with great joy to the Advent time we had in the Swiss Church but also looks forward to many fantastic upcoming events we have on our calendar for 2006.

The Advent programme wouldn't have been such a success without all the involved persons who helped a great deal. Thanks very much as we really could count on so many people. My memories of Advent is a long list. Here follows only an extract - Farewell to Ken - Christmas tree - Christmas carols with the Ealing Abbey Choir - mulled wine and mince pies - Family Christmas - Christmas songs and little angels - Elles Capella - Christmas story - Father Christmas - Christmas cookies - happy people. I hope that many of you also keep a long list of good memories of our Advent time.

I also look back to the events of the youth programme in the last months which brought us to Cambridge, on a Backstage Tour at the National Theatre and the BBC TV Centre. giving us an insight in English history and contemporary English culture. A sportive Winter afternoon with ice skating, a pub walk in the City and of course the Swiss Cafés were among the events.

After this edition goes to print we shall be visiting the Hindu Temple in Neasden with the youth group and parishioners. The outing is followed by a talk in the Swiss Church and evening prayers. We will tell you all about it in the next edi-

tion.

In Spring with Swiss Connection we shall keep exploring the nearby attractions and go to Salisbury/Stonehenge and to Oxford. The Swiss Café has its doors open until April.

Our Soirées Musicales are already up and running in part two. Thanks to Ursula Jones we have again a very versatile and dynamic programme performed by young and enthusiastic musicians to offer you. For details see the listing in this edition. Please come along and bring your friends!

In April we have two special reasons for you to join us! At Easter we will have a special Service and an Easter programme for the children followed by an egg painting workshop for everyone!

The weekend after Easter we will travel to Dunford House in Midhurst to our annual parish weekend away. David Leuenberger will lead us through "believing12 - the Reformed abc" this being the adult's programme for the weekend. For the children we will organise a recreational programme. Further details about the parish weekend you will find on page 5. Don't miss it!

Our Sunday crèche started in December and it will continue on every first and third Sunday. Therefore we are looking for volunteers who would join the crèche team. Are you interested? Please contact Beatrice at the office.

Wishing you all the best, Beatrice

# New staff at the Swiss Church

## Sabine Ernst, secretary



**B**orn in 1975, I grew up with 2 sisters in a tiny village, named Hermetschwil, close to Bremgarten AG in Switzerland.

After primary and high school, I successfully completed an education as Technical Draughtswoman and later on a business school in Zurich.

Joining my boyfriend Andy, who accepted a job here in London, I

moved here in November 2004.

Since we have been living in London, we are enjoying this lively, multicultural and historical city in all its aspects. We relish travelling around in the UK, meeting new people and learning a new language and culture.

I like reading, being out and about as well as doing and watching sport in general. It is an honour and pleasure for me working for the Swiss Church/Benevolent Society and I am looking forward to making a contribution to helping Swiss people in London.

Best regards, Sabine Ernst

## Hilary Davan Wetton, organist

**I**t is with great pleasure that I have accepted the post of organist at the Swiss Church, and I have already been impressed by the warmth and kindness of both the staff and the congregation. David Leuenberger has asked me to introduce myself with a little résumé and to include some of my future plans, so here we are!



I trained at the Royal College of Music and the University of Oxford, where I studied both the organ and conducting. My first professional post was as organist at Brixton Prison, which put me off crime at an early stage in my career! Since then I have been organist at churches in Kensington, Welwyn and Watford, as well as an assistant at St Albans Cathedral under the great Peter Hurford. For most of my career, however, I have been associated with some of Britain's leading schools: Cranleigh, St Paul's Girls' School (where Gustav Holst was Director of Music), and most recently at Tonbridge. At each of these schools I was organist as well as Director of Music and made many friends among my students, some of whom sing in the adult choirs which I also conduct. Conducting has become

my primary interest, particularly through long relationships with the Guildford Choral Society (since 1968), the Milton Keynes City Orchestra (since 1975), and the City of London Choir (since 1989). For 13 years I was also conductor of the Holst Singers which is widely recognised as one of the finest non-professional choirs in the country.

Despite my enthusiasm for conducting I have always enjoyed playing the organ and your fine Hunter instrument – though in need of some work – is a joy to play. The acoustic of the church is simply marvellous and I look forward to the impending renovations. I have offered to bring a small group of singers, mainly drawn from the City of London Choir, to add a choral ingredient to the service on the third Sunday. I hope that this will be a welcome development and that you will all find it adds to your experience of worship. The first occasion on which the choir will join us will be 19<sup>th</sup> March, when the choral music will include *Let thy merciful ears* by Thomas Weelkes (1576 – 1623) and *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* by JS Bach. Among those singing in the choir will be my wife, Tonia, whom I met through the City of London Choir, providing that your crèche is in operation for our 1 year old daughter Eleanor!

Hilary Davan Wetton

## The City Swiss Club Mobility Fund



On its Annual Banquet and Ball, the City Swiss Club, through its raffle, raised a significant amount of money for the Mobility Fund at the Swiss Church. We are very fortunate and grateful to be once again the beneficiary of the Club's raffle money. This fund was created to help people wishing to attend Swiss Church events, but who need financial help to reach the Church. The money from the "City Swiss Club Mobility Fund" can be used to subsidise transport to and from the Swiss Church as well as for helping people financially who wish to come on an outing.

We encourage you to make use of the funds available. They are here for you! If you wish to take advantage of this offer, speak to the minister and hand in the receipt from your transport provider. The Church will then gladly reimburse your expenses.

## Parish Weekend to Dunford House

**D**unford House set in 60 acres of woodland near Midhurst, West Sussex, offers modern meeting facilities in the peaceful atmosphere of a country house. Dunford dates back to the late eighteenth century and its gardens and woodland are here to be enjoyed.

We hope that sounds inviting to you - as it will be the host for our Parish Weekend from 21st until 23rd April 2006.



The focus during this weekend will be on the following programme organised by Reverend David Leuenberger.

“What can I expect from God”, “What is true, the Bible’s creation account or science’s evolution theory?”, “Do I have to believe?”, “Are there still prophets today?”, “Does the devil really exist” – these are just a few of the questions discussed in the newly published course “glauben12”. “Glauben12” is a faith course created by the Swiss Reformed Church of the Canton of Zurich. It is the reformed alternative to the well known “Alpha course”, an introduction into the basics of the Christian faith.

During the week end away we will draw on some of the material of this interesting course and embark on an exploration trip of the important questions of the Christian faith. We will have time for discussions as well as leisure time, time of relax-

ation and time to spend with friends, also to get to know better others in the church community.

Families with children are very welcome. There will be a special recreation programme for children. Please feel free to bring friends and relatives along!

The cost for the weekend includes full board accommodation and will be £120 per person which is subsidised by the Swiss Church. Children up to 16 years go for £60 each. If you would like to come but the cost stretches your budget too much, please contact Beatrice Wälti as subsidies are available.

There are charming single, double and family rooms available and most of them are en suite. Meals are freshly prepared on the premises. Special food requirements can be catered for.

Furthermore, we will have the whole house to ourselves. The house is very spacious with several meeting rooms and an additional Coach House offering room ideally to use for a leisure time programme.

**The deadline for applications will be 12th March 2006.**

Those attending will need to arrange their own transport. There is good access to Haslemere by train and to Dunford House by road. Where possible, we shall try to put people seeking lifts in touch with those willing to give lifts. If you are coming by train we shall come to collect you from the station.

## Lunch to be introduced after first service of the month

**S**ervices at the Swiss Church in London have not been well attended for some time. Our English service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month attracts around between 20 and 30 people while our services in German and French appeal to about half of that number – at best.

The French speakers especially tend to stay away. This leads to the paradoxical situation that one finds a small and at times exclusively German speaking congregation with a German speaker as a Minister celebrating a service in French! And even if the very few parishioners who speak or understand French attend the service, they are hugely outnumbered by their German speaking compatriots. What can we do about this? Shall we just carry on, offering services in our national languages even if only few people attend? Would more people join us on a second Sunday of the month if this service, too, was conducted mainly in English? – I think we should have a discussion about these issues and I would like to invite you to let us know your views. It has always been difficult to strike the balance between the languages and over recent years,

English has become more and more dominant. Perhaps it is time to hold all sermons in English, so that everyone can come to a service – to any service offered at the Swiss Church. This does not have to be the end of French and German used in services. Communion, hymns, and prayers could still be done in these languages. It would be the end of an era, though, and one should not rush to change things that have been common practice for a long time. Not adapting to new realities, however, can be fatal, too. – Please let us know your views on this! In the meantime, we have decided to try something else to remedy the unsatisfactory situation: from March we shall reintroduce lunches after the first Sunday morning service, making it two lunches a month. We hope this will encourage more people to participate and boost the number of people attending the service. It is important to break and stop the downwards slide in which the Swiss Church in London has been finding itself and to start to build up again instead of slowly winding down!

*Rev David Leuenberger*

# Events Listing at the Swiss Church

## Soirées Musicales

We are continuing our series of our Soirées Musicales. Sixty minutes of enjoyable music and a glass of wine afterwards with an opportunity to meet the musicians.

*Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Admission £5 (Concession £4)*

**Tuesday, 7 February** The Greenwich Belles - a versatile clarinet ensemble

**Tuesday, 7 March** The Sam Crowe / Adam Waldmann Quartet - a great jazz evening

**Tuesday, 4 April** TCM Early Music Ensemble - a splendid array of Renaissance and Baroque music

## Special concert

**Wednesday, 17 May** - Janiculum

Swiss-Anglo Concert jointly organised by the New Helvetic Society and the Swiss Church and supported by UBS

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start

Admission £8, £6 concessions - A glass of wine is included

## Ecumenical Services

There will be two Ecumenical services coming up. Father Josef Buholzer will be celebrating with us on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and on Pentecost, the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

Josef Buholzer will be leaving London in the summer and will take up a new position in Jerusalem. Pentecost will be the last chance to meet him here at the Swiss Church and to say good bye.



## Family services at Easter & in May

**Sunday, 16 April, 11am**

**Sunday, 21 May, 11am**

Easter is a special day in the calendar of the Church. Christ defeated death and was given a new life so that we can have hope that death does not have the last word. A joyful and triumphant day! Come with your family to celebrate Easter with us. Young and old will join together for the service starting at 11am. After a while, Beatrice will lead the children out of the Church and do a special programme designed for children. After a light lunch, there will be the opportunity for everyone to colour Easter eggs.



On the 21. May we will organise another Family service to which you are warmly invited to bring your children, grandchildren and other young friends.

## Thank you to the following corporate sponsors of the Swiss Church Bazaar in 2005

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# Impressions of the Bazaar 2005



# THEOlogical

## A blessing for the New Year

**M**ay God bless you with uneasiness” is the beginning of a Franciscan blessing. The Franciscans are a monastic order which was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by St. Francis of Assisi. He lived from 1182 to 1226. His father, Pietro Bernardone, was a wealthy Assisian cloth merchant. As a young man Francis led a life of luxury and abundance. In his twenties, however, Francis was praying before an ancient crucifix in the forsaken wayside chapel of St. Damian’s below the town of Assisi, when he heard a voice saying: “Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin.” Taking this behest literally, as referring to the ruinous church wherein he knelt, Francis went to sell what he possessed to procure the money needed for the restoration of St. Damian’s.

On a certain morning in 1208, probably the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, Francis was hearing Mass in the chapel of St. Mary of the Angels, near which he had then built himself a hut; the Gospel of the day told how the disciples of Christ were to possess neither gold nor silver, nor scrip for their journey, nor two coats, nor shoes, nor a staff. Instead they were to exhort sinners to repentance and announce the Kingdom of God.



Francis took these words as if spoken directly to himself, and as soon as Mass was over he cast away his shoes, cloak, pilgrim staff, and empty wallet. At last he had found his vocation. Having obtained a coarse woollen tunic of “beast colour”, the dress then worn by the poorest Umbrian peasants, and tied it round him with a knotted rope, Francis went forth at once exhorting the people of the countryside to penance, brotherly love, and peace. He soon found followers who became his first brothers. – The order of the Friars Minor, “the poor brothers”, was born.

To Francis love was the truest of all truths. The love of Christ permeated the whole life and character of Francis, and he placed the chief hope of redemption and redress for a suffering humanity in the literal imitation of his Divine Master. The saint imitated the example of Christ as literally as it was in him to do so; barefoot, and in absolute poverty, he proclaimed the reign of love.

This heroic imitation of Christ’s poverty was perhaps the distinctive mark of Francis’s vocation, and he was undoubtedly the most ardent, enthusiastic, and desperate lover of poverty

the world has yet seen.

Francis’ brotherhood included all of God’s creation. Much has been written about Francis’ love of nature but his relationship was deeper than that. We call someone a lover of nature if they spend their free time in the woods or admire its beauty. But Francis really felt that nature, all of God’s creations, were part of his brotherhood. The sparrow was as much his brother as his neighbour. In one famous story, Francis preached to hundreds of birds about being thankful to God for their wonderful clothes, for their independence, and for God’s care.

The story tells us the birds stood still as he walked among them, only flying off when he said they could leave.



Another famous story involves a wolf that had been eating human beings. Francis intervened when the town wanted to kill the wolf and talked the wolf into never killing again.

The wolf became a pet of the townspeople who made sure that he always had plenty to eat.



In short, St Francis was a remarkable man, compassionate and inspired. And he was a man of action and of surprises.

Perhaps you were surprised when you read the Franciscan blessing for the first time. God may bless us with uneasiness, anger, tears and foolishness, it says. Quite remarkable. Many of us may have felt irritated. These are all negative things! Certainly nobody wants to be uneasy, angry, sad and foolish! Why on earth should anyone ask God to bless us with these horrible feelings?

“May God bless you with uneasiness about easy answers, half truths and about superficial relationships. So that you may live in the depth of your heart.”

As physical pain can be necessary and helpful because it informs us that there is a problem with our body, so can uneasiness be necessary to detect flawed things and make us realise them. Easy and simple answers are seducing and appealing. Often, however, these are flawed, simplistic and untrue.

The world is full of them: in politics, relationships, religion. It is a good thing to feel uneasy about them! This leads, the blessing says, to a deeper life, a life in search of truth and genuineness.

“May God bless you with anger about injustice, suppression and the exploitation of humans, So that you take action for jus-

tice, freedom and peace.” Anger can be a good thing. It’s the opposite of indifference, one of the worst sentiments there are. Anger propels us to action, to stand up against injustice, to fight for freedom, to pray for peace.

“May God bless you with tears shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger and war, So that you extend your arms to console them and turn their pain into joy.”

Cry! Cry and weep, the blessing says, over all the pain, rejection, hunger and war there is in this world. Be uneasy, angry and sad about the state of this world. But don’t stop there. Get up, do something about it. - St. Francis left his comfortable life of luxury and changed it for a life of poverty and simplicity. He went far, this man, further than anyone else and let himself be affected by what he saw. In the eyes of many of his contemporaries, he was a fool and a mad man.

It takes a certain degree of foolishness to abandon a life of luxury and abundance and preach to the birds and talk to wolves. It takes a certain degree of foolishness to expose oneself and stand up against injustice, poverty and exploitation – if one is

not affected oneself.

“May God bless you with foolishness, the last part of the blessing reads, So that you may believe you can make a difference in this world  
And achieve what others deem impossible.”

To make a difference in this world, despite our limited resources and capabilities, is what we are called for. Don’t listen to the people who always say no!, but be foolish and try to make the difference.

May God grant you the humility to accept the things you cannot change. May God grant you the strength to change the things you can. May God grant you the wisdom to distinguish between the two!

*Rev David Leuenberger*

## ***Baith Jaffe Klezmer Orchestra in Concert at the Swiss Church***

**W**hat best brings nations, religions and races together? What best helps to understand the culture, values and ways of living of those alien to us? What makes Christians and Jews come together in a Church, in a Swiss Church even, to spend a good three hours sitting together around tables? – The answer is music, Jewish music from Switzerland, to be precise. About 80 people made it to the concert, among them the Swiss Ambassador and Mrs Lautenberg as well as Geraldine Auerbach from the Jewish Music Institute. Before the concert began and during the interval, bagels with cream cheese and salmon were on offer, prepared by Klara Grimaldi and Yvonne Camille.

Armed with a bagel and a glass of wine, the audience sat in the Church hall waiting for the four band members to begin playing. Most of the people did not know what to expect but were quickly taken by the moving as well as yearning and wistful melodies from the Jewish ghettos of eastern Europe. New compositions blended with old melodies, crossing the border between traditional Klezmer



and modern Jazz. Sascha Schönhaus expertly led through the programme telling the audience about the origins and words of the lyrics and melodies. Andreas Wäldele, the remarkable violinist, gave an impressive demonstration of his mastery of his instruments and it is hardly surprising that some people call him “stradiwaldi”! David Schönhaus went to the limit with his double bass, impressing the audience with what he could do with a rather mediocre instrument he was compelled to play with (it had had to be borrowed at the last minute from a shop in London!). Roland Köppel was next to give a demonstration on the piano before Sascha Schönhaus seduced the audience with the music of his clarinet. Each of them fine musicians, it is when they play together, however, that the full beauty of their music comes to light.

Time passed too quickly and soon the band played their last piece of the evening. Or so they thought. The enthusiastic audience insisting on an “encore” got what it wanted and the band went on playing. Uplifted and with the melodies still in the ear, many of us went home feeling that we had learnt to appreciate Jewish culture even more, now that we had heard some of their music!

*Rev David Leuenberger*

## Obituaries

### Ernst Tangemann, 1924-2005

Ernst Tangemann was born in Zurich on 27.6.1924. After finishing his schooling at the Cantonal Commercial School he started his first job in a Bank. After the war ended and with it his military service he went to Geneva and London to improve his knowledge of the respective languages. It so happened that he met his future wife at the language school in London. He then joined the Union Bank of Switzerland. Sixteen years in Geneva were followed by some years in Zurich and Basel. In 1967 he became manager of the newly opened Branch of UBS in London where he stayed until his retirement 19 years later. When George Gyssler resigned the Presidency of the Consistoire in 1977 to take up a placement in the USA Mr Tangemann was asked to become President. However, he declined because of pressure of work in his job. After I was elected President, he agreed to become Vice-President. As

such he was also head of the Finance Committee, and with the Treasurer we met regularly at his office in the City. He kept a close watch on the finances of the Church! With the Swiss Architect, Mr Strebel, he was involved in the renovation of the meeting room as it is today. Ernst Tangemann was a hands-on Vice-president, always reliable and interested in the life of the Church. They were good years of collaboration! He was also very outgoing and amicable. When Urs Steiner became Minister of the Swiss Church, he invited him, his wife and all the members of the Consistoire to a garden party at his house in Purley. He was a keen gardener, and it was a beautiful place. Ernst Tangemann died on 1. November 2005 in Basel, and we old-timers will remember him.

*Edith Crack*

### Vera Chiaverio, 1912-2005

Vera Chiaverio will be remembered as a gentle and smiling person who knew how to organise her life very well and who until the end managed to appreciate and be grateful for each passing day.

Even in old age, she had a warm and welcoming look and had the art of transforming each day of her week into an enriching and new experience. Afflicted with a cancer of the bladder for many years, she took this entirely in her stride, not allowing it to worry her and seeing it as just another of life's little troubles.

Vera spent all her adult life in Soho, an area of central London in which she felt absolutely at home, which she loved and which she never had the slightest intention of leaving. Born in Sweden, she came to London before the war and worked for many years in show business, dancing at many West End venues. It was at that time that she met her husband, a restaurateur from Ticino. They had a long and very close marriage, but no children. This is what gave rise to her interest for Switzerland, but it was only after she was widowed that she became a very regular participant at the French speaking and bilingual services at Endell Street.

Very attractive even as an older person, Vera used to go to tea

dances during the week where she often received marriage proposals from men of her generation, but was never tempted. She used to enjoy all sorts of cultural and social activities and never felt bored for a single day. In addition to Sunday services, I used to see her at all the performances of the Cercle Dramatique Français de Londres of which I was an active member at the time. We became friends and Vera invited me for tea at her small Soho flat on a number of occasions and even asked me to become her executor. In her living room there was a small bookcase full of self-help books that were very much inspired by the virtues of positive thinking and its strong influence on individual destinies. I remember her giving me a seminal book on Positive Mental Attitude, by Norman Vincent Peale, the great promoter of this very American concept.

In fact, this very upbeat view of the world, and a certainty that God worked in the lives of people prepared to see the good side of things, was a central tenet of Vera's sure and serene Christian faith. It explains to a great extent how she managed to live well into her nineties in such good physical and mental shape, with the ability to cheerfully enjoy each new day. With her departure, the Swiss Church in London has lost a loyal and much appreciated member of its congregation.

*Pierre-Michel Béguin*

### Annette Yu Cottier, 1929-2006

died on 14th January, in Veyrier, near Geneva after a long and distressing illness.

I am the resurrection and the life. (John 11.25)

## LA 55ME RENCONTRE DES ANCIENS-LONDONIENS DES 24/25 SEPT. 05 A CRÊT-BÉRARD

Cette 55me rencontre se déroula dans l'ambiance fraternelle et festive propre aux Anciens-Londoniens rejoints par des paroissiens d'ici et d'ailleurs ayant partagé le 150me par un temps plus estival qu'automnal. Une trentaine de personnes participèrent dimanche dont dix samedi soir. Le secrétaire souhaite également la bienvenue aux Anciens qui renouaient avec les rencontres après cinquante, trente et/ou dix ans d'absence.

La soirée au salon 5 fut consacrée à la Polynésie. Le navigateur-écrivain français Bougainville accosta à Tahiti en 1767. Il compara ces îles par leurs beautés au Jardin d'Eden, les jours y glissant dans la torpeur heureuse d'un éternel printemps. Une vidéo "Tahiti et ses îles" et une cassette d'un chatoyant festival de danses polynésiennes enchantèrent chacun. En comparant la Polynésie à une carte de l'Europe on constate que si Papeete est à la hauteur de Paris, Bora Bora sera à celle de Londres. Le secrétaire confirma que si le lagon de Bora Bora est féérique, celui d'Aitutaki aux Îles Cook est paradisiaque par la configuration de l'un de ses motu (île). Pendant une longue "Happy Hour" on dégusta deux Cabernet Sauvignon soit un charnu libanais et un gouleyant framboise californien.

Dimanche matin au salon 5 on partagea la prestation de Chr. Sigwart (89-01) et de son école de musique tournée en Finlande en 2001 dans de splendides décors naturels complétant son titre soit "On the surface... of the seas".

Dès 11h15 à la chapelle Cl. Reverdin (47-60) mentionna qu'il n'avait pas retenu la prédication du centième anniversaire fêté avec simplicité le 16 juin 1955 mais le texte qui l'inspira Habacuc 2/20 "Le Seigneur se tient dans son saint temple, que chacun sur la terre fasse silence devant lui". Il nous exhorta en outre d'être convaincu que chacun de nous est le temple de Dieu. Des Anciens lirent 1 Rois 19/9-

13, Jean 4/19-24, I Cor. 3/16-23. J. Sauter (49-51) assura la liturgie et associa dans une prière toutes les Anciennes qui nous ont devancés auprès de Dieu ces derniers mois. Le pasteur R. Stettler dont l'épouse est une petite-fille du pasteur Roehrich (1892-1900), l'auteur avec Cl. Reverdin de l'opuscule "L'Eglise suisse de Londres". rejoignit Cl. Reverdin et J. Sauter pour la Cène.

Des 14h30 au salon 5 Cl. Reverdin proposa un choix de trois sujets mais l'auditoire conquis par ses qualités voulut tout savoir. Il planta quelques jalons de l'Eglise Helvétique, nous fit partager les contacts savoureux qu'il eut pendant son ministère endellstreetien ainsi que ses activités du moment alors que ses 84 printemps l'incitent à les freiner.

Dès 15h45 toujours au salon 5 G. Genton (53-55) souhaita la bienvenue à Chr. et U. Sigwart (89-01). Us avaient été retenus à Genève. Il lut la lettre dont se fendit Ph. Nicole (60-63) et sa duplique qui amusa fort l'auditoire. Il decerna les prix pour les premiers et derniers inscrits soit G. Jordan (qui partagea le 150me) à Lausanne, M.-L. Belperrin (52-54) à Carouge, Chr. et U. Sigwart à Genève comme lanternes rouges. Des 16h00 à la cafétéria on joua les prolongations des retrouvailles. L'intérêt de chacun fut retenu par un vaste choix de photos prises lors du 150me.

La 56me rencontre est fixée aux 09/10 sept. 06. Fr. Jacot (63-65) nous entretiendra de son récent pèlerinage à St-Jacques de Compostelle. Il prêchera dimanche sur le verset 9 du Psaume 116 "Je marcherai en présence du Seigneur sur la terre destinée aux vivants". Dimanche matin J. Sauter (49-51) donnera un aperçu d'un voyage en Syrie entrepris en oct. 05.

*G. Genton*

## VEGSIL- Tagung vom 22./23. Oktober 05 in Weggis

Liebe VEGSILIANER, Liebe Freunde

Hier meinen Bericht unseres Treffens in Weggis. Am Samstag nachmittag trafen wir uns beim Bahnhof Luzern zu einer Stadtführung. Manuela zeigte uns die wichtigsten Denkmäler dieser berühmten Stadt. Danach fuhren wir mit dem Schiff bei windigem Wetter durch die atemberaubende Landschaft nach Weggis.

Dort wurden wir von Paul erwartet, der uns den steilen und kurvenreichen Weg hinauf bis zu unserer Herberge, der Lodge, fuhr. Auf dem Sitzplatz vor dem Haus genossen wir zuerst einmal unseren Zvieri mit Kuchen, frisch gerösteten spanischen Nüssli und selbstgebackenem Speckbrot und der herrlichen Aussicht auf den See und die umliegenden Berge. Im Anschluss daran hörten wir dann von Beatrice und Ursula über die verschiedenen Projekte, an denen in der Swiss Church in London gearbeitet wird.

Etwas später versammelten wir uns zum Fondue im Speisesaal. Danach folgte der Unterhaltungsteil des Abends.

Da zeigte es sich, wie gut wir Londons Besonderheiten und Merkmale zeichnen sowie erkennen konnten. Es ging lustig zu und her. Wie immer bereitete uns danach die Tombola viel Spass und Freude. Es wurde viel gelacht und lebhaft berichtet.

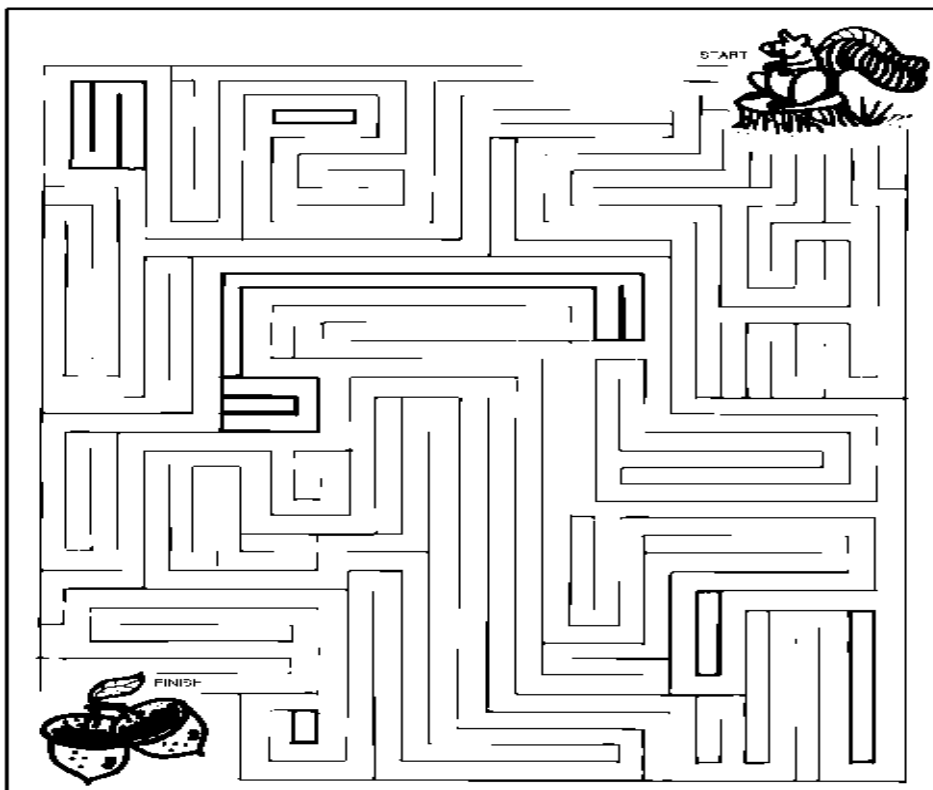
Am Sonntag nach dem Frühstück trafen wir uns zum Gottesdienst, der von Paul Jungi und Ursula Stocker gehalten wurde. Danach hielten wir die Jahresversammlung des Vereins ab. Als Nachfolgerin von Hans Wunderli und Paul Jungi, der den Verein interimsmässig präsidierte, wurde Ursula Stocker gewählt. Wir heissen sie herzlich Willkommen und wünschen ihr viel Freude im Amt. Zugleich danken wir Paul für die langjährige krisenfeste Führung ganz herzlich. Im Anschluss genossen wir noch das besonders feine Mittagessen und danken den Köchen Paul und Nelly ganz herzlich mit einem Applaus.

Mir hat das VEGSIL- Wochenende in Weggis sehr gut gefallen! Until next year!

Es Grüsset Euch, Marcel Schläfli

# A maze

**H**i kids. This is the a page for you! Please help the squirrel find its way to the nuts. As it doesn't remember exactly where it has stored its stock before Winter fell. Thanks very much for the drawings we received from our last edition. Bye



## Jonas Foundation Summer camp 2005

The camp this year was held from 13<sup>th</sup> August- 23<sup>rd</sup> August in Aeschiried near Thun. This year differed slightly from the other years of the Jonas foundation camps as there were 3 groups participating in the musical. There were the people from the Jonas Foundation, which included myself and Billy, a group from Montenegro who were deaf and dumb and a smaller group from Paris. The first few days seemed to fly by and we had about 3 or 4 days of good weather. The musical we did this year was Joseph and his Brothers also known as Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. We decided that the children from Montenegro would be the actors and the rest of us would narrate the story and play the music. After those initial days of good sunshine and blue skies it clouded over and began to really rain. This became the floods which devastated chunks of Switzerland and flooded everywhere. This did not dampen our spirits as we went to swimming pools and other places in the afternoons of some days. We had the final rehearsal in front of the people who were staying at Aeschiried. On Saturday morning we took the coach up to Bern and performed in the French Church there. On Saturday evening we held our second and final show in Interlaken.

*Martin Dyke*

**DEADLINE  
for the next**

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