



Swiss Church News

Messenger de l'Eglise Suisse de Londres

Stimme der Schweizerkirche in London

4/05

Advent

Christmas time is approaching again, or, as some people would say, it is looming again. The festive season has become most busy and stressful for many of us. For many people, however, it is perhaps the only time in the year when they are confronted with religious issues. Christmas is, after all, a religious feast. Although many people may have lost the awareness that Christmas is a meaningful religious date in the liturgical calendar of the western churches, it still remains that special time of the year when people are, despite all the stress and end-of-year frenzy, a bit more generous and forgiving than usual. And even the churches are a bit fuller, a sign that people still do remember that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

The glitter and bustle of this time of the year distract somewhat from the simplicity of the story of that child, born in a stable, in Palestine more than 2000 years ago. And this lovely and romantic sounding little story itself distracts somewhat from the seriousness of Christmas. It is far from being a romantic feel-well fairy tale, designed to entertain a family Christmas party gathered around the tree. It is not the harmless and well-worn story that it has become to many of us, because we have heard it so many times!

Christmas really is about the birth of a saviour, the son of God. Christmas marks the beginning of God's ultimate self revelation. "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers through the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;" (Hebr 1,1-2). What began billions of years ago with the creation of our world has continued in the history of ancient Israel and has come to its culmination in Jesus Christ. God is a God of relationships, a personal God who can be addressed. Christmas is the incarnation of this personal God: God becomes human, descends into a human body, is born of a woman, lives among us and then lets Himself be crucified by His own creation.

Christmas thus marks the beginning of an incredible and unprecedented success story – a story that changed the world for good. And a story that calls for a decision. Are you part of this story or not? Do you get involved or do you stand aside? God reaches out His hand for us – now reach out yours and accept this kind invitation!

I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas time.

Rev David Leuenberger

Editorial

Minister's Report

After a relatively quiet summer time at the Swiss Church we are back in full swing with some exciting events taking place at our Church. Some of these events have already passed, like our Parish Outing or our ecumenical service. Both the outing and the ecumenical service - Bettag/Jeûne Fédéral - were well attended and most enjoyable. See inside this issue for short reports on both occasions.

Also, on Sunday 16 October we had the pleasure of welcoming Natalie and Alexander Cheatle who brought their daughter Madeleine Elise to be baptised.



Christening of Madeleine Elise Cheatle

On the same day we had to finally say good bye to Marie-Claire and Ueli Hunn. We wish them all the best and hope to see them again soon.

Fortunately, not all of the exciting events have already taken place! Preparations for the Bazaar on 19 November are progressing and we are looking forward to a big turnout. Come and support the Church while enjoying and treating yourselves to homemade Swiss food and Swiss quality products. I am grateful to the very many helpers, especially to Lisa Hall, for all their efforts and energy they put into the preparation of this day. I am also grateful to the many corporate sponsors who support us either by donating some money or by adding precious raffle prizes. The raffle looks particularly good this year with many interesting prizes including a trip to Switzerland, several dinner vouchers to first class restaurants, chocolate boxes and many more. If you haven't bought your raffle tickets yet, hurry up and secure

your chance of winning a prize!

Preparations are also being undertaken for our Klezmer Concert on 12 November. The band "Baith Jaffe" comes all the way from Basel to perform at the Swiss Church – an evening not to be missed!

Big and exciting events are important and add spice to the life of the Swiss Church. However, the backbone of our Church activities are the various continuing services and group meetings. The house groups come together on a regular basis and so do the many groups which meet at 79 Endell Street. In some of the groups we have been looking at a little booklet "Vertrauen statt Angst" ("Trust instead of fear") which is an insightful introduction into the beliefs of the Reformed Church. This very belief will also be the focus of our next Parish Week end away to Midhurst in April next year. We will have the whole house to ourselves and as I write these lines we are making preparations for that week-end.

This year's Advent programme is again rich and special. After a very successful Evening Carol Service last year, we have again invited the Ealing Abbey Choir to join us on 11 December, one week before our traditional Family Christmas Celebration on 18 December.

As this year is about to come to an end, so is our Organist's at the Swiss Church. Kenneth Waller will retire at the end of the year after 8 years at the Swiss Church. We will officially bid farewell to him on Sunday, 4 December after our service.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Church!

Rev David Leuenberger

News of the Consistoire

We hope that many of you will be able to participate in our services during Advent. These events offer an opportunity to escape the daily routine, and bring time for reflection, for thanksgiving and hope. Do

bring your friends along. Starting in December we will offer a creche service during the services to make it easier for families to come. Again this year, we are sending the Advent programme to another geographic part of the wider Swiss

Community, this year to households located in North West London. We are grateful to the Swiss Embassy that they are supporting us in this effort to make the Swiss Church better known in the Swiss Community.

As the end of 2005 is approaching, we can look back on an eventful year. A number of disasters have occurred in various areas of the world, both far away and close by: Tsunami, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, wars, terrorist attacks. They do remind us how fragile life can be, how powerful nature is, and how human we are, making many mistakes. They also reminded us how precious our lives are, they make us think about our lives and of the many blessings we have. We also experienced many gifted moments at the Swiss Church. We celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Swiss Church building at Endell Street in May. We had many people joining in for the ecumenical service at the Eidgenoessische Bettag/Jeûne Fédéral in September and witnessed three christenings. At the

time you will be reading this, the Bazaar will have taken place. Many people will have contributed to this most important fundraising event for the Swiss Church. We are grateful that we have a forceful and involved Minister, an enthusiastic and creative Parish and Youthworker, a dedicated secretary and organist, as well as devoted leaders of the various groups. Many church members and friends volunteer their skills and time, as do the members of the Consistoire. I would like to thank everybody for their work and the time that they give to the Swiss Church.

I wish all of you a peaceful and fulfilling Advent, a happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyful New Year. May 2006 bring you many blessings and may we experience a strengthening of our Church membership in the year ahead.

Ursula Jost



Landtwing Quartet performing at the Swiss Church on 1 November

Youth and Parish Worker's Report

Having had an enjoyable Summer break, I'm already thinking of Christmas! In preparation for Christmas we are delighted to have put together a special seasonal programme hoping to share Advent with you.

Before then, there have been a few other things going on in the Swiss Church. In October we went on our annual parish day out on a beautiful Autumn day. Read Yvonne Camille's account of that pleasant day. With a new group of au-pairs and students we have started off the Winter youth programme with a fun day in Brighton, again a sunny day. We strolled along the Lanes, sat on the beach and visited the Royal Pavilion and the Seven Sisters Country Park.

The youth programme will continue with the Swiss Café and many interesting outings in and around London. I'll keep you informed.

At the same time our Soirées Musicales started with a beautifully arranged programme sung by the Carolus Rex choir from Trinity College of Music. Also the lunchtime concerts came into their new season offering piano recitals in cooperation with the City Lit Music Department.

Also in October together with the toddlers we found the lost sheep, telling them the story about it! This was part of our new programme with the Parent and Toddlers' Group where we sing together and tell stories once a month. We would like to offer even more for the younger children than that, therefore we will start a creche during the Sunday services. Read more about it in this edition.

You see there is a lot going on at the Swiss Church, we are sure there is something for you!

Beatrice Wälti

Ecumenical Service on 18 October

Eidgenössischer Bettag, Jeûne Fédéral

Sunday September 18th. Yet again one of those unforgettable gatherings at the Swiss Church, with many people from all sections of our community assembling for our 3rd ecumenical service. Folk came from far and wide and filled the church. The theme was “a diverse unity or a united diversity (1Cor 12)”. Many different



Father J Buholzer, Rev D Leuenberger

members, one body. For this we welcomed again Father Josef Buholzer. Whilst previously he had delivered the sermon, on this occasion, Father Buholzer officiated at the Eucharist, the Consecration and the

Communion. This was preceded by the Taize Acclamation Hymn, the Prayer for Peace and exchanging the sign of Peace among those present.



P Jacomelli preparing the tasty risotto

The lunch gathering that followed was memorable, as so often at the Swiss Church. The lunch was prepared and offered by the Unione Ticinese. A happy atmosphere, lively and vibrant. A big thank you to all who contributed in every way.

Emel Rochat

Farewell to Ken Waller

Our Organist is retiring

For eight years Ken Waller has enriched our services with his fine organ playing. He has accompanied our songs and hymns and selected beautiful music pieces for the interludes and postludes. We have been extremely lucky to have had in Ken not only an excellent and experienced organ player but also a man who has a great knowledge of music and who has been very devoted to the Swiss Church and also to our musical instruments. He very much liked playing our Hunter organ and looked after it very well. Ken was also very welcoming to other musicians who from time to time participated in the services and was very generous to take time to rehearse with them.

Ken went far beyond his role as organist. He advised us on tuning and repairs of the organ as well as the piano. He was present when the instruments were being repaired or tuned and he organised the installation of a small TV camera in the organ loft to monitor the services. He also took an interest in our Parish, joined our lunches and entertained us with his fine humour and stories.

Ken is a polymath. He graduated in Classics at Kings College London and was a teacher for many years at Harrow County School. Among other subjects he taught Russian. He later

taught at Harrow Public School. Ken’s great interest in languages proved to be very useful at the Swiss Church. Ken comes from a non musical family but took up the piano and organ at a young age, acquiring his LRAM & LTCL. He later became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO).

We would like to thank Ken Waller for his many years of dedicated service as our organist. We will miss him and hope that he will often come back to Endell Street to visit us.

Please do come to Ken’s farewell recital and reception which will take place after the service on 4 December.



K Waller performing at the Swiss Church in London

Ursula Jost

Parish Outing on 8 October

On October 8th, on the dot of 9am, Frank the coach driver, departed with 26 of us from the Swiss Church, heading towards the Thames Barrier. While driving towards the City, Beatrice welcomed us all onboard and giving us the program ahead and later handed the microphone to Emel. She was informing us. the gates were hydraulic and are raised from the bottom of the Thames.

On the way we could see the Dome and soon we arrived at the parking area, where Frank let us get off. We walked through a beautiful park to the embankment and the Barrier looked awesome! The tide was out and we could see where the gates can be raised. We spent about half an hour there and could also enjoy the beautiful park.

Back in the coach. Frank was driving us through the Blackwell tunnel towards Bromley, then Swanley on to the M25. At the exit 5 he took the A21 towards Hastings, which took us to Tudeley. The scenery was beautiful and we had sunshine all the way.

In Tudeley we visited the Church, where we could admire the Marc Chagall windows. It's a WOW factor! The windows are so beautiful in colour, as the messages it portrays. There are 12 windows from Chagall, the biggest one on the east side.

A very charming lady called Mrs Dunkin, who is specialised in Chagall's work, explained to us that 59 houses in Tudeley were owned by one family - the owner was a Jew, his wife a Christian and they had 2 children. Lady Rosemarie and her daughter Sarah were interested in art. They saw stained glass-windows by Chagall in Paris before they were moved to Israel and liked it very much. When Sarah died in a boating accident

at the age of 21, her mother wanted Chagall to do a window in her memory. Chagall initially was not interested, but was eventually persuaded and in mid 1960 he did a window for Sarah, which is on the east wall, above the altar. The altar cloth has Hebrew writing on it.

Chagall wanted to create a place of worship for all the people; Jewish, Islam, Christians, as he believed, the biblical message is love for all people, all races and of all things of the earth - great and small.



Participants of parish outing

The surroundings of this little church were peaceful and after an hour or so we left for Penhurst Place and Gardens. There we had late lunch, followed by touring through the manor house, where we could admire a collection of portraits, tapestries, furniture, wall cladding dating from 15th century, porcelain and armour in the staterooms, acquired through the centuries by successive generations of the Sidney family. The gardens were very beautifully tended and divided into different "rooms". We could admire old apple trees, plants and rose garden. It has over a mile of yew hedging. At 4.30pm, after strolling through the gift shop (we had to look for what's on offer!), we climbed back into the comfortable coach and Frank drove us safely back through Lewisham, where he stopped to let out two passenger. before we arrived exactly at 6pm back at the Swiss Church. We all agreed, we had had a marvellous day out and look forward to joining the next one.

Yvonne Camille

Weekend away, Midhurst 2006

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 and relaxation.



believing12, the reformed abc

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, 6 December The Brass Maiden, quintet of five women brass players

Tuesday, 7 February The Greenwich Belles, clarinet quartet

Free Lunchtime Concerts

We are continuing a piano series in cooperation with City Lit Music Department.

Doors open at 12.45am for 1pm. Admission free

Friday, 25 November Artist to be announced, piano recital

Swiss Church Bazaar

Saturday, 19 November

11am - 4pm. Admission £1

Stalls of Swiss products, traditional Swiss refreshments at popular prices, raffle and a children's corner amongst other attractions. The money raised will support the activities of the Swiss Church.

New Sunday Crèche - Chenderchreppe - Crèche

We are now offering a crèche during every first and third Sunday Service. The crèche will be at home in the foyer of the Swiss Church. Children from 3 months up to 6 years are very welcome to join. We will take care of them having an enjoyable time together, playing, telling stories and doing arty stuff.

The crèche opens its doors on **Sunday, 4 December** and then it is open regularly on every 1st and 3rd Sunday. The exact dates are listed on the calendar/events page.



Raclette at the Swiss Church

Sunday, 19 February

Our treasurer, Rainer Amacker, together with his competent crew, will be delighted to prepare a wonderful "Raclette du Valais" (AOC) for us after the Sunday morning service on 19 February. Come and join us for the service and then enjoy a portion or two of delicious Raclette! The proceeds will go into the Swiss Church Building Fund and will help to renovate our Church.

Is this all you believe in?

This is the question asked by a publicity campaign carried out by the four Reformed Churches of North-West Switzerland (Basel-Stadt, Baselland, Aargau and Solothurn). On large posters, the public is confronted with four challenging slogans. "Is your career all you believe in?", "Is football all you believe in?", "Is power all you believe in?" and "Is luxury all you believe in?" – these are all questions which are potentially disturbing and certainly provoking. Matching the slogan is a dress, hung up on a hanger with the arms stretched out and forming the shape of a cross. Is your career your God? Or, is football you worship? Or indeed power? Is luxury your idol and the centre of your life?



The publicity campaign is designed to raise people's awareness of the profile of the Reformed Church. The slogans are thus complemented by a further phrase: "The

Reformed Church. Where God and the world meet". The posters and slogans are provocative and cheeky in a positive sense. Yet they do not want to point at all the evil unbelievers and accuse them of atheism. The campaign is not moralistic. The Reformed Church, the footnote says, is not a sanctimonious unrealistic institution which despises football, power, luxury and career. The Church knows that these things have their place in our lives, that they are a matter of fact. Our

Church has, however, the role of being a mediator between our world and the world to come, the kingdom of God. The campaign therefore wants to show what the Church really is: conveyor of God's revelation, of faith and religion. It wants to tell people that there is more to life than sport, money and fun.



Yet, the Church is not far away from people's daily lives or hovering above ordinary people's heads in some lofty spheres where only philosophers and theologians feel at ease. No, the Church is close to what we feel and experience: "it is close to God and close to us humans".

By asking the fundamental question in life "What do you actually believe in?", the Churches point at their very own mission: to offer honest answers and guidance in all matters of faith. People are generally interested in religion, they do want to know about God. What we have to do is to show people that our Church is still capable of offering plausible and honest answers.

Rev David Leuenberger

Pictures and Words 2005 ? A British - Swiss Newspaper Project

The exhibition "Pictures and Words 2005" has its origin in the aim of artist Denise Felber (Bern) and journalist Simone Müller to work together on a Project in spite of the geographical distance between Bern and London, where S.M. has been living for the past two years. They developed the idea that every day Denise Felber chooses one picture from the Swiss newspaper "Tages Anzeiger" and gives artistic form to it through a special print process, while Simone Müller selects small passages from the British "Guardian" - sentences, parts of sentences or single words. Language and pictures of the corresponding days come together in a personal look back: 365 spotlights on the year 2005.



Two exhibitions, one in the Swiss Church and another in Bern will each show one half of the year.

Exhibition Swiss Church in London 29 January - 12 February 2006 Vernissage Sun 29 January 2006 5pm

THEOlogical

The Church – the body of Christ

Article based on Rev D. Leuenberger's sermon, held at the Swiss Church, on 18 September 2005 (Bettag)

1Cor 12, 12-27

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honour to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

How well do you know Paul, the author of the lines above? Even if you know only a little about him and his thoughts, you may have a distinct opinion of him. You may think he's a bit of a hardliner, because he apparently denies women the right to speak in Church. Or you may think of him as being a strict and heartless moralist, condemning homosexuality.

Or perhaps you see him as a great dogmatist who excels in theorising, but does not easily win over people's hearts. Yes, the Apostle's image is somewhat earnest and dry. Many people respect him, only few people love him.

I think that Paul is a most interesting and sensitive theologian. He does not deserve his reputation! In many aspects, Paul is quite a modern thinker.

In 1Cor 12, Paul advocates pluralism, a diverse unity or a united diversity. Paul likes the image of the body and all its members. The head is not the same as the foot, the hand is different from the knee, and the arm a long way from the heel. Yet, all these members are parts of the same body. All these members belong together. If one is missing, the body is injured and incomplete.



Apostle Paul by El Greco, 1610
Museo de El Greco, Toledo

Paul applies the image of the body to the Christian Church and its members. "You are the body of Christ!", he says. All of us belong together, through baptism we are all formed into one body, with Jesus Christ as its head. True, we don't all have the same talents and gifts, we are not all the same, we are not exchangeable numbers, but distinct individuals and unique personalities. We don't all share the same opinion, we don't all look the same or like the same things. - Yet we all belong together because we all form the one body of Christ.

And because we are all different and yet belong to the same body, which is the body of Christ and in its visible form the Christian Church, we all have different functions within this body. Some of us are excellent bakers and cooks. Others excel at organising things.

Again others are good teachers or have a special talent in dealing with children. Others are good at leading and inspiring. There are so many different gifts and talents and there is no doubt about it: all of us are bestowed with talents and gifts, we all have our strengths besides our weaknesses.

However different we are, we all form the same body of Christ! And this includes the great Christian denominations! Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants are distinct members of the body of Christ. They are all different, they all disagree with one another to a certain extent. Yet they belong to the same family, they are but different members of the same body.

When we apply Paul's beautiful image of Christ's Church as

a body to the different Christian Churches, we could perhaps draw this analogy.

Stereotypically, Protestants are seen as being people who think too much and believe too little. Their sermons tend to be lengthy and critical and their liturgy sober. Their Churches are austere and their theology and moral strict and earnest. Of course these are all stereotypes, but admittedly they are not all that wrong.

Catholics are seen by many people as being more emotional or demonstrative. Their liturgy is rich and reaches out to people's hearts. Their Churches are often beautifully colourful and richly ornamented.

Maybe Catholics form rather the heart of Christ's body and Protestants rather the brain?

A body cannot live without a brain or without a heart. Both belong together and each of them perform vital functions.

Unity does not mean that we are the same, unity is not the same as identity. Catholics and Protestants are united in Christ, they belong to the same body of Christ and yet they are and remain different from one another. Our unity is a diverse unity, as diverse as brain and heart are.

I think there is no reason to mourn or lament this. Diversity and pluralism make life more colourful and more interesting. There is no "one size fits them all". Because we are all different we all need different things. And yet we are all united.

Pluralism was also at the beginning of Christianity. Yes, the beginning was diversity, not unity! That's what Paul is saying. We are not all head, or hand, or eye. We are not all the same, we do not all have the same functions, not even the same beliefs.

The Bible is the best proof. Think about it: Why are there four gospels in the New Testament? Why do we have four different views of what happened 2000 years ago? – Because reality is not one dimensional, because different people tend to experience the same things differently! – Listen to two people's account of the same movie for example.

The main elements of the film may sound similar in each account. But the details and the judgements can differ immensely.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote about the same events. Yet their accounts are not identical. There is not only one single truth, it's not just Luke who's got it right. John's right,

too and so is Mark. And yet they're all different. And yet they all stand next to each other, in the one great book which is the Bible.

Protestants are not the only ones who have God on their side; the Catholics, too, get things right. This does not mean that one of us must be wrong.

At the beginning there was diversity! The body of Christ always consisted of different members and organs. At present these different members of the body sadly don't fully recognise each other. Although one body, the different members think they are more important and closer to the head which is Christ.

When we celebrate ecumenical services, however, we demonstrate our "unity in diversity". When we celebrate together, when we even share bread and wine together, we are fully aware that we are distinct from one another, but that we still belong to the same body of Christ, which is the invisible universal Church.

Diversity and pluralism are of course not only attributes of the one universal church, but also of our societies. A modern society consists of many races, many nationalities, languages and beliefs. Yet, they all represent one society sharing the same country, the same city together.

We have to live with the differences and diversity, however challenging they may be at times. There will be a time, writes Paul, when we shall learn the truth. "For we know only in part", continues, Paul. "But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Rev David Leuenberger

Special Chaplain Nadia Pfaff

The following article was submitted by Rev Nadia Pfaff, who has been a chaplain in Switzerland and in London for the last 9 years.

Monday

A Muslim gentleman presents himself in the Sanctuary area looking very distressed. I ask him into my office and as soon as he is seated, his story of despair pours out of him. He tells me that his wife was distraught because there was no female doctor available, who could examine her. He claimed that nobody took his wife's concerns seriously. He stated that being sensitive to a patient's cultural and religious needs was as important as looking after her medical and nursing needs. He asked me, what the use was looking after somebody's body, if in the process the person's dignity and soul got damaged.

Tuesday

I receive a trauma-call to Casualty. The patient was a heroin-addict, who is well known to the hospital. He had been attacked in one of the local housing estates by a man wielding a hammer. Blood was running down his face and he had suffered a pneumo-thorax as one rib punctured a lung.

The ambulance crew described how the people on the estate had come out onto their balconies to witness the attack and cheer the attacker on, when they realized who the victim was. Some people screamed: "Serves you right; bit of your own medicine!"

Wednesday

I get called to Casualty when a middle-aged man suffered a cardiac-arrest. On arrival a senior member of staff tells me that this man was critically ill and most likely not going to survive. He had his wife and teenage-son waiting in the relative's room.

I went in there to meet the family. As soon as the wife realized that I was the chaplain, she started chanting prayers: "O Lord, God, Creator, search my heart you know my righteous conduct, deliver me from Satan, who is on my back!"

I managed to have a quick chat with them and established that the patient had collapsed at home a short while ago. Although the wife was pacing up and down the room, wringing her hands and looking extremely distressed I still did not get the

impression that she was aware of how ill her husband was.

Then a doctor entered the room, he gently crouched down beside the wife, placed a hand on her shoulder and said: "I'm sorry, your husband is dead." At these words she flew out of her seat. Like a rocket she shot out of the room, wailing and screaming. She crashed through the double doors into the resuscitation room, where here husband was lying on a trolley.

She rushed over to him and gave him a resounding slap to his head. When that did not give her the expected response, she started hitting his face



Multi-faith hospital chaplaincy team

and torso screaming: "Wake up! Wake up Tony!" She pushed two fingers into the side of his neck, wildly looked up and shouted: "I've got a pulse!" A nurse quietly said: "No, he's dead." She then threw herself on the floor and rolling around she keened: "Lord, by your precious blood, perform a miracle!"

After a while she managed to calm down slightly. I was then able to go out in search of her son. The poor boy, who at such an awkward stage in life: not quite an adult, but definitely not a child anymore, had ripped his chain and cross from his neck and thrown it into the waste paper basket.

I found him standing paralyzed in the corridor. He looked up fearfully when I addressed him. Tentatively I asked him, if he wanted a hug. I was actually quite surprised when he took a step towards me. Gently I wrapped my arms around his thin frame and he had to stoop in order to embrace me. When I held him tightly, he clutched me harder and sobbed onto my shoulder. I thought my heart was going to break.

After a while we both went back into the resuscitation room. Both wife and I knelt at the deceased's side. She held his hand and I covered theirs with mine. It was a strange feeling to touch her warm hand so full of life and his nestling beneath, dry and cold, never to move again. In the hush of the moment I started to recite the Lord's prayer and she joined in. It was such an intense moment; you could feel God's presence.

Before they left the son went over to the waste-paper basket. Without a word he retrieved his gold chain and cross and pushed them deep inside his pocket.

Thursday

I get called to Delivery Suite to bless a baby. When I meet mother she tells me that initially she did not really want another child as she already has six. But she said that with time she learnt to accept the fact that she was going to have a new baby again and started to prepare for this new life. But when she went for a routine scan they couldn't find a fetal heartbeat, which meant that the baby had died. Her searching eyes looked deep into mine, revealing a pain beyond words.

Friday

After a funeral the undertakers give me a lift back to the hospital in their hearse. As we approach the hospital gates the driver asks security to open the barrier for us, telling him: "Today we aren't collecting one, we are bringing one back!"

Rev Nadia Pfaff

Vegsil Winterprogramm

Herbstbummel Samstag, 12. November 2005

Wir vertrauen auf die Wettergötter und treffen uns um 13:00 beim Restaurant Grünwald auf dem Höniggerberg. Gemütlich wandern wir über den Gubrist und die Weiniger Höhe zum Altberg, wo wir uns bei einem zünftigen Zvieri für den Abstieg nach Würenlos stärken. Die „Reiseleitung“ liegt wiederum in Herberts bewährten Händen. Achtung: Halbtagesanlass!

Spaziergang & Nachtessen Freitag, 9. Dezember 2005

Treffpunkt ist um 19:00 Uhr auf dem Parkplatz des Restaurants Guggach beim Bucheggplatz und dann spazieren wir gemütlich zur Oberen Waid für eine Stärkung. Je nach Witterung wird der Spaziergang kürzer oder länger werden.

Uetlibergbummel Dienstag, 17. Januar 2006

Ab der Tramendstation Albisgütli (Tram 13), wo wir uns um 19:00 Uhr treffen, spazieren wir gemütlich auf den Zürcher Hausberg. Wenn er sich "im Winterkleid" präsentiert ist es sicher wie im Märchen! Bei der verdienten Stärkung können wir dann die hoffentlich klare Sicht auf die Stadt hinunter geniessen. Gute Schuhe und eventuell Taschenlampe nicht vergessen.

Skiweekend

Die Angaben zu diesem Anlass folgen später.

Konzert Mittwoch, 22. Februar 2006

Dieses Mal besuchen wir ein Konzert in der Tonhalle Zürich (im Kongresshaus): Klavierkonzert Nr. 4 von Ludwig van

Beethoven und Sinfonie Nr. 1 von Gustav Mahler; Eintrittspreis Fr. 22.- oder höher (s. unter www.tonhalle.ch und dann Konzertkalender). Konzertbeginn mit dem Tonhalle-Orchester unter David Zinman und Richard Goode am Klavier ist um 19:30 Uhr. Da es sich um ein Abonnementskonzert handelt werden vermutlich nur beschränkt Plätze im freien Verkauf angeboten werden. Bitte meldet Euch deshalb unbedingt mittels untenstehendem Talon bis spätestens 21. Januar 2006 an (der Vorverkauf beginnt ab dem 23. Januar 2006!); ich werde dann die Billette reservieren. Wer mag kann um 18:00 Uhr im kleinen Saal bereits die Einführung zum Konzert besuchen.

Nachtessen & Programmbesprechung Die, 7. März 2006

Wiederum stärken wir uns zunächst für die "Kopfarbeit" im Restaurant Kreuzstrasse / Pizzeria Incrocio, Schaffhauserstr. 133, 8057 Zürich, Tel. +41 44 361 1011. Treffpunkt wird um 19:00 Uhr sein. Bitte anmelden bis 2. März 2006.

Natürlich sind wie immer alle interessierten "Heimweh-Londoner" egal welchen Alters oder "England-Jahrgangs" eingeladen an unseren Anlässen teilzunehmen!

Weitere Auskünfte und Kontaktadresse

Georges Keller

Mettelitobelstr. 40, CH - 8192 Glattfelden

Tel P +41 44 810 7711

Tel G +41 44 812 6066

Natel +41 79 759 2193

E-mail kellerg@freesurf.ch

Coloured Picture

Hi Kids. Here's a page for you!
Christmas Carol singing, did you enjoy it? Colour the picture and send it to us, if you like.

We are looking forward to receiving as many coloured pictures as possible.



**DEADLINE
for the next**

Swiss Church News 1/06

25 January 2006

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

**Tel. 020 7836 1418
Fax 020 7379 1096**

**info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk
www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk**

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR

**Saturday 19 November 2005
11am to 4pm, Admission £1**

**A Company limited by Guarantee
registered in England & Wales,
no 4454591
A registered Charity
no 1094992**