

Geneva

We continue in good heart and here are some of the highlights of the last few months:

Annual Fair

This took place in November. As we do not have a large enough hall, we rent a hall for the occasion with daytime food and stalls followed by an evening ceilidh, featuring the Loch Léman ceilidh band from Lausanne. This is always a sellout attracting people from outside our regular church community. The proceeds of the whole day make an important contribution to church funds and to local charities.

The Big Conversation

Over the winter we have had a very stimulating series of 5 talks and discussions on hot topics of our time, all led by members of our church. We feel privileged to share in their wealth of experience. The talks were

Rev Paraic Reamonn Israel/ Palestine, a basket case?

Rev Matthew Ross The Ecumenical movement is it a dead duck ?

Prof Isabel Phiri, The World Church and its challenges

Dr Cornis van der Lugt Climate Change/ Global warming - we need to talk

Rev Dr Wesley Ariarajah Attitudes to other World Faiths - Dialogue, Debate, Evangelism? Tolerance or Challenge?

Joint Use of the Auditoire

Sharing the use of the building with the Swiss German church and with the children's programme of the local church works out well in general and a small group representing all users meets to iron out any remaining problems. The main problem for our church is the already small vestry is now crowded with cupboards which makes Sunday mornings challenging.

At Christmas our choir and the Swiss German choir joined forces for 2 carol services, one in German and one in English, which were much appreciated by both communities.

Music in Church

From the beginning of the year there is a new programme of music in church in place, initiated by Paraic and Vivien Reamonn. This was prompted by Peter Tulloch retiring as “perpetual replacement” choir director after many years of service. The choir still continues, but with other musicians providing input, either singing or instrumentalists. So far this seems to work well.

Children’s programme

A new, mainly younger, team of Sunday school teachers is now in place and recently enjoyed a training session in Godly Play material. Our Youth group continues and the creche has also managed to recruit a few more volunteers.

Joint Session meeting with Lausanne

We held a joint meeting recently at Nyon, midway point. The topics for discussion were presbytery plan and then what we could do together. All were agreed that being able to appoint non Church of Scotland ministers could be very helpful to our presbytery. We also talked about possible joint events, like conferences or training, as a way of bringing our congregations closer together.

Lent Studies

A programme of weekly studies has begun on the theme The Mystery of God, using the materials provided by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website. Our challenge is which location to meet in during the two weeks of Geneva motor show in March when traffic is paralysed and parking impossible!

Alice Tulloch