

Church of Scotland Geneva – “Auditoire de Calvin”

Since our meeting last October in the city of Calvin, We continue to do well... and here are some highlights of our accomplishments and forthcoming.

PRESBYTERY DOCKS AT GIB!

It's all too easy to forget that we are part of something bigger than just our own congregation: the Church of Scotland, Geneva – the clue's in the name!

As an integral part of the Church of Scotland, we play our role in its wider work – and serve its vision through the medium of the International Presbytery – which is made up of fourteen congregations with a church life “firth of Scotland” as they say in the old country!

The Presbytery meets twice a year –you may remember it was our turn to host the event back in October – and it deals with wider issues, policy shifts sent down from the General Assembly – and strategic decisions affecting those congregations that little bit removed from the “mothership!”

In March the Presbytery arrives en masse in Gibraltar – where the small but lively local church will host us – and where over two days of meetings, decisions will be made, connections deepened and support given.

What could be a rather dull and tedious set of meetings is enlivened and enriched by the real opportunity to get alongside each other...ministers and elders - and spouses - in a way that is encouraging and warm, as we think, worship, pray, talk and share. Just two days, but creative and formative, and very precious.

Annual Fair

Church fair took place on 16th November 2019.

The Fair had gone well! Since both events (daytime food and stalls, and the evening Ceilidh) had been fairly straightforward. Further to that, a “THANK YOU” dinner had been held in the manse on Thursday 12th December.

Easter Services

Lent and Holy Week



There is truth in the thought that we pretty much get out of Lent and Easter what we put into it...of our interest, our openness and our receptivity. This year, we are invited to use the resources of Sanctuary First as we make our personal journey through the experience of Lent.

<https://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/daily-worship>

This will lead us creatively towards Holy Week – beginning on Palm Sunday 5th April. During that week, we will be holding lunch-time services in the Salle from 12-30 – 1-30 Monday – Thursday. These will consist of a short act of worship and reflection, followed by a soup and bread lunch

Music in Church

Jazz in the Auditoire



Sunday 15th March at 14.00-16.00.

Concert in three acts

Kit Downes- English jazz organist

Lucia Cadotsch- singer

Petter Eldh and Otis Sandio.

Souffle de Printemps

our annual Aubertin organ festival will take place this spring once again, giving us a chance to hear the Auditoire organ played by Geneva's best organists. This year's "**Souffle de Printemps**" organ festival promises to be an exciting event, with organists coming from a variety of backgrounds and presenting a wide range of organ works.

All concerts will take place on Saturday evenings at 6 pm. The dates of this year's festival are:

April 25th - Nathalie Effenberger

May 2nd - Vincent Thévenaz

May 9th - Marcelo Giannini

May 16th - Ensemble Vocal Buissonnier,

Vincent Thévenaz (organ), Fruzsina

Szuromi (direction) Free Entrance with a Collection at the end of the Concert

Joint Session meeting with Lausanne

We shall hold a Pastoral Care Workshop on Saturday, 21st March, 2020 at St Andrews House avenue Rumine, in Lausanne.

Congregational Trip to Scotland 2020

The proposed congregational "pilgrimage tour-on the trail of John Knox" is scheduled for 8-16 June 2020.

The trip would be for 8 nights with a coach and driver included with structured visits to Edinburgh, Oban, Beaulieu, St. Andrews and a Loch Ness boat trip and much more.

Church BBQ



Sunday afternoon, 30th August 2020, we shall be holding our usual annual Church barbecue chez Michael and Antonia in Mollens.

Mission outreach

Two of our young Malawians, Janet and Blessings, from Ekwendeni, visited us from 25 September through 16 October 2019.

It was felt that they were made very welcome by members of the congregation who had volunteered to host Janet and Blessings and organized a wide variety of events for them to participate in.

Janet and Blessings had both been very happy with their visit and had expressed delight with and gratitude for their stay.

Since their departure, the sad news from Ekwendeni, had been a violent storm that destroyed part of the main Youth Centre building, cut the power and put the Centre out of action. We have also recently heard that Lumbani Chirwa, the HIV/AIDS coordinator at the hospital, was seriously injured in a car crash in which a visitor to Ekwendeni died. Lumbani was, at last news, in Mzuzu central hospital, in intensive care, having undergone two operations.

Thanks to the magnificent response of our congregation members to an emergency appeal early this year means, the Youth Centre roof has already been repaired, the centre is back in action, and other necessary work, including to the “Summer Hut” where many meetings are held, can go ahead.



Youth centre roof under repair in Ekwendeni



Power being restored while boys play

Graeme Clugston, in Lalgadh, has sent us news of joyful fellowship among the workers in the Leprosy Trust – combining devotions and joyful meals together and showing Christian friendship in a difficult part of the world for Christians.

Lalgadh hospital has recently acquired a new hi-tech ultrasound scanner, thanks to a generous donation from members of our congregation.



New ultrasound machine in Lalgadh



Ladies' fellowship chez Graeme and Meena

Laurent Djamen
“Elder in the Church of Scotland Geneva”