

REPORT from the SCOTS KIRK, LAUSANNE

to the INTERNATIONAL PRESBYTERY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND.

Gibraltar, March 6-8, 2020.

Since the report of October, 2019, the Scots Kirk has experienced a busy and productive time. Attendance at Sunday Services has increased and a number of newcomers have arrived, including several families with young children. This bodes well for the renewal of our Sunday School.

Rev. Gillean Mclean has made clerical contacts in the Lausanne area, resulting in a first meeting of a small ecumenical Youth Group. Gillean has also initiated Friday night forums on issues of concern: Climate Change, Fusion Physics, (tied in with climate) and Artificial Reproduction -how far is too far? These forums, preceded by a light meal, have drawn good attendances. We are indebted to Drs. Tim Goodman and Peter Beard, Scots Kirk members, for their input to the forums.

Advent was marked by Open Church when people were invited to visit for meditation, prayer, or just to enjoy a serene atmosphere away from the crowded city. Gillean had prepared a series of Advent Studies leading to Christmas, but possibly due to timing, they did not receive the attention they deserved.

Our traditional Christmas lunch was held in December, followed by the annual Ecumenical Carol Service in the Reformed church of St. Françoise, Lausanne. A number of our people had joined the choir and others came to enjoy traditional carols and readings.

In December the Charity Committee joined an Ecumenical project to supply bags of socks and gloves to the many homeless men and women in Lausanne. Rev. Hetty Overeem (Eglise Réformée) whose ministry is to the homeless, was pleased to accept 70+ bags from the Scots Kirk as gifts to those she serves.

A further initiative was taken by the Pastoral Care Team in December when our seniors were invited to a short Service in church, followed by afternoon tea and fellowship. This was warmly appreciated and will be followed by four more occasions along the same lines this year.

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity began for us at the lovely Catholic Church of St. Rédempteur. The bi-lingual service was shared jointly between local ministers and lay people. There was a good congregation with representatives of all churches present and a lovely apéro was enjoyed following the service. It is hoped that next year the Scots Kirk will host the Service.

In January a Stewardship Campaign was initiated by the Finance Team to meet a shortfall in the budget for 2020. Several ways are now offered to the congregation to contribute financially: as well as the envelope system, and electronically, a new app. called 'Twint' now can be used to make donations easier by mobile 'phone.