



# Swiss Church News

## Autumn 2019

Swiss Church in London  
Eglise Suisse de Londres  
Schweizerkirche in London  
Chiesa Svizzera a Londra  
Baselgia Svizra a Londra

Dear Reader,

There is rarely ever a queue outside the Swiss Church, but on the warm afternoon of 1 August this rare phenomenon could indeed be witnessed. The official celebration of Swiss National Day was taking place at the Swiss Church, and luckily the queue only lasted for a short time, and eventually everyone got in. There was a lot to enjoy: a live Alphorn performance, singing of the Swiss National anthem accompanied on the organ, an unmissable Ambassador's speech and an auction that helped us raise money to cover the costs of the event. It was a real joy to share this special day with Swiss compatriots and friends from across the UK!



Ambassador Alexandre Fasel held a speech on 1 August

The real work however went on in the background weeks before the event. Nathalie Chuard, Organisation of Swiss Abroad delegate, volunteered to organise the event alongside the Swiss Church team. I cannot thank Nathalie enough. Without her efficient planning we couldn't have done it. Our small team depends on the help of the wider Swiss community to put on events of this size and we hope that more of you

will come forward to offer your support in the future. Nathalie, you made the Swiss community very happy indeed! And then there are the Swiss Church ladies. They spent the whole afternoon peeling potatoes for Cecile's delicious potato salad, some of them at the grand old age of over 90 years old. Their dedication and resilience always astounds me and we can all learn an awful lot from them. A big Thank You to Helen, Cecile, Yolande and Fernande, You are an example to all of us and you show us what it takes to build community. Thanks also go to all the wonderful volunteers on the day and the Mothers Group of the Swiss Church who baked and sold cakes.

And there is more good news! I am delighted to announce that we have started a collaboration with the High Holborn Chamber Choir who will sing at our service on every first Sunday of the month. What a joy for the congregation! After the successful sermon series "Bible: The Greatest Hits" that ran from January to July there is now a new theme. From September to December, we will talk about a biblical symbol each Sunday, beginning with 'Bread' on 1 September. Do let me know if you have any suggestions.

Rev Monika Widmer from Basel-Bruderholz visited the Swiss Church in July with a youth group. They talked to people affected by homelessness and were impressed to hear their stories. We would like to thank our sister church in Basel for their generous donation from the confirmation services, and all the churches who continue to support our work.

Yours,  
Rev Carla Maurer



- Editorial .p1
- Latest News .p2
- Art Programme .p3
- A Glossary .p4
- Community .p6
- Announcements & Events .p7

# Latest news

## ✚ From the Consistoire



by **Peter Stäuber**  
- President

Dear reader,

It was great to see so many of you at the 1 August celebration, the third in a row that we have held at the Swiss Church. The fact that so many members of the Church, the Swiss community as well as the local community made their way to Endell Street demonstrated yet again what fantastic events we are able to put on in our beautiful space.

In terms of the governance of the Swiss Church, the most important event this summer was the Annual General Meeting. As every year, members had a chance to hear what the Consistoire has been doing over the last year and to give their input, and how the Church did in financial terms. This year's AGM, which was held in mid-

June, was very well received, and we are grateful that the members unanimously approved our annual report! Thanks to Carla, Marco and Yvon for all their work in preparation of the meeting.

Finally, on behalf of the whole Consistoire I would like to thank Katrin Vögeli, who returned to Zürich after spending two years in London. Katrin joined the Consistoire soon after arriving in the UK and took care of HR matters. She did a great job, and we all profited from her energy and competence – many thanks for your work, Katrin, and all the best in Switzerland!

I wish everybody a good start into the end of summer, and hope to see you soon,

Best,  
Peter

[peter.staeuber@gmail.com](mailto:peter.staeuber@gmail.com)

## FROM THE VENUE



By **Emily Rose Simons**  
- Office and Lettings  
Administrator

My job is impossible. It is working towards the unobtainable: a completely perfectly fully functioning church with no faults, no problems, no stains, everything up to the rising health and safety standards alongside ample hirings, church and community projects and events.

On the good days, Caretaker Rupert Ackroyd is working through an ever-growing list of maintenance issues, the Consistoire use their knowledge to steer the maintenance on a macro level, plus Colin and Cecile help keeping an eye on the details and give advice.

Maintenance is almost constant. I remember one day when I greeted the decorators to paint the areas damaged by a flood, rinsed out the filter of our brand new dishwasher, contacted the electrician over faults found when installing the new dishwasher, contacted the fire safety firm about fault in the kitchen's fire door, meanwhile having email conversations about the covering of the organ for the painting of the hall. On the quieter days, I focus on planning upcoming projects, such as the improvement of the acoustics, as I discuss with a sound engineer plans and quotes for his latest idea; and I focus on micro tasks, from testing the fire alarm, ordering handtowels and toilet rolls and updating the 'Rupert list'.

And then there are hirings, showing clients around the building, whilst making mental lists of what needs to be done/added to the 'Rupert list'. The rest is done through email: giving quotes, updating the diary, finding people to be on staff attendance for the events. The hirings are continually picking up, down to the amazing work of my predecessors Nat and Anina. Word continues to spread and people continue to book. When people enter the hall for the first time and take in an awe-filled breath for a moment I don't think about the squealing tap in the kitchen, or the latest bulb that's gone out. I stand next to them with pride at this beautiful building I spend so much of my life in.

In Judaism, we have the idea of *tikun olam* 'repair the world'; that God created an imperfect world in order for us to repair it. It is an impossible task. It is working towards the unobtainable: a completely perfectly fully functioning world with no faults, no problems, no stains, everything up to the rising health and safety standards alongside ample activity and growth.

The end of most days for me are more of a mild, and hopefully joyful, acceptance of defeat amongst the successes of the day. And as I close the door, I usually mutter to myself, tomorrow is another day. And on the seventh day, I rest.



**Ruth Gordon-Jaeggi**  
New member of the Arts Committee

"I would like to thank the Reverend Carla Maurer and David Beck very much for giving me this wonderful opportunity in becoming a member of the Swiss Church Arts.

I was born in Luzern 1950. When I was 4 years old, I started Ballet lessons with Bice Scheitlin. Her school was attached at that time with the Theatre Luzern where I experienced my first stage appearances. I also studied piano at the Konservatorium Luzern at the age of 9.

When I reached 16, I danced at the Zurich Opera House under Papa Nicolas Beriozoff.

Further engagements were the Opera House Cologne and Berlin. I even had a chance to dance in Leipzig at that time still under the Russian occupation.

1969 I came to London to further my studies with Royal Academy of Dance, Anna Northcote and Madam Cleo Nordi.

In 1984 a traffic accident cut short my dancing career. I went on to teach and to founded ChouChou children's Ballet Company (1986 – 1994). The company's success brought appearances on the BBC and Channel 4 and an invitation from the Kirov School to perform in St. Petersburg.

In 1993, I was awarded the Maya Plisetskaya Silver Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Dance and Teaching the Legat Style.

Now a pensioner and a mother of a wonderful son I truly hope I can contribute in some small ways with my knowledge and life experience to my newly appointed role at the Swiss Church. I'm very much looking forward to creative and happy times!"

*The members of the Arts Committee are David Beck (Chair), Annelore Schneider, Daniella Rossi, Peter Yardley-Jones, Emily Rose Simons, Carla Maurer.*



## An interview with Hamed Maiye, Artist in Residence

Hamed Maiye has been selected to develop his artistic work at the Swiss Church from August to October. He will be working mainly in the gallery room and the hall and visitors of the church may be able to see a glimpse of his artwork.



**Why did the residency at the Swiss Church spark your interest in the first place?**

Quite recently my practice has taken reflective turn and I've begun to explore spirituality and how it relates to art. I helped organise a reading group earlier this year in an exhibition at the Serpentine galleries which explored personal reflections of faith and spirituality. Ever since then I've yearned to investigate and reflect further and see how it might manifest into a body of work. When I saw the residency post I knew instantly it could be a space to explore this.

**Tell us more about yourself and your art work...**

Generally, I'm quite an introverted and observant person. A consistent day dreamer and nurturer. Art has always been in my life in different degrees.

I initially studied to be an architect but decided to explore art as it felt like my calling in life. My art explores my personal lens and the universe around me. I have a keen interest in archiving and what it means to archive personal histories. I describe myself as multidisciplinary as I enjoy expressing myself in different ways.

**What or who inspires you?**

I'm most inspired by the people around me and the conversations I have with them. I learn the most through speaking and reflecting with other people, especially those who are truthful. In terms of artists some of my favourite inspirations are Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Faisal Abdu-Allah, Liz Artur Johnson & Toyin Ojih-Odutola.

**Through your art work you create visibility for those who are often marginalised. Why is this important to you?**

We are in an age where politics is shifting greatly, so we have to take it upon ourselves to stay informed. I often emphasise for people to use their own voices to tell their stories as this is the best way to be understood and relate to others. This also goes back to archiving; there are so many great and inspirational stories which are lost in history because they weren't recorded. Learning how to self document is a great way to retain these beautiful histories.

**Art and religion: how can they inspire each other? What do they have in common, what is different?**

My theory is that art and religion have always run parallel to each other; we can see this in early Egyptian hieroglyphics and Greek Mythology. The yearning to explore the aesthetics of our personal spirits is something I think is built into human nature and our imaginations. I think surrealism is the best example of other worldly imaginations. I believe art and religion can reflect each other but also explore different narrative as well.



## 'Looking Down'

*A photography exhibition by Andy Palfreyman - 3-8 October 2019*

Andy held his first exhibition 'Cardboard and Caviar' at the Swiss Church in December 2015 showing some of the doorways that became home. The exhibition was also shown in Zurich, Switzerland in 2017.

For his second exhibition 'Looking Down' Andy lowered his gaze: "When you are street homeless you tend to look down and notice things most of the general public don't see. It strikes a chord with me, why it's there, how it got there, and I photograph it. It feels like I'm the only person who sees it. Some of these things can be upsetting, but I see it from a homeless person's point of view. When I see these things

I can personally relate to them. For example in Shaftesbury Avenue there is a broken spanner pressed into the tarmac and I bet no one else can see it but me. It reminds me how homeless people are pushed down and become invisible. Once a homeless guy walked past me, it just started to rain, and he left footprints on the wet pavement. I call this photograph The Invisible Homeless."

*The exhibition, curated by Daniella Rossi, will be shown at the Swiss Church from 3-8 October. Opening times: Friday, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday from 10am-4pm; closed on Sunday. Opening evening: Thursday, 6-9pm. Cash bar.*

We would like to thank the sponsors of the exhibition, the Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche des Kantons St.Gallen and Schweizerisch Evangelischer Kirchenbund, for their generous donations.



Self portrait - By Andy Palfreyman



## «This is an ecumenical matter...»

### A Glossary

If you come to a Sunday service at the Swiss Church, you may be in for a surprise. Protestant Christians might wonder why the Minister is wearing an Alb (that is a white liturgical robe) instead of the more traditional black robe seen in most Protestant churches. For most Protestants it is also unusual that communion is shared every other Sunday, rather than on high Christian festivals only. If you are Roman-Catholic or Orthodox your biggest surprise may be that a woman officiates communion. If you are not familiar with any of the distinctions mentioned above and if the service at the Swiss Church doesn't surprise you much, you are most likely not affiliated with any particular Church tradition and perhaps curious about what this is all about.

If people ask me what denomination the Swiss Church in London is, I usually answer: "We are an ecumenical congregation with a Protestant-Reformed ministry." Ecumenical? This ominous sounding word might ring a bell with fans of the cult TV series Father Ted who, in absence of a better answer, likes to say: "this is an ecumenical matter".

Churches come in all shapes and forms. They even look different! Protestant churches are known for their plain simplicity (the Swiss Church in London is an excellent example for this), Catholic churches for their rich ornaments, Orthodox churches for their lack of pews, and for beautiful icons. The views on ethical and theological matters such as women in ministry, sexuality and church leadership also differ, and this depends on their theology, which is the understanding of the Bible as God's word.

***The following glossary aims to shed some light on the diversity among Christian churches.***

**Roman-Catholic:** The Roman-Catholic Church is the biggest Christian Church in the world, headed by the Bishop of Rome (who is the Pope). The word catholic derives from the Greek word *katholikos* which means universal. The Roman-Catholic Church teaches that the Pope is the only rightful successor of Apostle Peter and that therefore the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Pope's teachings are infallible. Roman-Catholic churches are rich with images of saints. Priests have

to be celibate, and only men can be ordained and therefore officiate the holy sacraments (which include communion and baptism). In Switzerland Roman-Catholics are the largest Christian denomination. And have you ever heard of the Old-Catholic (or Christ-Catholic) Church? They separated from the Roman-Catholic Church in the 1850ies over certain doctrines, mainly the Pope's authority, and are therefore not fully recognised by the Holy See. Old-Catholics ordain women and they practice mainly in Netherlands, Southern Germany and Switzerland. Berne is one of the very few universities in the world where Old-Catholics can study theology.



**Orthodox :** With the decline of the Roman Empire and the growing influence of the Byzantine Empire the power struggle within the Catholic Church increased. Where did the true authority of the Church lie: in the West or in the East? Eventually this power struggle led to the Great Schism of 1054 and the Church was split in two parts, the Roman-Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Church. Orthodox Churches are known for their distinctive icons of saints. The Orthodox Church does not have a head of the church with doctrinal and governmental authority like the Roman-Catholic Church, however it does recognise the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople as the highest Bishop. Women's ordination is unthinkable on Orthodox churches. The word Orthodox derives from the Greek words *orthos* and *doxa* which means 'true belief'.

**Protestant, Reformed and Anglican:** Five-hundred years after the Great Schism Europe was a different place all together. Innovations and discoveries put Europe on the global stage and turned the old social structures upside down. The Church was at the very heart of this change. The German Roman-Catholic monk Martin Luther published a number of theses criticising the Church and suggesting change. What was thought as a trigger for internal reform eventually led to a further division: the Protestant churches were born (which includes Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican and many other churches). Swiss reformers like Calvin and Zwingli initiated the Presbyterian church model by which the church is governed not by Bishops but by church elders elected by the church assembly. A great number of reformed churches are organised this way. Meanwhile, in England the reformation also took place, brought about by the King. The Church of England, or Anglican Church, was established. Most Protestant churches ordain women, but not all, which is often forgotten. The Church of England has ordained women as Bishops only since 2014.

**Baptists:** Baptist churches are distinguished by baptising professing believers only (as opposed to infant baptism usually practiced in Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches). The first Baptist church is traced back to 1609 in Amsterdam founded by English emigrants. However, the roots go further back. The Anabaptists were a radical reformation group in Switzerland and were brutally persecuted by the mainstream reformation movement. Many Anabaptists fled from persecution and settled in other parts of the world.

**Evangelical:** Evangelical churches stand in the tradition of Protestantism with a strong focus on individual conversion and salvation; the authority of the Bible as God's word; and active mission. The United States has the largest concentration of evangelical Christians in the world. Most evangelical churches have conservative views on family ethics and human sexuality. Evangelical churches often have a more informal way of worshipping than the more conventional churches. English Methodism and German Lutheran Pietism originating in the 18th Century can be seen as the foundation of Evangelism. Pentecostal churches are also part of the evangelical renewal movement.

**Ecumenism:** Schisms, conflicts, persecution and even wars between the different church traditions are a sad reality within Christianity. Ecumenism is the term referring to efforts by Christians of different church traditions to develop better relationships and work for reconciliation and peace. The modern ecumenical movement has its roots in the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh. The World Council of Churches plays a crucial role in fostering the dialogue between the various church groups. The ecumenical movement has come a long way however challenges remain around topics such as women's ministry, sexuality and inclusiveness, family planning, sharing of communion and church leadership.



# From the Community

## From Breakfast on the Steps

Breakfast on the Steps takes place every Tuesday morning to serve the local community and is an important hub for people affected by homelessness. The service is run by community worker Josh Kelly and a wonderful group of volunteers. When people are busy it is all too easy to forget to say 'Thank You' and we would like to thank all the wonderful people who have supported us over the years: Grace, Periklis, Renate, Regina, Daniel and Meret, John, Isabella and Robert, Jake, and all the staff from Farrell Associates who have made available their full staff team for several years now.



Charlotte Robinson from Farrell Associates will sadly leave her role as breakfast volunteer after nearly three years. We will miss Charlotte very much! Here are Charlotte's own words of farewell:

"My first day at my first full time job, at Farrell Associates, started here at the Swiss Church's Breakfast on the Steps. Over two and a half years later, it's time for me to bid a bittersweet farewell as I change career.

At the end of August, I'll move on from my Operations Manager role and start training as a teacher of French, German and Spanish. While I'm sad to leave my current job, and the Swiss Church by extension, I'm really excited to take my first steps in a career that I've been drawn to for as long as I can remember.

Volunteering at Breakfast on the Steps has been great; I have loved meeting everyone and getting to know everybody's quirks and interests. I have chatted about music with John, spoken about politics with Nigel, had philosophical conversations with Gus, played the recorder with Sue and seen the developments in Dave's film making! I've also gotten to know how people take their coffee, whether they prefer brown or white bread, and where they like to go to spend their time during the day.

I've also been fortunate to meet many other volunteers, who were a real pleasure to work with every Tuesday morning, and have become friends rather than just colleagues. Special shout-out to Renate, who I've built a special relationship with over the last couple of years; her commitment to volunteering at the Church is inspiring!

I wish everyone at Breakfast on the Steps the very best; I'm sure I'll be back to visit!"



## What became of...

### Matt Stone

Community worker at the Swiss Church 2013 -2016



We left London and the Swiss Church about three years ago to move to Bristol to train for ordination with the Church of England. As a family we have had such a good time in Bristol and personally it was a special time to spend so much time studying

theology. Last summer was a particular highlight when we all went as a family to Malawi where I did a placement in a rural church and we all went on safari and explored a wonderful country. That season of our lives came to an end when I was ordained as Deacon at St Pauls Cathedral in June and I began my new role as curate at St George's Tufnell Park. We now find ourselves living just a mile up the road from where we were before we left.

As we settle back into London some things feel very familiar and in some ways it feels like only yesterday that we left. But as I look around my family I see the markers of the time. We have all changed and grown, and there is a new addition, in June, Kit was born at our home in Bristol. Clara who was a baby when we left is now three going on four and will be starting at local preschool. Reuben is soon to be the tallest in our household and is beginning his final year of primary school in September. Kate and I cannot keep up with them.

I often think of the good times spent at the Swiss Church, working day in day out with Carla and Anina, and meeting the faces of Covent Garden through Holy Soup and Breakfast on the Steps with the volunteers, especially my friend Andy P. I also have such good memories of our trips out, to the Bonhoeffer church, which started a whole pattern of study for me, and of travelling to Paris and Bruges with the Mothers group.

I am currently up late in our new house writing a sermon for Sunday entitled 'blessed are the peacemakers'. As I write I pray for peace upon everyone at the Swiss Church and I look forward to catching up with many of you soon.

With love

Matt and the Stones.

# Events @ the Swiss Church

**Church services: every first and third Sunday of the month, 11am**  
**1 September, 15 September, 6 October, 20 October, 3 November, 17 November**

Followed by lunch or refreshments.  
Communion and choir every first Sunday of the month.  
Everyone is invited to join our Sunday services. There are no church services in August.

**Baptism family services:**  
**6 and 20 October, 11am**

Families with children are always welcome on Sundays! The services in October will be particularly suitable for children as we will baptise two of our youngest members. If you would like to bring your children to be baptised, please let Minister Carla know. You can also bring along your baptismal candles and we will light them during the service.

**Commemoration service,**  
**17 November, 11am**

We will remember those who have recently passed away and the people we miss in our lives, and light candles in their memory. You can give the names you would like to be read out to Minister Carla ahead of the service.

**Breakfast on the Steps**  
**Every Tuesday, 8-10am:**

Join us for food and fellowship. If you would like to volunteer, get in touch with Josh (josh.kelly@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

**Parish visits from Switzerland**  
**Sempach, Wednesday, 9 October, 10am**

Reverend Hans Weber with confirmation class, and Mothers Group

**Concerts**  
**21 September, 7:30pm: Reading Phoenix Chamber Choir**

**2 November, 5pm: Organ recital with Katelyn Emerson**

**2 December: 7pm**  
**Windsor Castle School**

**7 December, 7pm:**  
**High Holborn Chamber Choir**

**15 December, 5pm:**  
**Christmas Carols**

**Exhibitions**  
**3-8 October: Looking Down,** photography exhibition by Andy Palfreyman

End of October (tbc): Insight into the work of artist in residence Hamed Maiye

*Our Sunday Services are held at the Swiss Church in Endell Street at 11am. They are held on the first and third Sunday of the month (unless otherwise stated). The sermons are in English and the liturgy and hymns are German and French. A meal is served after the services. The Swiss Church is rooted in the Reformed tradition but people from all denominations are welcome.*

## Announcements

### Obituary

Member of the congregation, Renée Beck, passed away peacefully on the 18th May 2019. Our thoughts are with her family at this time of mourning.

## Imprint

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

A company limited by Guarantee registered in England & Wales, no: 4454591.  
A registered Charity no: 1094992.

**Editors**  
Carla Maurer, Colin McIntyre & James Rasa  
020 7836 1418  
info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk

**Website**  
www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk  
You can download the latest Swiss Church News on our website.

### Frauenverein

Every first Tuesday of the month.  
Mrs Cecile Mistry 07778 508 405

### La Causerie

Every second Tuesday of the month.  
Mrs Lisa Hall-Zeller, 020 8894 2114

### Mothers' Group

Every second Wednesday of the month.

### Vegsil

Mr Georges Keller

Kirchweg 7, 8196 Wil  
+41 79 759 21 93  
keller@sunrise.ch

Presidents Erika and Chris Dyke  
chris@macrolevel.co.uk  
erikadyke007@gmail.com

### VEGSIL annual meeting

The annual meeting of the 'Verein Ehemaliger Glieder der Schweizerkirche in London' will take place at the Fraumünster church in Zurich, Switzerland on 25 August following the local service.



*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilisation."*

*(Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948,  
Indian lawyer and political activist)*

*"There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."*

*(1 Corinthians 12:12.26)*

Please consider donating online at:

[swisschurchlondon.org.uk/church/donate](http://swisschurchlondon.org.uk/church/donate)

UK Bank details - HSBC Bank

Account Name - The Swiss Church in London

Sort Code - 40-03-15

Account No. - 61410512

Post Finance: The Swiss Church in London

Account Number: 80-37960-9

We welcome donations by standing order:

If you are UK taxpayer, please fill in a gift aid declaration form available on our website.

#### Contacts

Minister

Rev. Carla Maurer

020 8350 4916

079 6853 0380

[carla.maurer@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:carla.maurer@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

President of the Consistoire

Mr Peter Stäuber

[Peter.staeuber@gmail.com](mailto:Peter.staeuber@gmail.com)

Organist

Peter Yardley-Jones

[pyj@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:pyj@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

**Swiss Church in London,**

**79 Endell Street**

**London WC2H 9DY**

**Tel: 020 7836 1418,**

[info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk](mailto:info@swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

[www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk](http://www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk)

Twitter: @SwissChurchLond &

@SwissRevLondon

Carla Maurer's blog:

[swissvicarlondon.blogspot.co.uk](http://swissvicarlondon.blogspot.co.uk)