

Swiss Church News

Winter 2021

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



Image by Ella Mettler

Dear Readers

This issue is all about our lockdown stories.

Each one of us has a story or two to tell after an extraordinary year. Some stories are full of hope and make us smile, others bring to light some of the hardship and disappointment we have been through. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this unique selection of lockdown memories!

For me, it was our beautiful Christmas tree that summed up much of the emotion of this past year. Here is my story 'O Mein Tannenbaum':

Christmas Eve morning, 2019. My hometown was covered in snow. Together with my parents I made my way to the Gallusplatz (named after the Irish monk Gallus who gave St. Gallen its name) where we bought our Christmas tree. Just in time for Christmas Eve celebrations as is the tradition in our family.

5th December 2020. A two-metre-high Christmas tree from North Yorkshire was delivered to our doorstep in North London. Much too early, for my liking. I never understood why British people put up their tree weeks ahead of Christmas. How is it even going to stay green?

Yet this year I was grateful for every single day with our tree. With its lights and decorations and colourful baubles collected over the years, each with its own story, it sparked joy and peace whenever the lights were turned on, which was nearly all the time. The tree made up for the absence of cosy pub log fires, carol singing in church and the beautiful Christmassy city lights. I hated taking it down as lockdown 3 began. What can possibly replace our beautiful Christmas tree?



The pandemic has brought to light deep-rooted injustice across society and humanity as a whole. People who are already well off were able to save money with less spending on lunches, holidays, culture and clothing. However, those who have previously struggled to cover basic needs like heating, food and internet have seen their bills rise further with families suddenly spending their days at home. Furthermore, the distribution of the promising vaccine shows the stark North-South divide on our planet. Whereas the vaccine is being rolled out in most of the Northern hemisphere, most countries in the Southern hemisphere do not have the means and infrastructure to do the same.

Throughout the Old and the New

Testament, the call for justice is clear. "Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute." (Psalm 82:3) Justice is about the fair distribution of goods and equal opportunities. Let God's call for justice be at the centre of our prayers and actions as we are beginning to emerge from this pandemic and reshaping our future.

Yours,
Reverend Carla Maurer

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✚ From the Consistoire

- By Barbara Wachter, President of the Steering Committee



I am sitting down to write these lines having just come back from a long walk through the snow-covered hills surrounding the little village of Davos Monstein in Graubünden. After

a long year largely spent with my partner in our small basement flat in Central London, we desperately longed for a respite, and were truly lucky (despite an unexpected quarantine) to make it to my

family in Switzerland before the borders closed ahead of Christmas. Today, walking through the woods, breathing into the cold, crisp air, with the homely, deeply familiar smell of pines, moss and timber in my nose, and surrounded by often sorely missed silence, I was pondering over what wishes to deliver to you, dear readers of the Swiss Church News in London, for this new year 2021.

I believe the main thing I would like to say is: Thank You. Throughout the past year's unprecedented challenges, I

have been grateful for so many things, and have relearned the value of properly expressing it. So, at the outset of this hopefully brighter year, I would like to thank all of you for your active interest in, and support of, our dear Swiss Church. Thanks also to my fellow trustees, for their forbearance and camaraderie. And thanks to Carla and the Swiss Church team for their great loyalty, flexibility and hard work. I sincerely hope that we will meet again in 2021 and, on behalf of the Consistoire, wish you all a successful and fulfilling time ahead.

Greetings from the new President of The Protestant Church in Switzerland

Dear sisters and brothers in London

I am very pleased to send you these few words of greeting at the beginning of 2021. I hope this year will bring you hope, joy and love despite the difficult situation relating to the pandemic. As the newly elected President, I am passing on

greetings from the Protestant Church in Switzerland and its 25 member Churches. Although separated by the Channel, we all belong to the same Church and the great family of God's children and draw our hope from the same source: Jesus Christ. May this faith carry you throughout this new year.

**Yours in Christ,
Rita Famos**

President of The Protestant Church in Switzerland



Internship

- By Ryan Moshwe



Dear reader,

My name is Ryan Moshwe, I am the Intern at The Swiss Church in London. I've recently started and it's a lot

to take in. I am very lucky to be given this opportunity to be part of this community. I want to give special thanks to Phil Carter who works for the Camden council

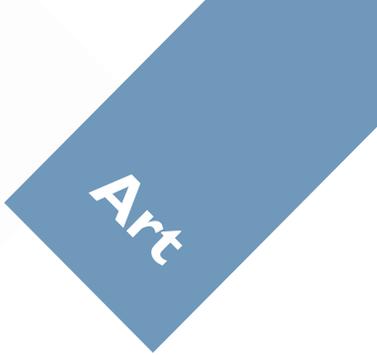
helping me find potential jobs, and it led me here.

I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for him and I'll make him proud.

I was very excited to start my induction to learn the ropes about my role and responsibilities, and experience what's it's like to work in an office. But that has been short because the national lockdown has begun again, which was bound to happen sooner or later. Heidi made sure to supply me with a working laptop for me to work problem free from home.

When my internship finishes in April, I will have gained experience of what it's like to work from home, shadowing staff members to get a few ideas of what they do in their roles. Eventually I'd like to get a job learning different varieties of video/clip editing skills, since I do YouTube as a hobby, mainly because video games have been part of my whole life. And someday I'd liked to make that hobby into a career, because I enjoy it very much and it's fun.

[Keep safe and stay well!](#)



Spring 2021 Art Residency

Writers Lab with Nicky Allpress

The Swiss Church Art Committee has chosen the proposal 'Writers Lab' by theatre director and developer Nicky Allpress for the Spring 2021 Art Residency at the Swiss Church.

A collective of emerging theatre stage writers will have the opportunity to be part of the Writers Lab from March to May. They will spend time writing, rehearsing and developing their work in our beautiful church which will have a profound impact on their creative process. Writing can be a lonely profession. The residency at the Swiss Church will give these young writers the opportunity to work away from their

home desks and to meet with fellow stage writers to exchange their ideas, as well as to share their work with the Swiss Church community welcoming input and feedback.

Many of the creatives are first or second-generation migrants, others have lived locally all of their lives. For example, Serena Hassan is developing her children's book 'The Tap-Dancing Pigeon of Covent Garden' as a children's musical, and Joey Ellis is a young Christian writer who writes stories about the human spirit. Other stories include the topics womanhood & gender equality; loneliness for ageing Londoners; homelessness; physical & mental disability; queer isolation & hope; family life in North London community; 60's, 80's & current antifascism; the history and

gentrification of London markets seen through the eyes of working residents.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the Writers Lab at the church and who knows – some of the plays might make it to a West End stage in the future!



The Magic Barrel Organ A Swiss pantomime bringing hope to the British Covid winter - By Benjamin Froehlich

When hope seems lost in the kingdom, the ruler, weakened by a long illness, neglects his people. They focus on their own needs and give more and more room to anger, fear and greed. The only chance of a brighter future lies in the hands of a poor tinker Carl, his daughter Dropsy and a magical instrument. We've

definitely landed in a fairy-tale world. But have we really? Is it really magic that makes the music of the Magic Barrel Organ change the lives of so many people the tinker and his daughter meet, on their long journey to heal the king? Is it the music helping those in need, making people tell their stories and forging bonds of friendship? Or is there more behind the magic?

Some might remember the Swiss German actor Jörg Schneider in one of the many plays and comedies streamed on Swiss TV in the last decades of the 20th century or still hear his voice on the numerous audiobooks of "Kasperli" and his adaptations of classic fairytales. Fewer might know that he was a big London-fan and passionate about musical theatre. And so, it isn't surprising that he wrote a number of very successful musicals together with composer Emil Moser. Since the late 1970s these musicals have been touring Switzerland, either as professional productions or as school plays and especially popular for amateur drama clubs. The most popular hit was and still is "Die Zauberorgel", now translated and adapted into English as "The Magic

Barrel Organ" by Benjamin Froehlich, produced completely remotely in the second half of 2020 as three video episodes available to watch free online. Supported by the Swiss Cultural Fund, a cast of 50 professionals, amateurs, teenagers and kids (including many Swiss nationals living abroad) have rehearsed and recorded the 90-minute family musical via Zoom. For all involved, the production was a rare chance in this Covid year to stay connected with their passion for theatre and to share their talents and skills with an audience. Coming together, telling a story for others, bringing hope and inspiring action – what a wonderful adventure. The producer, Newsroom Theatre Company, hopes to co-produce the show on a physical stage, in front of a closed audience very soon, and has launched a crowdfunding campaign on Crowdfunder UK. The story is a wonderful addition to the big pantomime and winter family show scene. The seeds have been planted all over the UK already, and British kids are singing the songs with their new English lyrics.

www.newsroomtheatrecompany.com/themagicbarrelorgan

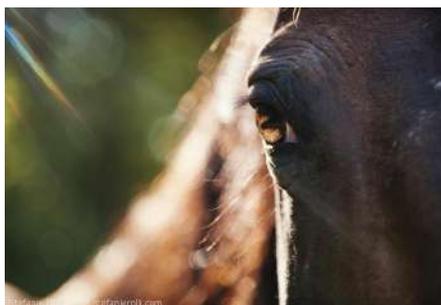
Lockdown stories

Of horses and idleness in the city - By Susanne Rolli

I moved from Switzerland to Glasgow for a Master's degree in 2016 and ended up staying. A primary teacher originally with a keen interest in alternative pedagogies, I now live in London where I have been working as a nanny and early-years educator. This is an excerpt from a blog I wrote during lockdown:

"It is early in the morning and I'm standing on a field in the middle of London, watching two horses graze idly. They look peaceful and calm, a state that seems to transcend their

bodies and seep into mine as I feel my own breathing deepen and slow in time with theirs.



When I say grazing "idly", I don't mean that in a negative or judgmental way. Those horses look like they are doing exactly what they're supposed to be doing, a perfect balance of breathing, chewing, moving slowly across the field.

Their purpose, it seems, is to just be.

Now, stuck at home for the time being, I wonder what it is about idleness that scares us so much. The idea of appearing to be 'doing nothing'?

Is it the belief that we have to execute a constant stream of chores in order to move forwards? Perhaps now is the time to let go of perpetual busyness and be aware not only of life's continuous currents but also of our existence right now in this moment."

Original post published May 7, 2020 in: <https://medium.com/learning-in-the-time-of-corona>



DOLLS - By Marlies Davies

Many years ago, a few mothers from the monthly Mothers' Group handcrafted dolls for the bi-annual Christmas fair. A very able lady had all the material ready for us: coarse wool for the stuffing, material for the clothes, and knitting wool for the hair. I made three dolls and sold one at the fair. My girls never played with



them much, but when I became a grandmother, I gave the dolls to my grandchildren. They enjoy playing with them and they are still in very good condition despite some hard loving.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to join the Swiss Church WhatsApp group and was asked to say a few words about myself. I sent a photo



of my dolls. It was like opening the flood gates! One by one doll photos appeared from everywhere. Some travelled as far as Australia.

Thanks to this chat, two small people are now in possession of one of those beautiful dolls which have been named after their benefactors. It is so lovely to reconnect with the Swiss Church (I moved away from England) and to share memories. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the Mothers' Group, for their friendship and for teaching my children about my home country, traditions and speaking Swiss German.

'Keeping my bowel'

- By Andy Palfreyman

On the 3rd of April 2020 I was scheduled for a simple operation to remove a gallstone. The operation would have taken about 15 minutes. But then, lockdown began, new hospitals were built, and all non-life-threatening operations were stopped, mine included, in anticipation of an increasing number of covid-19 patients.

I had a lot of follow up complications. The pain became excruciating. I was admitted to A&E several times and

sent home with strong painkillers, whilst the new built hospitals remained empty. I spent most of the lockdown in bed trying to manage the pain and my loneliness. My belly was swollen to the size of a football. Members of the congregation raised my spirit with phone calls and text messages.

In September, I spent 10 days in hospital. As my pain was now intolerable, they decided to finally operate, but my gallbladder was by now so inflamed that I was sent home



with a bag attached to my body to drain the gallbladder ahead of a new surgery attempt. My bowel might have to go too, I was told.

My gall bladder finally came out before Christmas (but not my bowel – thank God!) and I am now completely pain free even though still recovering from several surgery attempts. What a way to start the otherwise rather grim looking new year!



Advent candles

- By Emily Rose Simons

Emily Rose explains advent candles over Friday Night Kiddush zoom.

Family: You meant advent calendar

Me: No, candle.

Family: Advent Candle? I've never heard of an advent candle! She must mean advent calendar.

Me: No. Advent candle.

Family: Advent... candle?!

Me: Yes, we sent out advent candles

Family: Advent candles?

Family: How can you have advent candles?!

Family: How many of these candles did you have to send to each person?

Me: One.

Family: Just one?!!

Family: Is it an advent calendar with lots of little candles in it? I saw about that on the internet.

Me: No, it's just one candle

Family: Must be a very large candle

Family: Did you have to send it through courier?

Me: It wasn't that big. Just through the post office

Family: How can it last the whole of December?

Me: Well, funny story. They think they only have enough wax to last one day but by the miracle of advent it lasts all 24

Family: WHAT?!!

Me: It has little numbers down the

side to keep track

Family: Does it have little chocolates inside?

Me: No. It's a candle.

Family: It should have little chocolates inside.

Me: They might melt

Family: Why?

Me: Because it's a candle.

Family: Not much of an advent if there's no chocolate inside

Family: But how can they keep track?!

Me: They blow it out when it gets to the next number

Family: What do you mean the next number?

Me: So, they light it on the first day and blow it out when it gets to the number 2

Family: The number 2?!

Family: How do they know it got to the second day?

Me: The numbers are written down the side of the candle.

Family: Do they have to watch the candle then?

Me: I mean, you should always keep an eye on lit candles for fire safety.

Family: So they light the candle and have to wait until it gets to the next number - and then blow it out?

Me: Yes



Family: Sounds like a lot of faff

Family: So they're spending the whole of December watching this candle?

Family: Not much else to whilst there's this bloody virus.

Me: It won't take that long for the candle to burn down to the next number each evening

Family: And what do they do whilst they're watching this candle?

Me: Umm... I'm not sure actually... something nice? sing carols? Talk to their family? Pray?

Family: Eat fondue and yodel you mean

Me: I think that might be offensive.

Family: How can it be offensive? They're Swiss. It's their religion.

Me: Swiss is not a religion, it's a nationality.

Family: But it's the Swiss Church?

Me: Yes, but...

Family: Are you absolutely sure you were only meant to send them one candle?

Family: It wouldn't exactly be out of character for you to send them all the wrong number of candles.

Family: Are you sure you heard the reverend properly?

Family: I bet she asked you to send everyone a proper advent calendar with chocolate in it.

Me: Can't we just talk about Coronavirus and Trump?

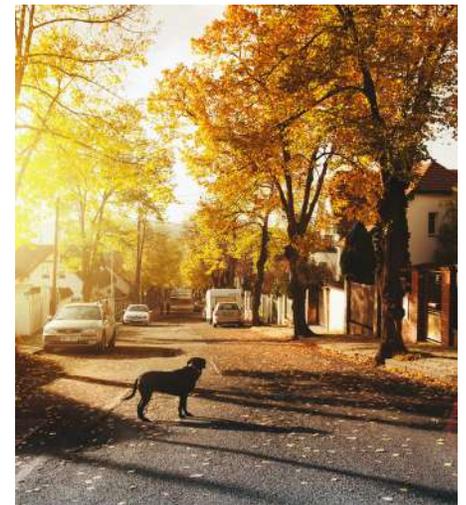
My street - by Katie Anthony

The chances of knowing everyone in a road of more than thirty houses, in a big, multicultural city like London are slim. Fortunately, we have a Neighbourhood Watch Group, and crucially contact details. When Covid arrived in the UK, my next door neighbours offered to shop for anyone who was unwell and suggested forming a WhatsApp group. By the first lockdown it was mission accomplished. During lockdown 1, like most people was able to work from home and it

was interesting to see new talents emerging, like the husband who took up breadmaking – and shared it. Another neighbour who owns a bakery, would regularly message us to see if anyone wanted their leftover bread. It went fast. When my printer was kaput, someone kindly printed the label I needed. Tools were borrowed, tradesmen recommended. Over Christmas I was left a piece of Christmas cake in a gift bag. Someone else was concerned I might be lonely; I'm not – too busy!

By early summer, we decided that post-pandemic we will have a street

party. Neighbours who have moved are very keen to be invited back. It's that kind of road.



Roundabout marathon - By Sonja Gray

Pieter Gray completed a marathon on Sunday 17th May 2020, starting at 6:30am in the morning. How was this even possible during lockdown, you may wonder? Pieter ran 1000 lapses around the local roundabout and completed the marathon in 4 hours 40 minutes. He raised money for the charity Mind to support those whose mental health is suffering as a consequence of the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions.

To make things a bit less monotonous, Pieter changed direction every 30 minutes. He felt

good running his rounds, but he lost a toenail as a result. His wife Sonja encouraged him and managed the fundraising. The final lap was completed with his toddler daughter Lena on his arms who was baptised at the Swiss Church in October 2019. Lena's grandparents Marianne Fisher-Hertig and Geoff Fisher, long standing members of the Church, cheered on from a distance.

What an achievement! Pieter raised £539 for Mind with this lockdown 1.0 novelty. The campaign is now closed, but if you would like to support the charity Mind and Pieter's incredible effort, you can still make a donation to Mind directly mind.org.uk

My home jungle - By James Rasa

I always loved subtropical house plants, Monsteras are my favourites, and I go crazy for white or pink variegation in leaves. Thanks to the lockdown I had the time to further my hobby and propagated over 50 cuttings. Over half of the dinner table was filled with jars with rooting stems (my boyfriend was not impressed)

I decided to give lots of cuttings to friends and also made an Instagram account [@Housecat_plants](https://www.instagram.com/Housecat_plants) just for cutting swaps, advice and to display my collection with likeminded people. The community has been lovely, especially in helping each other through experience.

Unfortunately it has not been the most positive year, but I feel fortunate to have surrounded myself with things that keep me calm and happy.



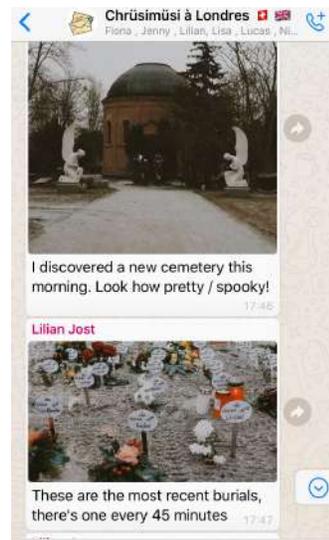
Two small good things happened

- By Lilian Jost

Here's the first good thing that happened to me recently: I "met" Lisa via Zoom, taking a virtual class on Reformation history at the university of Berlin. I moved here in August, optimistically, excited about Big City Life. Turns out I've mostly been staring at the walls of my new flat and taking exciting walks through the local cemeteries for the past five months. Lisa is also Swiss, also a Theology student, lives a 60 second walk away from me (in Berlin! that's crazy!) and, most wonderful of all, is a fellow Swiss Churchie. She did her internship at the SCL a couple of years ago. We were both very excited when we found out about our shared experiences. I quickly felt that she would

become a friend. And that's one of the best thing that can happen during a time like this.

The other good thing that has happened was the birth of a little WhatsApp group called "Chrüsümüsi à Londres", Chrüsümüsi being a wonderful Swiss word for "jumble" or "clutter" It's a group for young people that have a connection to the Swiss Church and that could use some distraction, fun and exchange. A lot of people feel lonelier than they have felt in years, and being abroad and isolated in a big city like London or Berlin can take a toll on young people. In our Chrüsümüsi group we chat, send pictures,



words of encouragement and just little updates on our lives. We even exchanged addresses for a Secret Santa, but with handwritten letters instead of gifts. Some people are already good friends, some joined without knowing anyone else in the group, but now we're just that: a group of people who support each other through this difficult time. I added Lisa, my new friend, to the group.

Now we're part of each other's support network.

Those are the good things that have happened to me.

The Smith's Swiss Odyssey

- By Anina Smith

Just like many of you, we had uncountable holidays as well as family visits cancelled. Nevertheless we still held onto the hope of being able to celebrate Christmas, New Year and my dad's 70th in Switzerland.



moved to a curfew instead, which prevented us from driving through the night! Thanks to the flexibility of both our workplaces we were able to quickly rebook to a morning departure and after

two rather sleepless nights, were off to Switzerland 18 hours earlier than planned.

After a few blissful days Switzerland announced a retrospective quarantine for travellers who had arrived from the UK. Another couple of days later a mandatory

COVID test was required. and in between all that, Max (age 4) decided to kiss the corner of the coffee table with the bridge of his nose: a trip to A&E and two stitches later we were able to continue our still mandatory quarantine.

It was all worth it though: We were greeted with fresh snow on our first day of freedom, were able to spend time with both sets of parents as well as my siblings and nephews and nieces and most of all got to restore our souls. I hope each and every one of you is able to find moments of bliss in these turbulent times!

From my window

- By Colin McIntyre

The view out to sea is beautiful. On the horizon the ferry from Ireland is on its way to Liverpool, to the west I see the snow-capped Welsh hills.

Sometimes, I'm not sure how I ever managed to get here. On 2 January 2020, I had noted the dates of the Consistoire meetings, the Swiss Church AGM, and all the Swiss community events we'd be hosting, in my diary. Barely a month later, after a weekend celebrating my sister's

birthday with the family, I decided that it was the right time to return to my Heimat- now, rather than in 2025.

It's said that moving home is one of life's more stressful events. And yet, at the beginning everything ran so smoothly. Then Covid-19. Suddenly I was busier than ever. Fortunately, I spent lockdown here, with my family all nearby,



rather than isolated in my London flat. There were many "boulders in the road" to negotiate. Finally, just before Christmas I picked up the

keys of my new flat. My biggest regret of 2020, is that I was not able to say farewell in person to everyone at The Swiss Church in London. It's something I hope to remedy in 2021. You have filled my life with so much joy over the years. Thank you.



“We constantly have to adapt to new guidelines”

Churches in Switzerland and the Covid-19 pandemic

The pandemic knows no borders and travels from person to person across the globe, and yet each government takes its own specific approach on how to control the virus. Some countries, like Australia and New Zealand and many Asian countries, have chosen a very strict approach from the start, whereas on the other end of the spectrum countries like Sweden or Brazil have left it to their citizens to take precautions as they see fit and on occasions challenging the seriousness of the illness. Those of us who have relatives in Switzerland or who have visited recently, know that life feels quite different in the Alpine nation, less restricted.

I spoke to Reverend Dr. Muriel Koch from Zurich on Zoom about the situation in Switzerland and how the churches handle the situation. The interview took place before the introduction of a nationwide lockdown in Switzerland on 18 January.



Carla: We are in the third national lockdown in the UK and are asked not to leave the house except for very specific reasons. Infection rates and death toll relative to the population are on a similar level Switzerland and the UK, yet you seem to be able to move around much more freely. How do you explain that?

Muriel: The political discourse here in Switzerland is very much focused on in the economy and the professional stakeholders. During parliamentary question time, little emphasis is on the death toll, or on the workload for health professionals. In October the pandemic was at its worst, and comparable with what we hear from Britain now, and yet we mainly spoke about the opening of ski resorts and the sale of alcohol over the counter. The figures for people dying from or with Covid-19, were comparable to a fatal plane crash every single day, and we are rapidly moving in that direction again. Our government keeps saying that they are ‘observing’ developments. Our federal structures (which means that the cantons have a lot of political power) are not particularly helpful for firm and swift nationwide action. The cantonal governments have differing views and their views need to be consulted, which slows down decision making.

Carla: What is your opinion about this?

Muriel: What I find really difficult is hearing people say: “They would have died anyway”, or “It’s mainly old people who die” as if their lives mattered less. As a theologian, I have a very clear position. The value of life is non-negotiable and each life matters, regardless of age or abilities, or underlying health conditions. It is shocking to hear people making such distinctions. It’s a sad reflection of our society’s values and our sense of solidarity. I also think the emphasis is too much on the economic impact. On the positive side, I think that employers have reacted very well and put in place measures to make workplaces as safe as possible. People know that this is an extraordinary situation, and from what I hear most people would welcome tougher measures. But of course, as long as they are not being introduced, we do what we are allowed to do, and enjoy our freedom.

Carla: How does the whole situation impact on churches, and your church congregation?

Muriel: Again, it varies from canton to canton. In Zurich, we are currently allowed to have religious services with 50 people attending. In other cantons, this number can be lower. We also have some exceptions for pastoral care, but other than that we cannot have any events. Whenever the government issues new guidelines, each Cantonal Church will then issue a paper for their parishes. We have to adapt to new guidelines almost every week, with emergency meetings and rearranging our activities. This eats up a lot of our resources. The lockdown back in Spring was, in a way, much better. We had time to adapt to new ways of working and be creative.

Carla: For example?

Muriel: We finally collected the addresses and phone numbers of all regular Sunday service attendees and created a contact list and phone service. That was long overdue. We all had to learn to be extremely flexible, and I learnt a lot about digital church which is a very useful skill to have. The Church of Zurich struck a deal with Tele Züri to broadcast a church service from a different congregation every other Sunday. People just needed to turn on the television to participate. I did one of those services. The whole style of working has changed. Whenever we started something new, we could never be sure how it would turn out, and what we would need to change on the way to make it work. We are not used to this in organised Switzerland!

Carla: What was the feedback from the members of your congregation?

Muriel: I think what was most appreciated was the focus on the glue that holds a church community together: relationships and common worship. Meeting in smaller groups made our gatherings more meaningful.

Carla: And what are you planning next?

Muriel: I am working on an exhibition with a local photographer who took pictures in the early days of our lockdown. I would also like to make a home art exhibition, as many people have become very creative at home last year, learning new skills, and that's something we can share. I have taken to drawing during lockdown, but my greatest passion is sewing. I have even made my own church robe that I wear on Sundays! My favourite place to buy fabric is Goldhawk Road in west London. I can't wait to be back and roam the markets!

Carla: I hope this will be very soon, and please come and say 'hello' at the Swiss Church!



Dr. Muriel Koch is originally from Basel. She has a master's degree in theology from the University of Basel and also studied theology in Berlin and St Peterburg. She wrote her PhD at the University of Zurich with focus on confirmation training. She is the church Minister in Altstetten and Albisrieden (Zurich Kirchkreis 9) for education, spirituality and art. The parish generously collects donations for the Swiss Church in London.

Watch Muriel Koch's televised service from 5 July on this link: telezueri.ch/gottesdienst/gottesdienst-vom-5-juli-2020-138294631



New Trustees

Jenny Breitschmid

Jenny Breitschmid grew up in Wohlen (AG) and first got in touch with the Swiss Church in November 2019 as part of a study trip with the Lucerne Business School. On that same trip, she also fell in love and after finishing her studies in Public and Non-profit Management decided to follow her heart and the big city dream. Jenny currently works as a Junior Manager for an IT company and hopes to kick start her career in the charity sector. Jenny is taking on the role of Volunteer Coordinator to make volunteering at the Swiss Church an ever more rewarding experience.



Katrin Frey

Katrin Frey grew up in Frenkendorf (BL) and studied Theology in Basel, Zurich and Be'er Sheva (IL). She moved to London in 2017 where she resides in Kingston. Katrin has worked for various gaming companies as translator and content creator and has now found a family in the Buying Admin department of Lidl Head Office in Wimbledon. After this lengthy break it is time to get back into Theology: Katrin will be taking over the role as Safeguarding Officer and Marriage Registrar and is looking forward to advising the Consistoire on theological matters.



from the community



Baptism

Lucas Kobler was baptised on 18 October in the presence of the Swiss Church congregation, his family and friends. It was one of the very few occasions in 2020 when we met at the church for worship, and to witness Lucas' baptism was truly special for everyone present.

Lucas says about his baptism: "Being baptised at the Swiss Church was a great experience. Reverend Maurer was very helpful with

counselling me through scripture and advice. I feel so blessed that I was able to be baptised in front of my friends, my family and God in such a beautiful service."

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)



Obituary

Annelise Fernandes (1941-2021)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing away of our dear Church member Annelise Fernandes on Tuesday January 5th 2021 after a long illness. Anneliese was a longstanding member of the Swiss Church Mothers' Group, and member of the Swiss Church in London. Due to her ill health and increasing immobility, regrettably she was not able to attend the services at the Church

anymore. All who knew Anneliese will miss her greatly, her lovely kind and humorous and cheerful personality. May she rest in Peace. The Church and the community send their condolences and God's blessing to her family.

Sunday services are recorded and available to listen on our website swisschurchlondon.org.uk/downloads

We have set up a Whatsapp group where you can chat with other members. To join send a message to Carla on [07968 530 380](https://www.whatsapp.com/business/profile/07968530380)

You can listen to Carla's podcast 'More Tea, Vicar' on reflab.ch or your usual podcast provider



Things to do... ...while indoors

Totché (Jura cream cake)



Ingredients

(For 6-8 people)

- 1 baking dish 30 cm in ø
- parchment paper

Dough:

- 300 g flour
- 1 tsp of salt
- 20 g butter, softened
- 15 ml rapeseed oil
- 200 ml milk
- 13 g crumbled yeast

Filling:

- 200 ml sour cream
- 50 ml cream
- 1 small egg (beaten)
- 1 egg yolk (for egg wash)
- 1/3 tsp of salt

"I recently asked my mother for a traditional swiss recipe and she reminded me of the visits to a particular aunt and uncle who would always make a sweet Torché infused with lavender flowers. When i was a child we would often go to visit my uncles and cousins in Movelier, Jura. usually around the winter holidays as Ticino would be way too steep for sledding! Like many Swiss recipes, there is not a official recipe but after some research and testing I found a recipe that closest resembles the one from my youth and I'm happy to share it" - James Rasa

Dough

Mix **flour** and **salt**, make a well. Add the **butter** and **oil**. In a separate bowl mix **milk** and **yeast** and add to the dry ingredients. Knead into a smooth dough. Cover and leave to double in volume for about 90 minutes at room temperature.

Line the baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out the dough to the size of the baking sheet, let rise for another 20-30 minutes.

Prick the bottom with a fork.

Brush the edge with egg yolk.

Filling

Mix **all ingredients** for the filling, pour in the middle of the dough. Bake 15-20 min in the lower part of an oven preheated to 250° C.

Optional

Add chopped herbs (resemmary and tyme) or grated cheese to the filling.

Replace the salt in the filling with 2-3 tbsp of sugar for a sweet version.

Book review

- By Carla Maurer

For grown-ups:

Arthur Miller,

The Crucible (1953)

Before a new lockdown, my last shopping trip usually leads me to the local charity shop to stock up my library. I love to roam charity shops for books. There are some real

treasures to be found! This short play by American playwright Arthur Miller is based on the historical event of the Salem witch trials in 1692-93 in Massachusetts, and the mass hysteria leading up to it. Nineteen of the two hundred people accused of witchcraft were executed by hanging, the majority of them women. Shedding light



on one of the darkest chapters of human history, this is not an easy read, yet an important one.

For children (in German):

Hans Traxler, Franz: Der Junge, der ein Murmeltier sein wollte (2009)

Franz lives in the remote Swiss valley of Fuxtal and his best friend is marmot Albert. Franz and Albert play together all summer long and eat carrots for a snack, until one day winter arrives and Albert disappears. He goes into hibernation. Franz decides to do as his little friend does. But will he succeed?

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“But now I will heal and mend them. I will make them whole and bless them with an abundance of peace and security.”

(Jeremiah 33:6)

“It has been said, ‘time heals all wounds.’ I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens. But it is never gone.”

(Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1890-1995, American philanthropist and socialite)

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