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CHURCH ASSEMBLY

The Swiss Protestant Churches meet

This year's meetings of the French- and German-speaking Protestant Parishes took place at the Eglise Suisse Endell Street, on 1st June. The day began with a Communal Service conducted by the Ministers in German and French. The sermon was delivered in English.

This time, a pleasingly large number of compatriots met at the Church, amongst whom the younger generation was well represented. Seeing that church attendance on Sunday drops year after year, it is hoped that these communal, multi-lingual services will be held more often, which should have none but a positive effect on the ministerial work which benefits the whole Colony. Long distances, ageing of the Colony and an unfortunate generally noticeable tendency to turn away from the Church, result in Sunday service attendances which appear very modest to the writer. The absent ones are most cordially invited, to manifest their interest in the important work which the Swiss Church is doing in London.

Following Service and Holy Communion, a simple communal meal was provided in the ante-room of the Church, during which there was opportunity of chatting with old friends, and exchanging views between "residents" and "youngsters".

Following the meal, members of the two Church Parish Councils met separately in two language groups for their Annual Meetings at which the annual reports on their respective activities, the composition of the Councils and the Consistoire, as well as other business matters were dealt with. In the centre of deliberations was the question of where the services and meetings of the young people of the German-speaking Community should be held. In fact, it had become obvious in the past few months that the City Church rented for Sunday services would have to be left, as the agreement with regard to the use of the Crypt for youth activities had not been adhered to by the lessor. As, for some time, the view had been expressed by members of the Church Councils that better use should be made of the available accommodation at the Eglise, the Ministers arrived at a solution to this problem, acceptable to both Parishes. You will find the agreed times and places of services and youth activities on another page of this paper.

The two Parishes then met jointly for the Assembly of the Protestant Church. It was preceded by organ music and singing by a mixed group of young German- and French-speaking members of the Church.

The Chairman of the Consistoire introduced the business items. The two groups reported briefly on their

separate meetings, annual report and accounts were accepted, and other statutory business dealt with. The Chairman stated with satisfaction that a solution regarding the use of the Church had been found, and he hoped that closer co-operation would contribute to the solution of the ever more arising question of a possible accommodation merger of all Swiss Churches in London.

Before the Assembly, the Chairman thanked all those who are in office, for their work, and all those present for showing their interest in the Church by attending. A final hymn was sung, and members adjourned for tea.

C.A.

SWISS CHURCHES IN LONDON

New Times and Places

The Swiss Church in London has its own Church at Endell Street, used by both Protestant Communities for their youth activities, their ladies' meetings and other meetings. Unfortunately, Sundays are not as easy, and so far, the German-speaking Community has been using some other church, usually a City Church. For a number of years, it was St. Mary Woolnoth. Unfortunately, accommodation for social gatherings after evening services became increasingly inadequate, and a new church had to be found. The Church of St. Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside with its Refectory Crypt seemed to answer the need, and services started last autumn. Unfortunately, the lessors made difficulties with regard to the use of the Crypt, and the German-speaking Parish Council had to find a new church, if attendance at evening services was not to fall even more due to lack of amenities for social gatherings afterwards.

To cut a long story short, the Church Assembly on 1st June accepted the solution which the four Ministers had worked out at the request of the Consistoire. Agreement was also reached with the Swiss Catholic Mission, and the new times and places are as follows as from Sunday, 29th June.

Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Service in German: **10 a.m.**

Service in French: **11.15 a.m.**

St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

Service for Roman Catholic Community: **6.30 p.m.**

Service for Protestant Community: **7.30 p.m.**

(followed by social gathering (both Communities) at Westminster Ballroom nearby).

All other times and places remain the same (see under Church Column).

It is hoped that this new "All-Swiss Solution" will appeal to many more Swiss.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps; voir "Le Messenger".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2^e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

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SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Gemeindebote".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION

CHURCH and SERVICE: St. Ann's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. in English. At 6.30 p.m. for the Swiss community with regard to the different language groups.

HOLIDAYS of obligation: Holy Mass at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS: Holy Mass at 1 p.m. afterwards time for consultations.

CONFESSIONS: (German, French, Italian and English:

Sundays: one hour before Evening Mass.

Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel: 01-222 2895.