

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1971)

Heft: 1617

Rubrik: Swiss Catholics in London

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 01.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Embassy and Consular Office, to various cantonal associations not forgetting the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, the City Swiss Club, "The Swiss Observer", the Swiss Benevolent Society, the Swiss Hostel and others, most of which have shown in one form or another their desire to help and their interest for the Swiss Church.

Although the Church, in certain parts of the world, finds itself more or less in a ghetto, this cannot be said of our Swiss Church in London and we are deeply grateful for such facilities as our members have to bring their Christian witness in these other spheres of life and interest. In this connection we would also like to express our gratitude to the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur R. Keller, and Madame Keller, who during their all too short stay in London have shown a warm and active interest in our Church and constantly encouraged their colleagues at the Embassy to give whatever help and support they could to the Swiss Church and its various groups, particularly the Frauenverein and the Réunion de Couture.

The Embassy also deserves our deep gratitude for their magnificent contribution to the Bazaar held on October 31st. This was again a cheerful occasion for encounters, renewal of friendships and contacts for our pastors with many church members from distant suburbs, whom they have few opportunities to meet.

Another unique opportunity offered to our Church is the possibility of co-operating in youth work with the Catholic Mission. The fact that the German-speaking Church community had to give up the use of St. Mary le Bow for lack of available facilities greatly contributed to the development of closer contacts. Today Protestants and Catholics mix freely in all youth activities, to their great spiritual and educational advantage. From youth work this co-operation has extended to other aspects of life in the church.

Ecumenical — bilingual — services have been organised twice; "Die Stimme", the German parish paper, is now inter-denominational. Since it was learned in the course of the year that St. Ann's Church, where the Swiss Catholic Mission and the Swiss German Protestant congregation held their Saturday ecumenical and their Sunday evening services, was to be demolished in 1971, joint discussions have been held between representatives of both denominations to examine the possibility of creating in London an inter-denominational bilingual church centre for the Swiss Colony and young people from Switzerland.

Though considerable time and attention has been given to this matter by our pastors, and by an *ad hoc* group in our own Church, in consultation with various personalities in the

Colony and in Switzerland, no definite project could so far be outlined and further search and study are needed. This problem which loomed large in our preoccupation in 1970 will no doubt demand much attention, thinking and prayers in 1971.

This is more than a matter of sound administration and finance — though both are needed! Here in fact we face the deeper problem of the ministry of the Swiss Churches in London in the years to come. What is the Lord of the Church expecting from our Church today, and from our generation to prepare for tomorrow's generations? This is the heart- and conscience-searching question which we are all called upon to ask and to think about in all earnestness and obedience.

The finances of the Church have as usual received the close attention of the Consistoire and of the Finance Committee. That our income in Great Britain should remain as high as it is is a matter for deep gratitude, and we are aware of much sacrificial giving on the part of many old friends whose relative income has been steadily decreasing owing to inflation. We do hope that those of our supporters who are still in active life and are therefore less badly hurt by the general economic deterioration, will see their way to making up for what others cannot do.

Again we would draw their attention to the opportunity for them (and the need for our Church!) to increase their covenant when it comes to renewal or to underwrite an additional covenant. As the accounts show, the financial situation has not changed significantly. The encouraging result of the Bazaar has helped to make up for some of last year's excess of expenditure over income, but we had to allocate some of the interests on the Bicentenary Fund to cover the cost of long delayed improvement in the heating system of the Manse at number 1 Womersley Road.

Special contributions from a number of cantonal churches and congregations in Switzerland have made it possible to complete the reconditioning of the reception hall at 72 Endell Street. For this help as well as for the steady, effective and prayerful support of so many friends in Switzerland and Great Britain we are particularly grateful.

For the Consistoire:

THE PRESIDENT.

SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting to cover 1970 was held on Sunday, 9th May, 1971, at the Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

After opening prayers, the Chairman, Mr. Oscar Grob, KSG, extended a warm welcome to all present.

The Chairman stated in his report that the year 1970 can be recorded again as one of steady progress in the

activity of the Swiss Catholic Community, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents in the Colony took an active part.

Mr. J. R. Gaechter, Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Swiss Embassy, was recalled in October, 1970, to Switzerland. We are very grateful to him for his assistance given to us as a member of our Committee during his stay in London.

His Excellency, the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur R. J. Keller, has been appointed Head of the Division of International Organisations in Berne as from 1st February, 1971. During his term of office as our Ambassador, although regrettably only a short one, Monsieur and Madame Keller have shown keen interest in all our activities. We express to them our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their valuable support and wish them every possible success in their new sphere of activity.

We thank the Editor of "The Swiss Observer", Mr. Pierre-Michel Beguin and the publishers for accepting our appeals and reports on our social activities during the year.

The Chaplain, the Rev. Father Paul Bossard said the following in his report:

The chief aim of all my activities is to form the young people from Switzerland, scattered all over London and the United Kingdom, into some sort of a christian community, which is, of course, the church. But our youth with its great suspicion against any established institution is in need of a different approach. This has to be born in mind if the different activities are to appear in the correct perspective.

The ecumenical co-operation among the different churches is a "must" if the message is to have any relevance for our young people, and it can be said that the year 1970 has seen a steady progress and a consolidation of what has been achieved in the previous years. Though difficulties have increased, especially through the im-

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

—that's what counts

FOR ALL TRAVELS

—by Land, Sea and Air

let **A. GANDON** make
your reservations

TICKETS issued at STATION PRICES
NO BOOKING FEE

HOWSHIP

TRAVEL AGENCY

188, UXBRIDGE ROAD
Shepherds Bush W.12

Telephones: 01 - 743 6268/9 and 1898

pending demolition of St. Ann's Church and the resulting uncertainty regarding a residence, a church and youth centre, these have been approached in a very open-minded spirit of mutual help and understanding.

Plans for an *ecumenical church and youth centre* in London are seriously being studied with the approval and the promise of financial help from the respective Church Authorities in Switzerland. Though the first five projects have proved out of reach, work is still going at full speed, since time will be hardly on our side.

Information of the young people who come constantly from Switzerland to England is regarded as one of the most important tasks and the disruption of the postal service for nearly two months has been a very serious setback. Still our parish magazine "*Die Stimme*" for the Catholics and the Protestants has gained great interest and sympathy in England and Switzerland. There is a new issue every two months and its rich programme for the youth club (nearly 200 evenings during the year) would simply be impossible without good teamwork. The programme includes excursions for one day in the neighbourhood of London, for two days up to Wales, even for a week in Ireland, discussions and adult education, sports and free-time occupation (photography) and then the very popular dance evenings with an average attendance every two weeks of 250 to 300 people. St. Nicolaus Day with its folklore had this year an attendance of 450 and the well known "Maskenball" of 350. With varying degrees of success people are told time and again that the divine services on Saturdays (ecumenical) and on Sundays are regarded as very important.

For the mothers. The monthly gatherings on the third Wednesday of the month at the Eglise Suisse have become more and more attractive also for the Catholics. It gives them the opportunity to come with the smaller children who are cared for by some nurses, and listen to an expert about

problems which are near to their heart, receive advice, discuss difficulties among themselves and see that they are not alone with them.

A lot of time is always absorbed by *welfare work* and it is very gratifying to know that the Welfare Office is always at hand and also the Swiss Hostel for girls with a ready and competent co-operation. It is only fair to thank here Mrs. B. Kind and her successor Miss Senn for their steady and very reliable help received throughout the year.

A survey has been made with the help of about 400 questionnaires in order to find out the reasons why so many girls are unhappy about the *Au-Pair* situation, change from family to family and always talk about being exploited. 150 answers were given and provided an interesting insight into the minds of young people but also into the workings of good and less good *Au-Pair* Agencies. The heart of the matter lies certainly in a very insufficient preparation and information of young people in Switzerland. Many articles have been published in the Swiss Press about this subject and have been well received. There would be a vast field of important work to be done, if only one had more time, and sometimes more strength to do it.

Finally, I wish to thank all who have through their work or benevolence supported and assisted our cause.

The Hierarchy of the Church, His Eminence Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, His Lordship Bishop Patrick J. Casey of Brentwood, the Swiss Bishops with their Dean, Bishop Nestor Adam who have constantly given their support and sympathy to our pastoral work.

His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur René Keller and Madame Keller and the members of the Swiss Embassy, who have always given us their most appreciated assistance.

Our friends and benefactors in the U.K. and Switzerland, especially the

Committee of the Swiss Lenten Action, who have given us their financial and spiritual support.

A word of special thanks I owe to the faithful Committee with its untiring Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, KSG, and the friends of the Swiss Catholic Youth Club, Messrs. Käufeler, Bortholdi, Bazzani, Bruno Frei and Miss L. Huber who are always at hand with their generosity and great interest in the well-being and healthy development of the Club.

The Chairman and the Chaplain were thanked for their reports.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. K. A. Grob, in her Finance Report said:

As in previous years it was decided to hold a Christmas Draw. Thanks to the generosity of all our friends, in particular the members of our Swiss Catholic Youth Club, it produced a net income of £333.30. With this amount, the contributions from 64 donors, the Church collections, income tax recovered under Covenants and the most welcome donation from the City Swiss Club of £50—we had a total income of £882.12 against our expenditures of £749.90, resulting in a surplus of £132.22 for the year.

The accounts were unanimously passed by the Meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked the Chaplain, the Officers and Members of the Committee for their loyal support during the past year. He especially mentioned the good work rendered by our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. K. A. Grob, who acted, as in the previous year, as the promoter of our very successful Christmas Draw.

The meeting noted with regret the resignation of Mr. E. Frey from our Committee. The Chairman thanked him for the services rendered to us over so many years. Mr. Frey was our Hon. Treasurer and Promoter of our Christmas Draw for six years (1960 to 1966).

THESE VEHICLES



TRAVEL TWICE MONTHLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals.
- Exhibition Goods.
- Works of Art.
- Machinery.

For full information contact

In Switzerland

Kehrl + Oeler,
3001 Berne,
Nachf. A. Oeler,
Bubenbergrplatz 9.
Tel. 031 22 00 22.

In England

Neale & Wilkinson Ltd.,
1 and 2 Rangoon Street,
London, E.C.3.

Tel. 01-480 6351. Ext. 54 or 58.

As all the other retiring members of the Committee had offered themselves for re-election the meeting elected them unanimously for the ensuing year. Furthermore Dr. A. Greber of the Swiss Embassy, in replacement of Dr. J. R. Gaechter, was unanimously elected as an additional member of our Committee and Mr. Sidney B. Stray, ACIS, was elected as our Hon. Auditor.

The Chairman reported that in order to be exempt from paying income tax on the income from our investments, the Committee has taken steps to be registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1896 to 1960 and Charities Act 1960.

It was decided to hold again a Christmas Draw in 1971 instead of a Bazaar.

Finally the Chaplain thanked Mr. Grob for conducting the meeting.

The final composition of the Committee for 1971/72 is as follows:

Chaplain, Rev. Paul Bossard; Chairman, O. Grob, KSG; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. K. A. Grob; Vice-Chairman, E. Bonvin; Hon. Secretary, E. P. Siegfried. Members: Miss C. Affentrager, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. E. Bonvin, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. I. R. Daetwiler, Mrs. E. Käufeler, Mrs. F. McKenna and Miss E. Rüttiman. Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, G. Bartholdi, G. Bazzani, I. R. Daetwiler, F. de Maria, E. Eha, B. Frei, Dr. A. Grober, P. R. Gut, P. Jacomelli, E. Käufeler and Mr. Schneebeli.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. Sidney B. Stray, ACIS.

(The Hon. Secretary)

YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB

On Saturday, 1st May, 1971, our Annual Dinner and Social was held at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds, and it proved to be a big success. The reception was at 6.30 p.m., members and their friends gradually gathering together for the customary greetings and some welcome chat. Soon we had to move to the dining-hall where we were immediately entranced by its festive appearance. The well-laid tables were very tastefully decorated with British and Swiss bannerettes, the menu cards with the Kantons-Wappen attracted much attention and so did the interesting decorations on the walls. In the corner we could admire a well-stocked raffle table, the proceeds of which, later in the evening, proved to be a great help towards our expenses.

Our good compatriot Mr. Paul Lerch in the Berner-Landstracht and armed by an imposing cowbell, the real thing, proved to be an excellent toastmaster and he acquitted himself in the course of the evening with great credit and to the enjoyment of everybody.

Our President finally stood up to welcome everybody present, our guests in particular, singling some people out such as our Consul in Manchester, Mr.

Born, who had come a long way, alone, Madame Born being absent in Switzerland. His presence amongst us was very much appreciated by everybody. He then greeted Mr. Arthur Percival, a long standing friend of his and once the leader of the Halle Orchestra in Manchester, but now retired and living in Harrogate, with his wife. Mr. Percival is not only a great artist and connoisseur of music but also a most interesting and witty entertainer, as we found out later on.

We were also particularly happy and pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hanna with us, a very stout and loyal friend of Switzerland and for all which stands for it. On this occasion he helped us along with a most sophisticated and complex music equipment.

It was a unique occasion when our President announced that the Yorkshire Swiss Club had decided to make Mr. Hanna an honorary member and this was most warmly applauded by everybody present. Concluding, he thanked the Committee "en bloc" for the much hard work put into the organisation of this function and it was indeed an example of good team work.

After, our Vice-President said grace and everybody sat down to a very hearty, well chosen and appetising meal. The selected wines of the Hotel were also properly appreciated. Whilst sweets and coffee were served our Vice-President stood up expressing our pleasure to have again our President's wife, Lucille Inebnit, with us. He regretted that Mr. David Fletcher and his wife were unable to be with us on this particular evening, both being great friends of the Club and prime mover of the Swiss Week which precedes our yearly Landsgemeinde, and giving us help in many other ways. He continued by saying how happy we were to have also this year Mrs. Mary Briggs and her husband. Mrs. Briggs was secretary to our past-president Mr. Richard Mueller at Sandoz, Horsforth, and as such has done an important work of communication and information for many years. She leaves the firm for a very happy event and our best wishes follow her, coupled with the hope to see her again soon.

He then asked the members and their friends to join him in the toast to her Majesty the Queen, followed by a toast to Switzerland, the last one accompanied by our wish that our homeland may prosper and overcome all present and future difficulties and that it may preserve its image and vitality in all the spheres of human thought and activity.

Our Consul, Mr. Born, expressed his pleasure at being able to take part in the evening's activities and how impressed he was by the way members had responded to this effort. He continued by explaining to us some of the aspects in the day to day life in Switzerland and how it was that quite often

also the "Ausland-Schweizer" may be touched or involved by it. At the end of his address he was warmly applauded and everybody agreed that this part of the evening and its speeches were a fine example of the intrinsic quality and moderation.

As the evening went on several surprises were in store for us. It was delightful to listen to Mr. Percival who let us partake of his bounty of reminiscences and he did this with great gusto and exceedingly good humour. It was a whirlpool of happenings touching such famous names as Sir John Barbirolli, Sir John Beecham, Ernest Ansermet and many more personalities about whom he knew so many intimate facets, a great enjoyment for all of us and final and prolonged applause was the only way we could show to him our appreciation.

It was then the turn of Mr. Robert Muir, a Scotsman of course, to entertain us with his singing, accompanied by piano. Particularly unusual was Mr. Muir's falsetto voice, giving him a range from his normal base singing voice to that of a female soprano. "Two singers for the price of one", what more could we ask? His performance had its own very special interest and charm and our audience was certainly impressed.

Sing songs, dancing and party games were also very much appreciated and the very few interludes were filled by a discreet and sometimes romantic "Heimat-Music" produced by the impressive installation of our good friend Mr. Hanna. At interval times raffle tickets were sold. They were in great demand and this might give the Committee something to think about for the next time.

Alas, the hours rushed on, much too fast for all of us and we all felt sorry that such a lovely and lively evening neared its unavoidable end, but this was done in the gentlest possible way, and it was "Au Revoir" all round, coupled with the hope that we will all meet again.

(E. Berner)

SWISS SPECIALITIES

SAUSAGES

CHEESE

CHOCOLATES

HERO CONSERVES

BISCUITS

ROCO CONSERVES

go to

BARTHOLDI'S

Charlotte Street, London W14

Telephone: MUS (636) 3762/3

ALSO FIRST CLASS MEAT