



# THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW

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## From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you once again for your continuing interest and support. Keep looking at our website for updated and new items:

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

Please register if you want to receive the *Waldensian Review* online, otherwise you are welcome to receive it by post and add friends as well; just remember to notify us of any changes in names or addresses.



I am pleased to announce that the new Moderator of the *Tavola* [Board] of the Waldensian Church is an old friend, **Alessandra Trotta** (pictured), who has held many significant posts always with enthusiasm, competence and humility. Originally from Sicily, she is a trained lawyer who chose to serve as a deacon and has been Director of Centro Diaconale La Noce in Palermo, (2002–2010) and from 2009 to 2016 was President of OPCEMI (the body that represents the Methodist heritage

within the Waldensian Methodist Church). Last year she became a member of Tavola and this year she was judged to be the most qualified for the task. More in the Summer *Review*.

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## SYNOD 2019



It was a great pleasure to return to Italy for the annual, national Synod of the Italian Methodist and Waldensian churches which took place on 25–30 August at Torre Pellice, in the ‘Waldensian Valleys’ above Turin. I attended as both a representative of the Methodist Conference and of the Waldensian Church Mission.

I was returning to the country where I had served as a Mission Partner 1993–2004 and was delighted to meet up with many old friends whom I had known in the two appointments I had served in Rome and Padua/Vicenza.

I was one of around 20 foreign guests representing sister churches from all over the world. We were welcomed by the Moderator **Eugenio Bernardini** and then were introduced one by one to the whole of Synod in the session which followed. In the opening service held by lay preacher **Erica Sfreda**, three young Pastors, two Waldensian and one Methodist, were ordained at the ‘Tempio’ in Torre: **Marco Casci**, who was in Cambridge at Westminster

### WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2020



*January and August in the Valleys.*

Once again very beautiful views of the Waldensian Valleys. PLEASE order online: **[www.waldensian.org](http://www.waldensian.org)** or send a cheque for £12.95 (payable to Waldensian Church Mission) to:

Milvia Walker, 19 Forest Approach, Woodford Green IG8 9BW.

Sorry, increase in postage and low pound, BUT you can get two for £24!

College for his 'year abroad', **Sophie Lageneck**, daughter of two pastors, and **Nicola Tedoldi**, local Methodist preacher.

Synod spent five days debating and coming to important decisions on a whole range of issues such as various diaconal projects in which the church is engaged, ecumenical dialogue, theological education and the training of ministers, relationships with the Italian State and the upkeep of our buildings throughout Italy.

The one subject which seemed to dominate the debate, though, was the need for the extension to the rest of Europe of the Project of the Italian Protestant Churches '**Humanitarian Corridors**' which provides safe flights and practical support for refugees and migrants arriving in Italy.

The seven-year mandate for the Moderator of the *Tavola valdese*, Eugenio Bernardini, had come to an end and for the first time the delegates elected a Methodist, **Alessandra Trotta**. Alessandra is a lay woman who comes with vast experience of church life and a range of gifts and graces that will equip her well for the challenges that lie ahead. May we continue to keep her and our Italian friends in our prayers.



*The ordinands: from left  
Marco Casci, Sophie  
Lageneck, Nicola Tedoldi  
with the preacher,  
Erica Sfredda.*

*Richard Grocott  
(full version in Summer)*



## **VENICE: The Waldensian church needs your help!**

The terrible floods that affected the whole of Venice several times in November have damaged the church building, furniture, books ... You can send money to our Mission (specifying Venice) or look on the website for details.

## GIOVANNI BERNARDINI

He'll be staying at Westminster College in Cambridge as our Waldensian ordinand in training and the Mission needs all your support in gifts and prayers, especially for the increasingly difficult exams in English he is preparing for! More about him in the Summer issue. The photo shows him as helpful as ever carrying our calendars.



*Finally, may I wish you all a joyful Christmas.*

*Erica Scroppo Newbury, Editor*

*The Huguenot Cross, symbol of Protestantism all over Europe*

**Souvenirs and information can be obtained from:**

The Huguenot Society, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT



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