



THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW

From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,
I hope that COVID 19 has not affected your family, community or friends and that the lockdown has not been too heavy to bear.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support and prayers, now needed more than ever! In 2021 we are going to help Giovanni Bernardini in his period in the UK and another student from Italy who will study at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, hence costs are growing!

Keep on looking at our website **www.waldensian.org.uk** and remember that we are also on **Facebook**: *The Waldensian Church Missions*!

YOU ARE INVITED to TAKE PART in our VIRTUAL AWAYDAY 2021

Saturday 23 January at 10.30 a.m.

Various speakers on different topics: **Alessandra Trotta** will talk about her first year as Moderator of the Waldensian Church; **Leslie Griffith** will speak on his new role in the Council of Europe; **Tim Macquiban** will talk about meeting the Pope and discovering Beckwith's uncle; **Peter Ciaccio** will tell us how he ended in glory his nine years in Palermo. **Claudio Pasquet**, twice guest of the Mission for the 'Pastor's tour' will share his memories and **Sara Rivoira** will explain her new projects for the Waldensian Archive in Torre Pellice. **Ian Nimmo-Smith** will chair. Here is the link:

Go to this link to sign up for the free event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/waldensian-virtual-away-day-tickets-129564943233>

Or visit our website: **www.waldensian.org.uk**

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I am delighted to share the experiences of two young families, one in the Waldensian Valleys and one by the sea in Liguria.

Summer holidays in Rorà

In August 2020 i, my wife and two young children (10 and 6) spent a few days in the village of Rorà in the Waldensian Valleys. I was born in Pinerolo, just outside the Waldensian Valleys, and I was a member of the Waldensian community there until I moved to England in 2002. I eventually settled in Cambridge in 2009, where I have been living and working ever since.

Rorà is positioned at the end of a picturesque side valley of the Val Pellice. Because of its remote location, it became famous as a Waldensian stronghold during the 'Pasque Piemontesi' of 1655. A local farmer, Giosuè Gianavello, led the defence of Rorà against the invading forces of the Duke of Savoy, and succeeded in repelling the Savoyard assault. Gianavello's house exists to this day, and we saw it during one of our excursions.

Today Rorà is still a picturesque village, although it is now much easier to reach than it would have been in Giosuè Gianavello's time. We stayed in a beautifully restored farmhouse in Località Vernarea, just below the village. We were hosted by the Stone Oven House artists' community, which is based in Vernarea as well as in a neighbouring farmhouse in Località Seitoura. Many artistic creations contributed by artists from all over the world can be viewed

WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2021



Rorà, and above Praly.

With Bible verses also in English! Available online at:

www.waldensian.org.uk

or send a cheque for £15 (payable to Waldensian Church Mission) to:
Erica S. Newbury, 85 St Andrew's Road, Cambridge CB4 1DH.

in both houses. Clear streams with idyllic waterfalls and natural pools can be found in the deciduous woods which surround them.

During the Second World War, from 1943 to 1945, the house where we stayed was the refuge for the Jewish Terracini family who escaped from Turin when the German army invaded Italy in autumn 1943. Roberto Terracini was a sculptor. He had to change his identity from Ter-



racini to Ferraguti to save himself and his family from capture by the Germans. Even during that tragic period, Roberto Terracini kept secretly painting members of the Resistance movement and moments of rural life. Many of his drawings are still displayed today on the walls of the house where he found refuge.

Within walking distance of the centre of Rorà rises the Rocca Rossa. We climbed it one August afternoon, and enjoyed the eagle's eye view of the village



of Rorà, with its towering Waldensian Temple and its little Catholic Church. On another occasion, we went a bit further and climbed the Monte Frio-land (2738 m), which is accessible from Rorà. During our stay in Val Pellice we also climbed another peak, the Monte Manzol (2933 m), where we were excited to cross paths with a group of wild Alpine ibex. It was certainly a welcome change after living in flat Cambridge for the past 10 years!

(The Stone Oven House can be booked on Airbnb)

Enrico Gili

Casa Balneare Valdese in Pietra Ligure

We spent a blissful week with two small children (4 and 1) in a beautiful room facing the sea, relaxing as much as one can as parents. You can have full or half board, the food is delicious, and the children liked it, the staff are friendly, the beach is sandy and safe and the water is clear. We could pop up for naps, or put the children to sleep nice and early and walk downstairs





and be literally outside the bedroom window. Grandparents take the grandkids who find little friends to play with. There are all sorts of facilities for wheelchairs and easy access for all kinds of disabilities. If you want a chance to switch off, not thinking of anything other than sun cream, sand castles and playing in the water I would highly recommend Casa Valdese.
(www.casavaldese.it)

Viola Newbury

Finally, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

ESN, 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



WALDENSIAN CHURCH MISSIONS

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