



THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW

From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,
I hope you haven't been too severely affected by Covid-19 and restrictions and that life (and Church life!) is nearly back to normal.

Thank you for your continuing support in donations and prayers. Please do regularly look at our website www.waldensian.org.uk and check on our **Facebook** site as well: *The Waldensian Church Mission*. There is always something new!

Our **Awayday** in Barnet on 16 October, held in the beautiful Christ Church, had three great speakers, but didn't have a large audience, therefore please watch it on our website!

Kassim Conteh, our student at Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, whom we met in the flesh at last, spoke about his experience after his BA in Theology. Before coming to the UK, he was seconded to the Waldensian Valleys, where he was happy to find Sunday schools full of children, Catechism classes with plenty of teenagers and ministers' meetings with 15 or more colleagues from nearby places.

He is now enjoying the College, the tutoring, the fellowship and altogether his life in Birmingham. He



Our Chairman, Ian Nimmo-Smith with Kassim at Christ Church in Barnet.

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made us laugh describing how he was adapting to the very variable English weather and to different food and habits. His tutors are happy with his progress. Kassim is in this country until the Summer. **DO LET US KNOW if you would like to invite him into your church to give a talk!**

IN ORDER TO CARRY ON HELPING HIM WITH HIS STUDIES WE NEED ALL THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT POSSIBLE! PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

Richard Grocott, who served as a minister in various churches in Italy, has been regularly asked to return to represent the British Methodist Church and the Waldensian Church Mission at Synod. This year he attended virtually on 22–25 August and said it was strange to follow the debates from his study without being there!

He brought our greetings and updated Synod on a number of recent developments in British Methodism. He explained the report 'God in love unites us' and how the Conference was pledging itself to confront issues of climate change and racism about which the Italian church also feels strongly.

Multi-cultural ministry in Italy was discussed under the heading '*essere chiese insieme*' [to be a church together]. This programme to encourage Italian

WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2022



April and June.

Black and white stunning vintage pictures of the Waldensian Valleys from the Waldensian Archive. Bible verses also in English. Please order online at

www.waldensian.org.uk

or send a cheque for **£18** (payable to **Waldensian Church Mission**) to: **Erica S. Newbury, 85 St Andrew's Road, Cambridge CB4 1DH.** Higher price due to increased postage. **BUY two for £30:** one for you, one for a friend!

churches to welcome and integrate immigrants, especially from West Africa, has run for some 20 years; many church members of African heritage are now 2nd or 3rd generation. Churches are working hard to offer help and support to the thousands of economic migrants and refugees who arrive in Italy every year. The project 'Mediterranean Hope' is at the centre of this work, but there are plenty of local initiatives.

Despite the dark cloud cast by the pandemic, our Italian friends remain resolute to maintain their distinctive ministry alive and to offer hope to our world in difficult times.

This year two ministers, one Presbyteral and one Diaconal, were ordained during the opening service of Synod: **Gabriele Bertin** and **Monica Natali**. They are now working, Gabriele as a pastor in Apulia and Monica in Palermo, in charge of La Noce church, while her husband Bruno Gabrielli, is the pastor of via Spezio church.

Tim Macquiban spoke online about the family of the great benefactor of the Waldensians, Charles Beckwith: read the next issue!



Gabriele Bertin and Monica Natali with the preacher at the Synod opening, Winfrid Pfannkuche, pastor of via XX Settembre church in Rome.

Giovanni Bernardini has spent two months in Edinburgh and writes:

I had the great opportunity to assist Rev. Steven Manders in his work at Morningside Church. In particular I learned about pastoral visits in different contexts (at home, in the nursing home, etc.), and the importance of 'active listening' and non-verbal language.

I also met ministers of various congregations. Together we addressed the issues of 'digital churches' and the importance of 'being a congregation' in the difficult time of pandemic and how pastoral care had to adapt through new communication tools.

I am grateful to all the people who made this project possible and particularly to Morningside and the Rev. Manders who gave me time, listening and patience.

FINALLY, MAY I WISH YOU ALL A JOYFUL, PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
Erica Scropo Newbury, Editor



One more picture that I didn't manage to insert in the Summer issue: Confirmation day in 'my' church in Torre Pellice: Pastor Michel Charbonnier and Deacon Karola Stobaus with their Confirmation class.

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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