

THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW

From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,

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Past. Manna and Giovanni Bernardini arriving at Tempio valdese for the opening of Synod.

Synod 2023 in Torre Pellice (August 21–26) was at last back to its usual size and traditions, but unbelievably hot! Nevertheless preacher, ordinand, delegates, guests, public, everyone managed their best. During the opening, though, there were three episodes of people fainting in the packed church! Usually there might be one ...

Pastor **Sergio Manna** held a powerful sermon based on Luke 7:36–50 and ordained, along with the whole congregation, 'our' **Giovanni Bernardini** and two ministers,

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Winter 2023

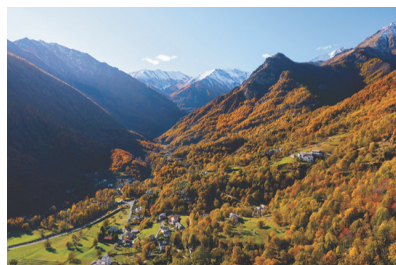
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Lutheran **Adriana Florea** and Methodist **Sarah Mae Gabuyo** were welcomed into their new roles in Agape and Ponte Sant'Angelo Church in Rome. Our **Richard Grocott** represented the British Methodist Church and I represented the Committee of the Waldensian Church Mission, condensing into a few minutes my **35 years as Executive Secretary(!)**



On the left, front row: G. Bernardini, S. Manna, A. Florea and S. Mae. On the right: the guests, including the representative of the WCM.

WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2024



September and October in the Valleys.

Stunning colour photos; Bible verses also in English. SINCE 2024 IS THE 850th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALDENSIAN MOVEMENT, each reverse page explains the history of the place in the photo.

Price and postage are up again, but we'll keep it as last year! Still, remember that the little profit goes to the WCM. Please order online at

www.waldensian.org.uk

or send a cheque for **£18** (payable to **Waldensian Church Mission**) to:
Mike Thomason, 65 the Avenue, Camberley GU15 3NF.

Giovanni **Bernardini** has been received as a minister into the Waldensian Church of **Riesi**, while his wife **Noemi** is expecting their first child!

*In this photo he is in Torre Pellice with **Kassim Conteh** who has received his degree from **Queen's Foundation**, Birmingham.*



*Tim Macquiban with **Kassim** the graduate.*

WALDENSIAN AWAYDAY

Wesley Church

Christ's Pieces, Cambridge CB1 1LG
20 January 2024, 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SYNODALITY in CHURCH and SOCIETY

- The Revd Stephen **COOPER** and friends from Wesley Chapel, London
- The Rev Dr Leslie **GRIFFITHS**, Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, past President of the Methodist Conference, now member of the Council of Europe
- The Revd Dr Tim **MACQUIBAN**, former Director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome
- The Revd Canon Dr Jeremy **MORRIS**, Ecumenical Adviser for the Church of England
- Father Jan **NOVOTNIK**, Ecumenical Officer at the Catholic Bishop Conference of England and Wales
- The Revd Dr Robert **POPE**, Convenor of the URC's Worship, Faith and Order Committee

AND

- Deacon Dr **ALESSANDRA TROTTA**, **MODERATOR** of the Tavola valdese of the **WALDENSIAN-METHODIST CHURCH IN ITALY**, will discuss **WHAT SYNODALITY MEANS FOR OUR ECCLESIAL TRADITIONS**
- Dr Erica **Scroppo Newbury**, Executive Secretary of the Waldensian Church Mission, will talk on the **2024 Celebrations of 850 years of the Waldensian Movement.**

About Kassim: I was in the Waldensian Library and showed Pastor Italo Pons a photo of Kassim preparing to preach in Angrogna and one of the

librarians jumped to see it, asking: 'Is he the wonderful minister everyone is talking about in Val d'Angrogna?'

On 31 August the **President** of the Italian Republic **Sergio Mattarella** came on an official visit to Torre Pellice in order to unveil a plaque in honour of Altiero Spinelli (1907–1986) who in 1943, just out of prison, had spoken in the yard of the Muston chemist shop of European Federalism as the only means to prevent another World War. The date is considered as the beginning of the Resistance.

Hoping to see *as many of you as possible at Wesley Church, Cambridge in January, I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas!*

Erica Scropo Newbury, Editor

The Huguenot Cross, symbol of Protestantism all over Europe

Souvenirs and information can be obtained from:

The Huguenot Society, PO Box 444, Ruislip HA4 4GU
admin@huguenotsociety.org.uk



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