

ISN'T IT A SMALL WORLD?

In September the colour supplement of the widely read daily paper *Repubblica* had an article with good pictures and information on the Waldensians. The only odd thing was the headline which translates as something like 'Strange people these Waldensians ...' But, as we all know, titles need to be catchy. What I wasn't expecting was the coincidence that the previous article was about another 'strange' person and experience: Tobias Jones and his family, talking about his Christian 'commune' and retreat in the Somerset woods ...

If you want to know more, Toby now has a weekly column in the *Observer*. And by the way, with his wife Francesca and his two 'big' girls, Benny and Emma, he is happy to let everyone know that now there is also a not-so-little boy: Leonardo!

The Huguenot Cross, symbol of Protestantism all over Europe

Huguenot Cross souvenirs and information can be obtained from:

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



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THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW



From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As previously announced, here is the slim money-saving Winter newsletter that from now onwards you'll receive this time of the year. The Spring issue will still be in the usual format. Do let us know your thoughts and comments on this new initiative.

Our annual Away Day took place in the French Protestant Church in Soho Square once again on 9 October. The two excellent speakers provided knowledge, information and entertainment in very different ways. Professor Janet Soskice spoke about the twin sisters, Agnes Lewis and Margaret Gibson, who inspired her to write her very successful book, *Sisters of Sion*. Padre Thomason, a URC Army Chaplain, talked to us about his experience and even more about the soldiers' experience and this mission he felt called to. You'll read about these two fascinating talks in the Spring issue.

The only disappointing thing was the low number of people attending. Nothing is ever wasted but the amazing speakers who year after year accept to come and talk to our gathering for free really ought to attract a wider audience. HOW???

PLEASE DO LET ME KNOW WHY YOU WERE NOT THERE!!!

We moved the gathering to October since May was too busy with holidays or meetings but, after an initial good response, the results do not seem that good now — SUGGESTIONS PLEASE!!!

No. 117 **Christmas 2010**

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On a brighter note, we are delighted to have our Italian Methodist student, Luca Ghiretti, studying at Wesley House, Cambridge, for the year which all Waldensian–Methodist ordinands must spend abroad, in a country with a different religious reality from the monolithic stifling stillness of Italian Roman Catholicism. He is happy, has settled well and will let us know in due course about his experience.



Luca with girlfriend Christine by the river at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, summer 2010.

MEANWHILE, I take the opportunity to remind you that everything is much more expensive than in the past: there are no grants available from either Churches, University, charities while our own resources are drying up. If you think, as I believe you do, that it is worthwhile to keep the mission and its good works going PLEASE DO REMEMBER us in your wills, donations, gifts and purchases of little things such as the Waldensian calendar! ...

Be as generous as you can be with money, thoughts and prayers and help us to help the work of the Lord in Italy in these challenging times.

The young people of the Waldensian Methodist Churches in Sicily are depending on our support for their Bible Studies and group activities in the Circuit (*Catechismo circuitale*) and so are the young and not-so-young people who listen to the many very good programmes and services provided by Radio Beckwith Evangelica throughout the Waldensian Valleys and Piedmont.

AND of course the more funds we receive, the more projects we are able to help finance!

MEANWHILE: PUT 8 OCTOBER 2011 in your (WALDENSIAN) calendar for our next AGM. We shall be having excellent speakers as usual and lots more ...

So far Ian Thomson, author of the acclaimed biography of Primo Levi, and Alistair and Rachel Morris, recently returned from Turin, have accepted an invitation to talk to us.

CHRISTMAS NEWS! From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this new venture of ours! We want to reach you with news of the calendars for Christmas and news of the events ahead. The calendars with their brilliant photographs and their pieces on Waldensian history make a lovely gift for Christmas. Don't forget them, and at such an attractively low price. They help raise money for the Waldensian causes we sponsor.

Then, do not forget this date: the Waldensian Annual Meeting and AGM, in London at the French Protestant Church in Soho, on 8 October 2011. A grand meeting of friends, great speakers as usual and the opportunity to hear what is going on in Italy, especially in the Waldensian–Methodist world.

There will be more in the future, but for now I leave you with this thought: the Waldensians need our support.

*With every blessing for Christmas,
Yours truly,
Eric Murray*

WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2011

Very beautiful again, stunning views of the Waldensian Valleys and Bible verses in five languages as usual. Still cheaper than commercial counterparts £7.50 (p&p included).

Please SEND cheques (payable to **Waldensian Church Mission**) to:

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

REMEMBER to include your own address!

You can have them sent directly to your friends: If you want to do it cheaply yourself you can roll them up in some brown paper. Once in place they will fall flat and make a special addition to any kitchen, study, hall ...

