

THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW

From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you very much for your constant interest and for your support with thoughts, prayers, and financial help. A **BIG THANK YOU** also to all the friends who have accepted to be our guest speakers over so many years. Without them we wouldn't be able to have the annual gathering which is central to all our activities.

Please don't forget to buy calendars, books, look at our website for news and novelties and keep in touch:

www.waldensian.org.uk

Above all remember that without your donations we won't be able to support a new minister in training during his/her year in the UK.

Our Chairman, Ian Nimmo-Smith, was our representative at Synod in Torre Pellice and enjoyed the experience.

We all know that Pope Francis has attended the official opening of the celebrations for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (1517–2017) in Lund (Sweden) on 31 October, declaring his admiration for Martin Luther. What is not widely known, though, is that Cardinal Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, on that same day went to Torre Pellice in the heartland of the Waldensian Valleys to visit the Moderator, the Museum and the Waldensian Archive.

With joy and pride I've learnt that a Waldensian young friend from Bobbio Pellice, Monica Michelin-Salomon, ordained in the Waldensian Church and

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Editor: *Mrs Erica Scropo Newbury, 85 St Andrew's Road, Cambridge CB4 1DH.*
Telephone 01223-315753, email ericascropo@hotmail.com

now minister of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow, delivered the 'Time for Reflection' speech at the opening of the Scottish Parliament on 6 September. It can be found on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK39P_rFgYQ

The Waldensian Day at Wesley Chapel, London, on 22 October was very well attended and most interesting. David Willey, the veteran BBC correspondent, spoke to us about all the Popes he has met and Leslie Griffiths and Tim Macquiban discussed David's book *The Promise of Francis: The Man, the Pope and the challenge of change*.

Full reports about all these events plus obituaries in the Summer 2017 issue!

Christmas is approaching and what could be more appropriate than giving yourselves and your friends a Waldensian calendar and even better if accompanied by a copy of the reprint of Prescott Stephens' book *The Waldensian Story*? There is now also a new book, written in Italian and English by Micael Sappé and Giuseppe Platone who was our visiting Pastor some time ago ...

It is the story of a farmhouse in the mountains, which apart from being located in a stunning position in the Angrogna Valley, is very special. Built at the end of the nineteenth century as the Summer retreat of a wealthy Waldensian family on a green and sunny field at 1500 metres asl, it faces the Alps above and the plain and Torre Pellice below. Abandoned during the war, in Autumn 1943 it became the refuge of a group of young antifascist partisans, spiritually and morally led by their chaplain, Iacopo Lombardini, a Methodist preacher and schoolmaster in the Collegio Valdese. The house was destroyed by German shellfire in 1944. Later Lombardini, who never carried any weapon but in his pocket always had a Bible, was taken prisoner and deported to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, where, one year later, a day before the Liberation, he was sent to the gas chamber. After the war the ruin became a symbol of the Resistance and every year a commemorative gathering of ex-partisans and antifascists was held there ... Read the book to know how it was rebuilt as 'a House for Peace' and became a centre for youth camps, holidays and retreats for all. A perfect Christmas Gift!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! ESN, Editor



Order *Think of a Farmhouse in the Mountains* (£12.50 all included) and the other books either online or from Nicky Raddon: 19 Sampson Avenue, Barnet, EN5 2RN.

WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2017

The calendar has evocative vistas and Bible verses in various languages while the reverse sides are dedicated to an illustrated history of the Reformation in Italy, which all makes for an intriguing and fascinating read! Order it for £ 12 from Milvia Walker, 19 Forest Approach, Woodford Green, IG8 9BW (cheques payable to *Waldensian Church Mission*).
OR order online at: www.waldensian.org.uk



the english committee in aid of the
waldensian church missions

www.waldensian.org.uk

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For the first time, the English Committee in aid of the Waldensian Church Missions now has its own website. On the site you are able to download the latest copy of the Waldensian Review, but also access the archive of the magazine, going all the way back to 2005.

There are also useful links to other Waldensian websites and reading matter, in both English and Italian. These include some of the Waldensian guest houses which you can stay at while visiting Italy.

Perhaps most excitingly for the prospects of the committee, we now have the ability to take online donations to our funds. As well as details about how to set up a standing order, and gift aid your donations, you can easily click through to the donation pages and make an instant credit or debit card payment. These are supported free of



charge for charities by BT, so you can be sure that it is reliable and secure. Furthermore, the site can automatically reclaim gift aid on our behalf. What could be easier?

To round things off, the website has all the important contact details for the key committee members and a link to our online Charity Commission records.

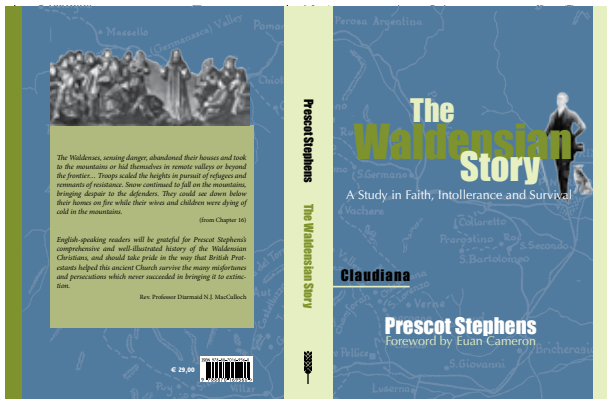
We hope that this first foray into the internet will only be the beginning and the website will offer us many more possibilities in the future, including online sales of publications and plenty more reading matter.

So if you have any suggestions about what could feature on the site, or ways to improve it, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the website editor Alastair Morris with your ideas:

website@waldensian.org.uk

And finally, please spread the word about the website, sharing the new web address online, linking to it from other sites and raising its profile. We hope that it will become one of the leading English language sites on the Waldensian Church.





The Waldensian Story: £25 (p&p inc, cheques to *Waldensian Church Mission*) from: Nicky Raddon, 19 Sampson Avenue, Barnet, EN5 2RN, or from the website: **www.waldensian.org.uk**

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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