

# THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW



**No. 130      Summer 2017**

*Editor: Mrs Erica Scroppo Newbury, 85 St Andrew's Road, Cambridge CB4 1DH.  
Telephone 01223-315753, email [ericascroppo@hotmail.com](mailto:ericascroppo@hotmail.com)*

## From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your continuing interest and your help given in so many ways: feedback, inquiries, purchases from our website, letters, thoughts, prayers, financial support. Please keep on looking at our website for updates and new items available: [www.waldensian.org.uk](http://www.waldensian.org.uk), register to receive the *Waldensian Review* via email and, if you are on the mailing list, please notify us of any changes in names or addresses.

It is always sad to lose friends, especially if young, but of course we should be grateful for their lives. In 2016 and 2017 we have been heavily affected and we could fill this magazine with just obituaries. I have opted for two longer ones for friends who over the years have been in constant contact with the Waldensian Church Mission, while providing shorter ones for the remaining ones. Longer articles will be available online.

**Noemi Falla**, 'our' student at Wesley House in 2013–2014, is going to be ordained at the opening of the Synod in Torre Pellice on 20 August. Please remember her and her parishes in your prayers. She is not the only ordinand this year, though, and it is a real joy to be able to tell you that four more people, a woman and three men, are to be ordained on that same day!

Congratulations to **Alastair**, **Rachel** and **Zac Morris** on the birth of **Julia** on 25 January 2017

Congratulations to **Jean David Eynard** who got the best First class Honours degree of the whole academic year in English Literature at Queen Mary College, University of London, and has been awarded an MPhil place at New College, Oxford.

The Waldensian Day this year is in **Cambridge** and we offer a programme different from the usual ones, but which we hope you will love. **Do come and tell everyone to come!**

*With every blessing.*  
ESN, Editor

## Waldensian Day 2016

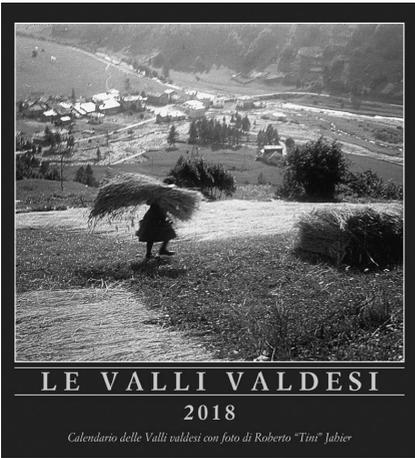
Waldensian Day 2016 took place at Wesley's Chapel, London, and it was very well attended. Our guest speaker was veteran BBC Rome and Vatican correspondent, **David Willey** OBE, who has been in Rome since 1971, which means he has covered so much of modern Italian history and events: from the Referendum on Divorce to the Red Brigades, from the fall of big rival parties, the Communist Party and the Christian Democrats, to the escalation of power

*Cover photo*

*From left: Rev. Daniel Morris-Chapman, Pastor Gianni Genre and, in the background, Carola Tron, Moderator of the Waldensian Church of Rio de la Plata.*

*(Photo: Romeo/Riforma.)*

## WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2018



They are very special this year with vintage views of the Valleys taken by Pastor Roberto (Tini) Jahier, who was an excellent photographer. Available from the beginning of September. Please order via the website or send a cheque for £12.50 (payable to *Waldensian Church Missions*) to:

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

## WALDENSIAN DAY 2017 CAMBRIDGE

**Saturday 21 October 10.30 am–3 pm**  
**Wesley Church, Christ's Pieces, CB1 1LG**

**Erica Scropo:** From Sicily to the Waldensian Valleys: the remarkable life of *Filippo Scropo* (1910-1993), artist, critic, cultural organiser, teacher, preacher and third generation Protestant.

**Gabriella Ballesio,** archivist of Tavola valdesa, will introduce the 1924 film *Waldensians*, several times lost and found, and tell us its intriguing story.

10.30: tea or coffee

11–12: Writing the story of my father Filippo Scropo led me to discover an amazing extended family and the history of a great community

12–1: talk and film

1–2: lunch – bring your own (hot drinks provided), or enjoy a meal with the *Food Cycle* group

2–3: News from the Italian Churches and report on the Waldensian Synod from our 2017 delegate **Richard Newbury**.

CALENDARS, bookstall, delicious *Gianduiotti* chocolates fresh from the factory in the Waldensian Valleys and Biscotti di Debora fresh from Cambridge.

NO REMINDER, hence put it now in your Waldensian calendar,  
**SPREAD THE NEWS** and, above all, **DO COME!!!**

of the Mafia up to the spectacular killing of judges Falcone and Borsellino, from the end of the First Republic to the Berlusconi era. He claims he still does not understand much, though ... He has met five popes and travelled with them, getting to know most of them rather well. Talking about his book (now in paperback), *The Promise of Francis: The Man, the Pope and the Challenge of Change* (Gallery Books), he explained that the modernisers in the Roman Catholic Church didn't succeed in electing Francis after the long 'reign' of John Paul II, thus giving Benedict XVI a difficult mandate. Pope Ratzinger knew all the secrets and was involved in many controversial issues, including the covering up of uncomfortable truths. He was a fragile compromise between the conservative theology of the South and the money of the Liberal North. Now Francis might decide to disavow his own rule of introducing a retirement age of 80 for cardinals in order to build a large enough majority of Cardinals chosen by himself in the Curia that they will be able to deliver another reformer in his own image. He has been said to have more enemies inside his Church than outside, but this is not new for such a big institution, only partly modernised and divided into so many factions and vested interests. Still, David is not keen on feeding conspiracy theories, with which Italy is absolutely saturated: for instance, he does not believe that Pope John Paul I, who died suddenly a few weeks after his election in 1978, was poisoned. He thinks it was the unfortunate 'Roman Summer holidays' when everything, but everything, shuts, hospitals and doctors included. Pope Luciani went to bed reading the financial reports and was found dead the next morning. A heart attack following a shocking read?

It was good to see so many friends including some very young ones!



*David Willey at Wesley's Chapel, London.*

## **From Newark to Torre Pellice**

In October 2015 I received an email from a certain Peter Winter, who wanted some advice about how to donate a set of prints belonging to his late mother, the granddaughter of pastor Barthelémy Gardiol, originally from Luserna S. Giovanni. He thought the church of Torre Pellice would be the right place to relocate them, but after several messages and telephone calls the Archivist, Gabriella Balesio, suggested that the right place would be the Archive in the Centro Culturale Valdese. In April 2016 we took the opportunity of a confer-



*Peter Winter with one of the prints, and the prints in the Archivio in Torre Pellice.*

ence organised by the Cromwell Association at the National Civil War Centre in Newark to meet up with Mr Winter, who gave us the six prints. On the way back to Cambridge, we stopped at his house for a cup of tea with himself and his wife. It was like visiting long-lost friends. In August we took the precious box by car to Italy and the prints were duly delivered into the hands of a very enthusiastic Archivist. The engravings – three by W.H. Bartlett and three by W. Brockedon – are particularly interesting because the Alpine views of the Waldensian Valleys are in colour and the Centro didn't have any like them. They have been cleaned and reframed and are now hanging in a highly visible spot on a wall of the Archive for visitors to enjoy. Go and see them!

ES

## **News from Noemi Falla**

Dear brothers and sisters,

Over the past two years I have been doing my probation, first in the Methodist Church of Bologna and Modena, and then in Parma-Mezzani and Casalmaggiore, where I am still serving.

The beauty of these congregations is that, along with the Italian people, there are brothers and sisters coming from different countries, such as Ghana,



*Noemi Falla with members of the congregation.*

the Philippines, Madagascar and Cameroon. Working with them has given me the marvellous opportunity to learn how to mingle with different people from different countries and to discover their various ways of worshipping, their culture and the way they organise all their church activities. This has made me understand that they can be a blessing for our churches, if only everyone is open and able to receive and to be transformed by each others' riches.

Ministering in those congregations has also taught me the meaning of service: being a pastor is not just about doing things and activities, it is about presence: being just present among people in whatever they do. This is one of the best ways of showing love and care to them and to create communion. In fact, I think that, in this historical time, it is very good for the church to organise times of fellowship, where people can just be together, rejoice, eat, have fun, in order to allow the Holy Spirit to come and kindle their faith. In this way, it becomes easier to get to know people and to help them to find out their talents in order to make them grow under the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and being His disciples.

I am really grateful to the Lord for the gift of these past two years of service and I pray that His grace and His mercy will follow me as I come closer to the time of Ordination on 20 August.

I send my best regards and good wishes to you all.

*Noemi Falla (Ordinand)*

## **News from Scotland**

*Rev Monica Michelin-Salomon was born in Bobbio Pellice, attended Collegio Valdese in Torre Pellice and learnt the first rudiments of what is now her excellent English in the evening classes Richard taught in the late 1980s for the cultural club ARCI, of which I was in charge during our period there. She then went on to study Theology, was ordained and, after some years in Rome, she moved to Scotland, where she leads Causeway Church Tollcross in the east end of Glasgow. In September 2016 she delivered the 'Time for Reflection' speech at the opening of the Scottish Parliament.*



Presiding Officer, members of Parliament and everyone here, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to address you.

I am Italian by birth, Scottish by adoption, ordained in the Waldensian Church and currently serving in the east end of Glasgow.

Virginia Woolf wrote: 'As a woman, I have no country ... I want no country ... my country is the whole world'. To me, that applies well, as I have a distinct preference for wild and untamed places.

Tollcross-Shettleston parish is one of them. It is challenging and demanding, as are many who inhabit the place. It is known as a location of multiple deprivation and often prejudices are the only available narratives about the place. Its categorizing is often partial and unkind.

I have one example to the contrary.

The church became involved in hospitality towards another Christian denomination almost by accident. A group of Eritreans asked permission to worship in the sanctuary. Their congregation is almost entirely formed by young refugees, who are predominately male.

It has 70 members and is growing. Most of its members had a treacherous journey across land, desert and sea to get here.

Despite all that, they have an unwavering faith and look hopefully on the future and on humanity itself. Worship on a Sunday is now Italian-Scot Presbyterian in the morning and Tigrigna Coptic Orthodox in the afternoon.

Learning to share the same space and accept each other has not always been easy. For some it was an innate instinct and for others it has been a learning curve, but for all involved it has been a profound experience of growth and acknowledgement of interconnectedness.

We knew it intellectually and we knew it inside ourselves, but to know it whole-heartedly was a completely different matter. It was a change of perception that will never be forgotten.

On one of the guys' backpacks there was a sticker that read 'Mediterranean Hope'. I knew of that project, which is based on Lampedusa, an island near Sicily, and is funded by the eight per thousand of the Waldensian Church.

In that one life saved we found a deep connection between countries, traditions, and customs, raised above all distinctions: humanity at its very best.

That is the east end, too: people battling to survive through many adversities, addictions and mounting debts but still open and willing to learn and to change, and still generous to a fault.

In the midst of it all is the church, which is may be small in numbers but not small in efforts, tirelessly working in hospitality with community groups, food banks and charities in and outside Scotland, making God's love felt, one life at a time.

*Rev Monica Michelin-Salomon*

## News from Sicily

Good news from Sicily! For the first time in 20 years, a FGEI group has been established. FGEI (Federation of Protestant Youth in Italy) is the ministry for the Baptist, Methodist and Waldensian Churches that takes care of teenagers and young adults all over the country. Youth groups are fab and it feels good to be in a Church where young people are visible and active members. The downside of this is that youth groups are very delicate and may cease to be in a short space of time, due to people growing up or, as quite common in Southern Italy, moving up North. The previous FGEI group in Sicily was a very strong one, so strong that once its members grew up, for 20 years there was none to take its place. Eventually things changed and there is now a small and promising group that is officially federated to FGEI and attends local and national meetings. How was this possible?

Creating a youth group in small, precarious and isolated Churches like the Waldensian and Methodist Churches in Southern Italy requires a complicated strategy. One important aspect is to begin to work immediately from Sunday school to Confirmation classes. In the last 10 years or so, the Sicilian Churches created a network for teenagers, called *Catechismo Circuitale* [meaning one or two meetings a year], with participants gathering from all over the island. It has proved a successful and useful idea. The numbers are still small, but it is far more rewarding for young people (not only for them) to meet twice a year in groups of 15 or 20 than meeting once a week as two or even four people in their own Church. Now those who attended these gatherings in the past years are in their very early twenties and find a way to be in the Church together. The English Committee of the Waldensian Church Mission generously supported our teenagers in Sicily in the past years, both by financing the *Catechismo Circuitale* and the attendance to other meetings organized by FGEI. Little by little, step by step, with a little help from our friends (and with

the great support of our Lord), we can happily say that a FGEI group is finally alive and kicking in Palermo.

*Pastor Peter Ciaccio, Palermo*

## **From La Noce, Marsala and Trapani**

This morning my eldest daughter and I drove to the *questura* to retrieve our *permessi di soggiorno* (our 'stay permit'). We have lived in Italy for about two-and-a-half years and today is the first day everyone in our family has a valid and accurate *permesso*. My wife says that we have three full-time jobs: hers, mine, and documents. She's not exaggerating.

Living in Italy is – in many ways – harder than we expected, but we are blessed to minister with, worship among and work alongside colleagues and church members who are profoundly committed to their vocations and deeply engaged in seeking justice, proclaiming grace and extending hospitality to those who – all too often – experience the world as harsh and unsympathetic.

We are in Italy through a partnership between the Waldensian/Methodist Church and the Reformed Church in America. My wife JJ (a master's level social worker with almost 20 years of experience in clinical, practical and supervisory work) was chosen as a mother-tongue English-speaker to help respond to the current 'migration crisis'. She is particularly involved at *Pellegrino della Terra*, serving women who have been victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and at the Waldensian Diaconal Center of *la Noce* as one of the coordinators of the Humanitarian Corridors project. [This initiative, founded mainly by the Waldensian Church, aims to provide flights to refugees in crisis, in order to avoid them falling into the hands of traffickers and risking drownings at sea. *Editor*]



*The Waldensian Church of La Noce in Palermo.*



*The team working with Mediterranean Hope and the Humanitarian Corridors.*

I serve congregations in Palermo (La Noce), Trapani and Marsala, with a particular focus on *Essere Chiese Insieme* [Being Church Together] – our commitment to ‘doing church together’ despite cultural, ethnic and linguistic differences. Together with our daughters, we engage the reality of migration both personally and professionally here in Sicily – a ‘bridge’ between Europe and Africa.

Many people ask us how they can be involved in the work here and the answer is quite simple: Pray, Learn, and Donate.

Pray: The journey is dangerous, and those who are fortunate enough to survive it are often faced with nearly insurmountable difficulties as they seek to establish a life for themselves and their families.

Learn: There is an immense amount of inflammatory and erroneous information coming from otherwise respectable and reliable sources. Every migrant/refugee/asylum-seeker is a human being created in the image of God. Learn their stories, and do not be silent when you hear others portray them as sub-human.

Donate: Help is expensive: food, clothing, housing, documents – all cost money. Italy has done exceptionally well, but they are a small country with a struggling economy. Trusted organizations like Pellegrino della Terra, the Diaconal Centre of La Noce, and Mediterranean Hope are doing their best, but cannot do it alone.

*Rev Tim TenClay*

## News from Milan and Novara

*Daniel Pratt Chapman-Morris was presented, with his wife Grace, during the opening of the 2016 Synod. They are missionaries and they are posted by the Methodist Church UK wherever there is need. I met them in Torre Pellice with their young family, and this is what he writes after one year.*



*Daniel, Grace and family.*

My name is Daniel and I am a British Methodist Mission partner serving in Italy. I am serving in two churches which contain diverse groups of people from several different countries. In Milan the church has at least 10 nationalities. In Novara (a city near Milan) there are also many different countries represented. Our services are bilingual (in English and Italian). The vision is to encourage the different groups of people all to come together in Christ.

My wife Grace is also serving as a Mission partner. Her role is different to my own. She serves on the intercultural and education committees. Her job is to work with these national committees and one of the tasks is to help create Sunday School material which reflects the diverse cultural traditions in the church. Grace is from Ghana and grew up in Gambia (near Senegal) and has enjoyed participating in these meetings very much.

The goal of the Italian Church is neither assimilation, nor parallel co-existence. The vision is that, in being together, we will all learn from each other. It is not an easy task. By no means. All the normal church difficulties about styles of music and worship are there. When you add different cultural perspectives and languages into this mix it can make for a very interesting recipe. However, with God all things are possible, and we believe the Holy Spirit is with us. We pray we will always move in step with God's presence.

*Rev. Dr Daniel Chapman-Morris*

*When a friend of the Waldensians dies, I usually discover how little I knew of him/her apart from their interest in the history of my Church and people. And what amazing lives they had! (Tony Earl and Ruth Cowhig will be remembered next time).*

## **Bill Pickering (1922–2016)**



*Bill and Carol Pickering.*

I met Bill Pickering, who left us in May 2016, in the early 1990s when he lived in Oxford; he was a guest speaker for us at least once and almost never missed a Waldensian ‘awayday’ ever since. His great interest being the sociology of religious persecution, he was obviously interested in the Waldensians, especially those living on the French side of the Alps. He had done a great deal of research there, where in the decade 1981–91 he and his wife Carol used to spend the summer. As his stepson John, Rector of St Mary’s Newmarket with Exning St Agnes’, tells, they always preferred living in a somewhat basic presbytery, rather than finding more comfortable accommodation. Having good contacts with the Societe de l’Histoire du Protestantisme Français, he published various articles in their annual bulletin. He

lectured profusely on this subject and also wrote a booklet that we have for sale and that still attracts interest. He was also an expert on Canon W.J. Gilly, the great benefactor to the Waldensians on the Italian side of the Alps and founder of our Committee. Some years ago, I organised for Bill to give a lecture to the students of Collegio Valdese in Torre Pellice about the man who had the idea and found the money for building an English-style College – called Trinity College, as a matter of fact – for preparing future ministers and teachers.

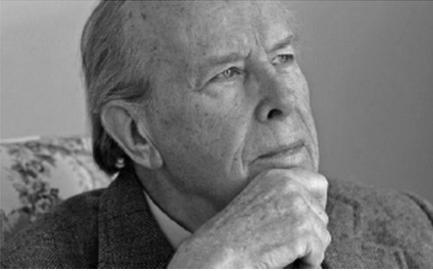
Bill was a linguist, an anthropologist, an ordained priest of the Church of England, an ex-WWII RAF radio mechanic in India. He was devoted to the approach on Sociology and Religion as offered by Durkheim and was one of the founders of the British Centre for Durkhemian Studies. He taught at King’s College London, at the University of Newcastle and in the States and preached in wide variety of churches.

After moving to Coton with his mother, he became friends with Donald Hardy, Rector of Coton, and his family. When Donald fell ill and eventually died, Bill helped his widow Carol and their four sons through that difficult time. Eventually they got married in 1979. Carol told me that the beret and the briefcase that he was always carrying were still the same he was wearing when she first met him. She enjoyed 31 happy years with Donald and 37 equally

happy, but I guess different, with Bill. Until a few years ago, he would still cycle from Coton to Chesterton to collect his Waldensian calendar, generally in December. We'll miss him!

*Erica Scropo*

## **Randolph Vigne (1928–2016)**



*Randolph Vigne.*

We got to know each other in Torre Pellice in 1989 when, during the celebrations of the 300th Anniversary of the Glorious Return, Randolph Vigne had brought the greetings from London of the Huguenot Society, of which he was President, and also the official greetings from President Mitterand and of the entire then French Government.

We became friends, and as a result, I invited him to speak to the Annual Meeting of the Waldensian Church Missions, of which I had become the Executive Secretary in September 1988. We on our part established contacts with the Huguenot Society, of which we became members.

I knew that he had been politically active at an important level in the South Africa of the Apartheid era and I knew that all our South African friends of his generation knew him, but I had no idea of his importance, which sadly I only became aware of when I read his obituaries and the long articles – real mini biographies – that the important English newspapers dedicated to this extremely significant figure in the creation of a post-Apartheid South Africa and Namibia.

Randolph Vigne was born in Port Elizabeth in 1928 into a distinguished family of Huguenot refugee origins, and from boyhood he had felt driven to combat racism, injustice and suffering. After taking his law degree at Oxford – where he also distinguished himself as an athlete – he returned to South Africa, where the Nationalist Party had introduced Apartheid. Joining the opposition to this government, in 1954 he joined the newly formed Liberal Party, which kept itself distinct from the African National Congress because this was Marxist. Randolph worked for a publisher in Cape Town while also being elected Vice-President of the Liberal Party, which however suffered a major electoral setback in the 1958 Polls.

This led Randolph to the conclusion that the idea of defeating the Apartheid regime through democratic means was pure folly. After the 1960 Sharpsfield Massacre, he became convinced that non-violent opposition was no longer sufficient, and he took part in the foundation in the same year of the NCL [Committee of National Liberation] and in 1962 of the magazine *New*

*African*, through which he contributed to giving African literature a growing world-wide readership. At the same time the NCL, which went on to become the African Resistance Movement, made itself known through acts of sabotage, blowing up electricity pylons and interrupting electrical supplies, but not attacking human beings as targets.

Randolph's political career ended abruptly in the summer of 1964 following a series of arrests, which he managed to evade by a breakneck flight and thanks to a 'lift' on a Norwegian freighter direct to Canada, all organised by a friend with the help of the British and Norwegian Consuls. His house in Cape Town was burnt down; fortunately his wife and children were out. He was then to spend the following 26 years in Great Britain, though always active for the cause, and he played a key role in liberating Namibia from the South African yoke. He founded the Committee of Liberation, which then became the Namibia Support Committee, of which he was President until 1983, and subsequently Secretary. In 1973 he published the first book: *Manifesto of Independence of Namibia*. Vital was his collaboration with the Anglican Canon James Collins, founder of the Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, which contributed over £100,000,000 to ending white domination in South Africa. When finally Namibia became independent in 1990, the Vigne family could return to South Africa, where they used to pass half the year and where Randolph continued to hold high the flame of South African Liberalism. This was no easy task, especially given the wish of the new elite in power to cancel every liberal and white contribution to the struggle for liberation from Apartheid. However, in 2010 the conferment of the decoration The Order of Luthuli was a small recognition, of which Vigne was deeply proud.

One of his last emails, in August 2015, said that he had just received *The Waldensian Review*, which I have now edited for 26 years, and, to quote his words verbatim, that "The only headline that could beat mine on the Pope in the Waldensian Church in Turin would be: "Astronauts declare that the Moon is made of green cheese"". Joking apart, he went on, 'the Pope who asks pardon from the Waldensians is a splendid story. Even if it is centuries late, I shall send photocopies of the article to not a few anti-papist friends'. The following month he apologised for not being able to come to Cambridge for the debate organised by myself on this history-making occasion with illustrious speakers such as Rowan Williams. In his last message, Randolph Vigne informed me that he had in his South African cottage the 'beautiful 2015 Calendar' with my father's paintings and the story of our Committee on the reverse sides, and that he had already ordered the 2016 Calendar.

ES

*Sadly we also need to announce the following:*

### **Klaus Langeneck 1955–2016**

In September 2016, Pastor Klaus Langeneck died of complications following major surgery, aged 60. He was consecrated in 1985 and had worked in the parishes of Prarostino, Riesi and Livorno/Rio Marina (Elba), before arriving in Torre Pellice in 2013 as the second pastor. He also served the church twice as Circuit Superintendent (1st & 2nd Circuits). Married to Erika Tomassone, currently the Pastor of Rora, Klaus's passion was music. He played several instruments and sang. It was not at all unusual during his services for him to come down from the pulpit to play the organ and/or conduct the choir. He would also invite the congregation to learn and sing new hymns, often from far away, and even to dance to African music!

### **Demetrio Canale 1973–2017**

Demetrio Canale died in January aged just 44, following a long battle with cancer. He was consecrated a Deacon by Claudio Pasquet at the Synod in 2014 and had held many different roles within the Waldensian Church, including Director of both Agape (Piedmont) and Servizio Cristiano (Sicily). He also spent a number of years working in the administrative offices of the Tavola in Rome. His father Elio Canale was the Headteacher of the Waldensian High School in Torre Pellice and Lucia, his sister, currently works at the Waldensian Cultural Centre. [The Canale family were my neighbours when I lived in Torre Pellice when Demetrio and Lucia were at school.]

### **Donatella Sommani 1951–2017**

Donatella Sommani, the former Director of the Waldensian Cultural Centre in Torre Pellice, died in February, aged 66. She had directed the Cultural Centre for 16 years, taking up the reins from Pastor Giorgio Tourn. A fluent Russian speaker, Donatella was born in Pachino, Sicily, where her father was the pastor, but grew up in Torre Pellice, when he was appointed minister there. Later she became the Chief Editor of the magazine *Politica & Economia* and lived in Rome. One of the other projects she was involved in was the annual 'Una Torre di Libri' Book Festival, which still takes place in Torre Pellice attracting large audiences and notable authors.

*Nicky Raddon*

**WALDENSIAN CHURCH MISSIONS, VAUDOIS PASTORS FUND  
& CANON ARMSTRONG BEQUEST - SUMMARY ACCOUNTS**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015</b>		<b>2016</b>
Churches	250.00		
Individual Donations	1459.61	830.36	
Fundraising			
Tax Refund	270.07	211.25	
	1979.68		1041.61
Vaudois Clergy Trust		1430.09	
Publications	1655.15	441.00	
Dividend & Interest	3927.11	3817.51	
	<u>5582.26</u>		<u>5688.60</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>7561.94</u>		<u>6730.21</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Payments to Italy			
Student	500.00		
Evangelisation Week	1000.00		
Palermo Youth Camp	500.00		
San Secondo Youth	100.00		
	2100.00		0.00
Review	542.49	442.00	
Sec/Post/Stationery	2432.78	2579.15	
Publications	2287.24	372.19	
Sundries	269.00	4.00	
	<u>5531.51</u>		<u>3397.34</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>7631.51</u>		<u>3397.34</u>
 <b>NET EXPEND/INC</b>	 <b>-69.57</b>		 <b>3332.87</b>
Opening Bank Balance	9480.14		9410.57
Income	7561.94		6730.21
Expenditure	<u>-7631.51</u>		<u>-3397.54</u>
Closing Bank Balance	9410.57		12743.24

No funds were sent to Italy in 2016 as we are saving these to support a theological student from Italy to study in England in future years. Other projects will also be considered as they arise.

## Government gives to Waldenses

Too good to be true? No! For every donation which you make to the Waldensian Church Missions, the Government will add a further 28%, providing you are a tax-payer.

Since 5 April 2000 the new Gift Aid scheme has replaced Deeds of Covenant and the process is much simpler. This applies to all donations of any size or frequency. Thus a gift of only £1 made once will be increased by 28% as will a monthly donation of £100.

All that is required is for the donor to complete a simple declaration in the form given below and to forward this to the Treasurer whose address is on the inside of the back page. Once this form has been completed it covers all future donations by the same person. Unlike Deeds of Covenant, you are not committed to regular giving for a number of years.

Some of you have already completed such a form, but for those who have not, I would urge you to consider seriously this opportunity for the Waldensian Church Missions to benefit from the Government's generosity, but more importantly, to enable our giving to our friends in Italy to be increased.



### WALDENSIAN CHURCH MISSIONS

Registered Charity No. 277255

#### GIFT AID DECLARATION

To: **Waldensian Church Missions, 5 Woodgate Close, Woodgate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 3TA**

I (title) . . . . . (name) . . . . .

(address) . . . . .

Postcode . . . . . Tel. no. . . . .

would like all donations I make to Waldensian Church Missions from the date of this declaration to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I understand I must be paying income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount being reclaimed by the Missions. I understand that I can cancel this Gift Aid declaration at any time.

Signature of donor . . . . . Date . . . . .

## The Waldensian Church

It is the native Protestant Church of Italy whose origins pre-date the Reformation. It arose from an evangelical movement founded in the 12th century by Waldo, a rich merchant from Lyon, who was to inspire St Francis: he gave all away to the poor and started preaching the Gospel in the vernacular, which caused conflict with the Papacy. Travelling in pairs the Waldensian itinerant preachers, having learnt the Scriptures by heart, set off to found underground communities from Sicily to Russia. The ensuing persecution by the Inquisition drove them into their mountain fastness in the Alpine Valleys of northwest Italy, where they remain in what are still called the Waldensian Valleys. At their Synod in 1532 they voted to join the Genevan Reformation, a decision that brought even more persecution upon this exposed outpost of Protestantism. Their sufferings were recorded in Milton's famous sonnet "On The Late Massacre in Piedmont". Their survival down to the present has been a remarkable testament of faith.

The Waldensian community was emancipated in 1848, but did not reach full freedom until 1984. Since the Italian unification in 1860 they have established churches throughout Italy and, following emigration, in the USA, Argentina and Uruguay. In 1979 the Italian Methodist Church combined with them and they hold a common annual Synod, which is the controlling authority of the Church and takes place in Torre Pellice. The Churches of Rio de la Plata have their own Synod, Board and Moderator.

The 60 parishes have founded 120 outreach activities ranging from schools, hospitals, children's and old people's homes, radio stations, and ecumenical community centres, often catering for the needs of the most deprived and mafia-ridden parts of Italy, especially the disadvantaged South and the new immigrant communities.

The Waldensian Church has a theological college in Rome, a publishing house, Claudiana, and a weekly paper, *Riforma*.

### The English Committee of the Waldensian Church Missions

This was founded in 1825 as a support group for the Waldensian Church in Italy. Since 1979 its finances, together with those of the Vaudois Pastors Fund, have been administered by Trustees under the terms of the Scheme drawn up by the Charity Commission and dated 18 January that year.

The Committee seek to arouse interest and financial support in England and Wales for the Waldensian Church. Twice yearly we publish a *Waldensian Review* and occasionally other literature. We also arrange meetings for Waldensian pastors visiting this country and support students of Theology who want to spend the compulsory "year abroad" studying in this country.

There are similar Waldensian support groups in Scotland, Ireland, USA and in various European countries.

**The English Committee in aid of the Waldensian Church Missions**  
Established 1825

*Patron:* The Lord The Rev. Leslie Griffiths

Wesley Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

*Chairman:* Ian Nimmo-Smith

17 Mariners Way, Cambridge CB4 1BN

*Executive Secretary:* Erica Scropo Newbury

85 St Andrew's Road, Cambridge CB4 1DH

Telephone 01223-315753, email [ericascropo@hotmail.com](mailto:ericascropo@hotmail.com)

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr Mark Stephens

5 Woodgate Close, Woodgate, Chichester PO20 3TA

Telephone 01243-545877, email [marklynnne5@btinternet.com](mailto:marklynnne5@btinternet.com)

**The Scottish Waldensian Missions Aid Society**

*Chair:* The Rev. Mary Cranfield

The Manse, Daviot, Inverurie AB51 1AJ, Scotland

*Secretary and Treasurer:* Mr D.A. Lamb, SSC

36 Liberton Drive, Edinburgh EH16 6NN, Scotland

Telephone 0131-664-3059

*The Waldensian Review* is sent twice a year to those who are interested in the Waldensian church in Italy, its history and present-day work and witness.

tick

- Change of address:  
 I wish to donate £ . . . for the magazine:  
 Please send me more / fewer copies of the *The Waldensian Review*:  
 Please send *The Waldensian Review* to (new supporter):

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

Other:

No. of copies:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE TREASURER AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE**

## Publications

**You are My Witnesses: the Waldensians across 800 Years**  
by Giorgio Tourn and Associates — £9 plus postage and packing

**The Waldensians' 'Glorious Recovery' of their Alpine Valleys**  
The legendary 'Recovery' with a brief summary of the previous 500 years  
by Richard Newbury — £3 plus postage and packing

**Love never fails**  
by Tullio Vinay — £7 plus postage and packing

**The Waldensian Story: A Study in Faith, Intolerance and Survival**  
by Prescott Stephens — £25 inc. postage and packing

**Think of a Farmhouse in the Mountains**  
From refuge for antifascist partisans destroyed by the Germans to 'The House for Peace' holiday camp and retreat. In Italian and English  
£12.50 inc. postage and packing

**What the British found when they discovered the French Vaudois  
in the Nineteenth Century**  
by W.S.F. Pickering — £3 plus postage and packing

*All these books are available from*  
Miss Nicky Raddon, 19 Sampson Avenue, Barnet EN5 2RN  
Telephone 0208-364-8182

**Souvenirs and information can be obtained  
from:**

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

*The Huguenot Cross, symbol of Protestantism all over Europe*

