

The Scots Kirk Lausanne A Short History







CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
The Scots Kirk • L'Église Écossaise, Lausanne

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Dear Friends,

The Scots Kirk, Lausanne continues to have a significant place within the hearts of so many people. Thirty years after the initial publication of a short history, it is a joy for me to be the one writing this introduction to the updated, revised 2013 publication. Whether you are new to the church or have been worshipping at the Scots Kirk for many years, I know you can be proud of the heritage we now share and build upon.

As a congregation we are constantly thanking God for the blessings we have as part of the church of Christ Jesus our Lord. Ours is a continuing and ever changing story of a lively faith community. An international English-speaking congregation, we remain of one mind and one body in the fellowship of Christ, and with common purpose we seek to build upon the history and heritage of the building and the people, finding new ways to keep open the doors of the church in welcome, faith sharing and in meeting the needs of those who come to worship in this place.

Today we stand aware of the generations past, a long line of people who have called the Scots Kirk, Lausanne their spiritual home. We also look forward to the future and with thought for the generations of people still to come; we pray that God will not only help us keep the doors open but also sustain within us a warm heart of faith and love, excited by the discovery that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13 verse 8)

Yours sincerely, minister & friend,

Ian J. M McDonald.

THE SCOTS KIRK LAUSANNE — A SHORT HISTORY

- 1838* Erskine of Linlathen befriends Alexandre Vinet.
- 1845* Lord Aberdeen protests the lack of liberty prevalent in the area.
- 1866* First attempt to form a Scottish Presbyterian congregation, fails to find a permanent minister.
- 1876* Mrs. Williamina Davidson invites the Reverend A.F. Buscarlet over to Lausanne.
- 1877* The Reverend Dr. Nixon of Montrose formally dedicates the church to the glory of God.
- 1907* The Continental Committee appoints the Reverend A.M. Sutherland as joint minister.
- 1914* Foundation of the Foyer, a social centre for the British servicemen in Switzerland.
- 1919* The Reverend Hector Adam, now minister of the Scots Kirk in Lausanne also revives the Church of Scotland services in Geneva.
- 1921* Meeting of the General Presbyterian Alliance in Lausanne.
- 1923* Start of the Reverend Norman Nicholson's ministry to the younger generation.
- 1927* The First Council of Faith and Order held in Lausanne.
- 1928* Appointment of the Reverend John E. Oldham following his predecessor's sudden death.
- 1930s* The economic crisis of the early thirties considerably decreases the number of the English-speaking residents.
- 1937* The Reverend Donald Campbell succeeds to the ministry of the Scots Kirk Lausanne.
- 1939* Formation of The Committee for Mutual Help in the event of War.
- 1947* A slowly reviving post-war congregation welcomes the Reverend Kenneth Tyson as its new Minister.
- 1952* The Swiss Authorities agree to the Scottish Department of Health's plan to transfer long-term tuberculosis patients to Leysin.
- 1959* The Reverend Andrew Wylie accepts the call to the Scots Kirk Lausanne.
- 1962* Inauguration of a permanent Manse in the newly completed St. Andrew's House.
- 1968* The Reverend Dr. Ian W. Malcolm begins his Ministry.
- Formation of the Women's Fellowship, initially known as The Young Wives.
- 1974* The Reverend W. Maurice Isherwood arrives from Cyprus, to take over the Lausanne Ministry.
- April, 1977* Centenary of the Church celebrations.
- 1979* 100th anniversary of the death of Viollet-le-Duc, commemoration plaque presented to the church by the City of Lausanne.
- 1980* Arrival of the Reverend Hugh F. Kerr.
- 1980* First woman elder: Mrs B. Henchoz.

April, 1982 Thanksgiving and Rededication Weekend.

April, 1985 Reverend Hugh Kerr leaves.

1985 Reverend Murray Stewart arrives to take over the Lausanne Ministry.

1986 First edition of Cornerstone.

1992 The Right Reverend William MacMillan presents certificate for his loyalty and work to M. Marcel Mueller, the church's architect since 1954.

1989 The Reverend Gordon Manson arrives as locum during Reverend Murray Stewart's illness.

1993 Reverend Murray Stewart retires and returns to Edinburgh.

1994 Reverend Douglas Murray takes over the Lausanne Ministry.

2000 Fribourg congregation disbanded due to changing circumstances.

1998 Establishment of Fund by Mr. Ian Reddihough for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.

2003 Employment of youth worker and arrival of the first student.

2004 Retirement of Reverend Douglas Murray and arrival of Reverend Melvyn Wood.

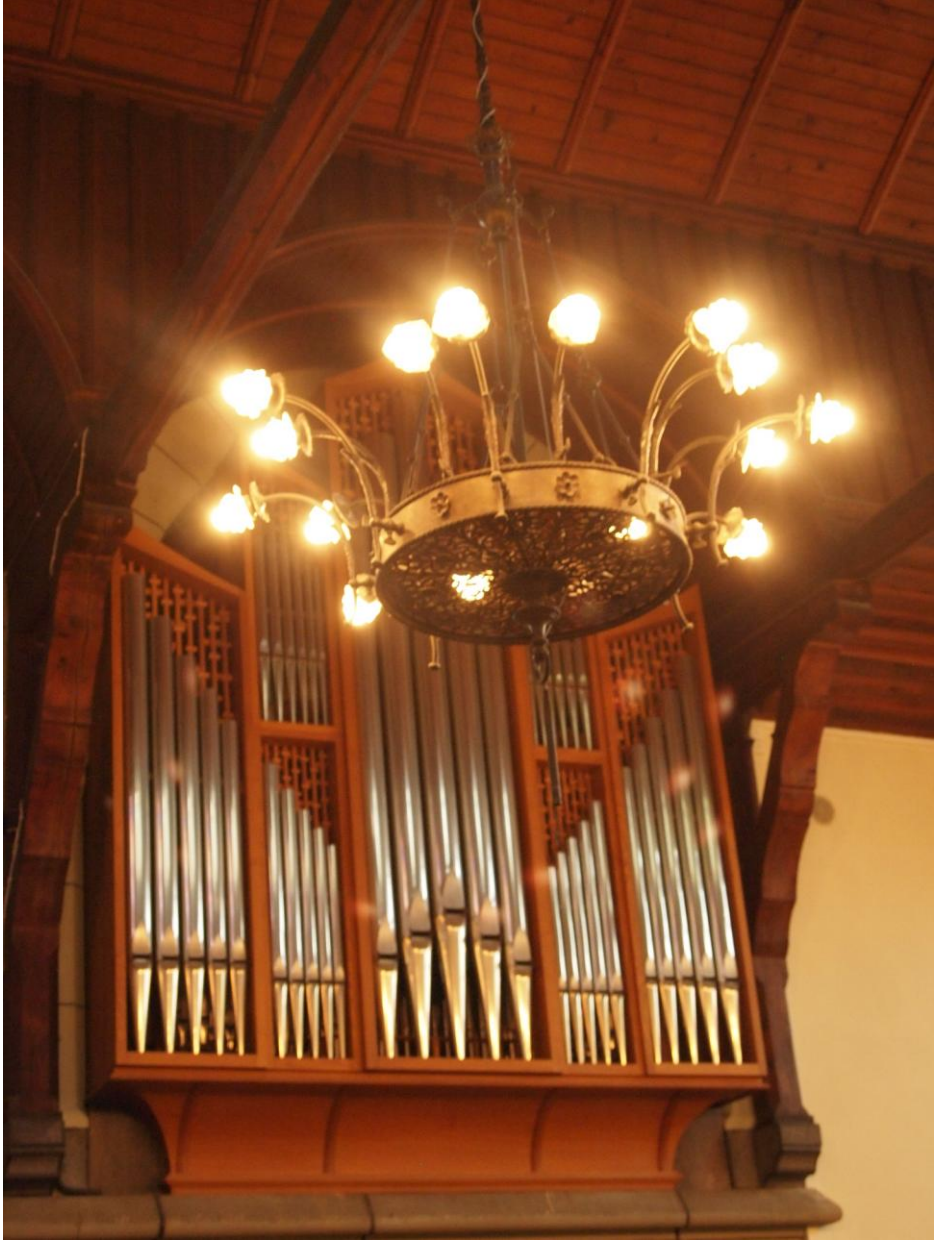
2008 Resignation of Reverend Melvyn Wood and appointment of Reverend Jim Sharp as Interim Moderator.

2009 Appointment of Reverend John Christie as Interim Minister and adoption of Unitary Constitution.

2010 Reverend Jim Sharp appointed Interim Moderator again until the arrival of Reverend Ian McDonald.

2011 Creation of larger Kirk Session, eight Teams and the end of the Congregational Board.





THE SCOTS KIRK LAUSANNE — A SHORT HISTORY

“...Maggie, this is an awfy bad place”

“Maggie, this is an awfy bad place”, wrote the Rev. Professor Edie of the Secession Church of Scotland when describing to his daughter some of the unhappy experiences which befell him in Lausanne when sent out to investigate the fortunes of the Free Church of the Canton of Vaud. Indeed such was the situation that in 1845 Lord Aberdeen had to instruct the British Envoy in Switzerland to protest against «the abandonment of civil and religious liberty whose maintenance distinguishes Christian civilization». But happily these troublous times were in no way indicative of the general esteem in which Lausanne has been held for many years by English-speaking people. Gibbon finished writing “The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire” in the garden where the Central Post Office now stands and the popularity of the town with English-speaking people has never diminished. Its delightful situation and healthy climate have made it a place of perennial attraction. In 1838 Erskine of Linlathen, a well known Scottish theologian from Dundee, began an influential friendship with Alexandre Vinet — the architect of the Eglise Libre in the Canton of Vaud — but it was not until 1866 that an attempt was made to form a Scottish Presbyterian congregation. This was not a success because there was no permanent minister and after two

years the services were discontinued. However, the number of residents and visitors to whom such services would have been welcome continued to grow. The decisive move was made in 1876 when Mrs. Williamina Davidson invited the Rev. A.F. Buscarlet of the Scots Kirk in Naples to come over from Montreux, where he was acting as seasonal chaplain, to hold some week-day services. This Mr. Buscarlet gladly agreed to do. The services were so encouragingly supported that a proposal for the establishment of a permanent Scottish Church in Lausanne was made to the Continental Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.



Rev. A. F. Buscarlet

The suggestion was strongly supported and the Committee decided to go ahead. A permanent charge was established and Mr. Buscarlet was “translated” — to use the Scottish ecclesiastical term — from Naples to be the first minister.



Services were held in the Musée Industriel, rue Chaucrau, but before long Mr. Buscarlet began to raise funds to build a church. The eminent French architect, Viollet-le-Duc, was convalescing in Lausanne after a serious illness and became interested in the project. He drew up the plans, the only ones he ever compiled for a church outside France, and supervised the construction. The church was speedily erected and on 12th April 1877 it was formally dedicated to the glory of God by the Rev. Dr. Nixon of Montrose.

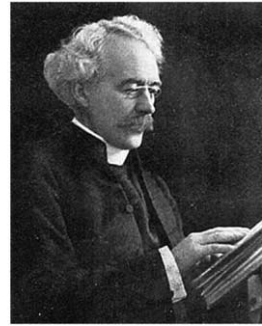
From the start the church became the centre of vigorous Christian life. One of the outstanding features of Mr. Buscarlet's ministry, and a sign of things to come, was the extensive work with young people. The pattern of ministry that was to remain unchanged through the years could be seen in the endless stream of visitors who came to church on one or more Sundays and frequently would call at the Manse.

By 1907 the work of the church had developed considerably and Dr. Buscarlet was in urgent need of a younger and stronger man as Colleague and Successor. The Continental Committee appointed the Rev. A.M. Sutherland from Leith and for three years there was a joint ministry until Dr. Buscarlet's retirement after a fruitful ministry of thirty-six years.

“...the fire and mysticism of the true Celt”

Alexander Sutherland was a particularly attractive personality with much of the fire and mysticism of the

true Celt. His Bible Class reached unprecedented proportions and for several sessions numbered over two hundred young people.



Rev. A. M. Sutherland

During the winter his lantern lectures were one of the features of the social life of the English-speaking community and the schoolgirl teas on Sundays were a byword for hospitality. During this time the *pensionnats* were at the height of their popularity. However there was not undue affluence within the congregation: indeed there were many people living in the Lausanne area who found it possible to live there more cheaply than in the United Kingdom. The pound sterling was worth CHF 25 and a reasonable *pension* charged CHF 6 or 7 per day. The work amongst students was given great importance and the Association of Anglican and Presbyterian Ministers in Switzerland maintained a full-time worker in this field.

“1914-1918”

The outbreak of war in 1914 completely transformed the situation. The congregation in Lausanne dwindled but yet another opportunity

for service presented itself. There had been an exchange of prisoners of war through the Red Cross and many British servicemen who had been wounded or were in bad health were sent to Château-d'Oex. Under Mr. Sutherland's auspices a social centre was started for the men, known as the "Foyer". It was completely dependent on voluntary aid, yet an immense amount was done for the comfort and rehabilitation of the sick, whenever possible arrangements being made for wives to come out from the United Kingdom. There were services, entertainments and everything possible was done for the former prisoners. The work was eventually taken over by the Red Cross but many a soldier treasured memories of the "Foyer" and all it had done.

In 1919, Mr. Sutherland returned to Scotland and he was succeeded by the Rev. Hector Adam who had been chaplain of the Scots Kirk in Montreux since 1908.



Rev. Hector Adam

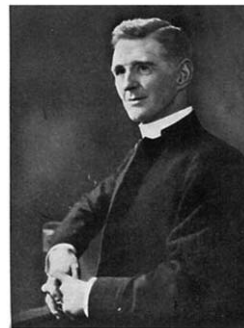
The unsettled state of the Continent made the task of re-establishing the congregation difficult. An attendance of thirty at morning worship was considered exceptionally

good. But the schools gradually recovered, students arrived, hotels began to fill, and the pulse of congregational life began to beat more strongly.

"...food for the Hungry"

With the formation of the League of Nations Mr. Adam revived the Church of Scotland services in Geneva which have continued unbroken ever since. The World Council of Churches had not yet been formed and it is interesting to note that the Lausanne congregation was made responsible for the distribution of £2,000 worth of food supplies to starving people belonging to the Protestant Churches in Hungary. In 1921 the eastern section of the General Presbyterian Alliance met in Lausanne and all local arrangements were made by Mr. Adam — the days of centralized administration in Church affairs were still to come.

In 1923 Mr. Adam returned to a well-earned retirement in Scotland and was succeeded by the Rev. Norman Nicholson who came from a ministry in Castle Douglas.



Rev. Norman Nicholson

Both Mr. Nicholson and his wife had had exceptional experience of work among young people. The new minister's arrival coincided with a considerable increase in the English-speaking community; there were many more visitors and a large number of young people were attending the schools and the University. Before long the church was filled to its utmost capacity. The purchase of the adjoining land is described elsewhere, but it is interesting to note that at this time architectural plans were drawn up to increase the seating of the church from 220 to 316. However after great thought it was decided not to proceed with this extension to the premises, and events were to show this to have been a wise decision.

“four short years...”

All the records of this time show how Mr. Nicholson devoted himself to helping and persuading the younger generation to live the Christian life. Many hours were spent in discussions at the different schools. There were Men Only meetings and on Sunday afternoons Girls Only gatherings were held in the Manse, where the fortnightly “At Homes” were also held. But the promise of a remarkable ministry was cut short, for after only four years Norman Nicholson suddenly and tragically died.

“...the centre of Christendom”

When the Rev. John E. Oldham arrived in February 1928 from the country parish of Eaglesham, near Glasgow, he found a community deeply sorrowed by the suddenness of his predecessor's parting, but none-

theless expectant that a happy and fruitful ministry would be continued.



Rev. John E. Oldham

The previous summer Lausanne had become the centre of attention for the whole of Christendom in that the first Council of Faith and Order — the forerunner of the vast international Church gatherings known today — was held in Lausanne. Apart from the desire for greater understanding and co-operation between Churches at a national level, there would seem to have been a considerable step forward in the local situation too. In the ancient Church of Romainmôtier a united Communion Service was held according to the Anglican rite. The Scots minister along with the Swiss pastors and the priest of the Greek Orthodox Church also took part. Joint services were held with the English Church and such was the attendance of young people that it was necessary for these to be held in the Cathedral or the Eglise de St. François. The co-operation of the Swiss pastors was always readily given and these were truly ecumenical occasions. Speakers would come from Geneva, amongst whom was a young Dutch student

leader called Visser't Hooft destined to win worldwide fame as the first Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

The economic crisis of the early thirties greatly affected the English-speaking community. Already many Americans had been compelled to return to the United States and a grievous blow struck the life of the British colony when the gold standard was abandoned, and the value of the pound fell disastrously. The number of students considerably decreased and there were far fewer visitors.

At Easter time in 1937 Mr. Oldham completed his ministry in Lausanne and was succeeded by the Rev. Donald Campbell who had had considerable experience in overseas charges, having been connected with the work of the Church of Scotland in Buenos Aires and in Cannes.



Rev. Donald Campbell

The halcyon days of the previous decade were not to be repeated, but there were still considerable numbers of young men and women who were *en pension* with Swiss families and doing their best to learn French. The *pensionnats* too were fairly well filled

and visitors in both summer and winter helped to swell the numbers.

“a supper with Haggis and bagpipes”

The church activities were continued along the splendid lines laid down since the beginning of the congregation. There were discussion groups in the Finishing Schools, and many happy “At Homes” in the Manse. The St. Andrew’s Day celebrations — “a supper with haggis and bagpipes” — became a feature of the social life of the church, and it is reported that many kilts were borrowed for this colourful occasion.

“days of strain and difficulty...”

In 1939 the outbreak of war completely transformed the life of the church. The small resident congregation carried on, at times worshipping under immense difficulties. The casualties of total war, the internees and refugees, once again became the concern of the minister and his people. Mr. Campbell became involved in the activities of the International Red Cross, the World Council of Churches, and in chaplaincy work with the prisoners of war. This became particularly important after the surrender of Italy and the arrival in Switzerland of many soldiers who had escaped from prison camps and made their way to freedom across the Alps frequently under conditions of immense hardship and hazard. A group of ladies from the congregation would regularly meet the trains passing through Lausanne and

serve tea to the soldiers, a small work but much appreciated.

“Mutual Help and a spiritual home to many”

These were days of strain and difficulty as can be imagined from the formation of “The Committee for Mutual Help in the event of War”, and the arrangements which were made for the disposal of the Communion Vessels and the keys of the church in the event of invasion. But the church continued, always providing a spiritual home to the many who felt so cut off from their own homes and kindred. Happily there is a minute in the records which states that a service of “Thanksgiving for Victory” was held. With the coming of peace, plans could be made for the future but little could be done until there was an increase in the number of English-speaking people. The immediate post-war years were marred by the death of Mrs. Campbell at an early age, which came as a great shock to the congregation.

In 1947 Mr. Campbell felt that the time had come for his return to Scotland.



Rev. Kenneth Tyson

He in his turn was succeeded as minister by the Rev. Kenneth Tyson who had seen service as a chaplain in the army throughout the war in France, the Middle East, Sicily and Italy, and had since that time been minister of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Leicester. Slowly congregational life began to revive and it became possible to give the attention to the fabric of the church and to the organ which work had had to be postponed during the war years. The town of Lausanne began to expand and the church became directly involved when negotiations were conducted with builders who sought to erect a large block of flats on ground to the south on which the church held a “servitude”.

“Order of the British Empire”

The congregational records of this time show a steady increase in the numbers attending worship, and as more normal conditions returned ambitious plans were made to beautify the church. At the same time the traditional care for the student and the visitor continued to be exercised and a new sphere of pastoral activity appeared in 1952 when the Scottish Department of Health came to an arrangement with the Swiss Authorities whereby numbers of long-term tuberculosis patients could be transferred to Leysin for treatment. Here was a field of activity to which Mr. Tyson devoted himself for the next five years. It was a fitting tribute to this work when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was graciously pleased to designate the minister a Member of the Order of the British Empire. The

congregation too played their part, making special efforts at Christmas, and at other times, for the 150 patients who were so far from their own homes. A marked feature of these years was the large church choir composed of young people drawn from the schools and pensionnats.

In 1959 Mr. Tyson accepted a call to the Scots Kirk in Lisbon, and was succeeded by the Rev. Andrew Wylie who had entered the Church after service in the Royal Navy and had been minister of a church in Glasgow.



Rev. Andrew Wylie

“St. Andrew’s House”

Mr. Wylie proceeded to act on the suggestion made earlier by Mr. Max Mamelock to erect a building on the empty land adjoining the church. Plans were drawn up and the building, now known as St. Andrew’s House, was completed in 1962, the architect being Mr. M.D. Mueller. This increase in accommodation was providential. At last there was a permanent manse. No longer would it be necessary for the ministers and their families to live in various temporary flats in or near the Avenue Rumine. With a hall also

in the permanent possession of the church, the rapid increase in the size of the English-speaking business community could be properly coped with.

More families came to reside on a permanent or semi-permanent basis and for the first time in the history of the church it became possible to organize a Sunday school for the many children under the age of twelve. The traditional pastoral care for the student and young person continued. The new premises made it possible to develop the fellowship of the congregation and regular mid-week luncheons proved very popular. This was the time too when the church was able to organize opportunities for worship to small groups of English-speaking residents outside Lausanne and congregations were established in Fribourg and Bern.

“20th Century relevancy of the Christian Faith”

Mr. Wylie returned to Edinburgh in 1967.



Rev. Dr. Ian W. Malcolm

He was succeeded in 1968 by the Rev. Dr. Ian W. Malcolm who had been a chaplain in the Middle East and

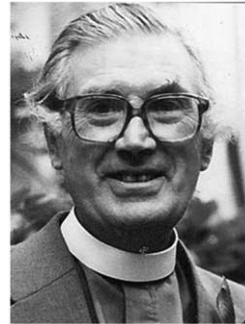
England during the war and later had had ministries in Lanarkshire and in Edinburgh. As had Mr. Wylie, the founder, Dr. Malcolm served on the boards of the Commonwealth American School and the One Up Club, a meeting place for young English-speaking persons living away from home. Participating actively in the entire English-speaking community in Lausanne, both Mr. Wylie and Dr. Malcolm attempted to make the Christian faith relevant to men and women of the twentieth century, to reach out and help them live their daily lives in a Christian manner. Dr. Malcolm's years were devoted to tending to the needs of an ever-growing congregation of permanent residents as well as to those of the many visitors who continued to pass through Lausanne.

“The Young Wives”

It was at this time that a new group was formed in the church to serve the increasing number of young women whose husbands had come to work in Lausanne in the various international business firms. This group, “The Young Wives”, later became “The Women's Fellowship”.

Dr. Malcolm returned to Scotland in 1974 and was immediately succeeded by the Rev. W. Maurice Isherwood. Mr. Isherwood, who had served in the Royal Navy during World War II, entered the ministry after a distinguished banking career. He came to Lausanne from Cyprus where he had been the Church of Scotland appointed minister to the English-speaking community in

Nicosia and also the chaplain to the Royal Air Force.



Rev. W. Maurice Isherwood

“... three former ministers for the centenary celebration”

The historic moment of Mr. Isherwood's years in Lausanne was the celebration of the Centenary of the Church, which took place from 16th to 19th of April 1977. The celebration included a congregational dinner, followed on the Sunday by a Thanksgiving Service conducted by the Rev. D.H.S. Lyon, General Secretary of the Overseas Council of the Church of Scotland with the Rev. Professor John MacIntyre as the guest speaker. On the Sunday evening there was a programme of organ, choral and instrumental music which included a piece, «O Give Thanks Unto The Lord», specially composed for the occasion by Mr. E. Henchoz, husband of Mrs. B. Henchoz, first woman elder of the Lausanne church. The Centenary celebration culminated with an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in English and French, which had been requested by the Ministers of the local French speaking churches who desired this opportunity for their congre-

gations to join in the Scots Kirk celebration. Happily three of the former ministers of the Lausanne church were able to return for this historic occasion: the Rev. Kenneth Tyson, the Rev. Andrew Wylie and the Rev. Dr. Ian Malcolm, as well as many former members of the congregation.

“...a hundred years after. A Memorial to Viollet-le-Duc”

Mr. Isherwood retired in 1979 and for almost a year the church was served by various excellent interim ministers aided by many active and loyal members of the congregation. It was during this year that the City of Lausanne presented the church with a plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Viollet-le-Duc. This was placed on the outside of the church entrance and was unveiled and dedicated by the Very Rev. Dr. David Steel on 23rd September 1979.

“...a time of restoration”



Rev. Hugh F. Kerr

A permanent ministry was re-established with the arrival of the Rev. Hugh F. Kerr and his induction by the Rev. David McKean, Moderator of the

Presbytery of Europe with the Rev. W.R.Y. Marshall preaching the sermon on 7th May 1980. Mr. Kerr had served the church in Tiberias, Israel, as well as more recently in Coldstream, Berwickshire. Immediately Mr. Kerr was faced with the necessary restoration of the fabric of the church. Happily this was completed quickly and successfully and on 24th and 25th of April 1982 Mr. Kerr presided over a well-attended Thanksgiving and Rededication weekend. During Mr. Kerr's ministry a Sunday evening service was restarted as well as a monthly invitation to lunch at the Manse for all single people living away from home. In March 1984 Mr. Kerr welcomed the Presbytery of Europe for their quinquennial visit to the Lausanne congregation. An enjoyable occasion marked by mutual enrichment and the Presbytery's full approval and support for the work undertaken by the Scots Kirk under Mr. Kerr's leadership.

Rev. Hugh Kerr submitted his resignation to Edinburgh for April 1985, having completed five successful years in Lausanne, and took up a new charge at Ruthrieston South, Aberdeen.

“The snow storm of the century”

Such was the front-page headline of the *24 heures* in February 1985 on the weekend that Murray and Mary Stewart arrived to meet the congregation of the Scots Kirk, Lausanne. Despite “La neige du siècle” they were not put off, and would never forget that service (19th February) when some members of the

congregation actually arrived on cross-country skis.



Rev. Murray Stewart

On 29th May, Murray Stewart was introduced formally and warmly welcomed to the Lausanne congregation. Murray had thought that the final phase of his ministry might be in a country parish; however, this turned out to be a parish in a different country – Switzerland! In June, Murray and Mary moved into St Andrew’s House, beginning an eight-year ministry with the congregations in Lausanne and Fribourg.

Having served in three churches in Scotland where he was involved in the merging of congregations, and with eight years’ experience working with the YMCA in Scotland locally and internationally, Murray made it a priority to encourage the wide participation of members both in the social and spiritual aspects of church life. This ensured that responsibility was shared across the range of church activities.

In addition to all the volunteers who were already contributing to the work of the church, committees were formed to attend to practical matters, e.g. fabric, property, and finance.

Bible Study, Children’s ministry, the Guild, the Young Women’s Group and the Men’s Group all flourished during these years.

With such a large Sunday School and Bible Class every space in the Fellowship Centre was required. So for four Saturdays a group of stalwarts of all ages gave the building a spring clean with great enthusiasm, clearing, scrubbing, painting and generally refurbishing the whole Centre. Murray agreed that one of the sections could be called the Appin Rooms, after the “Stewarts of Appin”.

Encouraged by the commitment of the congregation, several changes took place in church life during Mary and Murray’s ministry. These included a variety of worship styles, enabling the co-existence of both traditional and more contemporary music. This was especially important given the mix of nationalities and church backgrounds within the congregation. Hospitality was also at the heart of their ministry, and visitors were often welcomed into their home.

The gift of an excellent new sound system enabled the Scots Kirk’s ministry to expand far beyond its walls, through the recording of sermons and services. These included special seasonal services at Christmas and Easter, to which Murray brought a depth of experience and creative insight; and Mary trained the Christmas Choirs for both adults and children.

“Cornerstone is launched”

In 1986 Murray initiated the publication of the church magazine, Cornerstone. while the church also

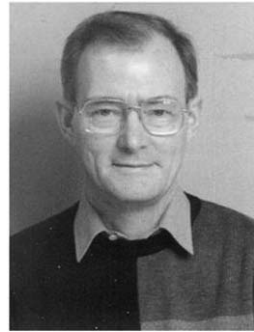
supported a five-year mission project in Jamaica and a home and workshop for the blind and disabled in Bethlehem. On 29th March 1992 the Moderator, the Rt. Rev. William MacMillan visited the church, at which time he presented M. Marcel Mueller, the church's architect, with a long-service certificate for his loyalty and work. It was a great loss to the church when M. Mueller died the following year. He had been associated with our church since 1964.

Among the various ministers who deputized during holiday time, Rev. Gordon Manson and his wife Jean were warmly welcomed for three months in 1989 while Murray Stewart was in the UK being treated for cancer. Murray returned to full active ministry again in January 1990 and enjoyed his last three years at the Scots Kirk, encouraged and blessed by a loving congregation. After a most moving farewell Sunday service, Murray retired and returned to Edinburgh in September 1993 but sadly died on 21st August 1994.

A few weeks later, on 11th September, there was a Memorial Service for Murray in the Scots Kirk. Later, on 29th October, a Thanksgiving Service was held in Viewforth, his former church in Edinburgh, which several members of the Lausanne congregation also attended.

On 3rd February 1994 the Rev. Douglas Murray was introduced to the Scots Kirk. Douglas had served before in parishes in Glasgow, Leith and Wishaw. He and Sheila quickly settled into the Lausanne church life. The church continued to grow in numbers

and was soon able to be self-supporting, no longer requiring aid from the Board of World mission.



Rev. Douglas Murray

A keen artist himself, Douglas started an Art Group which proved to be a very successful innovation in the church's life, drawing non church goers in from the local community as well as members of the church. The annual Christmas Carol Service which was traditionally shared with the Anglican and English speaking Catholic church had to be moved in 1995 to the Saint-François church in the centre of Lausanne to accommodate the huge numbers of worshippers who began to attend.

Changing circumstances in Fribourg had led to a decrease in the English speaking population, with a detrimental effect on the size of the Fribourg congregation. It was finally necessary to end the work there in 2000. However, the Scots Kirk had the satisfaction of knowing that they had met the need in Fribourg while it existed.

During Douglas' ministry, Mr. Ian Reddihough established a Trust Fund to provide an income for the repair and maintenance of the buildings. The

church has derived great benefit from this very generous act. The Scots Kirk has also benefited from the generosity of David and Marjorie Fee who established a fund which is used to support the educational program of the church. The church continued to give regularly to charities in Switzerland and abroad.

“Youth leadership”

In 2003 the Kirk entered into an agreement with Christ Church, the Anglican church of Lausanne to employ a joint youth worker. The first youth worker was a Divinity student from Princeton Theological Seminary, Meghan Gage. Under Meghan's leadership the Christian education program of the church continued to develop strongly.

In January 2004, Douglas announced his retirement at the end of June, 2004. His remarkable pastoral care and his amusing children's talks are sorely missed, but fortunately a selection of his inspiring sermons were printed so the congregation could still benefit from them.

In June 2004 the Rev. Ian Manson, Minister of the Church of Scotland in Geneva, presided as Interim Moderator through to the appointment of a new Minister. In the interim months the Rev. Ian Paterson and the Rev. Joost Pot successively led the worship for the large part of this period.

After being introduced to the Scots Kirk on 12th September 2004, the Rev. Melvyn Wood commenced his Ministry on 10th December of the same year. Melvyn had previously been Parish Minister at Clark

Memorial Church in Largs and at the Cullen & Deskford Parish Church, over the previous twenty years. He was also Clerk of Moray Presbytery.



Rev. G. Melvyn Wood

The successful youth worker arrangement with Christ Church, Lausanne was continued. The four years from 2004 to 2008 saw Jill & Mark Young, Abby Visco, Nicole Reibe and Jenny Replogle, all students from the Princeton Theological Seminary, USA, continuing the strong leadership of the church's Christian youth education programme.

May 2008 saw the retirement of Tom Hill as an active Elder, having served the Scots Kirk for a remarkable 45 years, many of these years as the Treasurer. Tom was appointed Treasurer in 1959, ordained as an Elder 1968 and served under eight Ministers, until his death on 1st April 2011.

A number of local ecumenical initiatives in the French language were developed during Melvyn's ministry, and Melvyn also took on the role of Convener of the Superintendence Committee of the Presbytery of Europe.

In August 2008 Melvyn announced

his intention to resign as Minister to the Scots Kirk. The Rev. Jim Sharp was appointed as Interim Moderator, holding this responsibility until the appointment of the Rev. John Christie as Interim Minister and the arrival of the Rev. Alistair McLeod as first Locum Minister in January 2009.

“Challenging times”

The months that followed the departure of Melvyn Wood were challenging, without a full-time and permanent minister. The congregation received much spiritual enrichment from the many ministers of the Church of Scotland who supported the Scots Kirk in Lausanne at this time and also from the active contributions to worship from the Elders and congregation. Furthermore, there were some great moments of joy and fun – just two examples, the singing of Alistair McLeod and the caseload (literally) of haggis transported from Scotland by John Christie, to the delight of all who love this speciality!

The Rev. Alastair Cherry succeeded Alistair McLeod as Locum Minister from April 2009 to June 2009, at which date a Nomination Committee was formed to search for a new full-time Minister.

In the Summers of 2009 and 2010 the Scots Kirk again welcomed the Rev. Dave Robinson and his wife, Lucy, whilst Rev. Colin Douglas served as Locum Minister up to May 2010.

A major development, under the leadership of John Christie, was the establishing of a structure for a Unitary Constitution for the Scots Kirk in Lausanne, which was adopted

during this interim period, following its approval at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday 6th December 2009. The Congregation was very pleased to learn late in October 2009 that John Christie had been selected by the Church of Scotland as final nominee to be its Moderator of the General Assembly as of May 2010, a great tribute to his Ministry and Interim Ministries.

“A new chapter”

The Rev. Jim Sharp assumed the role of Interim Moderator again whilst the search for a new permanent Minister reached a successful conclusion with the calling in May 2010 of the Rev. Ian McDonald.



Rev. Ian J. M. McDonald

Ian commenced his ministry in Lausanne in September 2010, having previously been Lead Chaplain in hospitals in the Kirkcaldy area of Fife in Scotland. Prior to this role, Ian served the parishes of Deerness and St Andrews, on the East Mainland of the Orkney Islands and subsequently at Bannockburn : Ladywell Church, near Stirling.

Spring 2011 saw the establishment of a larger Kirk Session, following the

ordination of seven new Elders, giving the Session a total of 14 serving Elders. The continued implementation of the new structures within the Unitary Constitution saw the development of eight congregational teams, working under the authority of the Kirk Session, covering the development of Outreach, Pastoral Care, Worship, Christian Education, Finance & Stewardship, Property & Fabric, Hospitality and Charities.

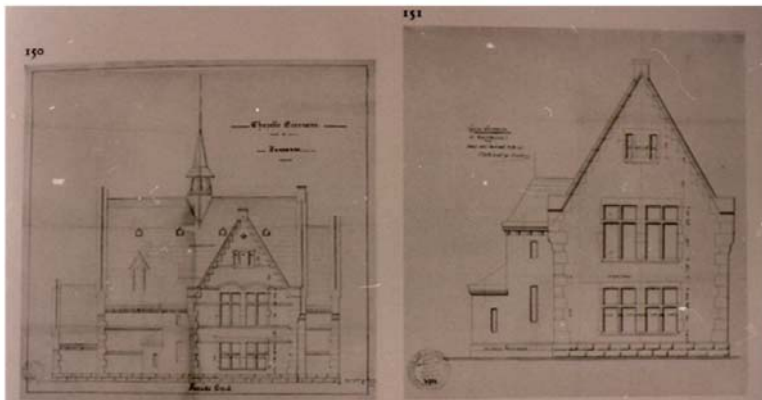
October 2011 saw the 25th Anniversary of the launch of Cornerstone, the Church Magazine, which is now also available as a download on the Scots Kirk's web-site, which can be found at <http://www.scotskirklausanne.ch>. This short history and other archive material are available through the site.

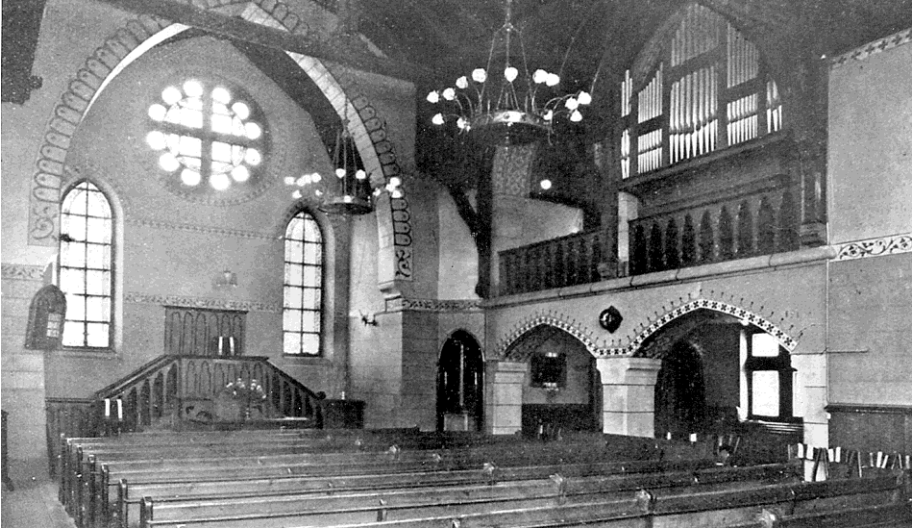
So we come to 2013, the 137th year of the Scots Kirk Lausanne and a snap-shot of the moments characterising the church today:

- Elders' and Youth Group led services
- Presence at the Lausanne Expat Fair
- Snow Sunday Communion and activities at Les Mosses
- Summer Day-away with English/French worship
- Pot-luck lunches
- BBQs in the Church garden
- Wednesday Book Sales and monthly lunches
- Church project – currently a Garden Project for the Sethule Trust, Zimbabwe
- Christmas plays
- Annual Bazaar
- Home based Bible study groups
...and much else. The Scots Kirk Lausanne looks forward with confidence to the church's continuing success in caring for the English-speaking communities of the region.



Mr. Eugène-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc





Before 1912



2013

The Church Buildings

The church is recognised as a very fine example of modern neo-gothic architecture. The French influence is traceable in the high-pitched roof and the row of dormer windows, which act as a clerestory. Because the building was originally conceived as a country church in rural surroundings, it is exceedingly simple and depends for its effect upon the fine proportions carefully calculated by Viollet-le-Duc. The only exterior ornament is to be seen on the finials of the west gable and porch where the Scottish thistle appears in high relief. The most striking feature is the quite surprising sense of spaciousness in the interior, of which the outside gives little or no suggestion. The cost of constructing the building in 1877 was £3,400.

The first alteration to the original structure was the addition in 1912 of a vestry on the east side of the transept. In order to make a central aisle the pews which stretched across the church were adapted, thus intensifying the central pulpit in line with the nave and so emphasizing the centrality of the Word of God, which is the basic feature of the Reformation. A further major change was carried out in the 1950's when the church transept was partitioned off, thus making available the church office. At the same time the heating system which operated through two large stoves standing in the recesses at the east end of the church was replaced by the present electric system. A decade later the fine bronze and glass doors were fitted at the west end of the church.

Some of the strongest early supporters of the church were anxious to purchase the adjacent ground in order to build a manse on it. Dr. Buscarlet offered to collect the necessary funds but the Colonial and Continental Committee of that day withheld their permission. Almost fifty years later, in 1925, the ground adjoining the church came on the market once again. It was realized that if it passed into a builder's hands all possibility of extending the existing property would be irretrievably lost. After prolonged negotiations the Continental Committee agreed to the purchase of a suitable portion of the land at a cost of £1,000. It was another thirty years before conditions made possible the construction of St. Andrew's House on this site, during Andrew Wylie's time as minister. The architect was Mr. Marcel Mueller who, in the best possible way, solved the problems of making effective use of the land available. The building is unusual in that the ground floor is a hall in which there are no supporting pillars. The portico connecting St. Andrew's House to the Church is particularly attractive, linking the old building with the new. When the work was completed in 1962 the building was dedicated by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. Dr. A.C. Craig. The proceedings were filmed and subsequently televised throughout Britain by the B.B.C. The furnishings in the hall and kitchen were purchased with donations received from the

congregation and many former members throughout the world.

It was during Dr. Malcolm's ministry that the church received several very beautiful and generous gifts from members of the congregation. Three stained glass windows, the work of Mr. Bernard Viglino of Chavornay, were donated for the church chancel and dedicated by Dr. Malcolm in April 1971. The central rose window and the lancet window on the right were given by Mr. Bruce Sutherland, a long serving elder and Session Clerk of the church, in memory of his wife and son. The lancet window on the left was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Davidson of Canada in memory of the former's parents. In January 1974 Dr. Malcolm presided over the dedication by the Very Rev. Dr. G.T.H. Reid of a magnificent new organ, a most generous gift from Mr. Ian F. Reddihough, an elder, in memory of his father. Mr. Reddihough also designed, worked and presented to the church the three fine tapestries. The tapestry on the south wall represents in floral symbolic form some of the many nations whose citizens have worshipped in the Scots Kirk, Lausanne, and the two tapestries on the north wall completed for the centenary represent the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These thoughtful gifts added great beauty and interest to the church and it is a tribute to Dr. Malcolm that they were donated during his years in Lausanne.

In 1981 four stained glass windows, the work of Mr. Jean Prahin of Rivaz, were installed in the north wall of the church and dedicated by Mr.

Kerr. The window, "I Am The Bread Of Life", was donated by Mrs. Tyson in memory of her husband, the Rev. Kenneth Tyson, former minister of the church, and the window "I Am The True Vine" was given in memory of Mr. Charles F. Heywood by his wife. These generous gifts have enhanced the beauty of the church and have been much admired.

Even people who were never members of the congregation had a care for this House of God, such as the man who placed the interesting inscription on the back of the hymn board:

"created on the occasion of the redecoration of the Church in — the year of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. The joiner who made this hymn board made no charge for his work. He was a Roman Catholic and gave his labour in part expiation for the massacre of St. Bartholomew."

During the course of 1980 it was decided that the restoration of the roof and the external walls of the church as well as some redecoration of the interior at a cost of CHF 400,000, was absolutely necessary. The essential work was started and a Restoration Appeal Fund was opened.

Under the supervision of Mr. Marcel Mueller, and with the generous and full support of the Overseas Council of the Church of Scotland, the work was carried through quickly and successfully. On 24th and 25th April 1982 the church held a Thanksgiving weekend to mark the completion of the restoration and the rededication of the church in God's service. The programme was concluded by a concert given in the church by the



choir and members of the congregation. During this weekend the church was open continuously to the general public and many members of the local French-speaking churches took the opportunity to share in the celebration.

These major alterations that have-taken place over the years were made possible through the generosity of the congregations and testify to the continuing kindly concern of those who have worshipped and are worshipping in the Scots Kirk, Lausanne.

Record of past fabric donations to the Church not mentioned elsewhere in the history and not necessarily still in current use:

Baptismal Font donated in memory of Mary Campbell by her husband, the Rev. Donald Campbell, minister of the Church, and friends.

New English Bible donated by the congregation in memory of Prof. Rene Rapin, elder and Session Clerk.

Baptismal Ewer, dated 1860, presented by the Scottish Church in Pau, France, the former parish of the Rev. Buscarlet.

Baptismal Ewer donated in memory of Kenneth Sutherland by his wife, Dorothy.

Lectern donated in memory of his wife by the Rev. Norman Nicholson

Garden Bench donated in memory of Richard H. Werbe, elder, by his wife, Louise, elder, and his children.

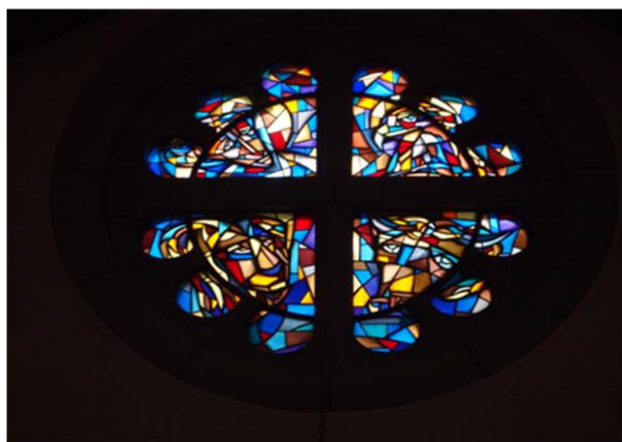
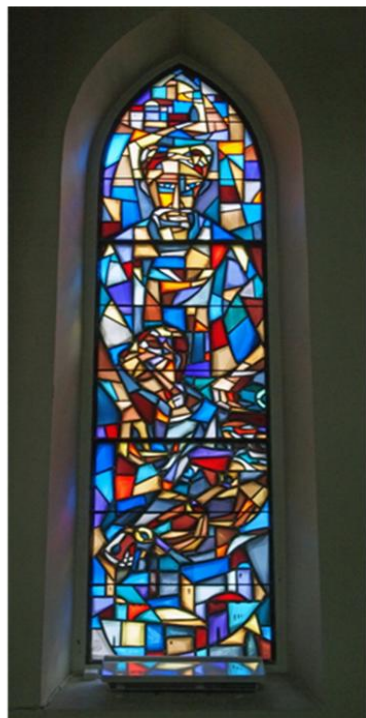
Two front pews given in memory of John L. Strauss.

«*La Bible de Jerusalem*» presented by the French-speaking churches of

Lausanne on the occasion of the 1977 Centenary.

Baptismal Bowl, presented by Jean and Al Ginkel.

Authorized Version of the Bible presented by Mr. and Mrs. D. Jablonowski.



Bernard Viglino of Chavornay created the three stained glass windows in the chancel which were donated by members of the congregation and dedicated in April 1971.



1924



2013

**Tapestries presented to the church, designed
and worked by Mr. Ian F. Reddihough**



Tapestry flowers - representing the 21 nations whose citizens had worshipped over the years up to the dedication of the floral tapestry in April 1970

Australia - Wattle

Belgium - Poppy

Brazil - Victoria Regia Water Lily

Canada - Maple Leaf

Denmark - Marguerite

England - Wild Dog-rose

Germany - Cornflower

Ghana - Golden Spider Lily

Holland - Tulip

Hong Kong - Orchid Tree Flower

India - Lotus

Italy - Carnation

Ireland - Shamrock

Japan - Chrysanthemum

New Zealand - Kōwhai

Scotland - Thistle

South Africa - Protea

Sweden - Deer Vine (*Linnaea borealis*)

Switzerland - Edelweiss, Gentian,

Rhododendron

U.S.A. - American Beauty Rose

Wales - Daffodil



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



The Sacrament of Baptism

The Scots Kirk in Lausanne is part of the Church of Scotland, which in form of governance and order is Presbyterian. It is completely self-supporting, meeting the costs of maintenance and ministry entirely from the giving of those who attend its services week by week and of other benefactors.