

THE SCOTS KIRK PARIS



A prayer for Easter

Because You are a risen Lord
we dare to believe
in life beyond death,
life which is the fulfilment
of the deepest longings of the
heart.

Because You are a risen Lord
we dare to believe
that past failures
need not weigh us down;
that You free us from their
burden
just as You freed Your disciples
from the burden of their failures
at that first Easter.

Because You are a risen Lord
we dare to ask for renewed
strength
to live our lives
with You
and for You
starting now!

Because You are a risen Lord
we dare to believe
that in You we may find
the only life that really matters;
the only life that endures.
Lord, live in us
and we shall truly live.

(Edmund Banyard)

**SKP Easter services to which
all are welcome**

14th April: Maundy Thursday
service at 7 pm

17th April: Easter Sunday
service at 11 am



A word from Laurence, our Interim Moderator

I guess the departure of Joanne was a reminder to us all of how quickly the year can go...in a blur of this and that...matters global, local and personal, and before you know it...whoosh...another month is gone! I know they say it happens more and more as you get older...which is ironic when you reckon that probably this is when people have the most time...or what looks on paper like most time...and the sand runs through that hourglass with relentless pace...I like to think it's just because we are all busy people, leading full lives, interested in lots of things and involved in so many ways!

And before you know it, it will be Easter.

I don't know how you do Easter in Paris - but for us in Geneva, it's pretty full on - as you might hope it would be!

I like to cheat a little in my approach to Easter!

Although I know how the story ends...or rather how the new beginning begins!...I like to suspend that knowledge and feel myself into the timetable of Lent...leading into Palm Sunday...the shattering events of Holy Week culminating in Good Friday, with all its darkness, betrayal, desertion and loss.

That, I agree, is an uncomfortable journey to make...but what it means is that, with something like the same sense of astonishment, wonder and uncertainty...you can experience Easter Day in all its miracle, in the spirit of the first disciples...the element of surprise and shock felt by the followers of Jesus - who were so busy licking their wounds and facing their failures, they had neither energy nor faith to be anticipating Easter Sunday...until, pow! It was there...and He was there...and the world was waiting to hear the Good News.

If you haven't done the Holy Week journey for a while...why not make an effort this year to share in the moments that are being offered... to become part of the story...see the incidents, hear the conversations, ask the questions...dare to believe the miracle.

Love and prayers,

Laurence

And now a word from Robert, our locum

Dear Friends

Just like Joanne, I am writing at Jan's old desk, and it is a beauty! However, I'm not giving you a photograph of the desk because ... let's just say Joanne obviously kept it tidier than I have (and I've occupied it less than a week)! I try to sort things in those fabulous pigeonholes, but they keep spilling out again.



Anyway ... what a joyful week it has been. Susan and I are very grateful for your warm and supportive welcome, to Paris on Friday and at the kirk on Sunday. It is so special to be with you for Easter and we are looking forward to getting to know you better as we celebrate together. I hope the succession of locum ministers will enrich your personal faith and your congregational life.

But it may feel a bit scrappy. Life, like my desk, is not always neatly sorted. As Laurence and Joanne reflected, we are all dismayed by the invasion of Ukraine and the horrific crimes coming to light. We are all disoriented by the continuing pandemic. We are all dislocated by Britain casting adrift from Europe. We all have personal sources of distress.

But God would not leave us dismayed. Some lines from Psalm 147 read:

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;

he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the broken-hearted

and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars;

he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is beyond measure.

Do you see God's concern on every level? - political (Jerusalem, Israel), individual (the broken-hearted) and cosmic (the stars). God's got it neatly sorted and under control. His understanding is beyond measure.

So let's put God at the centre of all we do, think, hope and dream and not be distracted by the things that spill out.

With joyful thanks and expectant prayers,

Robert

Ongoing fundraising

Whether you are a visitor or a regular member of the SKP don't forget that we have a range of goods on sale for church funds. Pens are the easiest thing in the world to lose so why not buy a few SKP ones to ensure you're never without? Fed up always eating the same things? Buy our recipe book and try something new with the help of some of Scotland's top contemporary chefs as well as members and friends of the SKP. Or what about a quality tea towel which some of us are still using 20 years on? And of course *The Tartan Pimpernel* makes captivating reading for all.

We also have a second-hand book stall where you can pick up paperbacks and hardbacks for just 1 or 2 €. Many thanks to Gamelieh for the marvellous job she has done tidying up the shelves!

Take something from The Scots Kirk Paris home with you!

	The Tartan Pimpernel	10 €
	SKP recipe book	5 €
	SKP pen	2 €
	SKP dish towel	5 €

THE SCOTS KIRK PARIS

Caskie conference



On 5th March the Scots Kirk Paris, in collaboration with the Caledonian Society of France, hosted a conference on Donald Caskie - Faith in the Resistance - led by Dick Hallam.

Dick's research highlighted significant points of Rev Caskie's involvement in saving allied prisoners of war and civilians from Nazi persecution. The conference explored the beginnings of the safe house organised by Donald Caskie in the Seamen's mission in Marseilles then the involvement of the secret services, principally MI9, to organise the escape route through France to Gibraltar.

Dick also exposed how Caskie's work was betrayed by a British ex-serviceman who worked for the Gestapo, leading to Rev Caskie's imprisonment. Dick's research has provided us with new information and opened up new avenues of research which will be continued and hopefully next year, on the 40th anniversary of Rev. Caskie's death, we will be able to deliver some new and updated documents.

Derek Bonin-Bree

Getting to know you

Lyly Lepinay has been coming to the SKP since 2018 and has recently volunteered to be on the coffee rota. Thanks Lyly for this important contribution to our church life!

Lyly, can you tell us something about yourself?

I was born and bred in the North East of Scotland with Hong Kong roots so I speak two obscure dialects: Doric and Cantonese. Before I married my husband Laurent in 2009, we had to choose which city to call home: Paris or London. We chose France because as much as I love the various types of hearty, comfort food London offers, nothing beats the choice of desserts and patisseries in Paris.



When and why did you start coming to the Scots Kirk Paris?

One of my University of Aberdeen friends was in town one time and over dinner I mentioned that I was looking for a place of worship. She was a member of the Scots Kirk in Lausanne then (before moving back to Scotland) and recommended that I check if there was a Scots Kirk in Paris. I came for my first service in summer 2018 where I immediately recognised the Scottish warmth and sense of community from all the members. I also found the services to be uplifting. This has been my spiritual home ever since!

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy creative writing, notably short fiction and poetry. For the past few years I have been trying to write a novel about a Chinese family living in Scotland. I am also a supporter of diversity and inclusion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Currently I and a group of friends are organising a startup competition for people from diverse backgrounds, where we'll take the winners on an immersion trip to Singapore.

What is your vision for our congregation?

For the short-term, I am very thankful that the worst of the pandemic has passed and we can gather together in person for services again. In the medium term, although we have a vacancy, I have already been inspired by the various sermons from the visiting locum ministers and their presence reminds us that we are not alone but part of a much bigger community. For the long-term, as we are in the digital age we do have to be creative to ensure that the Church can continue to grow and thrive. As long as there is love and spiritual kinship, I remain hopeful for our congregation.

Can you help?

It takes many people to make our Sunday services the warm, friendly occasions that they are. There is the minister of course but we also need volunteers to do the Bible readings and to help in the kitchen (making coffee, clearing up and washing tea towels). If you would like to help in any way, make yourself known to one of the elders and they will be sure to find something for you to do! Thank you.