

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1968)

Heft: 1548

Artikel: Church assembly of the protestant Swiss church in London

Autor: AD.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693776>

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CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF THE PROTESTANT SWISS CHURCH IN LONDON

Attended by nearly one hundred parishioners, the annual meeting of the Swiss Church took place on Sunday, 26th May, at the Church in Endell Street. A trilingual communal service in the morning, conducted by the Rev. Nicod and the Rev. Dietler, made a worthy beginning to the meeting and put the participants in the devotional frame of mind suited to the occasion. Nearly the whole congregation took part in Holy Communion which concluded the religious service.

A simple meal provided an opportunity of exchanging views in a very informal manner.

In the afternoon, the two parishes met separately to discuss their problems under the guidance of their respective Chairmen and their Ministers. Their reports were presented at the General Church Assembly which took place in the afternoon under the efficient chairmanship of Mr. O. Béguin, President of the Church Council (Con-sistoire).

It must be left to the more experienced reporters who are familiar with the life of the Church here, to record in their minutes the numerous details of the preparatory talks and annual reports. The newcomer's more general impression can be set out in a few lines.

It is encouraging to see the co-operation between the two Churches, which is not always achieved so successfully in other Swiss communities abroad. All efforts in this direction — and the co-operation with the Swiss Catholic Mission — deserve the strongest support from everyone. The Church Day was a tangible proof of this sense of co-operation and of how fruitful such events are. In this spirit we look forward with keen interest to the Ecumenical Service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, 7th July, at the Swiss Church, St. Mary Woolnoth, E.C.3.

One of the problems dealt with was a financial one, the repairs to the Church in Endell Street, which are to be carried out in the near future. The appeal made to the generosity of all members cannot but be emphasized too much, and everyone is invited to contribute not only material gifts, but also new ideas for raising funds.

Last, but not least, the Church's work for young Swiss residents or visitors in this country was again the subject of many discussions and will continue to occupy our minds. Finding the right approach to this problem is not easy, but the realistic way it is dealt with by the responsible members of the parishes gives hope that practical solutions may be found. The noise of student demonstrations outside, which penetrated the attentive silence during the General Assembly, underlined the need to provide other outlets for the enthusiasm of youth.

The devoted members of the Church Communities and their officers deserve hearty thanks for their unselfish work and for their continuous endeavours in the interests of the Swiss Church in London.

AD.

All activities are set out in the Annual Report available free of charge from the Ministers — addresses see on page 52940.



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