

# WALDENSIAN MISSIONS AID SOCIETY, SCOTLAND

## NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2003

The Society arranged a visit to **Florence and Casa Cares, from 25 April to 2 May 2003**. The time at Casa Cares was most useful in seeing the work of this Centre, as a Guest House, and as a Conference Resource, for Waldensian and other groups using it. It is located in the heart of the Tuscan countryside, to the east of Florence, in a beautiful and tranquil situation. The group had the opportunity of participating in the morning service of the Waldensian Church in Via Micheli, Florence, where **Pastor Gianna Sciclone** is the minister. Gianna was one of the first female Pastors to serve in the Waldensian Church. In addition, a convivial dinner party was arranged, with the Pastor, her husband and other friends from the Florence Congregation attending. It was delightful, in particular, on that occasion, to meet and discuss with Anna Ricca, the sister of Professor Paulo Ricca, who was our Lecturer for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture.

Just in the last few weeks, a **new Bursar** from the Waldensian Church, **Giuseppina Bagnato**, has taken up a place at St. Colm's, in order to attend New College as her year abroad, in the course of her Pastoral Training. Giuseppina is a charming young lady, of great character, and it is hoped that she may be able to attend the meeting of the Central Committee.

Then Waldensian Cultural Centre produced, in 2001, a new **Video, "The Waldensians"**, giving a short history of the Church and of the ongoing witness. The Video will be shown at **Liberton Kirk Centre, on Friday, 5 December 2003, at 8 p.m.** I do hope that all interested will take the opportunity to attend. Giuseppina Bagnato will also be present, to speak of her experiences.

The **Annual meeting** of the Committee will take place at the S.S.C. Library in Edinburgh on Monday, **8 December 2002**. A formal notice to members will be issued in due course.

*At the last annual meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that an invitation be extended for a **Deputy**, and it is projected that a Deputy will come to Scotland **in May 2004**.*

*There is also in course of planning, a **visit to Torre Pellice, from 16 to 23 October 2004**. This is designed primarily for those who have not previously had an opportunity of being in the Valleys. The visit is intended to include shared worship with the Torre Pellice congregation, visits to the historical sites in the valleys, a visit to the famous Youth and Conference Centre at Prali, known as Agape, and a visit to Turin. The projected cost, inclusive of all travel, excursions and lodging on basis of half-board at the Foresteria in Torre Pellice, is estimated at £450. Interested parties can obtain further details from the Secretary.*

Requests for further information, including copies of the Waldensian Review, will be welcomed most warmly. Likewise, donations for the ongoing work will be most welcome, and Gift Aid Declarations can be provided to donors who pay U.K. tax. The Society is usually able to provide a Speaker and a video or coloured slides, for presentations to any interested organisations, who may wish to know more of the work of the Waldensian and Methodist Church and Community in Italy.

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