

# The Christmas activities of the swiss churches

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misty and silent sprawl of London below. The Ambassador, a throng of press reporters, the Swiss tourism officials and all the jet-set had to go out in the cold on the platform where the mast stood. The henchmen of Bond's arch-enemy Blofeld (the baddy in the film) had some trouble in lifting the flag. Eventually it went up, a majestic "007" sign spread on a fifteen by fifteen foot expanse of canvas. The wind was blowing hard and we had to tug at it while the photographers took dozens of pictures of it, full-blown, with the Ambassador and the starlets holding the cord together. Father Bossard was there too, snapping away with his super-duper Konika camera with telescopic lenses.

When the show had ended I met the Ambassador (the fourth time in eight days) and he told me that Ambassadors were called upon to perform variagated duties. He did point out, however, that he might have hesitated somewhat to be on the "Miss World" panel of judges!

We returned to the S.N.T.O. premises and drank Swiss beverages to recover from the cold. The film "On Her Majesty's Service" will have its world première on December 18th at the Odeon Theatre, Leicester Square. In the meanwhile, an elaborate James Bond exhibition will be mounted in the Swiss Centre.

(PMB)

#### THE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

The French-speaking Church is organising the traditional *diner des doyens* at Endell Street at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday 20th December. On Christmas Day, there will be a communion service at 11 a.m. but no activities in the evening. On Boxing Day, Christmas will be celebrated with the youth of the Church at the vicarage, 7 Park View Road, in the evening. The fête for the

children of the colony is foreseen for 3rd January at 2 p.m. at the YWCA, Queensmary Hall, Gt. Russell St.

\* \* \*

The German-speaking church will have a first Christmas celebration on Thursday, 18th December, at 4 p.m. at the Stockwell family, Hyde Cottage, Cross Keys, Sevenoaks. On Sunday 21st at 5 p.m., there will be a family Christmas fête and because of this there will be no service, morning and evening. There will be a communion service at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and a communion service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. No morning service is intended for the following Sunday, but evening service will take place as usual.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Catholic Mission will celebrate Holy Mass at 8.15 a.m. on Christmas Eve. At 7 p.m. there will be a youth evening at the Westminster Ballroom. At 12 p.m., there will be a midnight Mass. No special service is foreseen for Christmas Day. The children's Christmas Party will take place at the Westminster Ballroom at 3 p.m. on Sunday 28th December. At 6.30 p.m. there will be a Mass with sermon, following which a dance will be organised for the young at the Westminster Ballroom and be highlighted by the Charlie Max band.

#### OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of three of our readers:

Mrs. C. O. Brullhard, of Hotel Park, 117-120 Bayswater Road, W.2.

Mrs. C. J. Frehner, of 589 Gotthelfstrasse, Niederglatt, who passed away in spring, but of whose death we have only just been informed.

Mr. Giovanni Bozzini (87), of 20 Conway Street, W.1.

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the three families.

#### SKI CAMPS FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

As in previous years, the Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, are arranging ski camps. The one at Christmas is booked up, but there are two more, one from 2nd to 13th March at Riederalp in the Valais, and one from 31st March to 10th April at Klewenalp in Nidwalden, especially suitable for beginners and mediocre skiers. All information may be had from the Secretariat.

Young Swiss living abroad may like to make a note of the summer camp which will take place in Western Switzerland from 26th July to 15th August.

All these camps are extremely well organised, and they provide an excellent opportunity for young people to mix not only with other compatriots from abroad, but also to get to know their country of origin. For little money — in case of hardship there is a contribution — a great deal off is offered, and there is something of interest for everybody. There are discussions, community singing, excursions and a lot of "don't miss the Swiss". The organisers are anxious that the young *Auslandschweizer* not only enjoy a good holiday, but that they should get to know their country thoroughly and in a way which the tourists are not able to do. So don't hesitate and enquire straight away — it is well worth while.

(MM)

#### BIRTHDAYS

The following readers are celebrating their birthdays during the next month, and we wish them and any others whose dates we don't know, many happy returns: Mrs. Scheuermeier will be 80 on Christmas Eve, and Mrs H. Rittmeyer 70 on 28th December. Mr. E. C. Schmid will have his birthday on New Year's Eve when he will be 75.

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