

St Ursula's Church Berne



Annual Reports for 2019

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Each report has an author who can be contacted for further information.

Up-to-date contact information is available on our website and in our magazine.

St Ursula's Church

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

As I look back over my first year at St Ursula's, I am very thankful for all I have received from the rich community and fellowship we share. There seems to be a positive spirit within the church and it has been encouraging to see a modest growth in numbers at regular services and an increase in children and families who have joined our fellowship and Junior Church.



We have shared many joys and sorrows together during the year. I think especially of the death of our much loved Vreni Hawker. Alongside sharing our loss, her funeral was marked by a deep unity of faith and love.

Visitors and newcomers who come to the church often comment: 'there seems to be such a lot going on!' I am aware that the variety of spiritual, social and outreach events taking place can only do so because of all the hard work of so many people. I do hope that everyone will take time to read the annual reports of the different groups and activities of the church. Everything that happens depends on the tireless commitment of many people: those involved in leading music, pastoral care, buildings and technical work, administration, finances and fundraising, children's work, youth and confirmation group, safeguarding, charity and outreach, church events and catering, magazine and website, Eco-Church group, prayer ministry, flower arranging, and all those involved in serving, reading and leading intercessions.

I want especially to thank my loyal and hard working Churchwarden, Martin, who for much of this year has been fulfilling this role on his own. Thank you, Martin, for your positive attitude, commitment and support. I also want particularly to thank Sue for the huge amount of work involved in being Treasurer, and for the grace, energy, kindness and thoughtfulness she brings to that role. I am very thankful to Hans for all his hard work on the church buildings and especially for his help with many jobs in the church house.

This year has seen the retirement of our Church Administrator, Jana, after fourteen years. Most people will not be aware just how hard Jana has worked over this time and the wide range of her responsibilities from preparing service sheets and booklets, organising the Summer Fête and Christmas Bazaar, liaising with special visitors and all our hall users, to keeping an eye on the premises and making sure the bins are put out! In addition to her work as Church Administrator, she has also served as a teacher in Junior church for many years and made countless trips to the UK in order to stock the British Food Stall. She has insisted that we 'don't make a fuss' about her leaving, but I am sure you will all want to express your gratitude to her for all she has done for the church. Jana's support

has been absolutely essential to me over this last year as I have sought to learn and understand how everything works here!

In February, we welcomed Maria Avdikou as our new Administrator. I hope that everyone will support her in this challenging role, especially as she gets used to new people and new responsibilities.

I also want to express my warmest thanks to Peter, David and Archana for all their valuable support, time, and many gifts, and for all that they offer to the ministry and life of the church.

My priorities over this last year have been to encourage us to think about, and deepen, our Christian discipleship, our prayer lives and our life as a community. Prayer, worship and study have been, and will continue to be, among my priorities. Please do read my separate report on these areas of church life.

In addition to encouraging more opportunities to pray and study, there have also been several events and activities which have sought to strengthen our community life and our outreach. At Pentecost we held an International Lunch at which we celebrated the rich diversity of our fellowship with people from over twenty different nations. We have also had some well attended 'Open House' afternoons in the Church House both for members of the congregation and local neighbours.

A new Social and Outreach Committee has been formed to think about how to best build up our church community and make contact with other groups in the area. The committee introduced a 'name tag' Sunday when we hopefully were able to get to know (or remind ourselves) of one another's names in order to chat more easily. We hope to repeat this. We also organised a newcomers' supper at the Church House to welcome new members and visitors to our church. Social events such as the afternoon teas which Sue has organised have further provided opportunities to invite friends and bring people together.

Additional outreach activities include building links with the local schools; I have arranged visits to the British School, International School and hopefully also to the English Speaking Playgroup School. Letters have been written to all English speaking embassies introducing myself and our church community; ambassadors were recently invited to a special service on 'citizenship'. The Irish Ambassador was the only one to attend this year but hopefully we can build on these links in the future.

What the Diocese calls 'equipping lay people' is another important priority. This includes *both* encouraging each person to be fully involved in the life of the church, contributing their particular skills and talents, *and* also equipping people to live out their Christian faith in their homes, neighbourhoods and places of work. We have started a new initiative interviewing members of the congregation about their faith, life and work and Archana was the first person to agree to be interviewed. I hope to arrange further interviews in the future and to develop

other ways to help us all to think about how we can faithfully live out our Christian faith in our lives Monday to Saturday.

So, again, I thank God, and I thank each of you for the rich fellowship we share at St Ursula's. I hope that together we can continue to deepen our faith, prayer and spiritual life as individuals, strengthen the community life we share in Christ as we welcome new people, support one another in need and encourage one another in our faith, and be equipped to live faithfully as disciples of Christ in our daily lives.

Let me end with a verse from Colossians:

'As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.'

(Colossians 2 v6)

Revd Helen Marshall

PRAYER, WORSHIP AND STUDY

When I arrived at St Ursula's I emphasised that prayer, worship and study were my priorities and I would seek different ways and opportunities to deepen and strengthen these crucial elements of our Christian lives, both as individuals and as a community. Here is a summary of activities in these areas, including new developments, over this last year:

Worship

- Our regular pattern of services remains similar to that which existed when I arrived: Sung Eucharist with the organ on most Sundays, with an 'informal' Eucharist with the music group on the second Sunday of the month. One new development is that we have had a mix of hymns and songs, organ and music group, on special Sundays (e.g. Palm Sunday, Easter Day, Pentecost etc.) This has been very well received.
- Silence: I have also introduced more silence into our services. This has been widely appreciated.
- 8.30 am service: We continue to have the 8.30 am service twice a month, with 2-12 people attending; there is often only a very small number in winter.
- Special services: There have been a number of special services: an All Age Eucharist with special presentation of Junior Church project on 28th April; Ascension Day service in Thun; special service for Creation Sunday; Evensong on 1st February; nativity play in December; special service on citizenship in February; All Age services on Christmas Eve (Christingle) and Good Friday. I hope to have more All Age Eucharists and other special services in the future.

- Ecumenical services: there was a service in the Münster for Creation Sunday in September; a Vesper service for Nacht der Religionen in November (with the wonderful Münster youth choir); and an ecumenical communion service in January.
- Thursday Eucharist continues on Thursday mornings. This is a short reflective communion service with a regular group of 8-12 people attending, followed by coffee and cake and fellowship.
- Thun services are held twice a month at 18.30 on a Thursday evening. This is usually a Holy Communion service though occasionally it is Evening Prayer if I am away. It is a small, friendly group (of around 8-10 people) and the service is usually followed by fellowship. We have welcomed a few new members over the past year. At the carol service in Thun this year we had over 65 people attending, so there is potential to reach out into the community.

Prayer

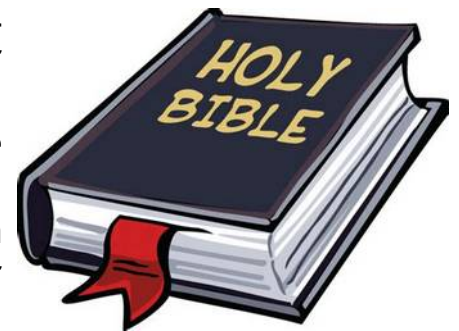
- Different forms of prayer: I have tried to encourage different forms of prayer: liturgical prayer in Morning and Evening Prayer, but also opportunities to pray through scripture in a meditative way, and to pray contemplatively in silence. It is crucial that we develop and deepen our prayer lives both as individuals and as a community.
- Morning and Evening Prayer: Morning Prayer is on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; sometimes I am joined by David and others. Evening Prayer is on Monday, Tuesday, Friday; usually there are 2 or more of us and several people are involved in leading it. One regular attender commented recently: 'what a special time of quiet and prayer'. During Morning and Evening Prayer we recite Psalms, read scripture, and pray for the life of our church, the world, and ourselves. It is a good way to begin and end the working day.
- Lectio divina group meets on Thursday mornings after the Eucharist and was started after the Lent groups last year. There are usually between 4-12 people present. I lead a guided period of silent reflection on a short passage of Scripture and then there is opportunity to share our reflections at the end. This is a spiritually uplifting and encouraging time in which we receive nourishment and strength from Scripture and from one another.
- Quiet Evening and Quiet Day: During Advent we held a Quiet Evening. I gave two talks on the theme of 'Waiting on God' and then there was plenty of silence for personal reflection and prayer. I am planning a Lent Quiet Day on the theme of 'Praying in the Wilderness'. I hope we will continue to offer regular quiet days or silent retreats.



- Prayer Ministry after services: Starting at the beginning of March, we will periodically offer prayer after the morning service. This will involve two people being available to listen and pray with anyone who wants to request prayer for themselves or someone else.
- Magazine and Garden: There are regular prayer reflections in the magazine, and plans for a contemplative area in the garden.
- Intercessions in church: I am very thankful for those who lead the intercessions in church; these are always very thoughtfully prepared and encourage us to respond prayerfully to the scripture readings and to pray for the church, the world, and those in need.
- Thy Kingdom Come initiative: We joined in this worldwide prayer initiative between Ascension Day and Pentecost and will hopefully do so again this year.

Study

- Lent course: last year we focused on spiritual disciplines (repentance, meditation on Scripture, prayer and fasting. These four sessions were held twice a week, with 8-15 people attending each session. The aim of the sessions was to combine study with prayer and reflection. It is very important that we pray through what we study, rather than it just remaining in our heads! This year we will have four sessions (offered twice a week) on the Psalms.
- During Advent we held three Bible studies: looking at the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke and the meaning of the incarnation in John. Archana led the study on Matthew, James Morgan on Luke, and I led the study on John. The sessions were very varied and interesting and those who came (14-25 people) engaged in lively discussion.
- Solitude and Community: I led four morning sessions, and one evening session on my booklet *Solitude and Community*. I was very encouraged by the way people engaged with the themes and the insights they shared. Encouraging each one of us to find time for prayerful solitude and to strengthen our community together remains a priority.
- Men's Bible Study: In November we started a monthly Men's Bible study, led by David. This came about because we realised two of our members were travelling to Zurich for a men's Bible Study so we thought we would start one here! There have been some complaints from the women (!) but the group is very much valued by the men who attend. It has attracted some members who have never attended any previous Bible Study. The group is developing a sense of trust and mutual support which is appreciated.



- Talks after Sunday services: David has given 2 talks on Islam; Elizabeth Bussmann gave a talk on the environment (during Creation Season), and we have had talks from leaders of various charities. Future talks are planned: Clare Amos will talk on the Diocesan Rule of Life, Sarah French (from A Rocha Christian conservation charity) is coming to talk about the environment, and David hopes to offer a talk about Anglicanism. We may also, possibly, have other speakers from the World Council of Churches.

I am very thankful to Archana, Peter, David, James, and others, for their contributions to these areas of our church life.

Revd Helen Marshall

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council was thankful to be able to welcome our new chaplain Helen Marshall as Chairwoman of our meetings starting in March 2019. Her desire to encourage the prayer and spiritual life of us all, as individuals and as a church, is being felt and realized in many ways. Now during each council meeting one of the items included on the agenda is sharing, in pairs, some aspect of our life of faith.

In the council year of 2019-2020 council met 11 times to discuss subjects which are vital to the life and running of the church. Certain items appear each month such as Sue Higson's treasurer's report, information about safeguarding issues submitted by our Safeguarding Officer Cecily Klingler and an update on Junior Church teaching and activities by Ruby Wildhaber. The Technical Committee, TCom, always has much to report on such as maintenance issues with church buildings, improvement in operation of the infrastructure including heating and video/audio and efforts to provide security for Helen and David in the chaplain's house. TCom has set up a technical support service which can be accessed by a specially set up phone or email channel, available 7 days a week, 8 hours a day.

Issues that had been tabled during the vacancy period have been revived and are being worked on such as Pastoral Care and our status as an Eco-Church. Added to these was the formation of a Social and Outreach Committee, one result of which being the weekly manning of a Welcome Table during coffee time after church on Sunday.

Worship at St Ursula's includes not only Sunday services but also additional study and worship opportunities at special times during the church calendar year. Council supports Helen in planning and carrying out such things as Advent and Lent studies, offering additional services around Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day, providing morning and evening prayer on various days and every Thursday morning there is Holy Communion followed by fellowship and lectio divina. Council also helps in encouraging outreach to the wider Christian community such as helping plan for the Nacht der Religionen, the ecumenical service in the Münster each

January and the Service of Lessons and Carols in December in the Heiliggeist Church.

Council discusses everything from the church garden, the purchase of a defibrillator, the search for a new administrator, to safeguarding and risk assessment and supports the Charity and Missions group in its activities and approves its budget.

This report covers only a small portion of the council's work. If you have questions or suggestions of things Council could consider, please speak to a council member. Their names are listed in the back of the church magazine.

Importantly, please pray for Helen and her husband David, and continue to pray for the work of the council and its members, as all strive to facilitate worship, fellowship and outreach at St Ursula's.

Donna Goepfert, Council Secretary

CHURCHWARDEN AND THE GARDEN

I would like to thank everybody who has given me their very quiet and candid support over the last twelve months of my duty as Churchwarden.

Shortly after the inception of my office as Warden the second person who had also been accepted as Churchwarden, found herself employment in Holland after many months of unemployment here in Switzerland. This situation forced her to leave the office of Warden, so putting the whole responsibility upon my shoulders. Although it seemed rather daunting, it has turned out to be less of a setback than at first it seemed. Without the aforementioned help it would have been an ordeal.

I would also thank those wonderful people who supported me in keeping the garden of the churchyard in such good condition. I will not thank each by name here in writing, as I feel it would encroach upon their private sphere. But to mention it, it was a great deal of hard work to cut the extensive hedge around our church, and to keep the ever-encroaching weeds down to a minimum.

A Churchwarden's job would be quite a thankless task, but for the support of members of our congregation, the members of our clergy, who have more than enough work to accomplish in the service of our Lord and the people of the church.

I would also wish fervently to thank those members, who helped me to fit a video inter-com to the vicarage front door. Stating this, I must say that some further help/work is needed.

The Garden apart

We have been able to plant new bushes to help our eco-system, most bushes are indigenous plants to the Swiss environment.

We wish to make a quiet garden space for contemplation, worship and meditation. This place will be where the stone table is now. I would welcome some help in arranging this quiet spot to be.

We would also like to plant new indigenous plants round the vicarage. Although, we should bear in mind that these plants should not attract honey bees, as they could cause agitation to the people frequenting the Vicarage.

We trimmed hedge height around car park and Magnolia, to enable easier hedge cutting in the summertime.

The old worn out tools and unused grills have been removed by the technical committee. My very well meant thanks to them.

Martin Browne, Churchwarden

THUN GROUP

We are a small congregation who have been meeting for many years, first as a house group and then as a church. Our services take place on the first and third Thursday of every month at 18.30 at the Chapelle Romande on Frutigenstrasse in Thun. We also organise an annual traditional carol service, followed by a buffet provided by our congregation. This service enables us to raise funds for Cecily's Fund, one of the charities supported by St Ursula's Church. It is also a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas message together and to mark the end of the year. The Chapelle Romande is just a short walk from Thun station and is easy to find as the chapel building is attached to the reformierte Kirche building situated at 22 Frutigenstrasse.



Our congregation are open and friendly and we also all enjoy the fellowship which takes place almost every week, usually at the restaurant of Manor department store, opposite the station. Many of our group are also active in events which are organised by St Ursula's Church in Bern. These include book sales, bazaars, social evenings and quizzes.

We have recently been joined by several new members who we hope will be attending as often as possible in the future. We are mainly British, but also have Swiss and French members.

Rachel Huguenin

CRÈCHE

St Ursula's Crèche looks after the youngest members of the congregation during the 10.00 Sunday service allowing parents to focus on their worship. Parents can either drop their children off before the start of the service or at the same time as Junior Church starts. The Crèche is open all year round with very few exceptions. We couldn't do this without the help of a large group of truly committed Crèche helpers. An enormous thank you to all of them! The number of children fluctuates quite strongly. In 2019 there were occasionally very few or none children but we still tried to keep the service going to ensure continuity.

Last year two of our helpers left and so we now need more helpers. Any volunteers would be warmly welcomed onto the team.

Dominic Roser, Crèche coordinator

JUNIOR CHURCH

Teachers

We are a small, but hard-working team. That is why we try to say thank you once a year with a small BBQ for the Junior Church teachers and the Crèche helpers. Again, THANK YOU for all the time and love you put into the preparation and classes you give.

It would be great to have a few more teachers on our team. You don't need any particular pre-knowledge, just some preparation time, a big heart for our youth, and the drive to teach and grow with the youth.



Junior Church Resources

For several years, we have used the material from "ROOTS" as a basic teaching input. These ecumenical and lectionary-based resources are produced by a Christian charitable company. This material, we only use during the period of time where we are not on a specific project. Us teachers we like to use several other sources in order to have a variety of teaching material more adequate for our youth. Our advantage is that we are very flexible, and our communication with the youth is very good so we can adjust our courses the way we think our youth learns the most.

Charity

The Junior Church raises money weekly and also with several events like the Christmas bake and craft event, this revenue goes directly to the Tear Fund Charity. The Mission Sunday Projects help the Junior Church to connect with the

project and learn more about the different charities. We experienced that talking regularly about our Charities teaches the children from a very young age to help and be thankful for what they have.

Classes



It is important for us to start and end the 10.00 o'clock Service together. Shortly after the service started, and before going out to Junior Church Classes, the children get a taste of what they are going to learn in their classes either by Rev. Helen or by our Reader Archana.

Over the last year, the two Junior Church groups had an increase of children and youth. Both, for the Sparklers aged 3 to 9, and for the Pilots aged 9 to 14+, we were able to get very diverse and harmonious groups. The 2nd Sunday of each month is an informal eucharist and service, the older youth stay in church, so only the Sparklers go out to their classes. A few times a year, we have an "All-Age" service where all the groups stay in Church.

In 2019, we started a new Confirmation Class; they meet regularly either on Saturdays or Sundays. It is a small group led by Rev. Helen and Tricia Carrick. The youth is given time to talk and share their thoughts and views on different topics.

Above all, I believe, they learn how to put their faith into action and try to make the world a little better.

During the year, we like to set up several projects for the Pilots. This is the occasion to go into depth on a specific topic. The youth is free to research and ask all the questions they wish. Together with the teachers they get all the information and prepare posters. This is how they can show and present to the congregation what they have learned. Sometimes this even gives a new insight to the older generation and they get to know details they haven't thought until now.

The Sparklers enjoy this time, as well, because they can draw, craft and learn more every week, it makes them proud to explain to the teachers and their families what they already know about a certain Bible story.

In 2019, we had two bigger projects next to the Nativity Play, one was "The Old Testament" and the other one was "The Creation." Both projects kept our youth very busy for several months.

Youth Events

Throughout the year we have several events for the youth and their families.



We had a BBQ for families and friends in the Church garden. Several families met in church to enjoy some time together, eat some delicious food and play some games.



In September, we had a bring and share lunch/BBQ for the whole congregation at the Gugelmann's. We chose the topic Music. Everyone could bring an instrument they liked to play. One had the opportunity to try out different instruments. Thankfully, a part of the music group could join us. We all gathered together and sang different songs. After the fellowship, the Junior Church stayed at the Gugelmann's for their sleepover. We decided that since we had good weather we would sleep in the garden in big and small tents. What an adventure! In the morning, we



pancake breakfast.

I take this occasion to say a BIG THANK YOU to both Marilou and Richard Gugelmann for their generosity and hospitality.

At the end of November, families came together to bake different Christmas cookies and create Christmas cards. After tasting some of our homemade cookies, we sold the rest for our Junior Church Charity - Tear Fund.

Nativity Play

In 2019, our Nativity Play was written by Tricia Carrick. This time, we gave the speaking roles to the Shepherds and to the Angels. This exchange of roles gave us all a new perspective to see the Nativity story. Some of the older youth who did not want to be in the centre of attention read a few passages as Narrators, this was very successfully organized by John Carrick. Mary and Joseph were played by our younger youth. All the Junior Church



teachers and Crèche helpers have been a great support in encouraging the children, choosing the costumes, helping them with the microphone, and all the other tasks which needed to be planned.

The music group underlined the play with traditional Carols sung by both the congregation and youth.

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL!

Don't miss an event!

The Junior Church Team tries their best to organize throughout the hole year different events for the Youth and the families. For 2020 there are already many events and Projects planed. We are looking forwarded to them. So, you don't miss an event, please read our magazine, see the weekly Notices or talk to an active Junior Church teacher.

Ruby Wildhaber

YOUTH CONFIRMATION GROUP

The main aim of the youth confirmation course is to provide an opportunity for young people to meet together to explore topics relating to God and the Christian faith. For those who are interested, it is also a preparation for confirmation - that is becoming a full adult member of the Church.

The new youth confirmation course started in February 2019, with just four members, aged 13 to 17. A fifth teenager joined us just before the summer holidays. To fit in with various commitments of the members and to allow Helen to join us for about half of the sessions, we agreed to meet alternately on Saturday and Sunday mornings - about twice a month.

Initially attendance was very good, but over the summer and autumn we could not find any times to meet at all. So the group only met twice (in November). Hopefully this will be better in 2020, as we look forward to the confirmation service on 7 June. For those who like statistics, there were 10 meetings in 2019, with an average attendance of 3.7 (one teenager attended all 10 sessions).

The course has four blocks focussing on what we believe and what it means to be a Christian. Some of the topics covered are God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, reading the bible and praying, being part of the church.

The group appreciate the support of the whole church family in prayer and in encouragement - so why not speak to one of them.

For me, it is a privilege to be able to spend time with these young people on this important leg of their Christian journey - we all profit from the time spent together.

Tricia Carrick



SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Aim: We at St Ursula's are committed to:

- The care and nurture of a respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities that provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.

Our council has to certify each year to the Diocese of Europe that we are following the Diocesan safeguarding policy.

Recently, Maxine Wildhaber was appointed as St Ursula's Assistant Safeguarding Officer. Cecily Klingler really appreciates having Maxine as a right hand in safeguarding matters and is grateful that she can represent her when she is away. St Ursula's can also be proud that Maxine has also become one of the Archdeaconry Safeguarding Trainers.

Safeguarding checks are required for all those working with children and young people or vulnerable adults at our church and need to be reviewed every 5 years.

A wider group of people in our church i.e. those who are in a visible position in their role during the Sunday worship e.g. sides persons, readers, intercessors, servers etc. also need to undergo a more basic form of a safeguarding check, completing the online safeguarding training. Some are required to attend a safeguarding training day.

Diocesan training sessions on safeguarding issues for children and for adults are available online. These are mandatory for all who work with our children and vulnerable adults but can also be completed by anyone interested at St Ursula's. All of our our helpers have already successfully completed these or will be doing so. Safeguarding training days are also run at intervals by our Archdeaconry Safeguarding Trainers as these training days are mandatory and required by the Diocese for certain members of our church.

Risk assessments should be completed for all church meetings and events at St Ursula's. This is part of ensuring that our church is a safe place for all at all times. Council and Tricia Carrick have been working on this and progress has been made helping to make this procedure clear and simple for everyone and taking steps to make this available online.

All hall users must also agree to following our safeguarding policies unless they can show that they have their own adequate safeguarding policies in place. This is not such an easy matter to achieve but we are working on this.

A link to safeguarding is found on the front page of our St Ursula's website with further links to relevant information. As well, safeguarding documents can be found on the Diocese of Europe website: www.europe.anglican.org under the heading of Diocesan Policy and Guidance/Safeguarding. A revised Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Guidance was released in October 2019, aligned with the National Safeguarding Team's Parish Safeguarding Handbook, and adapted and expanded to suit the requirements of our international diocese. Our St Ursula's Safeguarding Policy is displayed on the noticeboard in the church hall.

I would encourage everyone to read these documents, as safeguarding is a matter for the whole congregation. Should you ever feel there is a concern in our church about a safeguarding issue, then it is essential to report this to the Chaplain or the Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding. Such matters are always kept strictly confidential.

I am pleased to report that in the past year there have been no serious incidents requiring action. Our present situation with more limited numbers of Junior Church teachers or crèche helpers does sometimes provide a challenge for our safeguarding procedures to be followed but this does not mean that we can compromise here.

Finally, a reminder to all parents that they are responsible for supervising their children once the Junior Church and Crèche sessions have ended.

Cecily Klingler, St Ursula's Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 031 3024859 or 076 4254859, email: cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is the list of the full voting members of St Ursula's. These are the people who can vote at the AGM and stand for election.

Every year, the Electoral Roll is revised under the direction of council. This year, the revision was completed on 1 March. There were 6 additions and 1 deletion meaning that the number of members in 2020 is 82.

Since the revision the Electoral Roll, together with the list of changes, has been displayed next to the principal door of the church and on the notice board in the church hall.

If you would like more information about the Electoral Roll please contact me.

Tricia Carrick, Electoral Roll Officer

BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

St Ursula's Church is not recognized in Switzerland as a Federal Church ("Landeskirche") and consequently doesn't receive any Swiss tax support. We therefore must raise all funds for maintaining and running the church's infrastructure ourselves, which represents a considerable and continuous effort from the congregation. This was true when the church was consecrated in 1906 and has remained so up to this day. In the early days the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel", listed as owner in the Bernese real estate registry since 1906 and dissolved in the meantime, financially supported the development of the church. But later, this support was abandoned and the congregation was on its own to deal with the financial challenges. A historical retrospective shows an impressive account of the enormous efforts that were necessary over time to keep up an English service in Berne. Innumerable fund raisings were launched, firstly to build the church in 1905 and later to acquire a bell, build a fence, the chaplain's house and hall, roof renovations and many more. The most recent one was the energy project launched in 2014/15. Rising energy prices and global warming as well as an aging infrastructure were the driving forces. The above is only a small insight into the efforts that were necessary in order to achieve what we have and enjoy today. To honor these efforts and to ensure the future of St. Ursula's Church, it is our noble task to maintain and run buildings and infrastructure to the best advantage of the congregation..



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At first sight, this doesn't sound too difficult, however it offers challenges. Maintenance for example is not a matter of acting when something fails. And running the systems for heating, video/sound, IT-infrastructure etc. requires technical knowledge and experience to avoid unnecessary costs and disturbing effects during the service.

The analysis previous to the energy project in 2016/17 revealed deficiencies in maintenance and operation. Although during past projects skilled people were involved, when they resigned no successors took over. This led to the situation that nobody was really in charge of anything. Some people randomly looked after some of the issues, mostly as a reaction to failures or complaints. Admittedly, it was difficult for inexperienced church members to handle these issues and to recognise to what extent they can impact maintenance costs and energy consumption.

These issues were discussed in the 2016/17 energy project team. The finding was that a dedicated technical team should be introduced to assure a near professional approach to maintenance and operation. The proposal for the introduction of a Technical Committee (TCom) was presented to Church Council in May 2018 and approved on 5 June. Kick-off took place in January 2019 with 5 members (Edi Wildhaber, Jack Kolb, Tony Read, Rolf Klingler, Hans Goepfert). The objective was to look after the buildings and their infrastructure. This means to be responsible for maximizing the uptime of systems, minimize the costs of ownership and to run the systems to the best comfort of the congregation. TCom is considered as the technical authority on technical issues and provide technical consultancy to the Church Council, act as point of contact for the chaplain and church members and provide technical support during services and events like the Christmas Bazaar, Summer Fête, quizzes, and occasionally third party users.

In order to deal with problems efficiently, a Hot-line reporting system was introduced. Anybody who discovers problems, has questions or needs help can contact it by [cell no. 077 492 2060](tel:0774922060), [e-mail tcom@stursula.ch](mailto:tcom@stursula.ch) or TCom members personally. Please don't call TCom members on their private number or e-mail. The Hot-line service is available 7 days a week, 8 hours a day from 8.00 to 20.00. It allows TCom to act promptly on-site in urgent cases. In order to save money, outside support will only be called up if TCom can't solve a problem.

The following gives an idea of what kind of activities TCom was involved in during its 1st year of operation (Jan. 2019-2020). We would be happy to give you the details. Just contact TCom.

<i>Repair and maintenance jobs:</i>	13
<i>Extensions and replacements:</i>	3
<i>Operational issues:</i>	3
<i>Organizational:</i>	3
Technical support on events	approx. 70

Hans Goepfert

FUNDRAISING AND OUTREACH REPORT



Our fundraising events are an important part of our overall income generation. 15% of our income comes from the food and book sales, the bazaar, fête and the pub quizzes etc. that we put on in the year. Last year we raised 33,662 francs this way. This is an increase over the previous years as we are increasing the other events we do to compensate for the loss of income from selling books and food.

Income from Events	2019	2018	2017	2016
Book Sales	6,493	7,348	6,343	7,992
Bazaar	10,485	9,699	10,584	11,833
Food Stall	12,686	13,088	13,935	14,300
Other events	3,998	2,243	43	392
	33,662	32,378	30,904	34,518
Other events includes pub quizzes, curry evenings, afternoon tea etc				



A huge thank you to all who helped achieve this result. Many people who attend events come year after year, and are able to experience our Church in an open and welcoming way. The curry night and our pub quizzes in particular, now bring in new people from the wider community. The afternoon teas are fun events and also increasing in popularity.

We have also increased our advertising and marketing; thanks a lot to Agnes for this. With her efforts we had an enormous number of prizes available for our Christmas Bazaar, in fact so many, that we have enough for a Summer

raffle in 2020.

Caroline has volunteered to help organise the food stall in 2020, and we have ordered in a starter pack from the UK. Let us know what you would like to buy, and we will see what we can arrange. Helpers are always needed for our sales and events, so don't be shy, volunteer and help us reach out to people while raising money at the same time. I can also add you to our fundraising and outreach group. The more the merrier.

Sue Higson

March 2020

MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

A new group was added to the master rota in September following a suggestion by the chaplain: the Welcomers. Ideally there would be two every Sunday, one to be at the back of the church after the service with Helen to talk to new people; the other to answer questions and hand out information at the "Welcome Table" in the hall during coffee time. Several of the church members who joined the team already serve on other rotas, so we need to find more volunteers.

There was one other change: at the end of the year Kathy Hoag took over coordinating the flower team from Vreni Hawker, who (to our great loss) passed away in December.

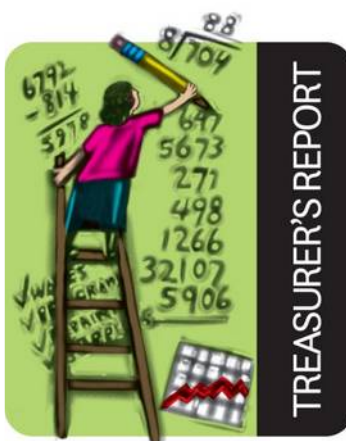
The master rota now combines nine rotas directly connected with services: duty council, welcomers, readers, intercessors, sidespersons, beamer/audio technicians, servers at the altar, crucifers and members of the flower team. The master rota is compiled six times a year and is based on a list of 39 volunteers as of December 2019. These loyal helpers supported a total of 61 services in the past year and deserve a big THANK YOU!

I am especially grateful to the team of servers and crucifers. Its six members cover all communion services throughout the year, which sometimes means two or three assignments in a month. Especially during Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays we are very busy, and to have one or two more helpers would be much appreciated. I will be happy to explain what we do to anyone interested in becoming a server or crucifer.

As for all other rotas, there is a coordinator for each one who provides information as well as training and who will gladly answer any questions. Names and phone numbers can be found on the last page of the magazine.

Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT



I am very happy to report that we managed to end the year with a small surplus in both the church and the association accounts. It is small, just Fr 13.65 for the Church and Fr 30.20 for the Association. In addition, we managed to transfer Fr 20,000 to the building fund. I had originally calculated a balanced budget with a transfer of 10,000 to the building fund coming from our contingency reserve.

The reason for the better result of Fr20,044 is mainly due to an increase in the income from the community, with some new pledgers coming on board during the year increasing

our pledge income by 15,000 over budget, and a legacy income of 3,000 coming in which was not anticipated. Thank you to all who give so generously and freely.

Our events income was also slightly up, but our magazine subscription income was significantly down on previous years. Did you remember to pay? Costs generally were higher than budgeted, but the drop in the pound worked in our favour when paying our levy to the Diocese and we managed to save some money in other places.

There were 2206 different entries in the bookkeeping for the Church and 626 for the Association. That is an average of 244 entries per month on top of paying invoices and wages, paying in the collection and producing monthly reports for council. Paying in the collection in 2019 was particularly challenging as the Postfinance seemed to have a never ending series of issues with the paying in machines. Coins in particular can only be paid in at the Postfinance machine, and not over the counter, and more often than not, the machines were out of order. This is my way of reminding you that the folding stuff weighs less in the collection and is easier to pay in, or you can transfer also via Twint which saves me going anywhere near a machine at all 😊.



The accounts are published with the reports plus there are 3 pages of notes that you can request. I would like to add a big thank you to Beat and Diane for being auditors again this year.

The Budget 2020 will be presented at the AGM and it balances again. Maybe I will be wrong again, but if so, I hope it is again in the direction of being favourable to us. Actually, as I write this, and when I prepared the budget, the effects of Coronavirus were only just making themselves felt on increased restrictions on our services and events. This will naturally impact our collections and event income, so I pray it does not last too long.

Thank you once again to all who attend our services, give to our Church, support our events or rent our premises. We could not do it without you.

Sue Higson, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

St Ursula's Church and St Ursula's Charitable Association, Bern

INCOME	note	2019	2018	Budget 19
Income from Community	1	178,253	151,261	150,000
<i>Pledged giving</i>		135,250	112,165	110,000
<i>Donations</i>		21,818	22,400	20,000
<i>Collections</i>		18,185	16,697	20,000
<i>Legacies</i>		3,000		-
Income from events	2	33,662	32,378	33,000
Income from other sources		24,888	25,433	25,000
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>		24,548	23,265	23,000
<i>Other</i>	3	340	2,168	2,000
Income from Thun		1,348	1,274	1,400
Income for Charity	4	4,199		
Permanent activities income	5	7,490	8,752	8,935
<i>Magazine</i>		3,996	5,689	5,500
<i>Books and Cards</i>		895	546	535
<i>Coffee</i>		2,305	2,506	2,400
<i>Other</i>		294	12	500
Financial income		265	233	230
Forex				-
TOTAL		250,106	219,332	218,565
DEFICIT		-	-	9,621
EXTRAORDINARY Income		334	23,775	-
Building Appeal receipts		334	23,775	-
Prior year income				

The notes to the accounts are available from the treasurer upon request.

AT 31.12.2018

EXPENDITURE	2019	2018	Budget 19
Personnel-related costs	126,595	100,039	122,625
Stipends and remunerations	81,541	65,508	83,600
Travelling expenses	5,255	2,302	6,025
Other personnel costs	39,799	32,229	33,000
Running costs	53,675	50,184	47,460
6 Premises	45,792	40,578	37,000
7 Office	659	1,869	1,500
Telephone and Internet	1,106	668	900
8 Insurance	1,800	2,968	2,800
Property tax	1,607	1,607	1,610
Vestry	1,148	1,861	2,000
Ministry and Hospitality	1,035	169	800
Subscriptions and advertising	530	464	850
Youth and Junior Church	460	543	500
Library	-	12	-
Permanent activities expense	3,575	4,745	4,200
Magazine	2,795	3,097	3,100
Books and cards	230	868	400
Coffee	472	435	400
Other	77	345	300
Diocese/Deanery	19,053	14,915	21,000
9 Charity	26,199	22,441	22,000
Financial Expense	403	435	400
Forex loss	101		
10 transfer to building fund	20,000	20,000	10,000
TOTAL	250,063	213,313	228,185
excess	44	6,020	-
Extraordinary Expense	3,491	121,703	18,300
Building Expenditure	-	116,886	10,000
investment in fixed assets	-	4,817	5,000
removal costs	3,491		3,300

Balance sheet as at 31.12.2019

CHF Assets	note	31.12.2019			31.12.2018	
		Church	Association	Total	Church	Association
Cash and Bank						
Current accounts + Petty cash						
CH		30,351.14	8,843.84	39,194.98	34,361	12,901
UK		18,377.47		18,377.47	18,974	
Deposit accounts						
CH		110,500.55	90,000.00	200,500.55	103,165	70,000
Total Cash and Bank		159,229.16	98,843.84	258,073.00	156,500	82,901
Stocks on hand						
debtors and monies due	B1	1,332.95	-	1,332.95	2,534	-
	B2	1,731.00	-	1,731.00	-	-
Total other assets		3,063.95	-	3,063.95	2,534	-
Fixed assets						
Prepayments & deferred expense	B3	- 73.85	1,080.35	1,006.50	5,682	211
Pension assets		119.30		119.30	3,603	
total Assets		162,338.56	101,355.83	263,694.39	168,319	83,111
current liabilities						
creditors		- 5,990.97	- 1,708.25	- 7,699.22	- 8,793	- 14,942
collections to be paid out	B4	- 5,853.00	-	- 5,853.00	- 2,376	-
due within 1 month		- 11,843.97	- 1,708.25	- 13,552.22	- 11,169	- 14,942
owed between the Church and Association		2,421.71	2,421.71			
provisions and deferred income	B5	- 435.00	- 9,969.50	- 10,404.50	- 2,115	- 3,632
funds held for others	B6	- 3,356.89	- 2,355.00	- 5,711.89	- 1,163	
excess of assets over liabilities		149,124.41	84,901.37	234,025.78	153,872	64,538
Capital reserves						
Contingency reserve		- 120,236.80	- 12,153.09	- 132,389.89	- 119,076	- 13,585
Ministry Training Fund	B7	- 15,991.99	-	- 15,991.99	- 17,262	-
Building and Development Fund		- 15,000.00	- 70,952.94	- 85,952.94	- 15,000	- 50,953
non liquid capital	B8	- 1,372.95	- 1,431.64	- 2,804.59	- 2,534	
Capital reserves before allocations		- 152,601.74	- 84,537.67	- 237,139.41	- 153,872	- 64,538
Allocation of result						
Ordinary result to contingency reserve		-13.65	-30.20	-43.85		
Extraordinary against contingency reserve		3,490.98		3,490.98		
Extraordinary to Building fund			-333.50	-333.50		
net worth		- 149,124.41	- 84,901.37	- 234,025.78		
signatures						
Treasurer Susan Higson			Auditor Beat Hodler		Auditor Diane Lohri	

MUSIC

Music in our services

Worship and Music Planning

In 2019 the hymn and music planning for many services was done by the organist in consultation with the Chaplain.

The music for informal services has usually been planned by the Chaplain together with members of the music group.

Organists

Organ music continues being an important, but not exclusive, part in the services and worship at St Ursula's Church. The contribution for assistance in substituting for the organ playing (on a few occasions, either at the organ or at the piano) is gratefully acknowledged.

Choral music in services and at events

The choir of St Ursula's has about 10 singers of all voices. Sadly, several singers have left the choir for reasons such as health or professional unavailability. Saturday choir practices are a regular activity for enthusiastic singers.

Choral contributions to our services have included items such as:

Psalms sung in Anglican Chant: Psalms 51, 22, 113, 114; the Easter Anthem.

Anthems or motets: Cantate Domino (Pitoni); Father forgive (Coventry Litany, Paul Leddington Wright);

If ye love me (Purcell); Thou knowest Lord (Purcell); Now the green blade riseth (Lindley); The light of the lonely heart (Nardone); Come Holy Ghost; Blest are the pure in heart (Bayley);

Liturgical pieces: Christmas Gloria (Ledger). Reproaches (Good Friday), Song of Mary (Rizza);

Christmas Carols both in Berne and in Thun: Born in a stable (Rutter); O Holy Night (Adam).

Three choir members from St Ursula's Church have attended the traditional RSCM Singing Days in Dunblane (Scotland) in July 2019, widening the musical skills and the musical repertoire, not least for the benefit of our church and choir.

Many thanks are extended to all who have contributed in many ways to enriching our services with music, be it by using their vocal, instrumental, organisational skills, and who are devoting a lot of their time and effort for this important element in our worship.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer, St Ursula's Church, Berne.

Music Group

The Music Group is now in its 14th year and continues to provide a regular accompaniment for the mostly contemporary songs, chants and hymns at our services.

Our main contribution is to the informal Eucharist services, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month. The music is mostly chosen from the “Worship Today” or “Junior Praise” song books but other sources are also often used (e.g. Taizé, Iona and Hymns Old & New).

A number of the music group members also support the worship at the Thun Church services on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.



Our largest group in 2018

We also supported the music at the funeral of Vreni Hawker in December.

In the last year we have been somewhat reduced in numbers but we still have a solid core of about 4-5 regular contributors (both musicians and singers).

On a few occasions we were also joined by Judith Eigenmann with her accordion (Judith runs an accordion school in Thun).

Our active members during the last year:

Agatha - flute, Belle - 6string guitar, Eva - voice, Hans-Martin - flute, Paul - Ukelele, Philip - 6string guitar , Tawna - bass guitar , Tricia - piano, Tony - 12string guitar.

Many thanks to all music group members for your talents, flexibility and support.

Tony continues to organise the group. Many thanks to Tricia who has taken over the lead several times.

All music group members practice the planned music individually and we have group practices in the church hall, starting well before the Sunday services.

It is most encouraging when we receive feedback from the congregation, including any new suggestions. Please don't hesitate to give your inputs.

If anyone is interested in joining the Music Group, either with instrument or voice, please contact Tony. You will be most welcome.

Tony Read

ECO CHURCH

We have had an environmental officer, responsible to Council, since 2007, and the Church of England has had a programme for becoming greener, for shrinking its carbon footprint and for honouring God's creation for even longer. We have access to resources from the church in England, and we are reminded of our obligations by Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, who is Diocesan Environmental Officer (and who happens to live close at hand!)



In the last couple of years, A Rocha, an international environmental charity, has produced some really useful ideas for churches to live sustainably. Our diocese wants to be recognized under their scheme as an Eco-Diocese, and for this to happen, a tenth of its chaplaincies need to be accepted as Eco-Churches (see <http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/ecodiocese/>). The Council has taken up this challenge.

The solid work done over the years has given us a head start. We have long tried to raise people's interest in the environment - through our magazine, through Lent studies, through involving our younger members, through our prayers. We have set up bee hotels, and our recent energy project substantially reduced the amount of carbon dioxide we are responsible for, as well as keeping us warmer and saving us money.

In 2019 we set up an eco-team on a more formal basis. We hold meetings, we have a mailing group, we have a notice board. Among the immediate products of our first brainstorming were our eco-group web page and our weekly tip in the notices. We had an eco-issue of the magazine, and we try to print as much as possible on recycled paper. We have new recycling containers - do use them!

We have been very fortunate that Helen is so well-disposed to environmental issues. We were equally fortunate when Julie and Ernest Nelson stood in here in the summer, for they were avid in their support and generous with their advice. We took part in the city-wide events to celebrate Creation Sunday on 1 September, and the following Sunday we enjoyed an eco-lunch and Elizabeth Bussman talked to us. One of our longer-term projects is to "green up" our grounds, and we were lucky to make contact with Brigit Baumberger, a local conservationist, who came and advised us on plants we should eradicate and plants we should add - to increase green cover and to attract wildlife - and people too. We look forward to having an area for meditation, as well as one for general relaxation. Thanks to Cecily Klingler, to Martin Browne and to Richard King for their particular help in this project.

At the end of the year we were able to formally register for a bronze award under the Eco-Church scheme, and I am pleased to say that we have now qualified. But there is much more that we can do - that **you** can do - in private and at church and

we press on towards the heady heights of silver and gold. Not for our own glory (though that's nice too), but for the glory of God's creation and for the survival of this planet.

Hector Davie

LIBRARY

St Ursula's Church lending library was regularly used in the early years of its existence but in the past year only one or two books were borrowed. Libraries in general are struggling because of changing reading habits and much reading is done electronically.

Therefore, the church council decided at the January 2020 meeting that the lending library books could be sold or donated to Christian causes such as to a theological college in the Congo we learned about. As you read this report, a preliminary sale will already have taken place. Remaining books will be sold in batches at the four yearly regular book sales.

Many thanks to Heidi Gusset who was instrumental at the start in gathering, buying and organizing the books, to Annemarie Walthert, Andrée Kamarys and others who helped keep the library open every Sunday, to Isabelle Wienand who co-managed the library with me and helped catalogue all the books and to Hector Davie who put the book list on the church website.

It is often sad to let go of an idea or project but I'm glad we had the library and that it was used and appreciated for many years. Perhaps now energies will be released for something totally different but still to further the kingdom of God.

Donna Goepfert

CHURCH BREAKFASTS



Church breakfasts continued in 2019. They are held on the first Sunday of each month (except during holiday time). These are normally attended by around 8-10 people, sometimes more when visitors hear about it. The breakfast time is informal with time for people to meet each other. Everyone is welcome, with no need to sign up beforehand or to bring anything.

Tricia Carrick

PASTORAL CARE

Our Lord Jesus has commanded us: "*Love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind*" and "*Love your neighbor as yourself*". Every believer is called to be a good neighbor - not just to the people next door but to everyone they come across during the course of their life.

The Pastoral Care Ministry takes that principle to heart and applies it within the context of a Church. The goal of Pastoral Care Ministry at St Ursula's is to strengthen the body of Christ, by being a good neighbor. Naturally, this often boils down to offering support to the immediate members of our own church congregation. The Pastoral Care Team ministers to people in the name of Christ and represents St Ursula's to those receiving the ministry.

This year too, the Pastoral Care team has had an open ear for anyone needing Christian love-often skills like listening, comforting, encouraging or offering practical assistance were needed. The team focused on visiting people facing various circumstances to express God's love and care.

Besides, we have continued to meet periodically with our chaplain Helen, who oversees this area of ministry. As you can imagine, safeguarding is also a very important aspect when it comes to pastoral care. We are grateful to Cecily Klingler who has continued to support us by ensuring that every member of the team knows about safeguarding, has been vetted and cleared or is in the process of getting safeguarding clearance.

Around the beginning of 2020 we thought about the needs of the congregation and whether there are ways for the pastoral care team to make a difference. We did bear in mind that the team is still small and many are already quite committed in other areas of ministries as well. However, we identified two areas we would like to take on as a team and presented our suggestions to council. Council approved these two suggestions.

1. The pastoral care team members may take communion to people in hospital or at home (the bread and wine will have been already consecrated during a church service). This means though, that interested members will receive further training as well as a formal authorization by the Bishop. The training will be organized in the coming months.

2. The pastoral care team (as well as interested members of the intercession rota) may offer prayers after the service for those who want specific prayer for strength, healing, discernment or encouragement. This would be primarily for listening and prayer, however, and not for intensive counselling or pastoral advice. The prayers are announced beforehand (we attempt on offering prayers approximately every two months, on the first Sunday after the 10.00 service). Two people stay behind in church at the back after the service and are available for anyone who wants prayer. We offered prayer after service on 1 March 2020 for the first time but many people seem not to have noticed it. This may have several reasons, e.g. the coinciding of the prayers with the introduction of new

regulations due to the corona crisis, the item not being mentioned in the notices etc. We remain confident that there is a need for prayers and that our offer will be taken up in the future.

Kindly continue to pray for wisdom, compassion and God's guidance as we minister to the people as an expression of God's love.

Archana Jacob, Lay Reader & Pastoral Care Coordinator

MAGAZINE

Editing

The St Ursula's Church magazine is published six times a year. Currently, 373 people subscribe to the magazine, with 261 receiving a hard copy and 112 receiving it electronically. The purpose of the church magazine is to inform readers of the services and events at St Ursula's, to teach about Christianity and to reach out to the English-speaking community of Berne.

Tricia Carrick, Hector Davie, Jana Kutesko and the Chaplain made up the core team of content providers and proofreaders. Articles and other content are also submitted by groups within St Ursula's, individual church members as well as people who are not members of the church. Hector Davie handles the electronic distribution and advertising, Querida Long is the magazine editor and Annemarie Walthert is in charge of collating the magazine. Contributions to the magazine can be sent to magazine@stursula.ch



Collating

About 260 magazines are sent out every 2nd month. Although they are already folded and stapled we still need volunteers to help insert the flyers and put the magazines into the envelopes. Usually there are two to four volunteers doing the job. Many thanks to the helpers!

Jana Kutesko & Annemarie Walthert

WEBMASTER

Electronic communication, artificial intelligence, social media, all of these are changing the way we do things and the way we see the world. The church needs to be awake, aware and alive, to seize new opportunities and to keep up with people's expectations.



This is a real challenge. What do we want to communicate? What do people want to know, and what do they want to be able to do? How do we use our resources most effectively? How do we make our presence useful and effective?

The answers (and the extra questions the answers raise) are so numerous that the job of webmaster is an anachronism. “Web” assumes our first means of electronic communication is through our website, www.stursula.ch. But people rely on far more than just a single website. They use Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter. They get their information from Whatsapp, emails, chatbots and newsgroups. If they want to know about English-speaking churches in Berne, they may turn to achurchnearyou.com, they may look at Wikipedia or Google Maps. If they want to give to us, they may search on give.net. One task is to ensure that St Ursula's is present on these platforms too, and is portrayed correctly and consistently.

And “master”, apart from its notes of sexism and exploitation, implies that one person can keep in touch with all these facets. This is not true. Over the year we have fallen behind with creating a team to coordinate our communications - though we owe thanks to Sue Higson, Pieter Perrett, Jana Kutesko, Tony Read, Tricia Carrick and John Hutchison for their help.

The average number of visitors to our website is currently over 180 a day, three times the number in 2017. 46% of visitors use Google Chrome and 23% use Safari, suggesting that more people are using their smartphones to access data. The most visited pages are those with news, information about service times, notice sheets, but also our magazine and our past sermons.

Analyzing all these data occasionally provokes thought. Why was there such an interest in Richard Pamplin's chaplain's letter for November 2006 (www.sutusula.ch/Magazine/OLD/0611-RP.html) or in the Pancake Evening quiz for 2014 (Oddments/shrovequiz2014.html)? There is always something to be added, something to be kept up to date, and your feedback is valuable in keeping us on our toes. (Follow us on Facebook and Twitter too to keep abreast of news as it happens!)

But remember that the internet is no substitute for human contact, but a tool for sharing thoughts, prayers and interests. It is an area that will continue to grow in significance.

Hector Davie, Webmaster

VESTRY

Everything used in Communion comes from the vestry: wine, wafers (also gluten-free) candles, linens, silver vessels. Without a fully stocked and organized vestry there could be no Eucharist. So, to make sure we do not run out of anything, servers have to alert the church office when supplies are getting low. Thank you, Jana, for making sure all these years that every Sunday we had what was needed!

This is not always easy as there is no central source of “vestry items” in Switzerland, for example the communion wine comes from a wholesaler, the gluten free wafers come from Germany, the drip shields from the UK etc. We often have to plan months ahead to make sure that the vestry items arrive on time.

A vestry clean-up last year showed that we have nine different kinds of candles in one of the vestry cupboards. From tea lights to the paschal candle, they all serve different purposes. Altar candles are of special concern at the moment, because they are burning down faster in the middle than on the outside. Servers have to cut away a lot of wax at the top, or the flame will no longer be visible. A new guide "How to care for candles", adapted from the website of a candle supplier, should help us to take better care of our candles and to find a solution for the problem of the altar candles.

Kathy Hoag had the care of our altar linens for a long time and wished to step down at the end of the year. We were fortunate to find a replacement after a few weeks in Annamma Chittazhathu. Thank you, Kathy, for carefully washing, ironing and folding all the linens used at and around the altar for many years. And thank you, Annamma, for supporting our services in this very special way.

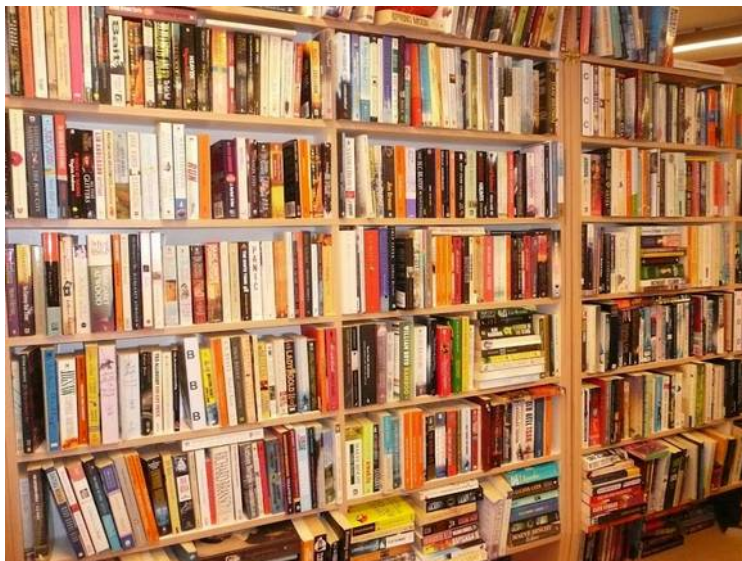
Part of last year's clean-up was a silver polishing session which we will repeat this year to get ready for Easter.

Ruth Freiburghaus & Jana Kutesko

BOOK AND FOOD SALES

Second Hand English Books

We had another very busy year in 2019 with our secondhand books sales. My thanks go to our regular and long-standing team - Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead, Patricia Schwager, Rachel Huguenin and Alison Beindorf - for their tireless (and always very cheerful) support at our numerous sorting and selling sessions.



We continue to send our surplus books to Gambia via Michelle Jaiteh, a Swiss lady from Bern. Michelle takes them to the Brusubi Community Library in Gambia. For further information on the charity see:

<https://www.freedomnewspaper.com/2018/09/24/gambia-brusubi-community-library-in-the-gambia/>

or <https://de-de.facebook.com/pages/category/Library/Brusubi-Community-Library-268265114012897/>. Since spring 2018 we have sent several consignments to Africa and hope this collaboration will continue in future. If anyone knows of other organisations or institutions that might welcome donations of English books (such as hospitals, schools or prisons), please let me know.

To everyone who supports our book sales I would like to express a big THANK YOU. They continue to be an important source of outreach and income for our Church. May I also take this opportunity to remind all book donors that we can only accept ENGLISH PAPERBACK NOVELS IN GOOD CONDITION (please no German or hardback books of any kind).

If anyone would like to join our team of helpers, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Allison Masciadri (Tel. 079 343 2165)

British Food Stall

The first British Food Stall that I organised was at the Christmas Bazaar in 2004 and after the success of this it was decided that we should also have a stall selling British food at the Book and Food Sales in the spring and late summer, at the Summer Fête and at the Christmas Bazaar. As part of this we also usually sold food after the 10.00 church service on the 2 Sundays following each sale.

From 2004 - 2019 we raised around CHF 190,000 for St Ursula's Church.

I am extremely grateful to the many people who have helped me over the years to run the stall as well as to the many loyal shoppers at the British Food stall.



I'm extremely pleased that Caroline Coatalen-Hodgson is taking over the organisation of the British Food Stall and, although it will be run differently, there will still be a good choice of your favourite British Foods.

Now, more than ever, we need people to buy supplies for the Food Stall when travelling to the UK, Australia or USA etc or by asking visitors to bring food stuffs over with them - just contact Caroline and she'll be able to give you a list of items needed. Every little bit helps!

Jana Kutesko

Catering

In 2019 our Catering Coordinator, Lynn Morgan, moved on to concentrate on other goals. We are very grateful for her many years overseeing St Ursula's catering events.



After Lynn's departure the kitchen has been run on an ad-hoc basis with a variety of people taking over the running of the kitchen for each different event.

In 2019 we've continued the pattern of an increasing number of events to cater for. In addition to the four regular bazaars/sales in 2019 we had two quiz nights, two afternoon teas, an afternoon grill after the treasure hunt, the apéro after Helen's Installation as well as numerous "Bring & Shares" and other smaller events.

We are lucky to have a core team of faithful helpers for Saturday events and there have been some significant additions to this team during 2019. We've also heavily relied, particularly at evening fundraisers, on the students from the International School of Berne who volunteer with us as part of their "Creativity, Activity, Service" programme.

We do, however, very much need an overall Catering Co-ordinator and hope that someone will take over this responsibility very soon.

Church Office

ST URSULA'S SUMMER FÊTE 2019



We had lovely Summer Fête weather and despite the many other events going on in Berne that day we had a steady stream of visitors. Fun was had by all plus we raised over CHF 5,500 for church funds.

Our Summer Fête in 2020 is on Saturday, 27 June - we hope to see you there!



Church Office

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2019

The Christmas Bazaar in 2019 once again proved to be a very popular event with many visitors on both days.

A HUGE thanks to all the numerous people who dedicated hours of their time and skills both behind the scenes and on stalls - before, during and after the bazaar.

The bazaar requires an immense amount of organisation starting months in advance of the actual bazaar: flyers have to be designed, stall holders and other volunteers have to be recruited, stalls have to be stocked, menus planned, cakes have to be baked, iced and packed - the list is seemingly endless.



The “action” starts to intensify from the beginning of “set-up” on Thursday night when a set-up team clears the church and halls and makes sure that all the tables and stands etc are moved to their correct positions ready for the arrival of the stall holders on Friday morning.

We always aim to be fully set up by 16.00 on Friday ready for the 17.00 opening.

The 2019 Christmas Bazaar was once again a fun and joyous event and a truly wonderful

start to the Advent season.

I would like to thank immensely all those dozens of helpers who tackled - with good humour, tolerance and patience-the many jobs needed to stage the Christmas bazaar from the initial “volunteering to



help” right through to the clear up and cleaning at the end - all of you played a vital rôle in the success of the bazaar. The final Christmas bazaar tally was around CHF 21,000.

This year's bazaar will be held on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November 2020.

Church Office

PATCHWORK

In the Report of 1996 I wrote: The Patchwork Group has been going strong for about 18 years. That makes 42 years today!

Now we are not strong in numbers anymore. Sadly Vreni, a very good patchworker and quilter has died and we are struggling to survive as a group. We would welcome new members who are keen to learn this very satisfying hobby.



Bazaar 2019. Photo Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Nevertheless we managed again a beautiful display at the annual bazaar. A lot of our works could be sold and a substantial amount of money could be given to the church finances.

A big thank you goes to all the ladies who are working hard throughout the year

Elisabeth Pfyffer

ARCHDEACONRY

Archdeaconry Synod

Every diocese in the Church of England is divided into smaller areas where church members - lay and ordained - can meet from time to time and discuss topics of local interest, or how to put national themes and campaigns into practice in their own particular circumstances. These areas are often called deaneries, but in Europe where distances are greater they are known as archdeaconries, and there are seven of them - of very different sizes. Switzerland is the smallest, allowing representatives from Geneva, La Côte, Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Neuchatel, Berne, Basle, Zurich. Lugano and their satellite congregations to meet twice a year in a Synod. Synod members also send representatives to the Diocesan Synod, and vote on the diocese's representatives on General Synod.



St Ursula's has sent three lay members to the Swiss Archdeaconry Synod. They are chosen for a period of three years. In 2017, we elected Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Richard King. The next election is this year, and because we have fewer people on our electoral roll we only get two lay representatives. Our clergy are also ex officio members. Adèle Kelham is the current Archdeacon.

Synod discusses Swiss-wide issues. It relays ideas and proposals between the diocese and individual church councils - and this AGM. In addition, our Christian education programme, SACEP, arranges regular training sessions and seminars. We sponsor an annual choir festival and an annual retreat. And we support the work of Partner Sein, and of the chaplaincy in Athens in its work among the poor and the refugees there.

We meet twice a year - in the period under review on 22 June 2019 in Montreux, and on 25 January 2020 in Berne.

Our meetings try to combine domestic issues with wider questions. So part of our June meeting was taken up with discussing the diocesan finances. The debate in Britain about safeguarding has meant that the diocese faces much bigger costs to make sure all our churches are safe places for children and vulnerable people. We, the chaplaincies, have to meet these costs. What is the fairest, justest and most transparent way of sharing these costs out among chaplaincies with financial needs of their own? Rosemary Radler, treasurer of Christ Church, Lausanne, is part of a Europe-wide group trying to find a balance - should rich chaplaincies pay more, and what does rich mean?

We also discussed safeguarding training and the importance of making it easy to contact each chaplaincy's safeguarding team. We discussed the possibility of inviting people to work as interns for a time in our chaplaincies. We discussed future seminars on persecuted Christians, on fundraising and on youth work.

The wider question at our afternoon session in Montreux centred round young people. It was led by Vahé Jebejian from Lausanne. We watched a short video produced by Nick Shepherd, Programme Director for the church's current mission initiative, *Setting God's People Free*. Numbers of young people are dropping, there is a need for fresh ideas, young members disappear after confirmation or in their teens, it is difficult to tell what their spiritual state is and to teach effectively about sensitive topics, such as divorce. We are very dependent on family dynamics and family attitudes to church.

We discussed how to support teachers, how to get congregations engaged, how to present the bible and apply it to daily life, how to involve youngsters in church life, build a safe place for them and equip them for discipleship. An idea thrown up was to form a network to exchange ideas and find new resources, but it was agreed too that the chaplaincies needed to see a bigger perspective and be aware that teenagers are maybe interested in different forms of worship.

In January, we discussed our budget - to keep our grants for clergy training at their

present level, to continue our support for the refugee programme, Hestia Gellas, supported by the Athens chaplaincy, and for PartnerSein, the Swiss Old Catholic relief organization. We heard of changes in the involvement of lay people in the church's ministry, and of our special contribution to piloting projects for the *Setting God's People Free* campaign.

Our afternoon session in Berne was taken up with a lively talk and discussion about safeguarding, led by Grace Fagan from the Diocesan Office. Grace has many years of experience in this field in a local government context. We should all be on the watch for potential dangers - nothing is necessarily what it seems. The procedures which are in place may seem too strict, but they make the church a safer place if we follow them to the letter. Even if it seems un-Christian, we should err on the side of suspicion. This is a lesson we learn from public inquiries into recent incidents.

For more details about the things we discussed, ask any of our synod members, or search the archdeaconry website, www.anglican.ch.

Hector Davie

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2019

The traditional annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was hosted by the Anglican Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity in Geneva. It was attended by about 40 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne and Zürich, with 10 singers from St Ursula's Church. The merged choirs had their first practice on Friday Evening, to be continued on Saturday Morning and Afternoon. The music was led by both the Director of Music of Holy Trinity Mark Charles, and by Mark Jones, formerly also in Geneva. They both took their turn as director and organist. The Evensong on Saturday, and the choral Communion Service on Sunday Morning, were the highlights of the occasion.

On Saturday the choral music included works by P. Wilby (*If ye love me*), E. Bairstow (*Magnificat und Nunc Dimittis*), Psalm 114 (sung in chant style), the *Preces and Responses* set by Sanders, and the Anthem 'Save us O Lord' by E. Bairstow.

On Sunday the choir sang the *Mass in C* by J. Ireland for the Communion Service. The Communion Motet sung by the choir was 'The Strife is over' by R. Shephard; Psalm 23 sung in chant style further enriched the liturgy of the Communion Service.

The choral music included works of very different styles and eras.

The Community of the Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity in Geneva have made all singers and non-singing partners very welcome with a friendly reception and excellent support in every way, all contributing to a lively fellowship. A great vote of thanks is due to all who have helped in many ways making this Festival a memorable event once again.



These Festivals are one of the few regular annual occasions where members from the different chaplaincies meet together and join forces in a common cause: - enriching worship with great and meaningful music.

Choir Festival in Geneva; Photo: Maria Staral, Zürich.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

CHARITY AND MISSIONS

The task of the Charity and Mission Team is fourfold:

- ***To draw up a proposal towards the end of the year for Council on how to allocate these funds;***
- ***To keep in contact with the organisations we are supporting,***
- ***To pass on news about the organisations to the congregation through articles in the magazine, displays in the church hall and by direct contact;***
- ***To help our church family pray faithfully for the people we support with our gifts.***

For many years St Ursula's church has set aside 10% of the pledged giving for charitable and missionary work. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed in 2019 as follows:

List of payments to our Charity and Missions in 2019

Local	CHF
Discretionary (to be used locally)	1575.00
AKiB Passantenhilfe	1400.00
AKiB Zentrum 5	1400.00
Regional	
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Hestia Hellas)	1000.00
Bishop's Advent Appeal ()	2000.00
International	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3500.00
A Rocha International	2000.00
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	2000.00
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	2000.00
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	2000.00
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2000.00
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	2000.00
Total	22875.00

Dedicated Collections

Bishop appeals from Congregation	955
Bishops ordination fund	454
Mission Sunday Passantenhilfe	530
A Rocha	107

Dedicated collections, Tear Fund	2,671
Tear Fund junior church collections	647
Christmas collections - Tear Fund	739
Thun Gottibach - Cecily's Fund	500
Remembrance Day - British Legion	624
Heilige Geist Church Collections net	2,387
Total	9,614

It was decided to set aside Fr 1,575.00 for discretionary use to be able to respond for special needs which might arise during the year.

A new decision was made to give support to A Rocha International, an international charity focussing on environmental issues around the globe. This was also in connection with our efforts at St Ursula's to become an Eco-Church, a scheme coming through A Rocha. Recently we have heard that St Ursula's has achieved the Bronze Award.

The Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund is faithfully supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of helpers who have organised various fundraising events at St Ursula's such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup Lunch and the Lent Soup Lunch and concerts/events throughout the past year.

The Junior Church continues to support the Tear Fund Schweiz Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda. Proceeds from our, as ever lively, Harvest Festival auction, the Christmas service collections and the Junior Church collections go to this project.

We still keep Sediqi family from Afghanistan in our prayers. The family attended worship at St Ursula's on Christmas Day. Beat and Chloé Hodler continue to stand by and help the family in integrating to life in Switzerland. Rolf and Cecily Klingler, as next door neighbours, also help the Sediqi family in the day by day needs. The 4 older children are now more integrated in school in Bremgarten and their teachers are also very supportive. Arsalan and Sherzad have now both joined the local football club, FC Goldstern. It has been a long process with the Swiss Migration authorities (SEM) for making a decision about granting asylum for the family. Unfortunately, the decision came not long before Christmas that they have

not been granted asylum (i.e. Ausweis B) but rather have the Ausweis F. Ausweis F means they can stay here in Switzerland for the meantime and Nasim, the father can now work here. It is very unlikely that they would be sent back and Beat Hodler has also made an appeal on the family's behalf that their case may be reconsidered.

Our Mission Sunday for 2020 took place on February 16. The Mission focus was for the work of Zentrum5 in Bern with Mr Jürg Trefzer as guest speaker and he was accompanied by 2 of his co workers. The Junior Church worked hard with a project to make new posters for our charities and so were also involved in the Missions Sunday

We do thank our church family for its continuing support in the past year. We encourage all of you to keep the institutions we support in your prayers. Please check the board in the church hall for our charity focus displays and information about other charities and missions. As well we have our regular charity and missions focus article in the magazine.

The Charity and Mission Team:

Chaplain, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Esther Hutchison, Cecily Klingler, Pieter Perrett

Cecily Klingler, 031 302 48 59 or cecily@klinglerfamily.ch



INFORMATION ABOUT ST URSULA'S CHURCH

St Ursula's Church is one of the nine Swiss chaplaincies that have a resident chaplain (minister) and together form the Archdeaconry of Switzerland. This is part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe which stretches from the Canary Islands to Ankara, from Moscow to Morocco.

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land Company. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as an offering of thanks for the near miraculous recovery of her adopted daughter, who was treated at the clinic of the famous Professor Kocher.

The hall and the house were added in 1959 and then extended (thanks to a windfall grant from the Canton of Berne) in 1992. An English Missionary Society, the USPG, helped to support the church from its earliest days. Since 1977, however, the chaplaincy has been fully self-supporting, relying solely on its members and well-wishers for its financial support.

St Ursula's has a long tradition of ministry to all English-speaking people in the Canton of Berne and beyond. It also provides a home for Christians from many different denominations and cultural backgrounds. Regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names to the Electoral Roll and so play a full part in the life of the church. Details of how to join the Electoral Roll can be obtained from the Church Wardens or any member of the Church Council.

Current Members of the Church Council

Churchwarden:

Martin Browne 079 953 9676

Lay Members:

Martin Browne 079 953 9676

Donna Goepfert(secretary) 031 931 2742

Hans Goepfert 031 931 2742

Sue Higson 076 690 5088

Archana Jacob 031 914 0240

Vinitha Jacob 079 547 2354

Janiffer Kingori 031 534 6539

Cecily Klingler 031 302 4859

Ruby Wildhaber 031 301 7562

Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:

Hector Davie (vice chair) 031 971 2771

Donna Goepfert 031 931 2742

Richard King 031 822 0921