

# St Ursula's Church Berne



**Annual Reports  
for 2022**



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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.

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## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



This has been a very encouraging year in the life of St Ursula's, as we have begun to move on from Covid and Covid restrictions and return to some level of "normality". I would like to highlight some of the encouragements of the year.

At the AGM last year, I outlined several priorities for our church for the coming year. These included encouraging more people back to church and growing our congregation, children and families work, music in church, Bible study, prayer and fellowship, and developing the Marks of Mission.

1. Growing our Congregation: Attendance at church services has increased this year, especially recently, with numbers generally between 60-90. During the last 6 months, some people who had worshipped at home during Covid have come back to church to worship in person. In the last few months, we have also welcomed at least 20 new people, who have started to worship with us on a regular basis. Several of these are young adults in their 20s or 30s, which brings a bit more of a range of ages to our fellowship, which is as it should be. It will be good to build on this as we encourage people of all ages and nationalities to join our fellowship. We hope to have another newcomers' supper soon. Hospitality and shared meals are an important part of our life as a church: our Pentecost lunch this year was a particular highlight when nearly 90 people shared an international meal to celebrate our unity in Christ. We also held a lunch for students and although the turnout was low, we made some good connections and hope we will be able to do this again in future years.

2. Children and Families: In June, the Church Council had a day away to pray and discuss how we could build up our ministry with families and children. We came up with various ideas including involving the children more in services, preparing children to receive communion, praying regularly for our children, and encouraging more people to help with Junior Church and Crèche. We have put all these ideas into practice. In December we welcomed 8 children (all baptized and over 7 years old) to receive communion after a preparation course. In addition to this very joyful occasion, it has also been a joy this year to baptize Benni and Cem. In January, we began to hold All Age Eucharists once a month and children are regularly involved in these services helping to ring the bell, set up the altar, take the collection and read. We have welcomed a few more Junior Church and Crèche helpers (though we still need more volunteers) and we offer JC and Crèche every Sunday except when we hold the All Age service. A big thank you must go to our current JC teachers and Crèche helpers who have worked so hard this year. We have contact with more families now with up to 20 children at church on Sundays. This is such a joy for us all and an answer to prayer. In August, we are planning a special Children's Activity Day together with the Chaplaincy in Zurich,

to be held here at Berne. We hope this will further encourage our ministry with children and families.

3. Music in Church: Last AGM, Hans-Karl announced his retirement after faithfully playing the organ at St Ursula's for 50 years. We are deeply thankful to him and Elisabeth for all they have given to our church over so many years. With Hans-Karl's retirement, we had to re-think our music in church. We did this through holding an Open Forum and building up a team to propose a way forward. We decided to try to offer a mix of traditional hymns and modern songs every Sunday and to use the musicians we had in our own congregation rather than paying for an organist from outside. We were very much helped in this vision by the arrival of David S. and then Vaibhav Singh who have both played the organ and piano for us. Together with Manuel Sager, Tricia Carrick, Peter Masciadri, Belle Täuber, Tony Read, Judith Eigermann and Brian Morgan, who have played a variety of instruments, we have managed to provide musical accompaniment each Sunday. David Marshall has helped with putting together a rota. It is quite a challenge sometimes finding people to play and choosing hymns and songs which fit the instruments available. However, despite the challenges, the team has worked well together and many people have expressed their appreciation of the range of hymns and songs we sing. It has also been good to be able to sing the liturgy for the Eucharist again on some Sundays when we have an organist/pianist to play. I am very grateful to everyone involved. If you can play an instrument and would like to join the team, please let me know.

4. Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship: This has remained a priority for this year and we have offered a varied programme, both in person and via Zoom, with several visiting speakers. See my separate report for details.

5. Marks of Mission: This year, we have especially highlighted working against unjust structures and supporting those in need, in particular refugees. On Mission Sunday 2022, we welcomed the Aghasharif family to talk about their experience. Building on this, in the Autumn we listened to Carsten Schmidt and Selina Leu talk about the situation of refugees in Switzerland and how churches might help, and in January 2023, our son Simon gave a talk about his work with refugees in Calais. These occasions led to interest and some financial support, but there was not sufficient interest or commitment to start a project at St Ursula's or to join in with other churches in a joint project in Berne. I hope this is something we can perhaps re-consider in the future. At the same time, it is good for us to keep in mind all the 5 Marks of Mission, and to think about ways we can develop our mission in all these areas.

As I look back over this year, I am deeply thankful for all these encouragements in our life as a church, and for all the many people who give so generously to our ministry and fellowship. I am especially thankful to our two Churchwardens, Martin and Sue, for their time and energy in supporting the work of the church

and also supporting me personally. I am grateful for their positive attitude, loyalty and commitment. Additional thanks to Sue for the huge amount of work involved in being Treasurer as well as Churchwarden. I am also very thankful to Maria, our Administrator, who is so efficient, calm and gracious and does such an excellent job.

Thank you to members of TCom who do a lot of work behind the scenes on our buildings and technical issues, and for the gardening team who have worked hard on our church grounds this past year. Thank you to our magazine team who have continued to produce the magazine faithfully during these difficult times. Thank you to Cecily and Maxine, our safeguarding officers, for their hard work in this area of church life and for their reminder that we all need to be involved in making sure we offer a safe, welcoming church environment for all people, including children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding should not be seen as an irritating extra thing we have to do these days but as an essential demonstration of our Christian care and concern for the vulnerable.

I am very grateful to the fundraising team for all their hard work in organising the Summer Fête, Christmas Bazaar, and Autumn and Spring Sales. The numbers attending these events have grown as Covid restrictions have relaxed. We always need more help, however, so if you can get involved, do let Maria in the office know.

Thank you to all those who serve the church in many different ways as readers, intercessors, sidespeople, welcomers, altar servers, those serving refreshments after services, and in countless other ways. There are too many to mention everyone by name.

The year has included much joy in the community with several baptisms, new members, and a group of children welcomed to receive communion. It has also included some sad losses as we have mourned the death of Adorée Weibel and David Winfield. As a Christian community we are called to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. I hope that pastoral care and support within our church will continue and grow.

As I give thanks for all that has gone on this year, I want to thank Archana and James for their ministry and support. Please pray for Archana as she gets more involved in her Reader ministry this year, and also for James as he continues his training for ordained ministry. It is very good to have them both here at St Ursula's. I am also grateful to Peter Hawker for his ongoing prayerful support. A special thanks must go to David who gives so generously of his gifts and talents in ministry at St Ursula's and on whose love and support I depend.

**THANK  
YOU!**

So what are the priorities as we look to this coming year?

I hope we can continue to build on the encouragements we have seen this last year: to further grow our congregation, especially our young people, to develop our ministry with families and children, maintain a varied programme of Bible study, prayer and fellowship, and to reflect on ways we can further develop our mission in all its aspects.

In addition to these matters, I would like to outline a couple of other priorities.

Firstly, developing the pastoral care within our church. We have a Pastoral Care Team but we need to re-think how this team is used, This is complicated as it includes issues of safeguarding and confidentiality. I hope during the year, we can find realistic and sensitive ways to develop pastoral care amongst the whole congregation. This involves not only care for the sick and elderly, but pastoral care for newcomers, for families, for those who are stressed with work, and for a growing number of people, especially young people, who suffer from depression. I hope we can build up a greater sense of mutual care for one another.

Secondly, I hope that we can re-introduce regular house groups in the church. We have lectio divina, Bible study courses, Lent courses etc, but we don't have ongoing, lay-led house groups. I know there is a danger that such groups can lead to cliques and disunity, but they are also a means of deepening faith and prayer, fellowship and pastoral care. The advantages seem to me to outweigh the disadvantages. I hope the council will think through these issues and that we can suggest a positive way forward in starting up house groups this year.

So let us look back with thankfulness and look ahead with confidence, remembering that it is not our church but God's church, and he will give us the resources we need if we trust in him.

*Revd Helen Marshall*

## WORSHIP, PRAYER AND STUDY

### Worship

• Services at St Ursula's: Shortly after our AGM last year, we stopped offering the regular services online in order to encourage people to come back to worship in person (though we still record the sermon as we used to do and put this on the website). At the end of the summer all the chairs were put back into church and the worship space began to feel back to "normal" after all the Covid restrictions!



This year we have had to review our music in church and I am very grateful to the team of musicians who have provided the music in our services after Hans-Karl

retired after playing the organ at St Ursula's for 50 years. A huge thank you to him and to Elisabeth.

It was a special joy to be able to celebrate the different Christmas services with good numbers. Our regular Sunday attendance has increased and is now between 60-90 adults per Sunday with a growing number of children (up to 20) which is very encouraging. We have welcomed several new members to our church during this year, including several in their 20s and 30s.

One thing I would love to see is that we all make attending worship regularly every Sunday a priority. This discipline may seem harder these days when we may have many different commitments and activities competing for our attention but, if we are serious in following Jesus, then attending church every week (whether we are in Berne or away elsewhere) is an important part of our discipleship.

- Thun Services: We began the year with a mix of in-person services and online services (one each per month). However, during the year we have moved to in-person services only. The group is small but committed with a strong sense of fellowship and mutual pastoral care. We are hoping to set up a Thun house group this coming year.

- Other Churches and Services: David or I continue to take monthly services at Neuchatel, and I have also taken a couple of Anglican Eucharists for the Old Catholic Church in Olten this year. Ecumenical services have resumed with services in the Munster, and there have been several online Diocesan services. David has also taken services at the Anglican churches in Geneva and Basel.

- Communion for the housebound: I continue to take communion to a small number of people of our fellowship who cannot attend worship at St Ursula's.

## Prayer

- Lectio Divina: The group continues to meet (online) on a Thursday morning, to reflect on a short passage of Scripture and use that as a basis for prayer. It works very well online as it enables more people to join in. These sessions have been a consistent source of spiritual nourishment and mutual encouragement; they both build up the faith of individuals and strengthen our sense of community. Come and join us!

- Advent and Lent: During Advent, I offered three evenings of reflection and meditation on Advent themes, concluding by saying Compline (Night Prayer) together. We held these sessions in person but the turnout was very low. It seems that many people prefer online meetings for gatherings during the week. For Lent last year, we held another online prayer and fasting day. I provided reflection for participants to use at home and we then met online for three times during the day for prayers, sharing, and mutual encouragement. This Lent, I am leading some online sessions: "Praying with the English Mystics" which will include input, time



for sharing and discussion, and further prayer and reflection. There will also be a daily Night Prayer (Compline) online every evening during Passiontide (beginning 25th March).

- Intercessions: I am very grateful to those who lead the intercessions in church. These are very well done and much appreciated by many. We have welcomed some new intercessors this year. If anyone else is interested in joining in this ministry, do ask me for more details.

- Prayer Materials in my Email Messages: At the end of my weekly messages, Being Church in Strange Times and at All Times, there are usually resources for prayer, (poems, prayers or meditations). I often get very positive feedback about these.

- Prayer on the phone: When I ring to speak to people at home, I often also pray with them or say a blessing. This continues to be an important ministry for those who are sick, housebound, or cannot attend worship for various reasons.

## Study

- Online and In Person: We have continued to offer a range of different opportunities for study, some online and some in church. This “mixed economy” seems to work well. Typically, in-person meetings are on Sunday after church to benefit from the fact that people have already made the effort to get here, while Zoom meetings are on weekdays.

- Online Bible Studies and Discussions: For much of the year, we have met twice a month on a Tuesday evening to study a range of topics. These have included sessions on the Nicene Creed and sessions on 1 Corinthians. After the Lent course, we are planning some sessions with Benjamin Vaytet (a new member of our congregation who is doing a PhD at Geneva university) on Bonhoeffer’s book, Life Together. Numbers at these study sessions varies, usually between 10-20 people. A big thank you especially to David for his contributions to these study groups.

- Talks and Discussions in Church: We have held a variety of talks and discussions which have drawn on the knowledge and experience of members of our congregation as well as learning from outside speakers. At Pentecost, we welcomed Dr Manoj Kurian to talk about the world church. In September, Professor John Wyatt came to preach on Creation Sunday and afterwards gave a stimulating talk on medical ethics, AI, and other topics. Jorum Kirundi picked up on some of these themes in a subsequent talk and discussion. We learned about Rick Slettenhaar’s work as a diplomat through a stimulating interview conducted by Manuel Sager. Continuing our commitment to caring for the environment, Louise Rapaud spoke about her Climate Change Apology Project. For harvest, we welcomed Bishop Gaddie Akanjuna to preach and to talk about the Water and Sanitation Project in Kigezi, Uganda, which we support through Tearfund Schweiz.

Finally, in January, our son Simon Marshall gave a talk about his work with refugees in Calais.

- Discussion of the Readings and Sermon: We have been able to do this from time to time when there has been no other activity taking place.

- Men's Group: The Men's Group has continued to meet, sometimes online and sometimes in person. Many of the recent meetings have involved a Saturday brunch and have included talks and interviews with one of the members. The friendship, support and prayer that the group offers is valued by many. A big thank you to David and James for organizing this and to those who have hosted the group.

*Revd Helen Marshall*

## THUN SERVICES & CONGREGATION

After the restrictions of Covid, the Thun group is very happy to be in the usual rhythm of meeting in the French Church in Thun on the first and third Thursday of each month. We usually number 8-10 people and we are always happy to welcome old and new friends.

Revd Helen leads the communion service and the sermon is linked to the one preached in St. Ursula's on the previous Sunday - this gives the feeling of being part of the larger St. Ursula's community.

This year on the 18th August, Helen and Agnes organised a "mini retreat" or quiet day at the beautiful old church in Amsoldingen. It was a special time to turn away from the rush of the everyday and be quiet before God. It is an event that we would like to repeat in the future, possibly being a little longer next time.

We were very happy after a gap of two years to be able to have our Carol service, un-socially distanced and to be able to share refreshments afterwards in the warmth of the church hall! There were over 30 people in attendance and it was lovely to see faces we hadn't seen for three years and to welcome new ones.

We are considering meeting together on one extra evening per month in a housegroup type of setting, but the details have not been settled yet.

We are very grateful to Helen for her caring leadership. We appreciate her very much and love it when she joins us for a drink in a local restaurant after the service even though it is at the end of a long working day for her. Thank you!

*Sue Zysset*



## CHURCH COUNCIL



This report covers the life of the outgoing council i.e. from the first meeting after last year's AGM until this AGM. Unfortunately, the last meeting (in March) is not included as this report was written before it took place.

This council had 13 members - 1 clergy, 1 lay reader, 2 churchwardens, 2 archdeaconry synod representatives, 6 elected members and 1 co-opted member. The names and contact numbers are in the church magazine.

Council usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except in August. However, when something special is taking place, it may be moved - this year this happened in May, September and January.

So, without the March meeting, there were 10 meetings with an average attendance of 9.8 people (minimum 8; maximum 12). Because the situation relating to the Covid virus had improved, council was again able to meet in person in the church hall, although there were a couple of occasions when one or two people joined via Zoom.

At the first meeting after the AGM (5 April) the various council officers - lay vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer, electoral roll officer, safeguarding officer, standing committee - were appointed. In addition, the safeguarding policy was approved.

As always, council handles a good variety of topics at its meetings. There is the regular, routine business needed to keep the church running. This includes finance, deciding on dates, times and contents of services, social events, talks etc where necessary - then reviewing them after they have taken place.

Various groups report to council at each meeting. These are: Treasurer, Junior Church, Safeguarding, Eco-Group, TCom (technical committee), Charity and Gardening. There should be a separate report from each group in this booklet. Council did what it could to support these groups.

Then there are ongoing topics which have to be handled at every meeting. One example from this council is the Covid situation: Michael Agoba kept track of the statistics and reported to council at each meeting. Slowly, council felt able to relax some of the measures that had been introduced. From Palm Sunday we resumed singing in church; from Easter Sunday, we had coffee outside (which moved inside later in the year); from Pentecost, we resumed the distribution of the communion wine and we discontinued the provision of online services. Council recommended the wearing of masks until June, from July we restarted taking the collection and from September the sharing of the peace. From October, there

were no further changes, although council still looked at the figures at each meeting.

And there are new topics that crop up. One of these this year was the use of photos. In September, council were made aware that everyone has to give written permission for photos of them to be used by the church. This is partly a safeguarding issue and partly due to data protection laws. Council discussed this several times and eventually approved a permission form which was based on those from the Church of England and the Diocese in Europe. The next challenge is to get enough of these forms completed. Only then will we be able to produce a new photo of the congregation.

Council takes the issue of keeping people safe very seriously. So, all council members undertook to complete their own safeguarding training and to encourage others to do so too. One topic that cropped up in three council meetings was the need to ensure that parents realise that they are responsible for their children during coffee time. We should also ask them to prevent their children running around in inappropriate places (eg, where people are holding cups of hot coffee).

This council also placed an emphasis on risk assessments. Although council has been approving risk assessments for some time, it was decided this year to try to get the process understood and followed correctly. In addition, work was done on the “general” (not directly related to an activity) risk assessments. These tasks were not completed and will continue with the next council.

Council agreed that the welcome team should resume in November. As well as welcoming people, it is important that information about newcomers is gathered to keep our records up-to-date.

Throughout the year, council offered support to the Junior Church and Crèche team which is still in need of more teachers and helpers. The meeting of Junior Church every Sunday was resumed in July, but this made the lack of teachers more apparent. In October, council re-affirmed the resolution passed in November 2004 to approve the policy of admitting baptised children over the age of 7 to communion. Subsequently, a course took place. See the Junior Church report elsewhere in this booklet for more details of their activities.

There are many, many other topics which council discussed and, in some cases, even organised such as the purchase and planting of a tree for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee; music in church; pastoral care; first aid courses and training in the use of the defibrillator. Far too many to mention them all here!

If you would like more information about what the council does or if you would like to give some input, please contact a council member (a list of council members is included in the magazine).

*Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)*

## CHURCHWARDENS

What does a Churchwarden do? What is he or she good for?

The Churchwarden's *raison d'être* is relatively simple to explain. Their main role is to support the minister of the church, which requires a certain amount of active and responsible thinking. The Minister in our church, the Reverend Helen Marshall, meets with us, Susan Higson and Martin Browne, at least once a month to discuss various issues relating to the running of the church in all its aspects.

We are also responsible for ensuring that everyone can worship safely at St Ursula's, including assessing potential risks and likely hazards, such as tripping hazards, but we are sure that as a reader of this monologue you will already be aware of these.

Looking back at the year 2022, we have seen a marked increase in the number of newcomers to St Ursula's since the great fear of the last pandemic has been greatly diminished. The newcomers are very often young and are becoming interested and active in church life. This is something we prayed about as a council on our retreat, so we are happy to see this development. A flourishing community is what we all wish for.

The church has had a fire risk assessment carried out by GVB. This is an insurance company that covers all buildings in the canton of Berne. We were instructed to ensure free movement through doorways and removal of flammable materials in the church and surrounding rooms. You may have noticed some changes as a result.

The Council has carried out a review of our building and grounds risk assessments and we have identified a number of areas that need to be reviewed on a regular basis.

Working with the gardening team, we and the Council were pleased to support the procurement, planting and maintenance of a tree planted in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth. Our church garden is a welcoming and relaxing addition to our Church, and the tree will add to the enjoyment as well as reduce the sound intrusion from the cars passing on the road outside.

*Susan Higson and Martin Browne, Churchwardens*

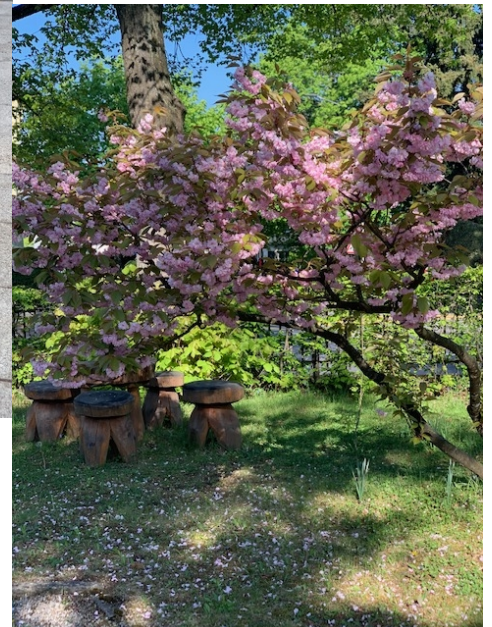


## GARDEN

One or more members of the Gardening Team met on at least 7 occasions during 2022.

Now that the Covid era is behind us, unfortunately many former willing helpers are back to normal life. The faithful crew undertook weeding the gravel and flower beds, collecting all the pine cones everywhere, dead-heading some flowers, tying in the wild rose along the arch, trimming the hedges, mowing the grass, scattering the home-made leaf mould along the boundary hedges, making and using some fertiliser from cut stinging nettles and setting up a third much needed compost bin. The water butt and shed were also cleaned during the summer.

*Alison Beindorff*



## JUNIOR CHURCH

### Teachers

Junior Church classes are only possible because of all our Junior Church teachers and helpers. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

A big welcome to all the new ones, and thank you for your support. If you would like to join our team and be a part of our Youth's spiritual growth; please contact Revd Helen Marshall or any JC teacher for further information.



### Charity

Tear Fund is the Charity Junior Church has supported for several years. We incorporate this Charity in our weekly Junior Church lessons and learn more about what they do.

Our weekly collection goes to their projects, so the children learn from a very young age to help and be thankful for what they have.

### Junior Church Resources

"ROOTS" gives us the material teachers can use for our Junior Church classes and creates a structure during the year. "ROOTS" gives us excellent teaching input, produced by a Christian charitable company, with ecumenical and lectionary-based resources "[www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)".

## Classes

Every Sunday, the children have a particular spot in our Sunday Service. Once a month, there is an All-Age service, and people of all ages are invited to stay in church and enjoy the service. The rest of the month, we have Junior Church classes on Sundays. Before going out to their classes, the young ones listen to the introduction to the topic which they will learn in their courses, from either Revd Helen or our Reader Archana.



## Nativity Play

The children played in the Nativity Play in 2022 while David Marshall read the Play. Old and young could celebrate this extraordinary time during our Nativity Play Service. All children gathered around the stable and sang many different traditional Carols, accompanied by our music group. All the Junior Church teachers and Crèche helpers have greatly supported, encouraging the children, choosing the costumes, and all the other tasks that needed to be planned. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!

## Don't miss an event!

The Junior Church Team tries to organize different events for the Youth and their families throughout the year. So, if you don't want to miss an event, please read our magazine, see the weekly Notices or talk to an active Junior Church teacher. For 2023 there are already several projects planned. We are looking forward to them.

*Ruby Wildhaber*

## CRÈCHE

St Ursula's Crèche provides the very youngest members of the congregation an enjoyable experience and allows their parents to focus on worship.

In 2022 there were often few and sometimes no Crèche children present. Occasionally, there were only older Crèche children and these children were sometimes accompanied by the Crèche helper to get their first impressions of Junior Church.

There is a small but very dedicated group of Crèche helpers. This group needs to grow since we currently don't have enough helpers, and in particular leaders, to hold Crèche in the lower hall with two grown-ups present. Instead, Crèche was held in the upper hall in the same room as Junior Church. While this is clearly not the ideal state of affairs, it worked and allowed us to offer Crèche on an almost continuous basis.

*Dominic Roser, Crèche Coordinator*



## 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.*



We are pleased to report that in the past year there have been no serious incidents requiring action.

Safeguarding checks are required for all those working with children and young people or vulnerable adults (Pastoral Care Team) at our church. All JC/Crèche leaders and helpers and Pastoral Team members must renew their safeguarding checks and training every 3 years. We are in the ongoing process of ensuring that all have completed or renewed their safeguarding checks and training. We do have a limited number of Junior Church and Crèche Leaders and helpers and all must have fulfilled their safeguarding checks and training. This can be a challenge at times but we must always be sure that we are keeping to our Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

Our council members must all complete the required safeguarding training (Basic Awareness - C0 and C1 Online Safeguarding Courses) as well as the Domestic Abuse online training.

A wider group of people in our church, ie, those who are in a visible position in their role during the Sunday worship, eg, sidespersons, readers, intercessors, servers etc. also need to undergo a more basic form of a safeguarding check.

Our council must approve our St Ursula's safeguarding policy each year.

What is new is that council will be approving a Chaplaincy Domestic Abuse Statement for St Ursula's.

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse,
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm,
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships,

- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

St Ursula's also takes the position that any form of bullying or harassment perpetrated by any member of the laity or clergy towards another person is totally unacceptable.

We adhere to the June 2022 Diocese in Europe Antibullying and Harassment policy.

Safeguarding training takes place by online or virtual video training sessions.

### Diocese in Europe Training Pathway

**Basic Awareness - C0 Online Course:** This course is recommended for anyone who wants to achieve a basic level of awareness of safeguarding.

**Foundation Course - C1 Online Course:** The Foundation Course is required for everyone who has safeguarding responsibilities, or if the church role requires contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.

**Leadership Course - C2 Virtual training:** The virtual C2 training course is required for anyone who has safeguarding leadership responsibilities or is responsible for leading activities involving children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.

Risk assessments must 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.

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](http://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 Team. Such matters are always kept strictly confidential.

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

Cecily Kinglier, St Ursula's Safeguarding Officer - Tel: 031 3024859 or 076 4254859, email: [safeguarding@stursula.ch](mailto:safeguarding@stursula.ch) and Maxine Wildhaber, Asst Safeguarding Officer - Tel: 076 349 4042, email: [safeguarding@stursula.ch](mailto:safeguarding@stursula.ch)

## SUMMER FÊTE 2022

### **A special Summer Fête**

Our first Summer Fête since Corona came into our lives took place on Saturday 11 June and what a special celebration it was! We were blessed with sunny weather and everyone had the chance to enjoy our delicious homemade treats and our lovely garden.

Fun children's activities for our tiny world travellers were kindly provided by Little Bears Bern (aka Parents and Tots). This is an international English-speaking playgroup meeting at St Ursula's every Wednesday morning.

We also had Diccon Bewes as our special guest. He signed his books and gave two talks in the church, both entertaining and informative.

This year's Summer Fête will be held on Saturday 10 June and I am sure we are looking forward to it.

*Church Office*



## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2022

As you probably already know, November is one of the busiest months at St Ursula's. Organising the Christmas Bazaar has never been an easy task. Many things behind the scenes may even go unnoticed. For example, we need to move furniture around a lot, even empty the church of all the chairs in order to set up the stalls. And for this we need many helping hands.



With the much appreciated effort from all our volunteers, their passion, patience and dedication we managed to overcome all difficulties once again in order to come together and spread Christmas joy all around us.



This time our Christmas Bazaar took place at St Ursula's on a bigger scale than the last two years and sale-stursula.ch was live again so that everyone could pre-order their hard-to-resist goodies. As always, we had Christmas cakes, crumpets and home-baked goods, the food stall full of treats, beautiful Christmas wreaths and decorations, patchwork and other fine Christmas gifts, mulled wine and mince pies, second-hand books, children's activities, tombola and a raffle. On Friday evening we served Raclette while on Saturday our visitors could enjoy our delicious Christmas Lunch.

All our volunteers worked really hard and dedicated lots of hours of their personal time. So a big THANK YOU to all of them for their help, their support and generosity. I hope that everyone who helped with and attended the Bazaar had a great time and that we were able to bring joy and the Christmas spirit into everyone's homes. Our next Bazaar will take place on Friday 24 November and Saturday 25 November 2023.

*Church Office*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

My Budget presented at the last AGM was a growth budget, which planned a loss in the Church and an excess for the Charitable Association. We as a council were budgeting for more families, and more costs associated with the growth.

I am able to report that my budgeting was pretty much in line with the final result. We have a loss overall of Fr10,720 which is Fr200 less than budgeted, we also have a lot more families and young people in our Church community than a year ago.

Financially, the Church recorded a loss of Fr33,140, which although budgeted, is not something we want happening every year, as our reserves can only sustain such losses for 3 more years. Therefore in 2023 we will need to look for ways to reduce the deficit.

The Charitable Association recorded an excess of Fr22,420, of which Fr10,000 is transferred to our building fund. The Charitable Association paid for the heating as well as some maintenance costs, but is unable to support Ministry costs - you can see the split on the detailed income statement.

Income from the community in the form of regular pledging, donations or through the collection plate is in line with that of 2021, and above budget, with a small movement in pledge income away from the Church and to the Charitable Association. Collections have increased, but donations have decreased. Several people stopped or reduced their giving in 2022. Some of our donors passed away. 15 new givers joined the circle. Please consider pledging if you are not already

doing so, and also consider leaving us a legacy in your will. Legacies have been very beneficial in previous years in helping us build up our reserves and encouraging us in our Mission.

Our income from events remains very important to us (see separate report), as does the income we can make from renting out our premises. Without this income our loss would have been another Fr41,000, which would have wiped out nearly half of our remaining general reserve in the Church. I therefore encourage everyone to support our events and to spread the word.

Our expenses in 2022 were increased due to the general rise in energy costs caused by the Ukraine war, as well as various improvements, renewals and repairs that were carried out on the premises. The photocopier survived yet another year, but will need replacing in 2023. Property tax was increased by the Tax authorities, and they backdated the increase so this had an extra impact in 2022.

Salaries were not increased, and indeed some of our income includes various fees received for work done by Helen Marshall for other bodies. I wish to note here that David Marshall receives no payment from the Church for any of the services or other work he does for us. We benefit from his services for free as it were. We also do not pay Archana or James for any of their preaching or service.

We also benefit from many other services for free, including those of our musicians, flower arrangers, gardeners and TCom, as well as many more who all give freely of their time and talents to the life of the church.

Our Charity giving remained at Fr25,000 which is actually 11.4% of income. The charities that we support have also been hit by the economic issues we all experience, and rely on our financial support. Therefore we maintained it in 2022.

At the end of 2022, after booking the results, the reserves are as follows:

	Church	Charitable Assn	Consolidated
General reserves	86'028.64	39'021.83	125'050.47
Building fund	15'000	111'286.44	126'286.44
Ministry fund	11'235.34		11'235.34
Total reserves	112'263.98	150'308.27	262'572.25

*\*General reserves include non-liquid capital.*

You can see more detail on the balance sheet, and I will be exploring the different areas further in my presentation at the AGM.

*Susan Higson, Treasurer*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### St Ursula's Church/St Ursula's Charitable Association

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Church 22</b>	<b>Assn 22</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
<b>Income from Community</b>	<b>89,061.15</b>	<b>70,263.89</b>	<b>159,325</b>
<i>Pledged giving</i>	68,153.50	65,920.00	134,074
<i>Donations</i>	6,421.65	4,343.89	10,766
<i>Collections</i>	14,486.00		14,486
			-
<b>Income from events</b>	31,769.31		31,769
			-
<b>Income from other sources</b>	<b>20,934.39</b>		<b>20,934</b>
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	17,176.60		17,177
<i>Other</i>	3,757.79		3,758
			-
			-
<b>Income from Thun</b>	1,358.70		1,359
<b>Income from Neuchatel</b>	667.10		667
<b>Permanent activities income</b>	<b>3,095.75</b>		<b>3,096</b>
<i>Magazine</i>	2,051.00		2,051
<i>Books and Cards</i>	278.50		279
<i>Coffee</i>	732.25		732
<i>Other</i>	34.00		34
			-
			-
Financial income	1,609.58	-	1,610
Forex		-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148,495.98</b>	<b>70,263.89</b>	<b>218,760</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>33,140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,720</b>

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

## 31.12.2022

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Church 22</b>	<b>Assn 22</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
<b>Personnel-related costs</b>	<b>129,794.12</b>	-	<b>129,794</b>
Stipends and remunerations	88,269.66		88,270
Travelling expenses	3,055.10	-	3,055
Other personnel costs	38,469.36		38,469
<b>Running costs</b>	<b>23,355.30</b>	<b>22,733</b>	<b>46,088</b>
<i>Premises</i>	<i>19,802.30</i>	<i>18,800.20</i>	<i>38,603</i>
<i>Office</i>	<i>873.08</i>		<i>873</i>
<i>Telephone and Internet</i>	<i>548.90</i>	-	<b>549</b>
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>860.30</i>	<i>1,492.05</i>	<i>2,352</i>
<i>Property tax</i>	-	<i>2,440.40</i>	<i>2,440</i>
<i>Vestry</i>	<i>859.63</i>		<i>860</i>
<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	<i>254.65</i>		<i>255</i>
<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	<i>156.44</i>		<i>156</i>
<b>Youth and Junior Church</b>	<b>640.96</b>		<b>641</b>
<b>Cost of food sold</b>	<b>5,048.41</b>		<b>5,048</b>
<b>Permanent activities expense</b>	<b>2,324.35</b>		<b>2,324</b>
<i>Magazine</i>	<i>2,008.70</i>		<i>2,009</i>
<i>Books and cards</i>	<i>136.90</i>		<i>137</i>
<i>Coffee</i>	<i>178.75</i>		<i>179</i>
<i>Other</i>	-		-
<b>Diocese/Deanery</b>	<b>17,669.78</b>		<b>17,670</b>
<b>Charity incl allocations</b>		<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Financial Expense</b>	<b>295.21</b>	<b>110.97</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>Forex Loss</b>	<b>2,507.65</b>		<b>2,508</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>181,635.78</b>	<b>47,843.62</b>	<b>229,479</b>
<b>excess before allocations</b>	-	<b>22,420</b>	-

**Balance sheet for St Ursula's Church and Association**

CHF Assets	note	31/12/2022 Church	31/12/2022 Association	31/12/2022 Total	31.12.2021 Church	31.12.2021 Association
<b>Cash and Bank</b>						
<b>Current accounts + Petty cash</b>						
CH		74,874.90	103,006.42	177,881.32	81,546	160,676
UK		19,274.02		19,274.02	23,319	
<b>Deposit accounts</b>	B1					
CH (UBS)		30,000.00	50,000.00	80,000.00	24,000	-
<b>Total Cash and Bank</b>		<b>124,148.92</b>	<b>153,006.42</b>	<b>277,155.34</b>	<b>128,864</b>	<b>160,676</b>
<i>Stocks on hand</i>	B2	1,369.00	-	1,369.00	1,041	-
<i>debtors and monies due</i>	B3	1,118.50	564.95	1,683.45	1,066	-
<b>Total other assets</b>		<b>2,487.50</b>	<b>564.95</b>	<b>3,052.45</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>	B4	-	-	-	-	1,223
<b>Prepayments &amp; deferred expense</b>	B5	1,558.40	-	1,558.40	1,094	-
<b>Pension assets</b>		122.50		122.50	121	
<b>total Assets</b>		<b>128,317.32</b>	<b>153,571.37</b>	<b>281,888.69</b>	<b>132,187</b>	<b>161,899</b>
<b>current liabilities</b>						
<b>creditors</b>		- 13,126.40	- 13.45	- 13,139.85	- 9,592	-
<b>collections to be paid out</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>due within 1 month</b>		- 13,126.40	- 13.45	- 13,139.85	- 9,592	-
<b>owed between the Church and Association</b>	10	-	-	-	26,000	26,000
<b>provisions incl charity to be paid</b>	B6	- 1,112.39	- 3,249.65	- 4,362.04	- 226	- 8,011
<b>funds held for others</b>	B7	- 1,814.55	-	- 1,814.55	- 1,815	-
<b>excess of assets over liabilities</b>		<b>112,263.98</b>	<b>150,308.27</b>	<b>262,572.25</b>	<b>146,554</b>	<b>127,888</b>
<b>Capital reserves</b>	B8					
<b>Contingency reserve</b>		- 117,799.44	- 26,601.56	- 144,401.00	- 117,893	- 25,379
<b>Ministry Training Fund</b>		- 11,235.34		- 11,235.34	- 12,385	
<b>Building and Development Fund</b>		- 15,000.00	- 101,286.44	- 116,286.44	- 15,000	- 101,286
<b>non-liquid capital</b>		- 1,369.00	-	- 1,369.00	- 1,275	- 1,223
		<b>- 145,403.78</b>	<b>- 127,888.00</b>	<b>- 273,291.78</b>	<b>- 146,554</b>	<b>- 127,888</b>
<b>result before allocations</b>		<b>33,139.80</b>	<b>-22,420.27</b>	<b>10,719.53</b>		
<b>Allocation to Building fund</b>			<b>-10,000.00</b>	<b>-10,000.00</b>		
<b>reduction /( Increase) in contingency reserve</b>		<b>33,139.80</b>	<b>-12,420.27</b>	<b>20,719.53</b>		
<b>net worth</b>		<b>- 112,263.98</b>	<b>- 150,308.27</b>	<b>- 262,572.25</b>		
<b>Contingency fund after allocations</b>		<b>- 84,659.64</b>	<b>- 39,021.83</b>	<b>- 123,681.47</b>		
<b>Building and development fund after allocation</b>		<b>- 15,000.00</b>	<b>- 111,286.44</b>	<b>- 126,286.44</b>		



## FUNDRAISING REPORT

As I mentioned in my Treasurer's Report, as the income from the community is not enough to cover all running expenses for the Church, we are very reliant on our events. In 2022 we had our four main sales, supported by a great team of cooks, bakers, book sorters, food buyers, jam makers, sewers and knitters, set-up and clear-up teams, ISB students, publicists, organisers, welcomers and more. We even had support from the British Embassy in preparing the turkey crowns for our Christmas dinner at the Bazaar.

Income from Events	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Book & other Sales	10,291	9,985	4,772	6,493	7,348
Bazaar	7,297	5,451	6,871	10,485	9,699
Food Stall	13,813	16,713	14,683	12,686	13,088
Other events	368		1,410	3,998	2,243
	<b>31,769</b>	<b>32,149</b>	<b>27,736</b>	<b>33,662</b>	<b>32,378</b>

The website was launched in 2020 and increases our income.

Food stall is before the cost of buying food, see expenses.

Book sale income includes the restaurant as well as extras like crumpets and pies. Books themselves raise on average Fr1100 per sale, but we notice the shift to electronic book readers. All books are donated, so this is all profit.

A well run restaurant can raise around Fr1300 after expenses per sale. We struggle now to find someone to run the restaurant each time, and the role of catering co-ordinator is open if anyone feels called to do it, or at least to help.

We have certainly noticed the Brexit impact when trying to import food from the UK. Our main supplier will now only supply by the Pallet due to all the regulations involved. So we had to look for a new supplier. For the Bazaar 2022 we worked in tandem with Basel church with a new supplier. Unfortunately it did not go well, requiring a lot of work on our side, as well as that of the supplier, and meaning that the food was delivered to us the day before set up, whereas Basel Church received it 4 days after their sale. As a result we helped them out by taking a lot of their product, and we will be working with them again this year to try and get a reliable source of product for November.

We continue to benefit from our website, although it is not used as much as in 2021 when the March sale remained online only, and other sales had a high online element in order to spread when people visited. In 2021 we had 257 orders for Fr14,826 over the website, but in 2022 this dropped to 92 orders for Fr4000. Our top products last year were hot cross buns which were freshly baked for Easter, Yorkshire tea, Jana's pies and jams, mince pies and ginger nut biscuits.

Christmas cakes at our Bazaar as well as any freshly baked product are very popular and will always sell. Please feel free to volunteer to help as a baker.

Finally, although we really need the funds, we also are providing a great outreach to the community. We also have fun doing it. Several people have become members of our Church on a regular basis as a result of visiting our events. In 2023 we need to hold more events, in order to ensure that we do not have such a deficit this year. Please check out the time and talent auction, as well as considering what you can support and how.



*Susan Higson, Treasurer*

### **SPRING AND AUTUMN SALES 2022**

I am happy to report that both our Spring Sale on Saturday 12 March and our Autumn Sale on 3 September were successful.

We were delighted to welcome many people at our premises, not only regular but also new visitors, who came to browse our stalls and enjoy a cup of coffee with home-baked cakes or the delicious lunch dishes provided by our amazing team of volunteers. As always, the second-hand books, the crumpets, the homemade jams and the British food stall were popular.

We were also blessed with beautiful weather on both days which meant that more people had the chance to enjoy the sunshine sitting outside in our garden.



A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the Sales (without forgetting to mention the International School students, without whom we would have really struggled), as well as to all those who came along to support us.

*Church Office*

## BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Reporting period from AGM 2022-23

### 1. Status of building and infrastructure

Building complex and infrastructure are generally in good condition. No major investments are apparent at this stage. The blinds of the halls are getting frail and need repeated repair. If the time between failures keeps getting shorter, their replacement might be necessary in the medium term.

Presently, two issues are open:

- *Blinds on the east side of the lower hall can't be closed/opened*
- *Sink holes need to be pumped out.*

Issues with dishwasher, refrigerator, vacuum cleaners, taps, floodlights, toilets, sinks and others could be fixed without outside help. Outside help was required to repair the lower hall blinds, the hall entry door and the washing machine in the chaplain's house, and to unblock the rain water drainage.

### 2. Activity report

The technical commission, called TCom, is charged with the following tasks:

- Supervision and maintenance of building and infrastructure
- Technical support
- Operation of the infrastructure
- Technical consultancy
- Hot-line service

#### 2.1 Supervision and maintenance of building and infrastructure

This includes performing routine tasks, in weekly, 1-, 3-, 5- and 6-year intervals, and other upcoming maintenance tasks. 13 maintenance issues were dealt with in the past year.

#### 2.2 Technical support

This includes technical support during Sunday services, hot line support, support for events like Book Sales, Summer Fête, Christmas Bazaar, Tea & Quiz, weddings, funerals, baptisms etc. Besides the weekly Sunday support, five other events were technically supported.



## 2.3 Operation of the infrastructure

This includes the operation of the sound -and video- system, heating controller, LAN network, IT and phone systems. To ensure that the systems are operated to the best comfort of the attendants, the operating is performed according to specified standards and procedures. The aim is to operate them in a way that the congregation doesn't notice its existence.

## 2.4 Technical consultancy

TCom acts as a technical authority to provide consultancy services to the chaplain and council. The objective is to conduct feasibility studies and work out the details for projects and undertakings proposed by the council. If approved, TCom is then charged with the execution. During the past year, 5 projects were worked on.

## 2.5 Hotl-ine service

The objective is to act as single point of contact to report problems, ask questions, call for help or make suggestions. The hot-line service is available 7 days a week from 8 am to 8 pm, accessible by e-mail, phone or in person during church events. During the reporting period, 48 problems and issues required interventions, 12 of them immediately on-site.

## 3. Organizational

TCom presently consists of 4 members, 3 of them active. After an unsuccessful attempt last year, we luckily met Emanuel Peter, who recently joined the congregation. His technical background was perfect, and he was interested in joining us. During the council meeting on 7th March, council confirmed him as a TCom member.

*TCom/Hans Goepfert*

## **MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES**

The rota plans for the twelve months of 2022 reflect the changes in our service patterns:

- Online services stopped in March, so there was no need any more to list readers for the church as well as for recording.
- From the middle of September, Bible readings and the words of hymns and songs were no longer projected in the service, so the beamer rota was discontinued.
- On the other hand, since wine was offered again at communion, chalice assistants were back on the rota plan in October, as were welcomers in December.



So we ended up with six rotas combined in the master rota which is compiled every month: for readers, intercessors, chalice assistants, servers, sidespersons and welcomers. (The flower rota is organised by Chloë Hodler, but distributed as part of the master rota.) Together they supported a total of 58 services. As of December 2022, the master rota was based on a list of 24 volunteers (down from 31 the year before). A big THANK YOU to you all for your loyal support!

With fewer helpers for more rotas, **new volunteers are urgently needed**, especially for intercessions, sidesperson and welcomer duties. If you are interested, ask one of the persons involved, our chaplain Helen or myself about it. We will gladly answer your questions.

*Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator*

## ART/CRAFT AND PATCHWORK GROUP

Despite all the difficulties of the last 3 years, the group is still going strong.

We are very thankful that we can use the church hall for meeting up on a Friday morning.

We are a small group at the moment, three ladies are doing patchwork and one lady is knitting. The oldest person in our group is Lydia, who is 93 years old. She has come back to help with things for the Bazaar.

The morning starts with people showing what they have done over the week. It is fascinating what comes out of the bags. Afterwards we sew, chat and drink a cup of coffee or tea. We are a sociable group.

Helen Doenier and Silvia Spiess have a great knowledge of patchwork after many years of practice and are happy to teach anyone. Patchwork is not just big projects. There are many small things you can make. We are looking for people who can sew by hand to help us with projects. There are also many things which can be made with wool and needles, not just socks or wrist warmers. Maybe there is somebody else with an interesting handcraft out there and would like to join us.

We take part in the Christmas Bazaar every year and sell different things.

If you like to join us, please contact Liz Perrett 078 734 94 50 or the church office 031 352 85 67.

*Liz Perrett*



## MUSIC

Expect the unexpected

This probably sums up best what I experienced in connection with music at St Ursula's during the last year.

It started on 27th March 2022. I decided to attend a service at St. Ursula's and came with no expectations at all. That morning, James Morgan did the prayers of intercession. Amongst others, he prayed for the music at the church. That touched me very strongly, so that I went to talk to him about it. That's how my involvement started.

Later, I got to know Helen and David and they shared their heart and their ideas about the music at our church with me. It's exactly what my heart beats for.

"We would love to have a balance of traditional hymns and modern songs every Sunday, with music played both on the organ or piano and by a music group." (a quote from Helen at the Open Forum, Music in Church)



In the meantime, we started to move into this direction. A huge thank-you at this point to all those musicians, who give a lot of their time and share their gifts in order to make that variety possible. These are Belle (Guitar), Brian (Piano), Hans-Karl (Organ), Judith (Accordion), Manuel (Guitar), Peter (Clarinet), Tony (Guitar), Tricia (Piano) and Vaibhav (Organ & Piano) as well as Agatha (Flute) and Philipp (Guitar) when they're here.

We realised that we need to practise more when a team is playing. The ones that are playing on Sunday usually meet sometimes during the week in order to practice the hymns and songs. We all value that time.

Towards the end of the year we've been able to have the sung liturgy with its beautiful melodies again. The sung liturgy will continue to be an important part in our worship.

Looking ahead, we will continue to seek that balance between the different styles of music and most importantly, to worship God with these sung prayers.

*David S.*

## PASTORAL CARE

I am very grateful for all the pastoral care and support that goes on within St Ursula's. As I myself seek to visit, phone, and pray for (and with) those who need particular support, I know many other people offer care and support to others on an informal basis in all kinds of ways, and I am very thankful for that. Members of the pastoral care team have been especially generous in giving of their time to keep in touch regularly with those who live on their own or who particularly value a listening ear.

The current members of the pastoral care team are Chloë Hodler, Art Funkhouser, Donna Goepfert, Barbara Winfield, Archana Jacob and Cecily Klingler. Chris Sager and Patricia Schwager are joining as new members. Lynn Morgan has stepped down as co-ordinator of the pastoral care team, but both Lynn and Brian continue to pray for those in need and visit friends. Lynn and Brian and others have continued to provide occasional afternoon teas in the church garden as an opportunity for fellowship, friendship and encouragement especially for those who live on their own.

The pastoral care team is primarily a prayer group who support those in need via emails and phone calls, and through sending cards. If you would like prayer for yourself or a relative or neighbour, please get in touch with me. Please make sure the person to be prayed for is happy with this. Any details given are kept confidential to the pastoral care prayer team.

Pastoral visiting can be problematic. Pastoral care team members visit their friends in church, but to visit in a more "official" capacity is difficult as to do this they would need to visit in twos which is often not practical and also have level 2 safeguarding training and checks. This has proved difficult to organise in some cases.

I hope that we can review the way the pastoral care team operates and find realistic, safe, and sensitive ways to develop their ministry this year. However, pastoral care is not something to be left to the clergy or a pastoral care team; we are all encouraged as Christians to show care to one another. As we were reminded at an Archdeaconry Synod meeting this year, pastoral care should not only be for the elderly, sick, and housebound. Everyone needs to be cared for: those who are stressed at work, families and children, new members, and those who are well and healthy!



Alongside reviewing the ministry of the pastoral care team, I hope we can reflect on pastoral care within St Ursula's more generally and how we can better show practical care for one another. This will be one of the priorities for this year alongside setting up house groups. I hope that such house groups themselves may be a source of mutual care and support.

I hope and pray that St Ursula's will always be a welcoming and caring community and that we will support and encourage one another in our joys and sorrows. As Christians, we are encouraged to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way... fulfil the law of Christ."

*Revd Helen Marshall*

## FLOWERS

We are a small team of 5 persons.

Namely: Chris, Mary, Patricia, Stephanie and Chloë.

We take it in turns, usually once a month, to decorate the Church - and offer the flowers and our time.

On special occasions, eg, Easter, Harvest and Christmas we team up, to decorate the Church more abundantly.

Another rewarding contribution is making Advent wreaths and candle decorations for the Church Bazaar in a workshop. This autumn we plan to have the workshop a week earlier (to avoid a clash with "Black Friday") and spread it over two days to give us more time. This is a fun and creative time - and of course, it is open to all!

Finally, I would like to thank the faithful ladies for their commitment and the many lovely arrangements.

By tradition there are no flowers in Church during Lent.

*Chloë Hodler*





## ECO CHURCH

We enjoy many blessings at St Ursula's. Well-wishers from Queen Victoria's time gave us our land, built us our church, fed and housed our clergy, laid out our grounds, planted shrubs and trees, some of which have grown to dwarf our buildings. We have been sheltered from wars, from poverty, and some of their worst effects. We are privileged, we praise God for it, and we recall our obligation to use the resources available to us with wisdom and respect, for the good of others, even those far from us in distance or in time.



Luckily our Chaplain and Council are strongly in favour of fostering a sustainable environment, and our eco-team which meets formally and informally three or four times a year has some talented members who are a source of ideas and of active support. Moreover, the Environmental Officer for the entire Diocese in Europe, Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, lives nearby.

In 2022 we took stock of our bronze-award status as an Eco-Church (see <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>). We need our greener lifestyle to become second nature, eating less, recycling more, wasting less fuel, encouraging more diversity and more wildlife, telling others to do the same. This is part of loving God and loving our neighbour. The charity A Rocha International encourages us and gives us ideas.

During the year we have worked to raise our profile. Our magazine carries regular environmental articles, we try to reuse as much as we can, we continue to draw attention to our "tip of the week". We want to encourage a healthier lifestyle, and are still struggling with issues of involving our young people more deeply, making our grounds more accessible to all, of making sure the food we serve, the tables we sit at, the water in our taps are all responsibly produced and delivered, and that our behaviour to our neighbours reflects our love.

We had valuable talks last autumn - from Professor John Wyatt on Medical Technology and Christian Ethics, and from Louise Rapaud on Inter-Generational Responses to Climate Change. And the Gardening Team's commitment to being both people-friendly and nature-friendly is a benefit to us all. Without our stopping and thinking again, God's boundless love for the world would be met by hearts of stone (or even worse, of polystyrene!).

*Hector Davie*

## MAGAZINE

### **Editing**

St Ursula's Church magazine is published six times a year. Currently, 337 people subscribe to the magazine, with 219 receiving a hard copy and 118 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, Maria Avdikou 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](mailto:magazine@stursula.ch).

### **Magazine Collating**

Every second month about 200 magazines are sent out. Even when they are already folded and stapled, it is nice to have some volunteers to help insert the flyers into the envelopes.

Usually we are two or three doing the job.

*Annemarie Walthert & Church Office*

## 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 our 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. This year our Treasurer was able to allocate Fr25,000 for St Ursula's charitable support which is 11.4% of the church income.

Despite the fall in our income, we have maintained the charitable giving as our charities rely on us.

After we prayerfully reviewed the list of organizations supported in previous years, council then approved our allocations proposal, and the funds were distributed in 2022 as follows:

**List of Charity Payments 2022**

<b>Local</b>	<b>Fr</b>
Discretionary (to be used locally)	700.00
AKiB Passantenhilfe	1000.00
AKiB (new: low threshold legal advice/counselling for Migrants in Berne)	1000.00
<b>Regional</b>	
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Aid to Ukraine USPG)	1000.00
Bishop's Advent Appeal (toilet block Bishop Harrington School Kenya)	1000.00
<b>International</b>	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3500.00
A Rocha International	2500.00
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	2500.00
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	2500.00
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, SALT Jordan	2500.00
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2500.00
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	2500.00
Kigezi Diocese Water & Sanitation Project Uganda See note below	1800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>25000.00</u></b>

In addition to the allocated payments, we also received the following payments:

Bishop's Appeals from the congregation	1,046.40
Cecily's Fund (Hans Kimmich service)	550.00
Mission Sunday	130.00
Pakistan Relief Fund	460.00
TearFund Schweiz dedicated and JC	1,610.00
Christmas Collections - TearFund Schweiz	695.20
Thun Carol Service - Cecily's Fund	360.00
Remembrance Day - British Legion	695.20
Berne Carol Service (net)	662.00
<b><u>Total = 6,209.00</u></b>	

*Note: Since the TearFund Schweiz KDWSP project was receiving less funds than in the past, the Charity and Missions team made the decision to give Fr1800 from the charity allocation funds to KDWSP project.*

After our annual Mission Sunday service on 13 February, Manuel Sager interviewed a refugee family from Iran about their experiences with their new life in Switzerland. This could help us perhaps to see how we at St Ursula's could maybe help in some way with refugees in Berne.

A Pumpkin Soup Meal at St Ursula's organised by Yvonne Bomonti and helpers raised funds for Swiss friends of Cecily's Fund on 20 November and a Benefit concert was held in Berne on 20 October.

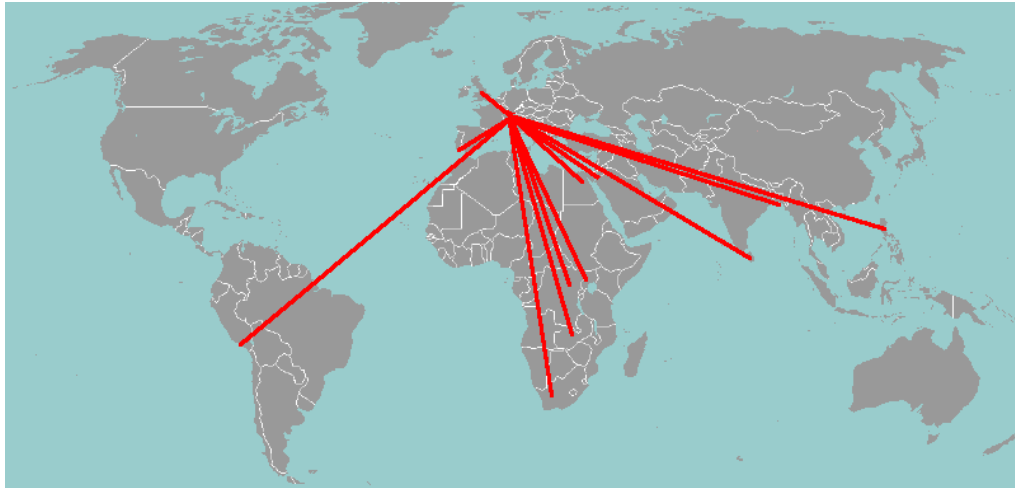
On our Harvest Festival on 9 October, we had a visit from members of the Diocese of Kigezi, Uganda Water & Sanitation (KDWSP) team. Bishop Gaddie Akanjuna, the new bishop from the Diocese of Kigezi gave the sermon. After the Harvest Service we had an auction of the Harvest gifts and the proceeds of the auction went to this project as usual. A Bring and Share meal followed the auction and Revd Reuben Byomuhangi gave us a talk on the KDWSP project.

Our local charity project, the Passantenhilfe Food and Toiletries Collection, continues to be supported by our congregation who bring items along to church on Sundays. Church members can also bring their food items directly to the Passantenhilfe Office. The numbers of needy persons continue to increase due to the rising costs of living. The Passantenhilfe are very grateful for these food, toiletries, and winter clothing items.

For some years we were supporting the AKiB Zentrum 5 project for Migrants in Berne. AKiB made the decision to end this project and instead to begin a new

project for low threshold legal advice/counselling for migrants in Berne. Our support this year will go to this project.

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. Contact person: Cecily Klingler, 031 302 48 59 or [cecily@klinglerfamily.ch](mailto:cecily@klinglerfamily.ch)

*Cecily Klingler*

**ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD**

Switzerland is the smallest of the seven Archdeaonries in the Church of England’s Diocese in Europe. Representatives from Geneva, La Côte, Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Neuchatel, Berne, Basle, Zurich, Lugano and their satellite congregations meet twice a year in a Synod to discuss matters of common interest. These representatives also elect members to higher bodies - Diocesan Synod and General Synod.



St Ursula’s sends two lay members to the Swiss Archdeaonry Synod, chosen for a period of three years. In 2020, we elected Hector Davie and Maxine Wildhaber. The next election is this year. Our chaplain is a member ex officio. Our current Archdeacon, the Venerable Dr Peter Hooper, to give him his full title, is also Archdeacon of France and lives in the south west of that country.

Our Synod discusses Swiss-wide issues. It passes ideas between the diocese and

individual churches, including St Ursula's. Our Swiss Archdeaconry Christian education programme, SACEP, arranges occasional training sessions and seminars. We sponsor an annual choir festival and an annual retreat. And we try to work together with the Old Catholics (the Christkatholische Kirche / Église Catholique-Chrétienne), and support their mission agency, Partner Sein.

In the period under review, we were still severely hampered by the tail end of the pandemic. The (2020?) Choir Festival took place, two years late, in Zurich in April 2022. SACEP organized a Children & Youth Work Workshop here in Berne in May with the Church of England's National "Going for Growth" Adviser, Revd Mary Hawes. They also organized the Retreat at Gunten in September, led by Professor John Wyatt, whose theme was the ethical, philosophical and theological challenges of today caused by new developments in medicine. (Professor Wyatt also came and preached to us at St Ursula's on Creation Sunday and led a discussion after the service.)

Synod itself meets twice a year - our meeting planned for 25 June 2022 in Vevey had to take place on-line via Zoom, and the meeting on 4 February this year (with a preliminary session the previous Monday, 30 January) was planned as a Zoom meeting from the start.

In June we did no "internal" business. Instead, we devoted the entire day after our initial prayers to the topic of pastoral care, which members had decided was a current priority. Canon John Wilkinson from Holy Trinity, Brussels gave a useful introduction to the theme, drawing on Psalm 23. Our congregations are not "our" sheep - they are God's sheep. It is our task to support them, to guide them, to comfort them and to restore them. Local churches might set up a pastoral team, and a basic way our faith works is in caring for one another.

The various chaplaincies shared our experiences in small groups. Who is responsible for care? Is there a team? How easily can we recognize people with pastoral gifts? How ready are people to help? How welcome is the pastoral team? What do we in Berne do for newcomers, the old, for refugees, for those in hospital, for people with particular talents? What resources did we have and what problems did we face? We all shared our ideas in a group discussion, and in our afternoon session Louise Burrows from La Côte described "Stephen Ministry" - a group of dedicated, trained, supervised Christians who are not counsellors but trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care - not to give advice or counsel.

Our winter meeting this February was also a chance for chaplaincies to get together and share ideas. We wanted to know how healthy our communities were after Covid - in particular financially. In fact we had two meetings. In a preliminary session on the Monday evening, Andrew Caspari, the Diocese's Chief Operating Officer in London, spoke about the diocesan budget. During the pandemic they had delayed starting new projects and had used their reserves to

cushion the effect on individual chaplaincies. Now they needed to restore their spending. Luckily the Diocese in Europe makes much of being a “lean, mean machine”, but the amounts we contribute to them are set to rise over this and the next couple of years, initially by some 8% in sterling terms.

The general theme was generosity - God’s generosity, but also our own congregation’s giving. We were lucky to have a presentation by the diocese’s newly-appointed fundraising officer, Juliet Evans, who set the idea of giving in a wider context - who gives, how do they give and why do they give? She described ways of giving - legacies, donations, the Sunday collection, planned giving, specific projects, grants and other fundraising, and suggested people outside the core congregation who might be approached - friends, neighbours, occasional visitors, local businesses. She outlined the results of a questionnaire eight of the Swiss chaplaincies had answered - how effectively did we communicate our need to givers, how often and how sincerely did we thank them? From her earlier work in the Diocese of Guildford, she gave examples of good communication and good practice. Effective communication is paramount!

At the end of the afternoon, we accepted the archdeaconry accounts and approved our budget. Fortunately we in Switzerland are relatively well off - we should spare time and resources for other parts of the world (and of Europe too!) where people have greater needs.

For more details about the things we discussed, ask any of our synod members.

*Hector Davie*

## **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 propose candidates for election. After being on the Electoral Roll for at least six months, people can also stand for election.

Every year, the Electoral Roll is revised under the direction of council. This year, the revision was completed on 7 March. There were 20 additions and 2 deletions. So the number of people on the Electoral Roll in 2023 is 104.

Since the revision, the Electoral Roll 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*

## VESTRY

The vestry provides everything needed for church services: communion wafers (regular as well as gluten-free), wine, candles, the church linen and silver.

Maria Avdikou, our church administrator, is in charge of buying all supplies. I am grateful for her reliable support. There is not a central source of “vestry items” in Switzerland, for example the gluten free wafers come from Germany, the candles from a candle manufacturer in Givisiez etc. So we often have to plan months ahead to make sure that the vestry items arrive on time.



Donna Goepfert and Mary Mead shared the washing of church linens: all items used for communion as well as the altar and side table cloths. Thank you both for this little-known but important service. A special Thank you goes to Mary, who recently made up several beautiful new altar cloths for us.

I have been looking after the vestry “temporarily” for four years now and would be more than happy to hand the responsibility over to someone who would enjoy taking care of this very special “housekeeping” task. A description of what this involves is available for anyone interested.

*Ruth Freiburghaus & Church Office*

## WEBMASTER

The church has had its own website for over a quarter of a century, since 1996. This is both a strength and a weakness - a strength because we have had a chance to welcome numerous strangers over the years who have found us “on line”, but a weakness because our site tends to become cluttered. Some of you may have happy memories of walking along the river from Thun to Berne in 2005, but do we really still need the original flyers to fill in our names and say how fast we could walk?



The word “webmaster” is misleading - no one person can coordinate our presence on the web, and I am grateful to the many people who have helped by providing content, suggesting changes and collaborating on projects. In the first part of last year we still supplied resources for online services, and I owe thanks to Martin Browne and Art Funkhouser for their help and to all the clergy, intercessors, musicians and others who provided materials and suggestions.

At the end of last year, with the help of Agnes Derory and Sue Higson, the church prepared a useful questionnaire about our use of communications - itself a much wider subject, covering the magazine, Helen’s regular emails, social and other



media, as well as the website. We already know how many people visit our website and what pages they look at, but our statistics do not tell us how many of those visitors are already members of our church. We can tell what information they try to find, but only by asking them can we know what information they want to find, what they miss, and what they think about what is there.

The questionnaire confirms the trends in previous years: people from all over the world come to our website looking for information, expecting more of it, more quickly and more graphically, more and more using smart apps on sophisticated phones. After Easter 2022 we stopped providing a complete Sunday worship service regularly online, and in July we stopped altogether. Our members still use the website to find information - the week's events, the readings, recordings of past sermons, recent newsletters, whether they are on the rotas. People looking for "a church near them" also need to know where we are and who we are.

There remains much that can be improved, and much that provokes thought. Why was there a sudden demand last December for articles about angels ([www.stursula.ch/Magazine/OLD/0409-HD.html](http://www.stursula.ch/Magazine/OLD/0409-HD.html))? Did real people answer our Pancake Evening quizzes ([www.stursula.ch/Oddments/](http://www.stursula.ch/Oddments/)) or were they robots, the webmaster's burden? There are technical challenges too - issues of privacy and copyright can be complex!

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!)

Communication is a matter of friendly give and take. And the website, the laptop and the mobile phone are no substitute for human contact. They are a way to share thoughts, prayers and activities, and they will remain a part of our daily life.

*Hector Davie, Webmaster*

## 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 Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

### **Current Members of the Church Council**

#### **Churchwardens:**

Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88

#### **Lay Members:**

Michael Agoba	078 811 19 46
Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Tricia Carrick	031 971 27 71
Agnes Derory	079 841 45 75
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88
Archana Jacob	031 859 64 12
Cecily Klingler	031 302 48 59
Chris Sager	
Ruby Wildhaber	078 808 75 15

#### **Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:**

Hector Davie (vice chair)	031 971 27 71
Maxine Wildhaber	076 349 40 42

