

St Ursula's Church Jubiläumsplatz, 3005 Berne Switzerland

Chaplain

Revd Peter Potter

☎031 351 03 43

Honorary Assistant Chaplain Revd Linda Bisig

☎031 932 41 69

Church Office: ☎031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and counselling by arrangement with the Chaplain

Normal pattern of Sunday services:

8.30 Holy Communion said (2nd and 4th Sundays)

10.00 Junior Church begins in Church

10.00 Eucharist (1st + 3rd + 5th Sundays)

Service of the Word (2nd Sunday)

Morning Prayer (4th Sunday)

See Calendar of Services inside for any changes.

Services in Neuchâtel: at Chapelle des Charmettes

17.00 Family Eucharist - *2nd and last Sundays in the month*

Information: Mrs Pat Smith, ☎032 724 23 84 or

Mrs Jennifer Veenendaal, ☎032 841 64 32

ST URSULA'S BERNE

The 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 Co. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as a thank offering 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. 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 from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

See Calendar inside for details of the month's services

St Ursula's Church website: <http://www.anglican.ch/berne>

E-mail: berne@anglican.ch

NEWSLETTER

VOL 27/8

OCTOBER 2008

Published & printed in Berne by St Ursula's Church/Hergestellt in Bern durch St Ursula's Church
Appears 10 x a year/wird 10 x jährlich herausgegeben

Annual Subscription Rates:

Fr 25.- plus postage

Post Office Account 30-4416-8

UBS Bern: IBAN CH41 0023 5235 9258 1510 0

Editor: Wendy Astor, Freudenreichstr. 62, 3047 Bremgarten/BE – 031 302 02 14

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Message from our Chaplain

The Anglican Communion (of which St Ursula's is a part) has inclusiveness programmed in its genes. Throughout its history the question has been how far this inclusiveness will stretch and the current troubles that were to the fore at the time of the Lambeth Conference are just the latest instance. In many ways St Ursula's is a microcosm of this picture.

We can look at this more positively and rejoice in the breadth which can be a source of strength. To do this, however, we need to ask how we live together with all our diversity.

We can learn to tolerate each other. But this is a rather negative virtue, expressed in the words of a song as "you in your small corner and I in mine". It allows people to rub along together and may make for a quiet life, but it does not require us to try to understand where others are coming from. It does not challenge us to re-examine our own position in the light of the experience others may wish to share with us. It does not encourage us to imagine we might be changed as we consider why some people are sustained by things that leave others cold.

In his addresses at Adelboden, Canon Roger Wikeley reminded us that we are called to be pilgrims, not tourists. The latter observe the sights and customs of the places they are visiting. They may find them quaint or they may complain that they are not what they have at home. The souvenirs they bring back may well end up forgotten and gathering dust in a cupboard. Pilgrims, on the other hand, embark on the journey expecting to be changed by the experience. This includes the experience of travelling with (not just alongside) others, as well as what they find at their destination. Roger quoted from T. S. Eliot's poem "Little Gidding" (and I shall use another quote from the same poem in the teaching series on worship starting this month):

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

Can we achieve this in practising inclusiveness as we live together with the rich diversity God has given us at St Ursula's?

This is not a call to vote for motherhood and apple pie but something more disturbing - to accept that we can actually learn from, and be changed by, the gifts and insights God has chosen to give to someone else.

Perer

Calendar of Services for October 2008



- Oct. 2** **19.30 Thun Eucharist**
- Oct. 5** **Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 Eucharist
 (Speaker is Seev Levi from the
 Salvation Army Passantenhilfe)
Isaiah 5: 1 – 7
Philippians 3: 7 – 14
Matthew 31: 42 – 46
- Oct. 12** **Twenty First Sunday after Trinity**
8.30 Holy Communion (said)
10.00 Eucharist and Baptism
Isaiah 25: 1 – 9
Philippians 4: 1 - 9
Matthew 22: 1 – 14
- Oct. 16** **19.30 Thun Eucharist**
- Oct. 19** **Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 Eucharist
Isaiah 45: 1 – 7
1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10
Matthew 22: 15 – 22
- Oct. 26** **Last Sunday after Trinity**
Harvest Festival & Pledge Sunday
8.30 Holy Communion (said)
10.00 All Age Eucharist
2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 15
Luke 12: 16 - 21

***Please note** that not all the readings appointed for a particular Sunday will necessarily be used.*

* * * * *

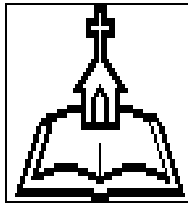
Neuchâtel Services

Sunday 12 Oct. – 17.00 Sunday 26 Oct. – 17.00

ROTAS FOR OCTOBER 2008

READERS

- 5 Wohlen Housegroup
- 12 Hj Gusset+I Jordan
- 19 E Pfyffer+J Wenger
- 26 P Jayaraj+B Täuber



INTERCESSIONS

- 5 Wohlen Housegroup
- 12 H Davie
- 19 D Low
- 26 H Gusset

SIDESPERSIONS

- 5 S Klein+Helper
- 12 M Täuber+Helper
- 19 W Astor+Helper
- 26 Y Chittazhathu+Helper

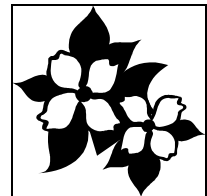


COFFEE & TEA

- 5 Köniz Housegroup
- 12 A&Y Bomonti
- 19 Wildhaber Family
- 26 M Ita & M Mead

FLOWERS

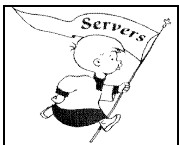
- 5 M Wittwer
- 12 J Josi
- 19 E Pfyffer
- 26 Flower Team



If you would like to donate flowers for a special reason during the coming month, please contact Yojena Chittazhathu at 031 859 64 12 or the church office.

SERVER

- 5 J Hutchison 12 Help
- 19 A Chittazhathu 26 Help



CHALICE ASSISTANTS

- 5 E Hutchison + K Chittazhathu 12 Help
- 19 S Zysset + H Davie 26 Help



DUTY COUNCIL MEMBER

- 5 E Hutchison
- 12 J Eze
- 19 M Wildhaber
- 26 Z Balogh

AUDIO

- 5 E Wildhaber
- 12 A Tomsczak
- 19 H Wenger
- 26 D Sovilla

Shawm, Sackbut or Psaltery?

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth," sings the Psalmist (98:4, or 100:1). But what sort of noise is that? An old man who was a formative influence in my spiritual life once told me that he looked forward to heaven, because there "he could play all four parts of a Mozart string quartet at the same time."

But what about the people forced to listen to him? Some could be bored out of their minds by a Mozart string quartet, just as some of the dead might turn in their graves if subjected to an endless dose of hip-hop or heavy metal. Anyone who has heard the singing at an open-air service in rural Zambia might wonder how it would fit in at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, or at a meeting of some of the dourer Free Presbyterians in the outer Hebrides.

Meat for some, poison for others. Unlike Jack Sprat (who could eat no fat, and whose wife could eat no lean, so that between themselves they licked the platter clean), we cannot really just abstain, in the knowledge that we will also get our share. Two people can share a pork chop, but they cannot share a hymn in the same way!

For people differ in their tastes. "Death of death, and hell's destruction" means nothing to some, "El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai" means nothing to others. For some, the tune of "Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire" is beautiful, while others prefer "Faithful one, so unchanging". Some find "he made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings" trite, some find chants from Taizé vain and repetitious, others feel that songs like "I get so excited, Lord" are false and unsuitable for use in church.

Here at St Ursula's we have tried to avoid music with too limited an appeal, and to find hymns and songs whose content is accessible and whose tunes are melodious. That is not to say we "dumb down" our choices - there is scope for teaching new tunes, and new words: we would be poorer if we did not sing Christmas carols because lines like "Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb" or "Risen with healing in his wings" are too obscure.

There is no one set way to sing God's praises. The few snippets we find quoted in the New Testament (Rev 15:3-4 and 1 Tim 3:16, for instance, or Mary's *Magnificat*) are very different in style. The Old Testament psalms are even more diverse, ranging from the joy of Ps. 150, through the sorrow of Ps 130, the reflectiveness of Ps 23, the pomp of Ps 24 to the scholarliness of Ps 119.

Perhaps you have a favourite hymn. Perhaps you have a pet hate. Let us know - tell Peter, or anyone in the music team, or a Council member, or write a letter to the Editor. Some are nourished in one way, others in a different way. The important thing is that all should be filled with the joy of worshipping God, and should not go away empty.

- Hector Davie -



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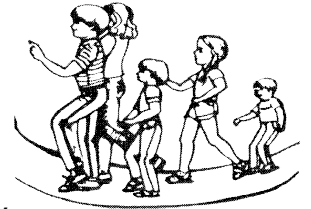
*...well if he's going to be an Olympic swimming champion
he needs to start training as soon as possible...*



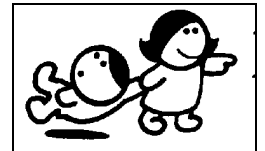
JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church Notes

The Junior Church (Sunday School) provides Christian teaching each Sunday for children aged 3 to 13+. There are currently four classes: Sparklers for children aged 3 to 5+, All-Stars for children aged 5 to 8+, Trailblazers for children aged 8 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 13+. Children under 3 are welcome in the Nursery (crèche), which meets in the lower hall.



The Junior Church normally meets every Sunday in the year (unless there is a special All-Age service). It begins with a time of worship with the adult congregation in church. After this, the children go to their own classes. At Eucharist services they rejoin the congregation in church for Communion.



If you would like more information about the Junior Church, please contact one of the people listed at the back of the magazine.

NURSERY ROTA OCTOBER

- 5 I Jordan & A Tomsczak
- 12 C Klingler & A Masciadri
- 19 S Faillettaz & S Hutchison
- 26 Y Bomonti & J Kutesko



Advance Notice

Nativity Service

This year's Nativity Service will be held on Sunday 14 December at 10.00. As usual, it will include a Nativity Play led by the Junior Church. More information will be available at the end of October, but please note this date now so that you don't miss this special celebration of Christ's birth.

Laughlines
<p>Definitions</p> <p>CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.</p> <p>HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.</p> <p>RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.</p> <p>JONAH: The original "Jaws" story.</p> <p>AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.</p>

**Congratulations
to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays
in October**

Sorry, can't do stars yet. So here's the information in boring text:

Megan Täuber 15 on 1 October

Darcy Wildhaber 11 on 1 October

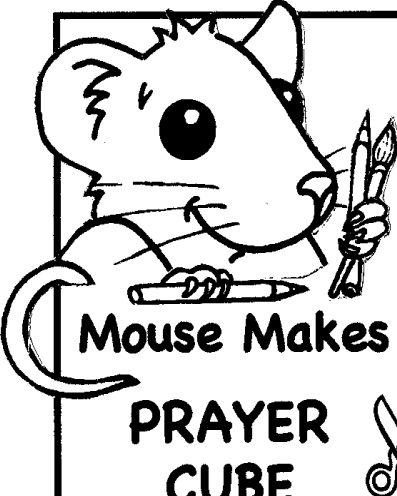
John Gusset 9 on 3 October

Leo Eigner 14 on 4 October

Denisha Sathiyaray 8 on 6 October

Gemma Masciadri 10 on 20 October

Benjamin Giulini 6 on 30 October



Mouse Makes PRAYER CUBE


Stick on card, colour in then cut around the outside. Fold along the lines and glue together to make a cube. Roll the cube then use the words on the top to start your prayers.

When you pray you can talk to God about ANYTHING... anytime, anywhere!

You can PRAISE God for his goodness, you can THANK him for his love and care and tell him your worries because God hears us, helps us and loves us!

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever" Psalm 136:1

glue

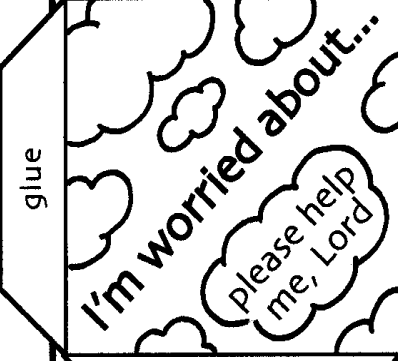


I'm sorry for...

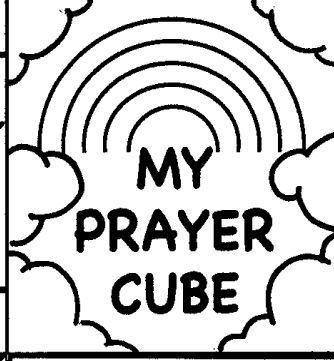
Father God, forgive me

glue

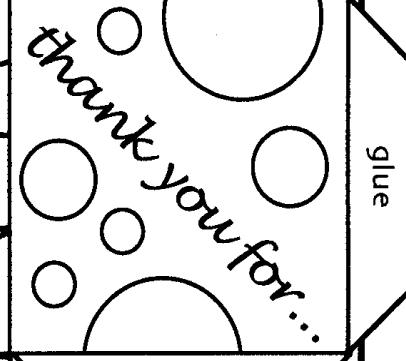
glue




glue



glue




glue




LORD, help me to learn how to pray and talk to you. Amen.

for my family and my friends



glue

FATHER GOD, thank you for all the good things you give me. Amen



For Your Diary

October 2008

Wed.	1	PARENTS & TOTS 9.15 – 11.15
Fri.	3	PATCHWORK 9.30 SPIRITUAL CLASSICS 12.00 – 13.00
Mon.	6	MORNING PRAYER 9.30 – 10.00
Wed.	8	PARENTS & TOTS 9.15 – 11.15
Fri.	10	PATCHWORK 9.30 SPIRITUAL CLASSICS 12.00 – 13.00
Sat.	11	CHOIR PRACTICE 9.30 – 11.45
Sun.	12	COPY DATE
Mon.	13	MORNING PRAYER 9.30 – 10.00
Wed.	15	CHRISTMAS CAKE WORKSHOP 9.00 PARENTS & TOTS 9.15 – 11.15
Thurs.	16	JC TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP 19.00
Fri.	17	PATCHWORK 9.30 SPIRITUAL CLASSICS 12.00 – 13.00
Sat.	18	CHOIR PRACTICE 9.30 – 11.45 CHILDREN'S TOY SALE 10.00 – 13.00
Sun.	19	BIBLE STUDY COURSE 12.00 – 13.00
Mon.	20	MORNING PRAYER 9.30 – 10.00
Wed.	22	PARENTS AND TOTS 9.15 – 11.15
Thurs.	23	COLLATING MAGAZINE
Sun.	26	HARVEST AND PLEDGE SUNDAY followed by auction of produce and BRING AND SHARE LUNCH
Mon.	27	MORNING PRAYER 9.30 – 10.00
Wed.	29	PARENTS AND TOTS 9.15 – 11.15
Fri.	31	PATCHWORK 9.30 SPIRITUAL CLASSICS 12.00 – 13.00 BIBLE STUDY 18.00 – 20.15

November 2008

Sun.	2	BIBLE STUDY COURSE 12.00 – 13.00
Mon.	3	MORNING PRAYER 9.30 – 10.00
Tues.	4	COUNCIL MEETING 19.30
Wed.	5	PARENTS AND TOTS 9.15 – 11.15

Odds & Ends

Future Dates

9 November	Remembrance Service
28 - 29 November	Christmas Bazaar
11 December	Carol Service at Heiliggeist Church
14 December	Nativity Play

(Dates in October can be found on the 'For Your Diary' pages.)

COPY DATE !!!
 for the November issue
12 October 2008
COLLATING DATE
23 October 2008

English Church Services and Housegroup in Thun

Services in Thun are held at the "Pavilion" of the Reformierte Kirchgemeindehaus in Bubenbergstrasse, Thun on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at **19.30** and are followed by coffee. The Housegroup is held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 19.30 (normally also at the Pavilion).



For more information please contact Sharon Bachmann ☎033 336 93 78.



Christmas Bazaar Cake Workshop



We are having a **Christmas Cake Workshop on Wednesday 15 October beginning at 9.00**. We hope to be making mince pies also.

We hope as many of you as possible can come along. We shall be making Christmas cakes of all sizes and we need people to help make the cakes, line the cake tins and perhaps to take some cakes with them to bake at home. All ingredients for this workshop are donated but **please** bring a cake tin or two, only small ones.



We are also looking for people to ice the cakes at a later date. For more information please contact Wendy Astor ☎031 302 02 14

NEWS FROM NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Regular Services: 2nd and last Sunday of each month at 5 pm
 Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1, Neuchâtel
2nd Sunday : Family Communion Service
Last Sunday : Communion service (During the sermon and liturgy, children leave to follow their own programme in Junior Church.)

Minister in charge : The Rev. Roy Farrar
 Chemin du Chasselas 11
 2012 AUVERNIER

Tel : 032 730 51 83
www.neuchatel-church.ch

HARVEST FESTIVAL

5pm, Sunday 26 October 2008

Bring your gifts of fruit, vegetables, jams, chutneys, wine, flowers etc to be auctioned after the family service. All proceeds will be donated directly to Beryl Baker, to help in her work among the Chaco Indians in Paraguay.

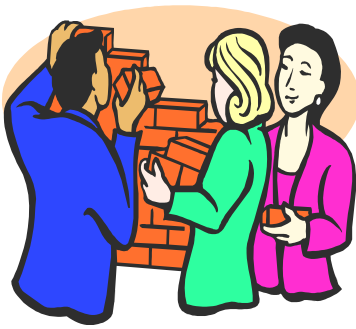
Stay to prolong the festivities and share a buffet provided by the committee: cheese, wine (and other drinks) cakes and goodies.

Look forward to seeing you !!

From Roy and Mieke

We have been following a series of sermons from the Book of Nehemiah, which has dealt with his desire to re-build the walls of Jerusalem. In Chapter 8 there was this wonderful picture of Ezra reading from the scrolls of the Law and the people realising that they needed to turn back to the ways of God and live according to His truths. Then they had a wonderful party and celebration of the fact that the walls were now complete. During this time, I am sure that Nehemiah had reported back to the King what was happening and the King had allowed him to continue the project.

In a similar way, we feel that the new Heads of Agreement that have just been put in place with St Ursula's Berne and Neuchâtel Church recognise what God has been doing in Neuchâtel and provides the freedom for us to continue with the great project of building up this church.



The new Agreement recognises that the Neuchâtel Church should be treated as essentially a 'free standing congregation' allowing it to continue to develop within the cultural context of its particular geographical region and secondly over the next 1 to 2 years we should seek to become re-aligned with the French-speaking part of Switzerland as part of

a broader strategic plan for English-speaking ministry in this beautiful country.

These are exciting days and I would love all of you to capture the vision for the growth of the church to serve and meet the needs of this area.

So please come and get involved on a regular basis, you may just have the trowel, the hod or the brick that is needed for the building!!!

Bible Study dates:

Tuesdays 14 and 28 October at 20.00 at Roy and Mieke's flat.

STOP PRESS NEWS OF THE PICNIC

The weather did its best to put us off on Sunday 14 September - it was dark, cold and wet in Neuchâtel. Nonetheless, over 20 of us stoically drove down to Yverdon where the sky was brighter, and the warmth of Bill and Karen's hospitality completed the transformation of a sad start into an unqualified success. Roy led us in a short worship service before a vast array of hors d'oeuvres, salads, drinks, and desserts appeared from nowhere while Bill's grill was getting under way.

Grill and diners were protected from the elements by generous marquees and the sun peeped out on several occasions, tempted no doubt by the delicious aromas and good humour. Many, many thanks to Bill, Karen and Emma.



* * * * *

DON'T FORGET
to put your clocks back
Saturday night 25 October 2008



Christmas Bazaar - Restaurant

Help is needed on Friday and Saturday, 28 and 29 November, in the restaurant. If you would like to help, please email Sharon: sha1977@quicknet.ch or phone 078 885 46 32.

We need the following: cakes, mince pies, scones and biscuits. These can be made beforehand and put in the church freezer.

We still need 4 volunteers to make soup for 20 people each. It can be any soup you would like to make and can also be frozen.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you again to make this year's bazaar a huge success for St Ursula's.

Thank you and best wishes, Sharon

BAZAAR 2008 ON 28 AND 29 NOVEMBER

*The dates are fixed so please note them in your diaries today! Besides donations to the **Bric-à-Brac Stall** (see the September Magazine) we also need contributions to the **Bottle Stall** and the **Raffle**.*

*For the **Bottle Stall** we need donations of everything obtainable in bottles - preferably glass - such as oils, vinegars, syrups, bubble-bath and popular fortified drinks at your discretion. Chocolates, cakes and Christmas goodies all go down well as donations for the **Raffle**.*

So please start thinking about this now and bring them to the church from the beginning of November.

***Lynn and Maxine** will gladly answer your questions and accept your contributions.*

Creationtide: St Ursula's Open Forum

An open forum was held on 7 September 2008 following the Creationtide service. 28 people attended this interactive workshop which collected ideas and input on how St Ursula's can address the environmental challenges in the future. As well as reflecting on the many things that St Ursula's has already achieved, we considered ways to reduce our church's carbon footprint. A summary of the points made has already been displayed in the Upper Hall on the main notice board (next to the kitchen hatch). Thank you to all for your input.

An Autumn Study Course led by the Chaplain

"THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS"

Sundays 11.50 to 12.50

12 October to 7 December

This course is intended to teach about worship and will answer such questions as:

What does the Bible say about worship?

Why is it important?

What is God doing as we worship?

How does it change us?

How does it help us in living a Christian life?

How can we enrich our worship and be sustained by it?

The course will also include two workshops for people involved in (or interested in) leading intercessions and prayer for healing in our services.

For an outline of the syllabus, see below.

Please bring some food to share after the teaching sessions.

Child care will be available (volunteers requested).

Outline for

"THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS"

Sundays 11.50 to 12.50

(with bring and share lunch afterwards)

12 October: "In the beginning..." What is worship, the scriptural basis

19 October: "With angels and archangels" Worship and the Church

26 October: Harvest Thanksgiving (no study session)

2 November: "As Jesus taught us, so we pray" Teaching through liturgy

9 November: Workshop for all interested in leading intercessions in church

16 November: Workshop for all interested in prayer for healing in the liturgy

23 November: "Can these dry bones live?" Non-verbal aspects of worship

30 November: "To love and serve the Lord" Worship and everyday life

7 December: "Times and seasons" Worship through the year

Photos

Many people have commented positively about the use of projected words (of prayers, songs etc), together with pictures in part, during worship recently. This is still an experimental phase and we welcome your feedback – send it to me. Several people have offered help, so if you would like to help, please:

1. let me have your digital photos which we can use (without copyright issues) for our picture gallery.
2. prepare your favourite song / hymn with appropriate pictures (I hope to produce a CD soon).
3. tell me that you are interested and I will invite you to a meeting soon after the holidays.

Other ideas welcomed, of course.

- Tricia Carrick -

E-Mag

If you can help us save paper, printing costs and postage by receiving an electronic version of the magazine rather than a paper copy, please go to our website – www.anglican.ch/bern - and sign up on the magazine page.

- Tricia Carrick -

* * * * *

Booksale report 6 September 2008

This time we had the most new donations to sort that I think we have ever had. It was a lot of work, but we had some great donations. We took the opportunity to clear the shelves of a lot of books that are well past their sell by date.

Several people commented on the quantity of new donations when they arrived on the Saturday, and trade was brisk as ever in the morning, dropping off somewhat in the afternoon.

However the foodstall did very well, as did the restaurant and Usbourne books. We all did well and raised 4146.55 for Church funds. Note the 5 rappen, there always is one, even if we don't charge for anything with 5 rappen at the end 😊

The next booksale will be at the Christmas bazaar at the end of November. As we will only have space for the book shelves and no tables, and we still have donations that we could not yet sort, we have decided that:
NO NEW DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE NOVEMBER SALE.

I know some people will not read this, and bring some anyway, but I would request that if you can, you hold off until next year, and then please only bring us clean copies. Some of the books we had to toss this year had been pencilled in, highlighted, coffee marked, or were yellow and dirty. Some had pages falling out, ripped covers and ripped spines. There is no point in you bringing such books all the way to Church, if we are just going to have to toss them.

We will also be sorting the room under the stairs on the Friday morning before the bazaar. In there we have lots of books that never make it out, as we have no space. Plus lots we have not yet even looked at. If anyone would like to help we would be very happy to receive your help. We will start at 10am, and probably carry on until 3 pm or so. The book team is very small and needs some new blood, so please think about if you could help us out.

Many thanks - Sue Higson

Council Report

Council met on Tuesday 2 September. It was a very long meeting, finishing at around 23.00. There were very many topics discussed – this report can only give a brief summary, so if you'd like more information please contact a council member.

Arrangements for the "Nacht der Religionen" and the Open Forum about the Environment were discussed. You should find more information about both events in this magazine.

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Separating fact from fiction will be your main objective this morning.

A short-term solution for youth work has been agreed with YWAM (Youth With A Mission). They will run a youth programme on Friday evenings, from October until June, in conjunction with the Friday Night Bible Study group. Please pray for this new venture.

The financial situation and the pledge appeal need everyone's support – both in prayer and in practical ways. Pledge Sunday is 26 October, combined with Harvest as has been our custom in recent years. There is more information in this magazine.

Council agreed to an experimental change in the pattern of services: from Advent Sunday, the main (10.00) service will be Eucharist every week – with the exception of the Nativity Service on 14 December. Council will review this in March, so please give your comments to a council member before then.

A topic that needs further work is the production and use of service booklets – rather than having a service sheet every week, we would have seasonal booklets with several orders of service. A group will be set up to produce drafts to try out and collect comments from you.

Work is also ongoing on the music used during worship: how is it chosen, who plays it etc. We now have a licence which allows us to copy some words and music for use in services, as long as we keep a record of what we copy. Again comments welcomed.

Maintenance of our buildings is an ever-recurring topic. The building committee does an excellent job of keeping an overview of the jobs that need to be done and this was presented to council. The main tasks to be completed this year are the flooring in the church house, repainting the church (will be done in November) and replacing the carpet in the church (after the painting, of course). Replacing the roof of the church house was considered to be lower priority and will be left until next year.

At present, we use the audio equipment belonging to the Delta church and it is not ideal for our use. Council have discussed this many times. Last month, an expert came to look at our church and made an outline proposal for what we need – including radio microphones, incorporating the organ output, earphones for the hard-of-hearing and much more. However, this project would be very expensive so Council deferred a decision until later. If you have comments, please give them to a council member.

Council agreed to a proposal from our administrators that they will, in future, only staff the office from Monday to Thursday each week.

There were many other items discussed: Christmas services, prayer ministry, name tags for council members, weekend away, Remembrance Sunday, buying a new photocopier, etc. If you would like more information please contact a council member.

- Tricia Carrick -

From the Treasurer

On 26 October we give thanks for the many good things in God's world, for harvests material and spiritual, and look forward to the great harvest of Rev. 14:13-16. Harvest is a time when we also look to the material needs of others – so our collections that day are dedicated to Tear Fund and its work towards the day when none shall hunger or be in need.

It is good that we combine this Harvest Festival with our Pledge Sunday, when we also look to the material needs of the church. Maintaining our ministry, with all that it entails, will cost us around Fr840 a day during 2009 – less than in past years, but still a large sum. And in 2009 we hope to push ahead with projects for a new audio system, work on the church house roof, an additional meeting room, which will stretch our finances – and in some cases will need a separate appeal in the new year.

We value the many members who pledge money regularly. If you are not one of them, please consider joining the scheme when our appeal letter arrives next month. Our budget calls for 170 people giving Fr100 a month – but of course, some people give much more, and others much less: every little counts! And so do your prayers, your energies and your support.

-Hector Davie -

Weekend Away

37 adults and 17 children and young people enjoyed time away with the church family over the weekend of 29 – 31 August. 23 adults and 13 children stayed for the whole time. Others joined us for Friday evening, the day on Saturday, or Sunday morning.

Roger's teaching was much appreciated, the food delicious, the music excellent, worship times special, and free time fun – there was a horse-drawn carriage ride, a walk, swimming, and a chance to ride a scooter down the mountain on Saturday afternoon. The quiz on Saturday evening was also very popular. The children had their own programme during the adults' teaching time and they enjoyed that – also the opportunity to play outside,

especially when a young person or adult would push them on the roundabout.

However, the location (on the main road) and the accommodation (only one meeting room) were not ideal, so we will go somewhere else next year. Council has already set the dates for next year: 4 - 6 September 2009 – please note these now. More information will be available in the new year.

Finally, many thanks to all those who helped with the organisation of this year's weekend away. And also to everyone who came and contributed – it wouldn't have been the same without you.

- Tricia Carrick -

A WORD IN TIME?

Nearly every Sunday since I arrived at least one person has asked my opinion about talking before the service. So – here goes:

Basically, I think it is good that people can meet and greet each other as they arrive. After all, we are a scattered congregation and we may not have seen each other since the previous Sunday. It is also good to catch up on news and then make it part of the prayer we offer in our worship.

On the other hand, you can have too much of a good thing. It can be distracting when we wish to pray or otherwise prepare ourselves. Someone sent me the following, which they saw on the notice sheet of another church.

“We speak to God before the service. God speaks to us in the service. We speak to each other after the service. As you are seated in the pew, please bow in silent prayer.”

Food for thought? Perhaps once the bell starts to ring is the time to round off our conversations and to still ourselves in attentive waiting.

Peter

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

1 Abrupt 4 Moscow 8 Range 9 Pasture 10 Western 11 Sushi 12 Cathedral
16 Relic 18 Obadiah 20 Meekest 21 Isaac 22 Settle 23 Egress

Down

1 Arrows 2 Rings 3 Prevent 5 Oasis 6 Counsel 7 Weevil 9 Pentecost
12 Collect 13 Reading 14 Crumbs 15 Chicks 17 Creel 19 Image

FAQs - A NEW SERIES

This series is intended as a companion to the autumn teaching sessions on worship, "The Beauty of Holiness". I hope these answers will explain some things that may be unfamiliar and show that these features of our worship are not just there for the sake of it. Their function is to teach, often by using symbolic actions that draw attention to certain aspects of Christian belief and practice. Using gestures and actions that are repeated each time is actually an economical way of teaching, saving us from having to explain something repeatedly. It is there for all to see. But we need their eyes of faith and understanding to see it.

Why do we have the processions?

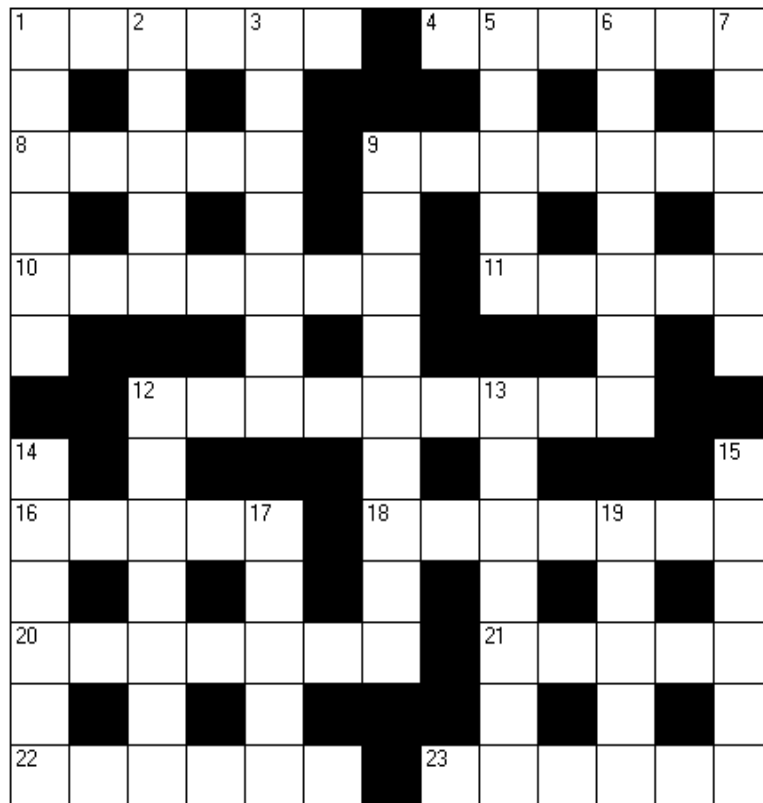
In the Church of Scotland (not Anglican but Calvinist, Reformed) the bible is carried in just before the minister takes his seat. It is a signal that the congregation is gathered and that worship, the purpose of the gathering, is about to begin.

Our *introit* (opening) *procession* serves the same function. The bible is opened and placed on the lectern to signify that God's Word is going to be opened up to us in this first part of the service (the Liturgy of the Word). Like an old-fashioned Boy Scout's tent, the Eucharist is supported by two poles, word and sacrament, and so the procession with the bible is balanced by the *offertory procession*, when the gifts of bread, wine and our money are brought forward to be set before God at the altar.

These two processions move forwards, out of the people towards those two poles, the lectern and the altar. The *Gospel procession*, on the other hand, moves in the opposite direction, down into the midst of the people. This expresses the great truth of the Incarnation, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". We stand to show reverence to Jesus, whose words and actions are recounted in the words of the four gospels. We turn to face the book, as someone might tell us to "gather round" when they have something important to say. The person reading may trace a cross (the sign of Christ) on the page he is to read from and then on his forehead, lips and chest, as if to say "May the words of Jesus and about Jesus contained in this reading be inscribed in my mind, on my lips and in my heart". Those listening may wish to do so too, using this sign language to repeat the prayer.

In general terms, this movement during the service reminds us that we are called to be God's pilgrim people, not sedentary listeners but also followers on the way.

Peter.



Across

- 1 Unexpectedly sudden (6)
 4 Location of St Basil's 12 across (6)
 8 ..which _____ throughout the earth (Zech 4.10)
 9 Grazing described by Psalm 37 as safe (7)
 10 Sea to which the land of Judah stretched in Deuteronomy ch. 34 (7)
 11 Japanese rice dish (5)
 12 Church containing the bishop's throne (9)
 16 Body part preserved as worthy of veneration (5)
 18 OT book and prophet (7)
 20 Most like those who will inherit the earth, according to the sermon on the mount (7) in Genesis ch. 26 (5)
 21 His servants discovered a well of fresh water
 22 I will _____ them in their homes (Hos 11.11) (6)
 23 Way out (6)

Down

- 1 Flaming missiles in Psalm 7 (6)
 2 Sounds the church bells (5)
 3 I will _____ pests from devouring your crops (Mal 3.11) (7)
 5 Fertile spot in a desert (5)
 6 Plans fail for lack of it, says Proverbs ch. 15 (7)
 7 Type of beetle (6)
 9 Whitsun (9)
 12 Brief formal prayer that varies with the day (7)
 13 Delivering a lesson at a service (7)
 14 Food fragments eaten by dogs in Mark ch. 7 (6)
 15 Gathered under the hen's wings in Luke ch. 13 (6)
 17 Angler's basket (5)
 19 ..or an _____ that teaches lies (Hab 2.18) (5)

Answers on page 21

Tearfund: Charity of the Month

St Ursula's has supported Tearfund, the Christian relief and development charity, for many years. As well as financial support, members of our congregation have been working closely with the Tearfund team in Zürich providing concrete results.

Tearfund works to fight poverty by providing support for self-help and long-term development in some of the world's poorest communities. Furthermore by supporting disadvantaged people through education.

Tearfund's work is carried out through local partner organisations, with Tearfund providing grants, consultancy and expertise.

St Ursula's has been active both financially through the support of the Junior Church collections, the harvest festival collections and special efforts from time to time. The support of the Eicher family has been particularly appreciated. Roxanne has served as Junior Church Tearfund coordinator informing the Junior Church and our church as a whole about current projects, organising cookie bake sessions etc.

What about specific examples?

The multipurpose building in Naphini, Malawi was commissioned in 2007 and is now in full operation and used by the very grateful community; in 2006 Vanessa Wenger participated in the Sudanese educational project with Tearfund's local Sudanese Christian partner "Across".

Christa Bauer, who many of you will know from her visits to St Ursula's, mentions Malawi, Uganda, Sudan and Bangladesh as some of the key countries which Tearfund currently supports. Indeed members of St Ursula's have been active on Tearfund volunteer trips to Malawi, Sudan and Uganda. In 2009, further short Tearfund volunteer trips are planned to Malawi and Uganda. Perhaps some of our congregation might consider this very special opportunity?

Christa and the small Tearfund team based in Zürich are thankful of our continued support and quote Micah 6:8, ...what does the LORD require of you? To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. This is now known as the Micah Challenge, a global Christian campaign. More details of the



Construction work on a multi-purpose building in Naphini, Malawi was completed in 2007.



Vanessa Wenger with female students in Sudan

Micah Challenge can be found by following this link
<http://www.micahchallenge.org/> .

Tearfund is involved in many ways in serving the poor. A major focus is on disaster relief, development and micro enterprise (craft/trade), moreover they believe in the effectiveness of campaigning, prayer and educating their supporters. In August 2008, Dennis Mwangwela from the Malawi Tearfund partner organisation World Relief visited Switzerland to inspire and thank Tearfund for their organised sponsored walk in aid of Malawi.

Thank you for your support and prayers for Tearfund, please pray for this good work to continue and support wherever you can. Details of the forthcoming volunteer trips and the special ways that you can help, like sponsoring disadvantaged individuals, can be found on the Tearfund website at
www.tearfund.ch



Finally, here are five points for your prayers in October. Please:

1. give thanks for the many people and projects which Tearfund supports in areas of need and for Tearfund's local partners, that they will tirelessly continue their fight against poverty.
2. pray for the protection of Christa, all the Tearfund employees and volunteers in their everyday work.
3. pray that our congregation continue to support Tearfund and help in any way they can. Furthermore, that our church family may be cheerful and generous givers for our Harvest Festival produce auction.
4. pray that the lives of many people will be permanently changed.
5. pray for wisdom for the Tearfund team when planning for the coming year.

Charity and Missions Commission: Tearfund Liaison

Due to other commitments, Roxanne has for some time now been wanting to find a successor to carry on with this important work. Let us pray that someone from our church family feels called to take on this good work. If you would like to know more about this, please get in touch with Roxanne.

Word for the Month - Predestined

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom.8:28-30)

A God who is all-knowing can presumably foresee the consequences of every action we take. A God who is all-powerful is presumably able to forestall the evil consequences of our actions. But cars still drive into trees, wars and genocide still happen, thieves still break into houses, children die of malnutrition. What has gone wrong?

The simplest answer is that we, the human race, have, at least when we are talking of evil deeds such as murder, war and the callous disregard of our neighbours' needs. We all have the ability to choose, to do the right thing or the wrong thing. This ability is part of our God-given nature. The ability to love others, to seek the good of others, is only an ability if it comes from our own free will.

As Paul realized, our free will extends only so far. "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." (Rom.7:15) The Christian church even went so far as to condemn as heresy the idea that people could lead a completely good life without God's help, or even come to faith by their own efforts. The New Testament backs this up: God calls us, and it is by the gift of God's grace that we follow God and not our own selfish desires. "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (John 15:16)

The root behind the Greek word Paul uses is the root behind the English word *horizon*. A horizon is a limit, a terminus, and at the same time a final goal. But the Bible does not use the word in the sense of God limiting us or restricting us. Wherever it is used, the sense is that God has chosen us, has freed us up for new things. The message is always one of hope. The predestined are also called, the called are also justified, the justified are also glorified.

So the Ephesians hear of our being "destined for adoption as God's children" (1:5), and the Corinthians are told of God's wisdom, "decreed before the ages for our glory." (1 Cor.2:7). The news of predestination is always good news. God has taken the initiative. God has chosen us, and we are God's chosen people, the New Israel.

This raises a question. If God has chosen us, are there people whom God has not chosen? If our names are written in the Book of Life (Ps 68:29, Luke

10:20, Rev. 13:8), presumably there are others whose names are not written. This led some, including Calvin, to suggest that God deliberately condemns some people to damnation.

But this view is not supported by the Bible. God calls us all, and it is for us to “confirm” that call in our lives (2 Pet. 1:10). God does not want any of us to perish (2 Pet. 3:9). Rev. 3:5 talks of people's names being “blotted out of the book of life”, but only because they stray from God's path. The New Testament is clear that we shall be judged according to our works (Mt 25:31-46, Rev 20:12).

So let us not worry – God rejects nobody. God hates the sin, but loves the sinner. Let us hear our Lord's words recorded in John 10:27-28:

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. This is the Gospel truth!

- Hector Davie -

Quotes

God's biggest problem with labourers in his vineyard is absenteeism. *Anon*

There are no personal relationships in hell. *CS Lewis*

We are saved not by our deeds but by Christ's sacrifice for our misdeeds. *Fred Catherwood.*

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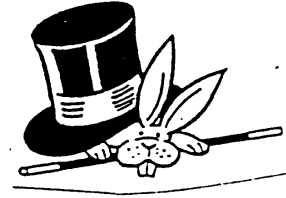
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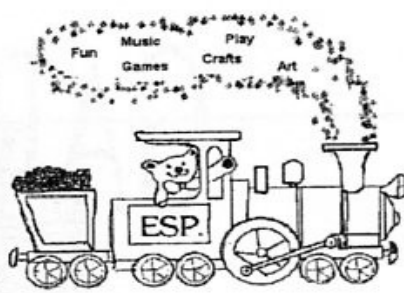
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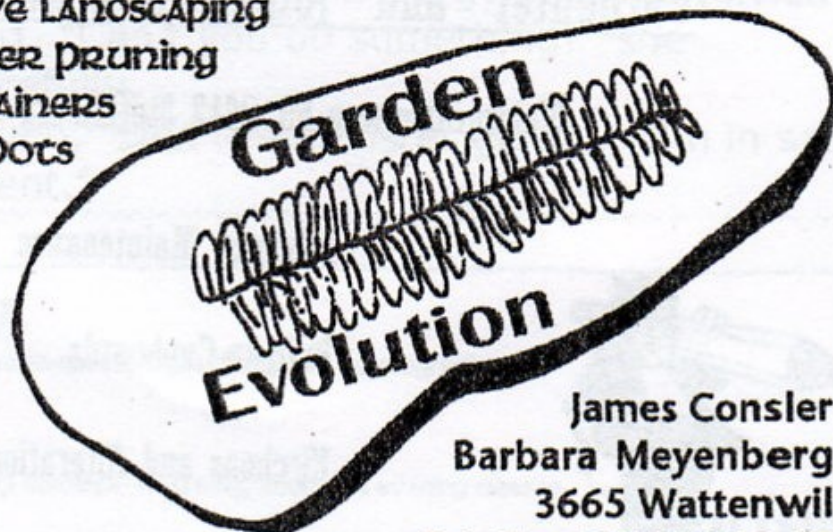
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Sing to the Lord of harvest

by [John S. B. Monsell](#)

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices
Your alleluias raise.

By Him the rolling seasons
In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest,
A joyous song of love.

By Him the clouds drop fatness,
The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness,
The valleys laugh and sing.
He filleth with His fullness
All things with large increase,
He crowns the year with goodness,
With plenty and with peace.

Bring to His sacred altar
The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest,
The souls He died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him
When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him,
Who gave His life for all.

To God the gracious Father,
Who made us "very good,"
To Christ, who, when we wandered,
Restored us with His blood,
And to the Holy Spirit,
Who doth upon us pour
His blessed dews and sunshine,
Be praise for evermore!