St Ursula's Church Jubiläumsplatz, 3005 Berne Switzerland Chaplain

Revd Peter Potter

2031 351 03 43

Honorary Assistant Chaplain Revd Linda Bisig

2031 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, \$\simeg\$032 724 23 84 or

Mrs Jennifer Veenendaal, \$\simeg\$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 27/9 NOVEMBER 2008

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Message from our Chaplain

This month's "Nacht der Religionen" (on 8 November) marks the seventieth anniversary of the "Kristallnacht", the start of the Nazi persecution of the Jews. In the Anglican calendar that day also commemorates the saints and martyrs of England and the next day is Remembrance Sunday. This conjunction of dates might tempt people to come out with the well-worn phrase about wars being caused by religion.

It is as well to remember, however, that "Kristallnacht", and most of the atrocities of the twentieth century, were perpetrated by atheistic, anti-religious régimes. All the same, whenever the subject is mentioned, it is not long before someone mentions Ireland. Yes, it is true that the history of Northern Ireland (and I write as someone who was born there) has not been edifying.

However, the truth (as another famous Irishman, Oscar Wilde, wrote) "is never pure and rarely simple". For example, after Protestant William's victory at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, the Pope did not go into mourning. Instead he had a *Te Deum* sung in St Peter's - a hymn of thanksgiving! The reason for this was that Catholic James was also an ally of the King of France, who was at odds with the Pope. The fact is, religious allegiance all too often gets hijacked by people who have a totally different axe to grind. These people manipulate the genuine religious feelings of others but rarely have such feelings themselves. Religious allegiance is seen as a means to an end rather than what it should be.

When we hear of bloodshed anywhere in the world, we are rightly outraged. For people of faith, our outrage is increased by our frustration that yet again something we hold dear is being misused for unworthy ends. Seeing the work of religious fanatics and fundamentalists, it seems reasonable to suppose that religious feelings should be moderated, watered down and that we should keep our religious views strictly to ourselves.

That has been the stance of most people in Europe for the past 250 years or so. It is wide of the mark, however. True religion is "to take care of widows and orphans in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world" (James, 1:27). It teaches us to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Those are the fundamentals of religion and we could do with more of them and not less.



Calendar of Services for November 2008



Nov. 2 **All Saints Sunday**

10.00 Eucharist

Revelation 7: 9 - 17 1 John 3: 1 - 3

Matthew 5: 1 - 12

Nov. 6 19.00 Thun Eucharist

Nov. 9 All Souls & Remembrance Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion (said)

10.00 Morning Prayer and **Act of Remembrance**

> Wisdom 6: 12 - 16 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – end



Nov. 16 **Second Sunday before Advent**

10.00 Eucharist and Baptism

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 - end 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11 Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Nov. 20 19.00 Thun Eucharist

Nov. 23 **Christ the King**

8.30 Holy Communion (said)

10.00 Service of the Word

Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16. 20 – 24 Ephesians 1: 15 – end

Matthew 25:31 - end

Nov. 30 **First Sunday of Advent**

10.00 Eucharist

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9 Mark 13: 24 – 37

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

Neuchâtel Services Sunday 9 Nov. – 17.00 Sunday 30 Nov. – 17.00

9 NOVEMBER 2008

We will be holding a Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation on Sunday, 9 November at 10.00.

Worshippers are requested to be in church in good time.

POPPY APPEAL

Poppies will be on sale at the church on Remembrance Sunday as well as the weeks before and after. All proceeds are forwarded to the Royal British Legion Appeal Fund, which supports exservicemen and women and their dependants.



Nacht der Religionen

On the night of 8 November, the doors of many churches and buildings of other religions in Berne will be open. This is Berne's part in the "Week of Religions" (2-8 November). The night will begin at 1800 in the Jewish synagogue.

The object is to get to know what other denominations and other faiths think and do, so that we can see what we have in common and what separates us. It is a chance to meet outsiders, and to show them fresh dimensions to their experiences.

St Ursula's is contributing to this event in two ways. We are celebrating by holding Evensong, a sung service of Evening Prayer, in St Peter and St Paul's church in the Old Town at 2000. This will follow the order in the Book of Common Prayer. Please come along and take part!

And after this, at 2100, our chaplain, Peter, will be taking part in a round table discussion with Christoph Schuler of St Peter and St Paul's and with Professor Urs von Arx of the theological faculty of the university, which promises to be interesting and enlightening!

There are activities throughout the evening. There is a leaflet available in the church hall, or on the church's website. You will be invited to identify yourself with a pin, available for a donation of Fr8 at any of the participating churches. Come along!

St Ursula's Church Newsletter - November 2008

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER 2008

READERS

- 2 A Masciadri+D Hoag
- 9 A Chittazhathu+R Piper
- 16 B Morgan+D Low
- 23 J Davie+T Carrick
- 30 H Gusset+J Wong



INTERCESSIONS

- 2 Zs Balogh
- 9 M Täuber
- 16 S Faillettaz
- 23 Z Balogh
- 30 S Higson

SIDESPERSONS

- 2 S Higson+Luke Romberg
- 9 S Faillettaz+Leo Eigner
- 16 A Chittazhathu+G Masciadri
- 23 H Davie+M Wenger
- 30 H Gusset +R Wildhaber

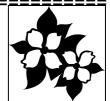


COFFEE & TEA

- 2 Köniz Housegroup
- 9 D Low+M Wittwer
- 16 R Fenner+C Eggler
- 23 Ittigen Housegroup
- 30 M + S Brawand

FLOWERS

2 R Schelker 9 Y Chittazhathu 16 C Hodler 23 Y Bomonti 30 K Hoag



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

2 A Chittazhathu 16 M Wildhaber 30 Help



CHALICE ASSISTANTS

2 B Morgan+K Chittazhathu16 D Low+D Goepfert 30 Help

DUTY COUNCIL MEMBER

- 2 P Perrett
- 9 H Wenger
- 16 H Davie
- 23 B Morgan
- 30 P Perrett

AUDIO

- 2 P Perrett
- 9 E Wildhaber
- 16 Hi Gusset
- 23 D Sovilla
- 30 H Wenger

Remembrance

Is death final? Christian faith says no, and there is an essential truth in Paul's words to the Corinthians: "If Christ has not been raised (from the dead), your faith is futile." (1 Cor 15:17) But we live in a rational age, and it is a question that is often asked.

Many people with no religion would state that "when you're dead, you're dead" - as if that meant anything! But their actions do not always back this up. There is a widespread belief that one "should not speak ill of the dead" - as if the dead are eavesdropping of our conversations. People will participate in Remembrance Day parades because it is "right to honour the dead" -but if the dead were really no more in existence, then honouring them would not make sense.

Other people who would deny having any firm faith have no hesitation in trying to communicate with dead friends and relations: indeed, mediums and spiritualists manage to carry on their trade, and even expand it. Even if we treat this in many cases as mere superstition, it shows at least that people believe there is something more in the world around us than the things that can be weighed or measured.

If we want details of what happens beyond death, we will not find a fixed timetable in our Bibles. Indeed, a recurring theme is that this is not something we should ask. Only God knows the future. God "is not a God of the dead, but of the living" (a very Semitic way of saying that God is far more concerned with what we do here and now than with what we want to know about the future!). Over the time covered in the Old Testament, the realization dawned that God's people were God's for all time, and Jesus and his followers all held the view that at the end of time, God would come and test our hearts, and call those whose love was not entirely dead.

One view is that the church comprises not only those "militant here

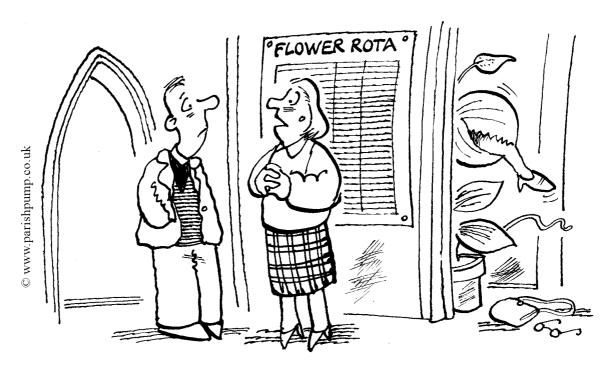
on earth", not only "the saints triumphant in heaven", but also those "expectant" - those who have seen heaven's pure joy and await the time when they can be part of it - even if they have a little way to go! By the time of the Reformation, this had led to all sorts of ideas: the time of waiting was called Purgatory and was a time of pain and suffering, which could be reduced by prayers, or even by other people's good works.

There may have been be a grain of truth in this idea, just as a lover might say to their beloved "It's hell being away from you." But the excesses led quite rightly to a reaction at the Reformation. Some of the Protestant reformers went too far the other way. There was a view that prayers for the dead were pointless, and calling on the dead to pray for us was pointless.

But Jesus himself not only prayed for the dead - he raised them too. The centurion's daughter, and Lazarus in his grave, were signs that God's power does not stop at the physical boundary of death. Part of "the middle way" of Anglicanism is the prayer book's petition for "all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear" that "with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom".

The feeling that the dead are not totally far away is one that is very real in times of bereavement. We still feel the contact of those close to us, we find separation painful. We erect gravestones, so that we can go and be with those who have given much to us in life; we erect cenotaphs and memorials to those who died for their country, to show that their presence and their sacrifice is still close to our hearts. And if this separation is not final, perhaps we can hope for their prayers on our behalf, just as we hope for the prayers of any other friend, and just as we hope for the prayers of our true friend, Jesus, who, we know, is not dead, but is alive, and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever!

- Hector Davie -



...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...



JUNIOR

CHURCH

If you would like more information about the Junior Church, please contact Donna Goepfert at 031 931 27 42 or Kelly Sovilla at 031 921 55 92 or refer to our web site www.anglican.ch/berne

NURSERY ROTA NOVEMBER

- 02 L Robb & B Aréstegui
- 09 J Viggiswarapu & M Wildhaber
- 16 S Fattahi & J Hoag
- 23 C Hodler & C Augustine
- 30 M Hebeisen & S Batley



|--|

VERY IMPORTANT CRÈCHE NOTICE

Dear Parents,

I would like to remind all of you that the crèche childcare is **only** for children from **0** up to **3** years old and not for older children.

Crèche Helpers **cannot** take care of other younger children **after Junior Church** has finished, as it would not be fair vis-à-vis our very young ones who need a lot of attention.

Junior Church children should join their parents in Church after class, or parents are welcome to stay with their own children in the crèche and look after them.

Thank you so much for your understanding.

Maxine Wildhaber and the Crèche Team.



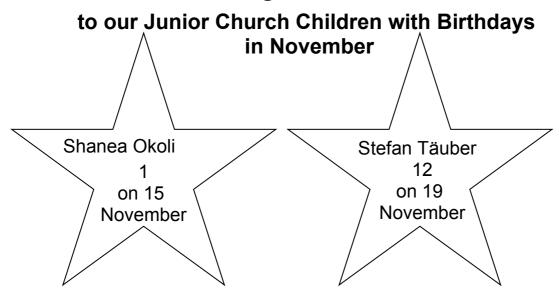
Nativity Service

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 in the next magazine, but please note this date now so that you don't miss this special celebration of Christ's birth.

If your child would like to take part in this celebration, please contact Kelly Sovilla (031 921 55 92) if you don't already have details of the practices.

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Congratulations



STOP PRESS: Exciting News about A New Youth Group

At the start of November, a new Youth Group will begin for all those aged 14 to 18. It will meet on Friday evenings and will be led by a team from YWAM (Youth With A Mission). The details of times, location and programme are still being worked out. We will contact directly all the young people we know before the first session. If you need more information before the next magazine please contact Kelly Sovilla.

Laughlines

Children's Kitchen Terms

BOIL: The point a parent reaches upon hearing the automatic "Yuck" before a food is even tasted.

CASSEROLE: Combination of favourite foods that go uneaten because they are mixed together.

DESSERT: The reason for eating a meal.

EVAPORATE: Magic trick performed by children when it comes time to clear the table or wash dishes.

FRUIT: A natural sweet not to be confused with dessert.

REFRIGERATOR: A very expensive and inefficient room air conditioner when not being used as an art gallery.

SODA POP: Shake 'N Spray.

TABLE LEG: Percussion instrument.

For Your Diary

November 2008

Sun	2	YOUTH COURSE 10.00 – 11.00 STUDY COURSE 11.50 – 12.50
Tues Wed	4 5	CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 19.30 CECILY'S FUND PUMPKIN SOUP LUNCH 11.30 – 13.30
Sat	8	CHOIR PRACTICE 9.30 – 11.45 "NACHT DER RELIGIONEN" Evensong and Round Table discussion at St Peter's and St Paul's Church 20.00 (see separate notice)
Sun	9	WORKSHOP IN CHURCH ON LEADING INTERCESSIONS 11.50 – 12.50
Tues	11	HOUSEGROUP COORDINATORS' MEETING 19.30 – 21.00
Sun	16	COPY DATE WORKSHOP IN CHURCH ON PRAYER FOR HEALING 11.50 – 12.50 JC BAKE SALE (in aid of Tear Fund) 11.30
Sat Sun Thurs	22 23 27	CHOIR PRACTICE 9.30 – 11.45 STUDY COURSE 11.50 – 12.50 COLLATING MAGAZINE
Fri Sat	28 29	CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 17.30 – 19.30 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 10.00 – 14.30
Sun	30	STUDY COURSE 11.50 – 12.50

Odds & Ends

Future Dates

10 December 19.30 Biel Carol Service

11 December 19.30 Carol Service at Heiliggeist Church

14 December 10.00 Nativity Play

18 December 19.00 Göttibach Thun Carol Service

21 December 17.00 Neuchâtel Carol Service

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

COPY DATE!!!

for the December/January issue

16 November 2008

COLLATING DATE

27 November

English Church Services and Housegroup in Thun

Thun church group will be meeting only on the 1st and 3rd Thursday until further notice...

19.00 Eucharist service followed by bible study.

6 and 20 November, and 4 December

18 December: Göttibach service of lessons and carols.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Services are held at the "Pavilion" of the Reformierte Kirchgemeindehaus in Bubenbergstrasse, Thun.

For more information please contact Sharon Bachmann \$\sime 033 336 93 78.



Stepping Down

After having organised the coffee/tea rota for some 5 years, I would now like to hand this task over to another willing soul in January. If you can help, please contact me, by e-mail at stewardson.l@gmail.com or by telephone 031 901 3066. I look forward to lots of replies!

Libby Stewardson

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 Tel: 032 730 51 83

Chemin du Chasselas 11 2012 AUVERNIER

www.neuchatel-church.ch

On 30 November, we shall be joined at our 5pm service by members of the Swiss Reformed church whose premises we share. As the world enters a time of upheaval and questioning as far as moral values are concerned, Christians must be ready to stand up and be counted. Joining together in worship in this way fulfils Jesus' prayer for his followers and gives us renewed strength to go and live out his love in our daily lives.

DECEMBER DIARY

14 December: Usual service at 17.00

21 December: CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE at 17.00

24 December: Christmas Eve service at 17.00

From Roy and Mieke

We are living in such uncertain times, with the very fabric of our modern world being tested to the limits. Where can we find a place of peace in this turbulent time? The words of the old hymn have been in my mind over these past few weeks, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee. These words were written when the writer, Augustus Toplady, was sheltering from a storm on Dartmoor (South West England). But if we are to experience that depth of relationship with our God, then the promises that the people of Jerusalem made with Nehemiah in ~405 B.C.E. are still absolutely applicable to us.

- They promised to behave with holiness in all their relationships
- > They promised to live in holiness in all their dealing with other people
- > They promised to give in holiness so that the Sovereign Lord was the centre of their lives.

The financial markets used to be built on trust and honour, but as the recent events have shown they have been driven by greed and lies and the system has crashed.

Isn't this a challenge to ALL of us, to put the LORD first and live ALL of our lives in open honour to him and his creation? Only then will the world return to a place of peace.

Once before the Lord brought an end to the chaos of humankind, its greed and its self-belief, but He made His promise never to do that again, the sign of the rainbow. Thank God that He keeps his promises and that we can trust Him.



And back in Berne: Worth Repeating

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

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



Christmas Bazaar Food Stall Cooks Needed!

If you're planning on making jams or pickles this year please remember us and make some extra jars of jam,

marmalade or chutney for the Christmas Bazaar Food Stall. We have plenty of spare jars in the church kitchen- if you can help or need some jars delivered to you, please contact me on O31 809 4737 Many Thanks - Jana Kutesko



British and International Food Stall - Help Needed!

We still need lots of things for the food stall, many of which could be easily fitted into a suitcase, for example packets of sauces or chocolate and sweets. So, if you're off to the U.K, Canada, U.S.A etc before the Christmas bazaar, **PLEASE**, **PLEASE** contact me before you go to ask what we need most.

Don't forget to check the sell-by date carefully and make sure it's after November 2008. Keep you receipts and we'll gladly reimburse you the cost of the items.

We also need home-made jams, chutneys and especially marmalade for the stall. Please try & bring these in at least a week before the bazaar. If you need any jars please contact Jana Kutesko.

Thank you to all those who have already done some shopping for us and also to those who are planning to do so.

Jana Kutesko - Tel. 031 809 47 37 or email the Church Office berne@anglican.ch

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NOTE THIS DATE NOW

The next **Weekend Away** for the whole church family – that includes you: whether you are a family with children, a couple, or on your own; whatever your age – will be 4-6 September 2009. More details in the New Year, but make sure you don't miss out by writing the dates in your diary today!

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across 1 Lotus 4 Cook 8 Crusade 9 Crush 10 Laden 11 Parades 13 Strode
15 Savage 17 Detests 20 Treat 22 Large 23 Two bits 24 Spin 25 Heave
Down 1 Local 2 Thunderstorm 3 Stained 4 Cheap 5 Occur 6 Quadragesima
7 Chaste 12 Ass 13 Saddle 14 Eat 16 Antioch 18 Sleep 19 Satan 21 Taste

Outline for "THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS" Sundays 11.50 to 12.50

(with bring and share sandwich lunch afterwards)

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

From the Treasurer

Missed the Pledge Boat?

If you have not yet responded to our pledge appeal, don't feel guilty. If you have lost your pledge form, there are more at the entrance to the hall. Or if the idea of committing yourself to giving a fixed amount each month seems strange, give what you can, when you can.

You can give to us in the collection, or by payment to our bank or Postfinance account. Details are on the contents page. For tax relief on your contributions, you need to donate to our charitable association, Postfinance account 60-66488-7: this "association" money is earmarked for maintaining the buildings, for pastoral care and for the external charities we support.

The church needs over Fr800 **a day** to maintain and improve its ministry - so every little contribution helps!

The Treasurer



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The countdown has started! More details of opening times and stalls are to be found on the separate flyer in the magazine. There are also spare flyers available in the hall to pass on to all your friends and neighbours.

<u>Help is still needed</u>. The success of the Christmas Bazaar is a real team effort of which we are all part and so once again we are putting calls out for all those things that will ensure a successful Bazaar.

Bottle Stall Any kind of bottle is welcome, and they can be brought to the Church any time now. There is a box, labelled, in the Upper Hall for your donations to this stall.

Bric à Brac Any unused gift or small item in <u>very good</u> condition, would be highly appreciated. Dorothy Beriger, 031 352 34 68, is the contact person. Or you can just bring your donation on Sundays to Church.

Helpers

Prior to the Bazaar: we need help with the icing of Christmas cakes. If you can help by icing one or more of the baked cakes please collect one from the Church. **NOTE**: the cakes should be iced in the traditional way with white icing. There will be guidelines placed on the Christmas Bazaar information stand. This is the blue stand by the kitchen. The contact person is Wendy Astor (031 302 02 14).

Helpers are needed in the restaurant; please get in touch with Sharon (078 885 46 32).

Manpower Without this the Bazaar can't happen, so if you could spare a little time and energy either beforehand or after the Bazaar please come and help us to move tables and chairs, set up stalls and help with one of many things to be done. Please put your name and contact number on the list. The helpers' list will be hung up in the upper hall from 26 October onwards. Can you help? If you have a large cane basket superfluous to needs, we would love to have it for our Christmas Basket Raffle. If you are willing to donate this, please call the Church office and let them know.

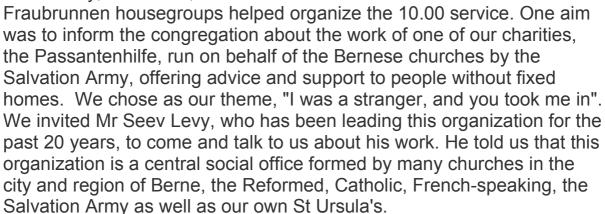
We rely on your support, help and generosity for a successful 2008 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. THANK YOU!!

Christmas Bazaar Co-ordinators Maxine Wildhaber and Lynn Robb

Charity of the Month:

Kirchliche Passantenhilfe Bern

On Sunday, October 5, the Wohlen and



Between 10 and 25 persons in difficult situations come to their office each day seeking help. Gypsies, people with drug or alcohol addiction, mothers with children, the unemployed, former prisoners, beggars, the homeless, street musicians and many others come, seeking help and guidance.

This organization assists by providing fresh food, donated by shops, giving out small amounts of money and vouchers for train tickets or clothes from the second-hand shops, and even helps seek accommodation for short periods. Confidence and cooperation built up through contacts with other institutions, social offices and even the foreign police help lead to solutions.

Mr Levy brought home the point that many also have a hunger and thirst for comfort, encouragement, appreciation and simple dignity. By acknowledging how precious another human being is, by spending time and listening, those who work at the Passantenhilfe hope to create some of what Jesus called "Kingdom of God on earth". Mr Levy ended his presentation by wishing us opportunities to help others, with open eyes and hearts. To have compassion is our way to serve God, for Jesus said: "What you have done to the least of these of my brethren, you have done to me!" (Matt. 25:40)

The Kirchliche Passantenhilfe Bern is located at Gartenstrasse 8, 3007 Bern Tel: 031 380 75 40

- Adorée Weibel -



www.cecilysfund.org

Dear supporters and friends of Cecily's Fund, We would like to give you some information.

About Cecily's Fund

- Charity organisation since 1998
- Founded by Alison and Basil Eastwood (former British ambassador in Berne) in memory of their daughter Cecily
 - Cecily left home to teach in Zambia when she was nineteen
 - She worked for CINDI, an organisation which helps children who have been orphaned by AIDS
 - Cecily died, only months later, in a Zambian road accident
 - Our smiley logo is the one she used to sign her letters
 - Our purpose is to enable Zambia's orphans and vulnerable children to go to school

What we do

- Enable more than 9'000 orphans and other vulnerable children to go to school
 - Offer training to our school-leavers as teachers, teaching other children
- Offer training to our school-leavers as health-educators, teaching other children how to stay healthy and avoid AIDS
 - We work closely with Zambian partner organisations

What you can do

• Donate, for example:

School uniform Fr. 15.--, shoes Fr. 25.--

1 year's education which includes uniform, shoes, books and school supplies for:

Primary school Fr. 60.--, Secondary school Fr. 115.--

teacher Fr. 800.--, health-educator Fr. 600.--/1050.--

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Our next Events

Pumpkin Soup Lunch Wednesday, 5 November 11.30 – 13.30 St Ursula's Church, Berne Opera Hänsel & Gretel Sunday, 7 December 17.00 Théâtre du Passage, Neuchâtel

Leaflets are available in the Upper Hall with more information.

We look forward to seeing you soon.
With every good wish
Linda Bisig, Jennifer Hockley & Yvonne Bomonti, your Swiss Cecily's Fund representatives

FAQs

How often should I take Communion?

The short answer is: every Sunday. Why?

As far as I can make out, Jesus gave only one instruction about worship to his disciples: "Do this in remembrance of me". The sharing of the bread and the wine at the Last Supper occurs in all three Synoptic Gospels and it is referred to again by St Paul, as well as being hinted at in various passages in the Fourth Gospel.

In Acts 2:46 we read: "And day by day, [the disciples were] attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes." Sharing of bread (and wine) was clearly the way these first Christians distinguished themselves from their Jewish and pagan neighbours. At that stage, of course there were no churches to worship in, so it had to be done in their homes. Interestingly, it seems to have been a daily event, perhaps showing us that they interpreted the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread" as being about the Eucharist.

Not long after this, as the Church spread, Sunday became the day for worship and again the Eucharist was the normal form of worship. Throughout the Middle Ages, the weekly Mass (Eucharist) was the only form of service in most parish churches. The majority of people received Communion only once or twice a year, however. This was one of the abuses the Reformers, both in Britain and on the Continent, wanted to correct. They wished to restore the practice of the early Church, which was "the Lord's people at the Lord's table on the Lord's day". Unfortunately, old habits die hard and it was not until the twentieth century that weekly Communion began to be the norm in Anglican churches. In our generation is has also become more widespread in other churches, following the lead of the Taizé and Iona Communities in the Reformed tradition, for instance.

Another welcome development is that the Communion services of many churches are now remarkably similar. At the same time it is increasingly common for the different churches to invite people from other traditions to receive Communion with them.

Weekly Communion, the practice of the earliest Christians, is no longer the preserve of the few but a sign that "all who love the Lord Jesus are welcome at his table", which is where we belong.

Peter M Potter -

A Word for the Month - Seven

You may complain that seven is not so much a word as a number, and you will be right, but only partly. For those who tease out the origins of words, there is a very clear relation between the English word (and its German relation, *sieben*), the Italian *sette*, and the Latin number *septem*. We English have lost the *t*, our Mediterranean friends have lost the *p*. And this relation may go further, to the Hebrew word for seven, *shava'*, and its word for the seventh day, which we know in English as the sabbath (and from which, incidentally, the name *Samstag* descends.)

The name for the number is probably as old as the division of time into weeks of seven days - you might almost say as old as time itself, or as the moon, whose phases marked the weeks. The Hebrews regarded the seventh day as holy - a time to rest. But Christians gathered together on the first day, the day of Jesus' resurrection, and over time this day too came to be regarded as holy. By the fourteenth century, Sunday was known as "the new sabbath". But it is good to remember that Saturday, the seventh day, for all who read the account at the beginning of Genesis, was a day of completion. Sunday, the first day after the sabbath, was a day for new beginnings - a new creation.

Because seven signified completion, the Old Testament mentions numerous sets of seven. Noah took seven pairs of the clean animals into the ark, Abraham presented Abimelech with seven ewe lambs, Jacob served Laban seven years (and then another seven!) to gain Rachel as his wife, Pharaoh dreamed of seven fat and seven lean cows. Aaron sets up a candle-stand with seven candles (Numbers 8), there are seven pillars of wisdom (Proverbs 9), Daniel foresees that Nebuchadnezzar's insanity will last for seven "times".

Around Jesus' lifetime, there was a keen interest in numbers and their meaning. The Revelation to John shows that this interest spilt over into the Christian church, and here we see series of angels, of plagues, of seals - grouped in sevens: often with the seventh in a series of visions leading into a fresh group of seven. Indeed, there are visions of events lasting 1260 days, or 42 months, which is half of seven years: visions of things which are half way to completion.

It is this sense of completeness that led Peter to ask Jesus: "How often should I forgive? Seven times?" And Jesus' reply, "Seventy times seven," implies that our forgiveness should not only be complete, but abundant and overflowing - beyond caution, beyond all reasonable limits.

Sometimes, the meaning behind the number is not clear. We all know the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, with its five loaves and its twelve baskets. The five loaves possibly recall the five books of the Law, and the twelve baskets the twelve tribes of Israel. But Matthew also mentions the Feeding of the Four Thousand, with seven loaves and seven baskets: perhaps this recalls the seventy Gentile nations the Jews thought there were, just as the seven deacons appointed in Acts 6 served the "foreign" rather than the Hebrew widows (and the four thousand may recall the four winds of heaven, reaching to all the corners of the earth).

Since New Testament times, lists of seven have multiplied. Can you name the seven deadly sins? The seven gifts of the spirit? The seven virtues (three of them spiritual, and four of them cardinal)? Some of these lists go back to the Bible itself: the seven churches of Asia mentioned in Revelation, the seven "I am" sayings of Jesus and the seven "signs", or miracles, in John's Gospel. The seven words from the cross? God's sevenfold gifts are complete, and what is complete for God is abundant to overflowing for us!

-Hector Davie -

Deadly sins

Anger, envy, gluttony, sloth, pride, avarice. lust

Gifts of the spirit

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord (Is.11:2)

Virtues

Faith, hope, charity are the three theological virtues.

Justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude are the four cardinal virtues.

Churches of Asia

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

I am the bread of life (John 6:5)

I am the light of the world(John 8:12)

I am the gate of the sheepfold (John 10:7)

I am the good shepherd (John 10:11)

I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)

I am the way and the truth and the life (John 14:6)

I am the true vine (John 15:1)

Signs

Turning Water into Wine

Healing the Nobleman's Son

Healing the Palsied Man

Feeding the Five Thousand

Walking on the Sea

Healing the Blind Man

Raising Lazarus

Words from the Cross

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34) Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43)

Woman, behold thy son! ... Behold thy mother! (John 19:26-27)

Eli, Eli, lama, sabachthani? - My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)

I thirst (John 19:28)

It is finished (John 19:30)

Father into thy hands - I commend my spirit (Luke 23:46)

Quotes

Peace

Peace is the conscious possession of adequate resources.- anon If we have not quiet in our minds, outward comfort will do no more for us than a golden slipper on a gouty foot. John Bunyan Security is not the absence of danger, but the presence of God, no matter what the danger. anon.

War

Christ could not imagine people believing in his teaching of humility, love and universal brotherhood, quietly and deliberately organising the murder of their brother men.



Thank you.

Shareene and Peter would like to thank everyone for their good wishes

and kind offers of help after Shareene's accident. We really appreciate

all your care and help.



Dear friends

I am still impressed by the service at your church last Sunday and the conversations with you and with some of the members which were possible.

You asked me to say if we need some specific help in the Passantenhilfe. We have been desperately trying to help a family to find an apartment since a few months back, and cannot find one. Maybe by chance somebody in your church knows of such a free apartment or has good relations with someone who does.

A family from Guinea (Africa) has a boy of nine and a girl of seven. The girl was born blind and has a weak heart. Both children go to school in Zollikofen, the girl in the school for blind children. The girl's doctor considers it important that the girl should have a room of her own, where she can put her things in a proper place and can learn to find them again.

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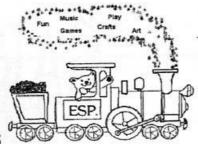
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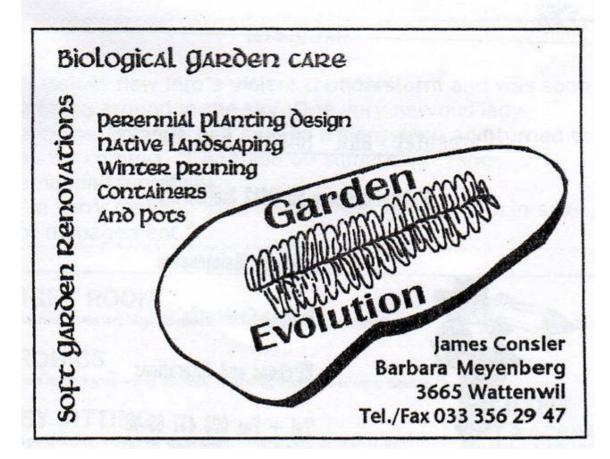
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New members are always welcome. Our website hosted by the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs is: www.angloswissclubs.ch

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Other numbers

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NEUCHATEL CONTACTS

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New every morning is the love

by John Keble, 1822

New every morning is the love Our wakening and uprising prove; Through sleep and darkness safely brought, Restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies, each returning day, Hover around us while we pray; New perils past, new sins forgiven, New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind Be set to hallow all we find, New treasures still, of countless price, God will provide for sacrifice.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be, As more of heaven in each we see; Some softening gleam of love and prayer Shall dawn on every cross and care.

The trivial round, the common task, Will furnish all we ought to ask; Room to deny ourselves, a road To bring us daily nearer God.

Seek we no more; content with these, Let present rapture, comfort, ease, As heaven shall bid them, come and go: The secret this of rest below.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love, Fit us for perfect rest above; And help us, this and every day, To live more nearly as we pray.