

NEWSLETTER

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Table of Contents

Message from our Chaplain.....	2	Council Meeting Report.....	13
Calendar of Services.....	3	St Ursula's AGM Report.....	13
Rotas for June 2009.....	4	Special Church Meeting.....	14
The Chaplain's Jottings.....	5	Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2009. .	15
Trinity.....	6	News from Neuchâtel.....	16
Bodies.....	7	Uganda: Water for Everyone.....	18
Junior Church.....	9	Charity of the Month – Partners.....	19
Birthdays.....	10	FAQ.....	21
For Your Diary June 2009.....	11	A Word for the Month - Authority.....	22
Future Dates.....	11	Church Weekend Away.....	23
Odds & Ends.....	12	Crossword.....	24
SACEP Training Weekend.....	12	Ministry Team.....	32

Message from our Chaplain

The month of June starts with the Feast of the Holy and Undivided Trinity (to give it its full title). So far the Church's year has been marked by feasts that are tied to a particular historical event, like Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Trinity, on the other hand, celebrates a feature that is independent of time and place – like God himself.

The concept of God as Trinity is one we find difficult to understand. How can someone be one and three at the same time? But even the fact that we do not understand is telling us something important about God. Religious faith is often regarded as an attempt to find meaning in our lives and to make sense of existence. There is truth in this but there is also the danger of thinking that our faith is primarily about understanding or that everything about it can in fact be explained or that if we read the Bible often enough we will understand it, and so on.

It would be more accurate to say that religious faith is concerned with things that cannot be explained. St Paul writes of “the peace of God which passes understanding” (Phil 4:7) and in the Book of Exodus Moses only sees God from behind. This side of the Second Coming much of God – and indeed much of life - will remain a mystery to us.

Trinity Sunday is a good time to be reminded of this and also to alert us to the fact that we gather in church, not to be given neatly packaged explanations but to acknowledge the mystery.

Metropolitan John Zizoulas, a Greek Orthodox theologian, has written several works about the importance of *koinonia* (community, fellowship) in the Church. He bases his teaching on the fact that God the Holy Trinity is by definition a community in himself. Each of the three persons of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) does not act independently of the others but acts in such a way that maintains their fellowship with each other. Zizoulas applies this thinking to ecumenical relations but it applies equally to relations within an individual congregation. We are made in the image of God the Holy Trinity and we are therefore called to be not individual Christians but Christians living in *koinonia*.

A very famous portrayal of God as Trinity is an icon by the 15th century Russian painter Rubliev. He shows three figures sitting round a table on which a chalice has been placed, a good image of our mission to find common ground on which to meet.

Peter Potter

Calendar of Services for June 2009



June 4 19.30 Thun Service

June 7 Trinity Sunday
10.00 Eucharist
Isaiah 6: 1 - 8
Romans 8: 12 - 17
John 3: 1 - 17

June 14 First Sunday after Trinity
8.30 Holy Communion (said)
10.00 Informal Eucharist
(Tear Fund Water Project)
Ezekiel 47: 6 - 12
2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 10, 14 - 17
John 4: 7 - 13

June 18 19.30 Thun Service – Songs of Praise

June 21 Second Sunday after Trinity
10.00 Eucharist
Job 38: 1 – 11
2 Corinthians 6: 1 - 13
Mark 4: 35 - end

June 28 Third Sunday after Trinity
8.30 Holy Communion (said)
10.00 Eucharist
Wisdom 1: 13 – 15, 2: 23 – 24
2 Corinthians 8: 7 - 15
Mark 5: 21 – end

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Neuchâtel Services

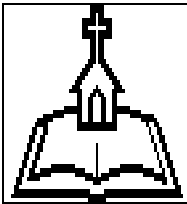
Sunday 14 June – 10.30 in Vevey – see separate notice

Sunday 28 June – 17.00

Rotas for June 2009

READERS

- 7 A Mering+I Jordan
- 14 Charity Committee
- 21 J Wong+Y Chittazhathu
- 28 A Funkhouser+J Wenger



INTERCESSIONS

- 7 E Hutchison
- 14 Charity Committee
- 21 S Higson
- 28 H Davie

SIDESPERSONS

- 7 B Winfield
- 14 J Wenger
- 21 S Higson
- 28 W Astor

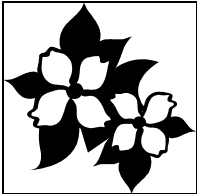


COFFEE & TEA

- 7 Köniz Group
- 14 J Chisholm+S Berger
- 21 C Egger+M Wittwer
- 28 A Low+J Josi

FLOWERS

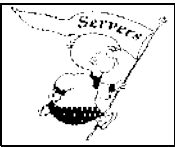
- 7 M Wittwer
- 14 R Schelker
- 21 Y Bomonti
- 28 Y Chittazhathu



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

- 7 D Goepfert
- 14 L Robb
- 21 J Hutchison
- 28 M Wildhaber



=====

CHALICE ASSISTANTS

- 7 A Funkhouser+G Güntert
- 14 R Freiburghaus+H Davie
- 21 D Low+P Perrett
- 28 J Wenger+K Chittazhathu



=====

DUTY COUNCIL MEMBER

- 7 E Hutchison
- 14 H Davie
- 21 J Eze
- 28 M Wildhaber

AUDIO

- 7 Hj Gusset
- 14 D Sovilla
- 21 H Wenger
- 28 P Perrett

The Chaplain's Jottings

New music

From comments people have made, it is clear that many of you find the Gloria in the Missa Helvetica difficult to sing. We have found a simpler version, called the Salisbury Setting, which is sung in unison and without a refrain. This should prove easier for regular Sunday use and we will introduce it on Sunday 21 June. For the time being we will keep to the Missa Helvetica for the other parts of the service and see how we get on.

Sometimes the congregation has sung the refrain of the Missa Helvetica Gloria and the choir has sung the rest. This has worked well and we could perhaps continue to do this on special occasions.

Awayday

The new Council will have the chance to spend some time together in prayer and discussion this month. We are holding an Awayday to do some forward planning and to look at certain issues in more depth than is possible at our evening meetings. These topics will include our Anglican ethos, the workings of the Church of England and our mission. The meeting is on Saturday 13 June and will take place at the Old Catholic Church Hall in Solothurn.

Visitor from Uganda

On Sunday 14 June the Revd Reuben Mbaguta Byomuhangi will be the guest speaker at our 10.00 informal eucharist. He is the leader of a Tear Fund partner organisation in Uganda that is currently undertaking various water and sanitation projects in the country. He will be in Switzerland with other members of his organisation to meet government and UN bodies in connection with these projects. There are more details elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

Please come along to meet him and hear more about this valuable work done by one of the charities we support.

Songs of Praise

The Christmas Carol Service at the Göttibach Church in Thun is always well supported and we shall be having a summer version this year in the form of a Songs of Praise service. This will be on Thursday 18 June, starting at 19.30. We hope that this will be a useful piece of outreach and a way of bringing the Thun services to people's attention in the area. If you feel like singing some good favourite hymns, please come along and join in.

A similar event is being planned for Biel, where we also hold a Christmas service. There are a good number of English-speaking residents in that area, so there could be scope for setting up a group like the one in Thun. Further details had not been finalised when this issue of the magazine went to press.

Please keep an eye on notice sheets and the July magazine for further information.

Make a note!

On 30 August, the Old Catholic parishes of the region Bern/Solothurn celebrate their annual 'Waldgottesdienst' in Rüfenacht, which is nice, outdoor and a great opportunity for fellowship. They have extended an invitation to us to join them either for the service or to join them afterwards to grill a sausage and play 'Zwirblete' - don't ask me what it is in English - and have a good time in general. All are very welcome; the proceeds of the day are intended for 'Pro Natura.'

Trinity

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space – unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:
Deuteronomy 6:4 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'
Isaiah 45:22 'Turn to me and be saved...for I am God, and there is no other'
Genesis 1:1-2 'In the beginning God created... And the Spirit of God was hovering...'
Judges 14:6 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'
John 1:1-3 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'
Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells his disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we stand in its brilliant light, we find that the warmth soon follows.

From "Parish Pump Notes"

Bodies

A lot of us have difficulty with our bodies. They are too fat, or too thin, or not the right shape, or whatever – enough to keep an army of cosmetic surgeons in business. And this is nothing new. For centuries, people of both sexes, of all ages, cultures and situations, have tried to improve on “God's image” - trimming here, decorating there, concealing this or displaying that. Should we Christians have our own thoughts about this?

Bodies are important. The Word of God took human form within Mary's body. Jesus' body, once nailed to the Cross, still carries the wounds which he asked Thomas to touch. We are nourished by that same body in the Eucharist, and collectively we are Christ's body now, the Church. We respond to Paul's call to the Christians in Rome, to “present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Rom 12:1). We know that our bodies are “a temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 6:19). And at the last day, we look forward to the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

We are not talking about the mind, or the spirit. These also have their place in our relationship to God. We are talking about our bodies, “warts and all”. The warts and the imperfections are part of our physical bodies, and Paul must have realized this when he called the Romans to present their bodies as a sacrifice to God. In the Old Testament, the only acceptable sacrifice was a beast without blemish. In the New Testament, it is Christ who offers himself for all time as sacrifice, and it is only in this context that presenting our own bodies as a sacrifice makes sense, by sharing in his sacrifice.

We read and hear about Christ's body, but we know nothing about it. We have no idea what he looked like, short or tall, dark or pale. Our icons are drawn from faith, not life. We cannot even be sure of how old he was. But we know that many of his miracles concerned people's bodies. Making the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, was a central part of his ministry. These physical cures were pointers to the spiritual transformation we can all undergo (for are we not all in part spiritually lame, blind, deaf and dumb – leprous even?). Yet they were real bodily cures, and the fact that they pointed to the onset of God's reign just shows how closely body and spirit belong together.

In Roman Catholic cantons, the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, 11 June this year, is a public holiday, celebrating Christ's body, Corpus Christi in Latin. In German, it is called Fronleichnam, but the

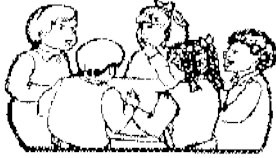
Leichnam, the *Corpus*, is no corpse, but a source of life. “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” (John 6:53). In a very real sense, when we eat and drink, we incorporate Christ's body into ours.

The Church of England is more restrained: 11 June is “The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion.” It falls outside the season of Lent, Easter and Pentecost, and so deliberately emphasizes how Christ's body lives on even after his Ascension and the descent of the Spirit. It is a modern festival – less than 900 years old, and accompanied by prayers and hymns written by the theologian Thomas Aquinas.

At the Last Supper, Jesus shared bread with those around him, with the words “This is my body.” Bread does not have warts, toenails or eyelashes, for what is important is not what our bodies look like, but what they do. God calls us not just to use our mind and our spirit, but our bodies too. In the Bible, Mary is an example: “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38), and so is Paul (beaten, imprisoned, hungry: 2 Cor 11:23-27). As Christians, our bodies are important, not for what they look like, but for what we do with them. We need to make Thomas Aquinas' collect for Corpus Christi our own. Lord, grant that in communion with your own body “we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption.”

Hector Davie





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 website www.anglican.ch/berne

NURSERY ROTA JUNE

- 7 Marty Hebeisen & Sharon Batley
- 14 Querida & Olivia Long
- 21 Karla Romberg & Rebecca Giulini
- 28 Claudine Aeberli & Walter Bisig

* * * * *

A Clean Sweep!

Thank you to all the mothers from St Ursula's Crèche and from the Parents and Tots who volunteered to help out on Saturday 9 May on our annual Spring Clean-Up day.

Thank you to you all for your time and support, it was a real blessing!!!

See you again next year!

Maxine Wildhaber
Crèche Coordinator



Congratulations

to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays
in June

Ariel Hutchison

2

on 18 June

Ruby Wildhaber

14

on 7 June

Ben Piper

10

on 16 June

Peter Balogh

13

on 24 June

Shaun Künzler

6

on 12 June

Julia Jayaraj

2

on 29 June

For Your Diary June 2009

Regular weekly events

Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
	12.00-13.00	Spiritual Classics (not 5 June)
	19.00-21.00	Youth Group
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice (not 6 June)

Other events

Tuesday	2	19.30	Church Council
Friday	5	13.00	Book Sale Set up
Saturday	6	10.00-14.00	Book, Food & Outside Table Top Sale
Sunday	7	10.00	Youth Class
		12.00	Special Church Meeting (see page 14)
Saturday	13		Council Awayday
Sunday	14	12.00	TearFund presentation (see page 18)
			COPY DATE
Thursday	18	19.30	Songs of Praise, Göttingen Church, Thun
Sunday	21	10.00	Youth Class
Thursday	25	09.00-11.00	Magazine Collating
Saturday	27	14.00-18.00	Pastoral Care Afternoon Tea

Future Dates

29 August	1000-1400 Book Sale
30 August	“Waldgottesdienst” with the Old Catholics
4-6 September	Church Weekend Away in Aeschi
11-12 September	SACEP Training weekend – see separate notice
27-28 November	Christmas Bazaar

COPY DATE !!!

for the July/August issue is 14 June

COLLATING DATE

25 June 2009

Odds & Ends

English Church Services and Housegroup in Thun

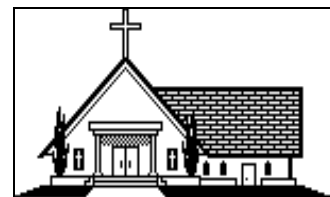
Thun church group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 19.30 for a Eucharist service with Bible study.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

The service on 4 June is at our usual meeting place, the "Pavilion" of the Reformierte Kirchgemeindehaus in

Bubenbergstrasse, Thun. But on **18 June** we are meeting at the Götting church at 19.30 for something special – a service of **Songs of Praise**. We hope to see you there.

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



* * * * *

Swiss Archdeaconry Continuing Education Programme (SACEP)

SACEP is offering a training weekend led by Dr Elaine Storkey on 11 and 12 September 2009 at Crêt Bérard, which is near Lausanne. The subject is: **Parenting, Performing and Praying: The impacts of high economic expectations on family and church life.**

Elaine will draw from some recent research by the Children's Society on the contemporary context in which children are nurtured. She will draw attention to the pressures families face in a culture which prioritises personal success in the modern economy. How can parents negotiate their way through competing priorities, and how can the Church respond to changing patterns?

More information in the brochures available in the church hall.

Odd Ads

Looking for – A Swiss girl aged 18 is looking for a position in England (anywhere) as an *au pair* from August this year for 3-4 months. She will not be going to school but would like to live with a family and improve her English. For more info please call Sharon ☎ 078 885 46 32

Looking for - a 4½ room flat within the price range of Fr1600 to Fr2000 in Berne or nearby. Please contact Pieter Perrett ☎ 032 665 49 70

Council Meeting Report

The first meeting of the new council was held on Tuesday 4 November. This was the handover meeting, so attended by members of both the old and the new councils – as has become our tradition in recent years.

The main business of the meeting was to appoint the council officers. The vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer, child protection officer, electoral roll officer and members of standing committee were appointed, although the members of standing committee will be reviewed after the election of a second churchwarden. A special church meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 7 June to elect a second warden (see separate notice in this magazine).

Some formal matters were also agreed: the membership of the charitable association and the renewal of our commitment to child protection. Shelagh, our child protection officer, is setting up a small team to review the booklets which we give to all those working with children and young people.

Members of the new council were reminded about the “Council Awayday” which will be held on Saturday 13 June.

This short business meeting was followed by a time of fellowship – as well as drinks, snacks and conversations, council members had the opportunity to learn more about the church and council web pages.

If you would like more information about this meeting, or about any other aspect of council, please contact a council member – the new list is at the back of this magazine.

- *Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)* -

St Ursula's AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held after the morning service on Sunday 26 April. It was attended by 59 electoral roll members, 3 clergy and 1 guest.

The AGM is the annual business meeting of St Ursula's. As usual, this year included the reception of the electoral roll, approval of the minutes of last year's AGM, approval of the accounts for 2008, the auditors' report, presentation of the budget for 2009, appointment of the auditors and the chaplain's report.

In addition, we elected one churchwarden (unfortunately, there was only one nomination) and six council members. During the counting of the votes for the council members, most of us could enjoy some drinks, snacks and conversation.

The AGM minutes, containing the formal record of the meeting, will be available soon for you to collect from the church hall.

If you would like more information about this meeting please contact a council member – the list of the members of the new council can be found at the back of this magazine.

- *Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)* –

Special Church Meeting

There will be a Special Church Meeting on **Sunday 7 June at 12.00** in the church. There is only one item of business: to elect a second churchwarden. This short business meeting will be followed by a short ceremony for the admission of the churchwardens.

All members of the Electoral Roll are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. Only members of the Electoral Roll may vote at the meeting. If you are unsure whether you are a member please look at the list in the church hall. The list for nominations is also on the notice board in the church hall. Please note that anyone nominated, as well as the people proposing and seconding them, must be members of the Electoral Roll. Please obtain the person's consent before proposing them.

- *Tricia Carrick* –

Discussing

Immediately after the Special Meeting on 7 June, there will be a chance to discuss some key aspects of life at St Ursula's. How would you describe St Ursula's to someone looking for a church in Berne? What do you value about our church? What do you appreciate in our worship? If you have children, what do they like about St Ursula's? How can we make the most effective use of our premises, especially at weekends? What else do you feel Council should be attending to?

This is one part in a process of getting to know each other better, and we hope that your thoughts on 7 June will lead to a further study to find out how our ministry can be made more fully effective.

- *Hector Davie* -

Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2009

The annual Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held at St Andrew's Church in Zürich during the weekend of 8/9/10 May. There were about 45 singers from the various Anglican chaplaincies in Switzerland, with 11 singers from St Ursula's Church.

As usual we had a very competent personality as our Festival Music Director: Mark Duley from Ireland (Galway). He is a very gifted church musician, born in New Zealand, and having worked in various parts of the world, became Director of Music and organist at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, and has now a number of prestigious assignments, many of them in Ireland.

Under Mark Duley's very able leadership we sang at the Evensong on Saturday and the Communion Service on Sunday. The music included the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in B flat by C.V. Stanford, Psalm 84 (sung), the anthem *O sing joyfully* by A. Batten, the *Preces and Responses* by R. Ayleward. The Communion Service on Sunday included the setting by Grayston Ives, Psalm 22 (sung), the Anthem *Like as the hart desireth the waterbrook* by H. Howells, and the Motet *O Salutaris Hostia* by E. Elgar.

Elisabeth Long (who had been organist at St Andrew's Church in previous years, but is now living in London) at the organ contributed brilliantly by accompanying the choir and with rousing voluntaries at the end of the services.



Thanks to all who have contributed and participated, this 27th Archdeaconry Choir Festival has once again been a great and uplifting event, both in terms of joint worship and of sung music reflecting the musical traditions in different styles. Special thanks go to all at St Andrew's Church in Zürich who generously hosted the event. Many thanks also go to the singers from St Ursula's Church. They have dedicated quite some time at rehearsals preparing for participation at the Festival and have joined singers from the other Anglican Churches in Switzerland. We much appreciated the presence of Fr. Peter and Shareene Potter during part of our time in Zürich, and the interest they have taken in the Festival. The Choir Festival is one of the few institutional events where members from different Anglican churches of the Archdeaconry traditionally meet for joint worship and for getting to know each other.

- Hans-Karl Pfyffer -

News from Neuchâtel

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.neuchatelchurch.ch

IMPORTANT!!!!!! **14 JUNE 2009 10.30 a.m.**

Our service will be at **All Saints Church, Vevey**, when Emma Packer, a member of our church, will be confirmed by the Bishop. After the service, we shall have a meal together – Mieke will reserve a table(s) for us, so can you let her know by 7 June if you would like to be there. 032 730 5183

We shall meet at 8.50 in the Migros Peseux car-park where we can maybe leave a few cars. Departure at 9am. If you need a lift, please contact Roy.

NO EVENING SERVICE AT CHARMETTES ON THAT DAY

Message from Roy and Mieke

Thank you for all who came to the *Annual General Meeting* in April; I have heard from several people that they thought that this was one of best in recent times. We certainly covered a lot of ground and made some very significant decisions about the life and future of the church. For me it was wonderful that the most animated discussion ranged around how to give away the surplus funds (~1000 Fr) that weren't already committed. What a generous church and long may it continue.

One of the decisions we made was to re-associate ourselves with the *Intercontinental Church Society*, which is one of the mission bodies of the Church of England, through them we shall receive much prayer support and will appear in their *Prayer Diary* each month on the 24th day. We need to devote ourselves to prayer and spreading the good news of the gospel, if the church is to be viable in the future years it must grow and spread out from the base it has at the moment [just look at the powerful growth of the vines at the moment]. We may have to change the times of the services to fit in with the patterns of families or even

change the way we do things, all this needs **much prayer and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**



As I write this, we are preparing for the $\frac{1}{2}$ day away at Cénacle on 17 May, and the results of that 'Time to Think' should inform our discussions over the summer and beyond. As I have said to several members over the past few months 'pray your socks off' or in a more spiritual form 'pray

continually' (1 Thessalonians 15¹⁶⁻¹⁷).

* * * * *

18 members attended the "Time to Think" morning on 17 May enjoying hospitality at the beautiful Cénacle Community house in St Aubin.

Dear John,

Just returned from Le Cénacle, named after the upper room in Jerusalem where you all waited for the enabling of the Spirit. The letter to the angel at Neuchâtel seems to have gone missing from your Revelation, so we prayed for the Spirit's guidance that we might see our strengths, weaknesses, threats and possibilities as He would see them. We were commended for our ecumenism, our stickability in hanging in over the past, and reminded that our prayers have been answered by Roy and Mieke becoming resident in the area. However..... we need to act NOW to adapt to the needs and expectations of those who have yet to join us. Our means are small but our vision is enormous. So we must take seriously the promise of our Lord "I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no-one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name." Rev. 3 v. 8 May the Lord bless the little strengths that each of us have to offer, and may we offer them willingly, that the light of His truth may burn ever brighter among the English-speaking community in Neuchâtel.



There will no doubt be official reports of the day and positive action should start soon, but I thought you'd be glad to hear about the general mood of the morning, embellished by the glorious sunshine and the peaceful welcome of the sisters who shared in our short time of worship and communion before lunch. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all God's people.
– Rosemarie

Uganda: Water for Everyone

- 900 million people worldwide do not have access to clean water
- 2.5 billion people worldwide do not have sanitary facilities

A scandal we should be ashamed of!

How can we help through TearFund?

Rev. Reuben Mbaguta, the leader of the TearFund Partner organisation in Uganda, will explain how, through putting God's work into practice in the water and sanitation project, people are able to get out of the poverty trap and experience a total change in their lives.

You and your friends are all cordially invited to a short presentation.

When: 14 June 2009 after the 10.00 service.

Where: St Ursula's Church Hall

There will be a "Bring and Share" lunch after the presentation, when there will be an opportunity to share fellowship and to interact with Rev. Reuben Mbaguta and a TearFund representative. Children are particularly welcome.

Please note 14 June 2009 in your diaries now!

We look forward to seeing you all.

The Charity and Missions Team



Crossword answers
Across 1 Care 3 Paradise 8 Null 9 Profaned 11 Legalistic 14 Closed
15 Stores 17 Missionary 20 Covenant 21 Thai 22 Trade-off 23 Eden
Down 1 Conflict 2 Religion 4 Arrest 5 Affliction 6 Iona 7 Eddy
10 Allegiance 12 Preached 13 Assyrian 16 A son of 18 Scot 19 DVLA

Charity of the Month – Partners

If you look at the list of charities we support (on our website, for example), you will see that some are specific projects, some are more general. We divide our giving in this way to try to meet as many needs as possible. Individual contacts give us feedback, encouragement and help to inform our prayers. The more general charities, USPG, CMS, TearFund and Partners, are more impersonal, but have the experience and the resources to make sure that the money we give is spent wisely, and where the need is greatest. Partners (in German PartnerSein, in French Être Partenaires) is the charitable arm of our sister church in Switzerland, the Old Catholics. For the last forty years, together with HEKS (the Evangelical Church's charitable foundation) and Caritas (the Roman Catholics'), they have worked together in a Lenten appeal and in working to alleviate poverty, injustice and ignorance worldwide.

Their particular theme for 2009 is “A Healthy Climate to Guarantee Daily Bread”. The Bishop of São Félix in Brazil had recalled the saying: “It is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish to eat.” But then he had gone on: “What if someone has bought the river and prohibits fishing? Or if poisonous waste has polluted the river?” Charity and action are interlinked. Because of their history, the Old Catholic churches have played only a small part in mission and relief work outside Europe. So they have devoted many of their energies to helping their Anglican partners, especially in such areas as the Congo or the Philippines where the Anglican mission agencies are under-represented.

The charity's name shows its aims – to stand beside people in need and help, in partnership with them. As a result, much of its work is centred on small projects which are part of a not-so-small need. Among them is the women's refuge in Hong Kong, working among domestic workers from other countries in south-east Asia who have been thrown out or maltreated. Then there is the Nadjeshda-ümüt (“Hope”) kindergarten for handicapped children in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. There is the Anglican infirmary on the island of Idjwi, on the border between Congo and Rwanda, working with cholera victims in a zone of conflict. And also in Congo, there are microcredits for women in Bukavu, bursaries for theological training and for students of economics and biomedicine, and the continuing project “Une vache pour une famille.”

Partners is also involved in projects closer to home. They are helping with theological exchanges and parish centres at Dlugi Kat in Poland, at Sumperk and Pehrimov in the Czech Republic, with youth work in Bosnia. This year's main project in this field is a people's kitchen at Bacau in Romania, where the charity seeks to provide poor people with a roof over their heads and a warm meal every day.

Partners has been especially active in the Philippines, where it has forged links over more than a century with the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, another of our sister churches. Exciting projects are under way to provide motorcycles to enable the clergy to visit effectively, for scholarships to enable women to receive theological education, and for a studio to provide CDs and other audio media for training both lay people and clergy. The church there is working to fund apprenticeships in repairing electrical goods for people in the cities, and in reforestation for people in the countryside.

On Trinity Sunday, 7 June, the Anglican congregations in Switzerland join the Old Catholics in giving to a particular project. This year it is a kindergarten at Union, a fishing village in the municipality of Ubay on the island of Bohol. There are more children than adults living here. They have access to state schooling only if they can read and write. Constructing a pre-school next to the church will enable families to stay in the village and help to counter the exodus from countryside to town. Please remember them and give generously.

Please pray:

- for the leadership of Partners, that they bring the Anglican and Old Catholic churches in Switzerland together in an effective response to the world's hunger for good food, for good health, good education, and the Good News.
- for the churches in eastern Europe, as they struggle after years of neglect to build resources for social and youth work.
- for work at the new kindergarten in Union village in the Philippines, that it may bring a greater quality of life to the village.
- for the needs of the church in Congo, Angola, Rwanda, Sudan, and all those countries where it is hampered by a lack of resources for training, for worship or for pastoral work.

- *Hector Davie* -



Pfr Christoph Schuler from Berne on a visit to Ubay in July 2008:

FAQ: When you are a priest, who is your employer?

I am always tempted to put "God" when this question appears on a form. It wouldn't be far wrong, either. The work of the clergy is so varied from one day to the next that we do not work to a job description or contract. But in deciding what to do and when I am always conscious that God is the one to whom I am accountable.

It is true that my stipend comes from the money you put in the plate on Sundays and that also creates a sense of responsibility. But a priest's duty to God (expressed in his ordination vows and the promises made when he is installed in his parish) always comes first. The way we Anglicans understand the Church is expressed in part by the fact a new chaplain (vicar etc) is appointed and installed by the Bishop or his representative, not the local church leaders. The priest then ministers in that parish by virtue of the Bishop's licence.

In fact, the relationship between a priest and the congregation is more like that of a marriage or a family than that of employer and employee. The speaker at a conference I attended last month said that clergy are called to be "Mum and Dad" to their congregations. (He is an Irish Presbyterian, so I am not just expressing an Anglican viewpoint here.) Your children do not employ you to look after them and similarly I do not pay Shareene to cook my meals and iron my shirts.

Mum and Dad do feed and clothe their children but not because they are under contract to do so. Such a contract would in fact undermine the basis of their relationship. Parents' primary rôle is to nurture their children and promote their healthy growth. At times this means that parents will say "No". Children are, of course, skilful in pester-power but any child-guidance expert will tell you that giving in to their demands can do more harm than good. To say "Yes" might make for a quiet life for a while but there are times when we have to say "Dad (or Mum) knows best!" A wise parent learns how to channel these demands and expectations in more healthy directions.

Dr Trevor Morrow (our speaker) put this into a church context by saying that being Mum and Dad to their congregations means that clergy have to be imitators of God. We are called by him to speak his word and to be servants of his truth, and to apply that truth in hard places sometimes.

This is a rather long way of saying that nobody really employs the clergy. They are put in place to serve the God by being Mum and Dad to a diverse collection of people. Like parents, their joy is not so much to be able to please their children but to boast about them.

- Peter Potter -

A Word for the Month - Authority

We live in an age where obedience to authority is no longer taken for granted. This is one of the lessons which past experience has taught us, and one which is very much a live issue today. An army can hardly function without discipline. But suppose a soldier is commanded to commit a breach of the conventions of war? The choice between obeying orders and being shot for desertion is an agonizing one, and “obeying orders” is no defence to a charge of genocide or atrocity. Authority is a word with a wide range of meanings. There is a big difference between what is “authoritative” and what is “authoritarian”. The former settles a dispute, the latter must be obeyed. The Greek word used in the New Testament, *exousia*, has a similar span of meanings (similar to the English words “may”, “make” and “might”, which stem from a single root). In German, Luther chose two words, *Herrschaft* and *Gewalt*, to translate *exousia*.

Luther's words suggest domination and violence, and the possibility of exercising authority in an evil way is in the Devil's mind when offering Jesus authority “over all the kingdoms of the world”. But for Jesus this is not what authority is about. “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ... just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28) This is the nature of Jesus' authority, and he has it already: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:18) This aspect of authority is not authority in the sense of government. It is not authority over *someone*, but authority over *something*. The two are connected, as the centurion in Matthew 8 notes when he sees Jesus as having the same kind of authority as himself: “I say 'Go' and he goes.” And for the epistle writers, all governments derive their authority from Christ (Colossians 1:16, 2:10). “The powers that be”, “those authorities that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1).

Jesus' authority is the authority to cast out evil spirits (Mark 1:27), the authority to heal (Matthew 9:8), to forgive sins. It is authority “over all flesh” (John 17:2) (meaning human nature, rather than individual people), “to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.” It is an authority that comes from the Father, directly from who Jesus is, to the wonder and consternation of the Jewish authorities, who see their own authority challenged. It is an authority that Jesus passes on to his apostles when he commissions them to teach and baptize in his name (Matthew 28:19), an authority “for building you up, and not for tearing you down” (2 Cor 10:8). People who came into contact with Jesus recognized this authority. Even when Jesus apparently rejected the authority of the Bible, as in the Sermon of the Mount, “the crowds were

astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.”

There is a problem here. For Jesus' authority came from his ministry – who he was, a servant for all. Yet at the same time Jesus is our master – one who is over all. When he committed his authority to his apostles, they too acquired a dual role, to teach and to serve. In the past, this has created tensions between the church's *magisterium*, its teaching role, and its *ministerium*, its serving role. But only when the two are combined can Christ's work be done. For teaching comes not just by word but by example, and it is in serving that we show what God is like.

- Hector Davie -

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY – 4-6 September, 2009



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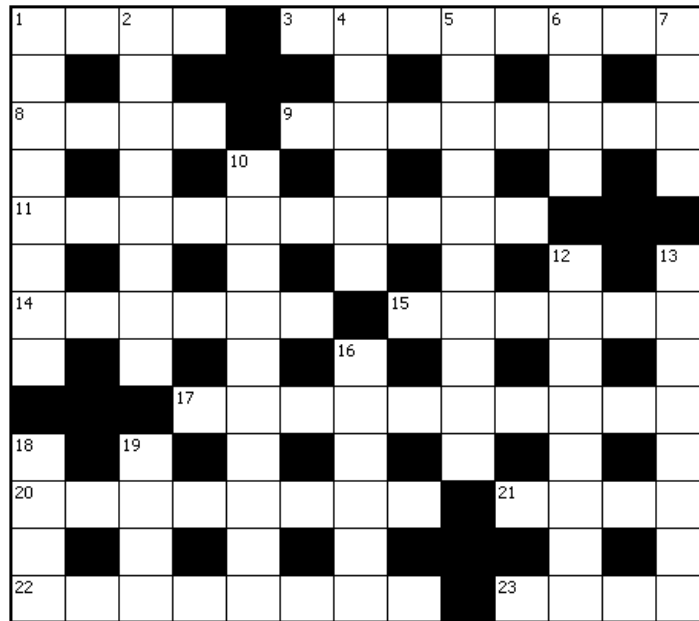
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More information can be found in the May magazine or contact Esther Hutchison (031 351 73 47) or Jennifer Hockley (031 832 10 62).



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Answers on page 18



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The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The Lord cursed the snake.. who from that day forward will crawl on his belly and eat dust.. because of Satan. **Genesis 3:14**

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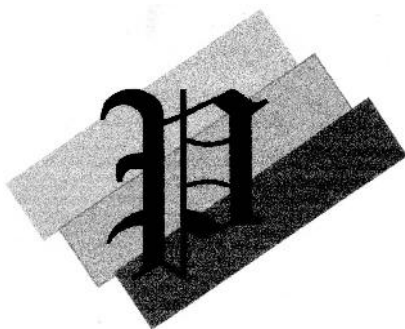
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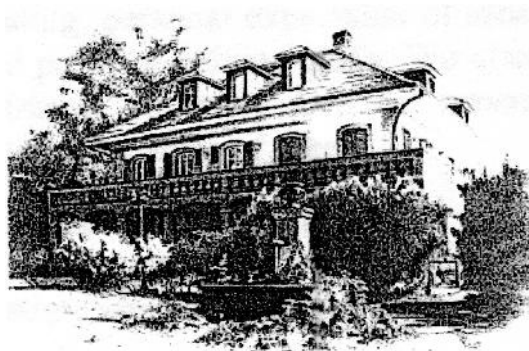
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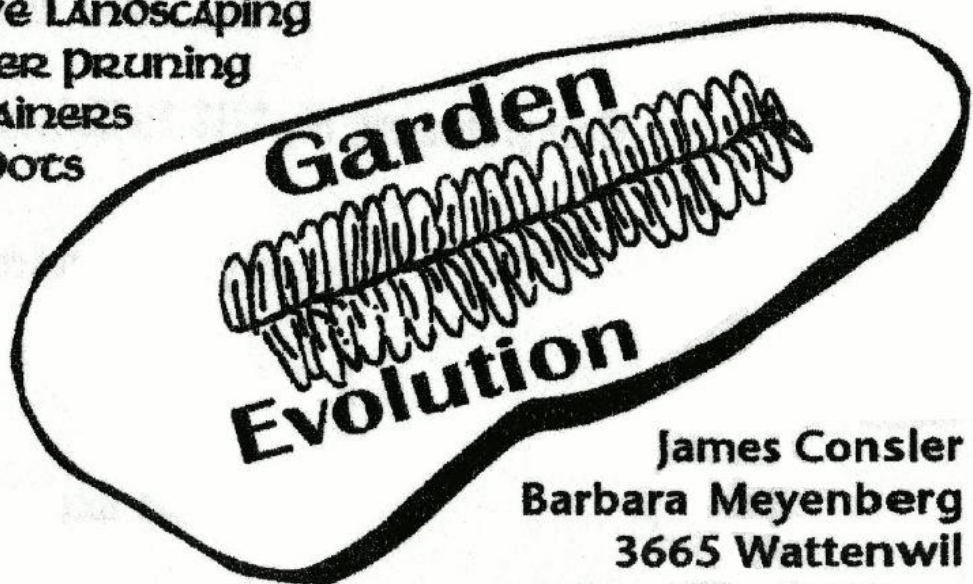
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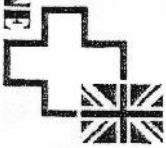
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New members are always welcome. Our website hosted by the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs is: www.angloswissclubs.ch

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Father We Thank Thee

(sometimes attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882))

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
Father, we thank thee.

For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,
Father, we thank thee.

For the song of bird and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky,
Father, we thank thee.

For pleasant shade of branches high,
Father, we thank thee.

For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank thee.

For this new morning with its light,
Father, we thank thee.

For rest and shelter of the night,
Father, we thank thee

For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank thee.