

NEWSLETTER

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JULY/AUGUST 09

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Message from our Chaplain

We tend to think of America as more religious than the nations on this side of the Atlantic. Recently, however, there have been reports* about a steep decline in church-going in the USA. One writer (Michael Spencer) goes so far as to speak of the "coming evangelical collapse". Commentators suggest various reasons. One is that certain sorts of Christianity had become associated with the policies of the Bush era, now out of favour. Another is that some churches have become narrowly focussed on certain moral issues, like abortion or gay marriage, "believing in a cause more than a faith".

According to Christian Smith and Melinda Denton, who have conducted polls on this topic, the main problem is the picture of God that is being presented: "Basically, God exists and watches over human life. God wants people to be nice. God does not have to be involved in our lives except to solve our problems and make us happy". In other words, churches are thought to exist to promote a feel-good factor - "chicken soup for the soul" as a recent book calls it. Link these ideas with two of today's ideologies – consumerism and individualism – and the result is devastating. Consumerism holds that shops, governments, churches exist to serve ME and if I can't get what I want in one place I will go elsewhere. If worship doesn't make me feel good perhaps I could join a gym or take up yoga. As Smith and Denton say, this attitude "is killing off the 'historically key ideas in Christianity: repentance, love of neighbor, social justice, unmerited grace, self-discipline, humility, the cost of discipleship, dying to self, the sovereignty of God, personal holiness, the struggles of sanctification, glorifying God in suffering, hunger for righteousness'."

In religious terms, individualism implies that our relationship with Jesus is purely personal, and that prayer and Bible study can equally well be done on our own. In truth, however, "there is no such thing as a lone Christian". We are a "where two or three are gathered together" faith and there is no substitute for the corporate life of the Church. Even when worship does not do it for us one Sunday, it is still important to be there – for the sake of others as well as for our own sake.

Europe is not America, of course, but all the same we should take note of what is happening over there. The American style, content and methods are often proclaimed as the way to revive the Church in Europe. If these reports are true, we should hesitate about adopting fashions that are already going out of date.

Peter

*Michael Spencer's blog can be found at *InternetMonk.com*

For figures on church attendance in the USA

http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2009-03-09-american-religion-ARIS_N.htm

Calendar of Services for July/August 2009



July 5

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Eucharist

Ezekiel 2: 1 – 5

2 Corinthians 12: 2 – 10

Mark 6: 1 – 13

July 12

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Holy Communion (said)

10.00 Informal Eucharist

Amos 7: 7 – 15

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14

Mark 6: 14 – 29

July 19

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6

Ephesians 2: 11 – end

Mark 6: 30 – 34, 53 – end

July 26

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Holy Communion (said)

10.00 Eucharist

2 Kings 4: 42 – end

Ephesians 3: 14 – end

John 6: 1 – 21

Aug. 2

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Eucharist

Exodus 16: 2 – 4, 9 – 15

Ephesians 4: 1 – 16

John 6: 24 – 35

Aug. 9 **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
 8.30 Holy Communion (said)
 10.00 Informal Eucharist
 1 Kings 19: 4 – 8
 Ephesians 4: 25 – 5: 2
 John 6: 35, 41 – 51

Aug. 16 **Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
 10.00 Eucharist
 Proverbs 9: 1 – 6
 Ephesians 5:15 – 20
 John 6: 51 – 58

Aug. 20 **19.30 Thun Eucharist**

Aug. 23 **Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**
 8.30 Holy Communion (said)
 10.00 Eucharist with Holy Baptism
 Joshua 24:1– 2a, 14 – 18
 Ephesians 6: 10 – 20
 John 6: 56 – 69

Aug. 30 **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
 **10.00 Eucharist with Prayers of Dedication
 for Council Members and Others**
 Deuteronomy 4: 1, 2, 6 – 9
 James 1: 17 – end
 Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14, 15, 21 – 23

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

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Neuchâtel Services

12 July – 17.00 26 July – 17.00 9 August – 17.00

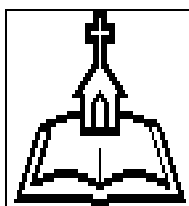
30 August – Annual Picnic (see separate notice)

Rotas for July/August 2009

READERS

JULY

- 5 H Gusset+A Funkhouser
- 12 I Jordan+J Wong
- 19 P Jayaraj+W Astor
- 26 Y Chittazhathu+B Morgan



AUGUST

- 2 C Hodler+J Davie
- 9 A Funkhouser+A Masciadri
- 16 B Winfield+S Higson
- 23 J Wong+B Täuber
- 30 A Thomas+J Wenger

INTERCESSIONS

JULY

- 5 D Low
- 12 S Higson
- 19 A Thomas
- 26 B Morgan



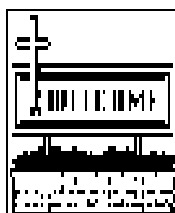
AUGUST

- 2 E Hutchison
- 9 H Davie
- 16 I Jordan
- 23 M Täuber
- 30 S Faillettaz

SIDESPERSONS

JULY

- 5 B Winfield
- 12 B Morgan
- 19 P Perrett
- 26 S Klein



AUGUST

- 2 W Astor
- 9 S Faillettaz
- 16 Y Chittazhathu
- 23 M Täuber
- 30 A Thomas

COFFEE & TEA

JULY

- 5 Köniz Group
- 12 M & S Brawand
- 19 A & E Funkhouser
- 26 L Stewardson & M Mead



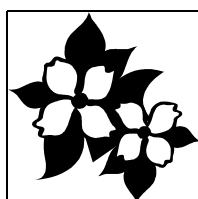
AUGUST

- 2 Köniz Group
- 9 M Mead & J Wong
- 16 S Faillettaz & A Carrick
- 23 R Fenner & J Wehrli
- 30 H & A Kamarys

FLOWERS

JULY

- 5 C Hodler
- 12 Y Bomonti
- 19 J Josi
- 26 Y Chittazhathu



AUGUST

- 2 E Eigner
- 9 J Josi
- 16 M Wittwer
- 23 R Schelker
- 30 Y Bomonti

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.

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SERVER

JULY

5 A Funkhouser
12 L Robb
19 J Hutchison
26 A Thomas



AUGUST

2 L Robb
9 J Hutchison
16 D Goepfert
23 M Wildhaber
30 A Funkhouser

=====

CHALICE ASSISTANTS

JULY

5 E Hutchison + H Davie
12 D Goepfert+K Chittazhatr
19 A Funkhouser
+R Freiburghaus
26 B Morgan+E Hutchison



AUGUST

2 D Low+R Freiburghaus
9 K Chittazhathu + J Wenger
16 P Perrett + R Freiburghaus
23 D Low + J Wenger
30 E Hutchison + H Davie

=====

COUNCIL DUTY OFFICER

JULY

5 B Morgan
12 E Hutchison
19 T Carrick
26 J Eze

AUGUST

2 T Read
9 A Masciadri
16 M Wildhaber
23 T Carrick
30 J Wenger

=====

AUDIO

JULY

5 P Perrett
12 D Sovilla
19 A Tomczak
26 HELP

AUGUST

2 HELP
9 E Wildhaber
16 H Wenger
23 Hj Gusset
30 A Tomczak

=====

BEAMER

JULY

5 H Davie
12 HELP
19 T Carrick
26 HELP

AUGUST

2 H Davie
9 T Carrick
16 E Wildhaber
23 M Wildhaber
30 E Wildhaber

Children

“Those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are diligent to discipline them.” Thus the New Revised Standard Version renders Proverbs 13:24, a reminder that not all the wisdom of that book can be applied today – at least literally! For Jesus taught that true relationships are built on love, not on sanctions – the days of “eye for eye, tooth for tooth” are over. A parent's rôle is one of leadership, of setting out goals, “bringing children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

The Bible is full of children. There are the grown-up kind, like the Prodigal Son, who goes and squanders his inheritance in the hippy discos of “a distant country” (Luke 15:13). There are the kind who taunted Elisha: “Go away, bald head!” (2 Kings 2:23 – they got mauled by a bear for their naughtiness). There are the kind that Jesus presented to his disciples as an example of those who are greatest in the kingdom of heaven: “Do not despise one of these little ones, for, I tell you, in heaven their angels constantly see the face of my Father in heaven.”

We are (I hope!) not so irresponsible as the Prodigal Son, not so rude as Elisha's tormentors, and, alas, not so meek as the child Jesus showed the disciples, but we are all children – children of God. Some of the people who went out to John the Baptist prided themselves that they had Abraham for their father. But the Christian message is that of the Lord's Prayer: it is God who is our father.

Of course God is father of all (Eph.4:6). But as Christians, we have a deeper relationship with God. As Paul reminds the Romans, when we are born again through God's Spirit, we do not “receive a spirit of slavery, but ... a spirit of adoption. When we cry 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” (Romans 8:15-17)

God's family, like any human family, is never static. Each generation brings new insights, and also new problems. Young people today do not dance the minuet, do not bowl hoops, do not sweep chimneys. What would a young person from 300 years ago make of a modern heavy metal band, a televised cup final or a session on Twitter or Facebook? Parents, teachers, preachers all seek to hand the values of their generation on to the next. But clearly their children are not clones – they have ideas and values of their own. Which values are our core values, and which are the ones which we need to adapt to new times and new ideas?

Just as parents pass things on to their children, so children inherit things from earlier generations. But grandfather's half-plate camera or

grandmother's treadle sewing machine are of little use in 2009 – they belong in a museum. What parts of our Christian heritage are of little use? We no longer listen to two-hour sermons, we no longer insist that women wear hats in church, we no longer treat divorced people as outcasts – what next? How can we distinguish between the baby and the bathwater, between what is valuable and what is “a tradition of the elders” (Matthew 15:1-9)?

What we inherit from God, though, is nothing so transient. Jesus promised that anyone who has joined his family, who “has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.” (Matthew 19:29) And this eternal life is “knowing you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (John 17:3) Not knowing *about* God, but knowing God, as children know their parents. For God is a parent whom we can love and trust. “Beloved,” says 1 John 3:2, “we are God's children now: what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we shall be like him, for we will see him as he is.” That indeed is something for a child to look forward to!

- Hector Davie -

A Rule of Life

I don't know where this comes from originally but it has been appearing every month recently in the magazine of St Anne's, Sale, where I was once Vicar. It is a very concise guide to the duties of a Christian and I commend it to you.

Rule of life

for members of the Christian Community who gather around the Lord's Table

I commit myself to live this year as a disciple of Jesus Christ guided by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father;

I promise to

- pray every day
- read the Bible regularly
- attend the Eucharist faithfully
- commend the Christian faith, fashioning my life according to the example of Christ
- give as generously as God has given to me.

PMP

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

July

5 Rebecca Eze & Blanca Piper
12 Summer Vacation
19 Summer Vacation
26 Summer Vacation

August

2 Summer Vacation
9 Jana Kutesko & Astrid Tomczak
16 Allison Masciadri & Cecily Klingler
23 Sue Faillettaz & Sara Hutchison
30 Yvonne Bomonti & Isabel Jordan

Laughlines

Have you ever thought how much teenagers have in common with cats?

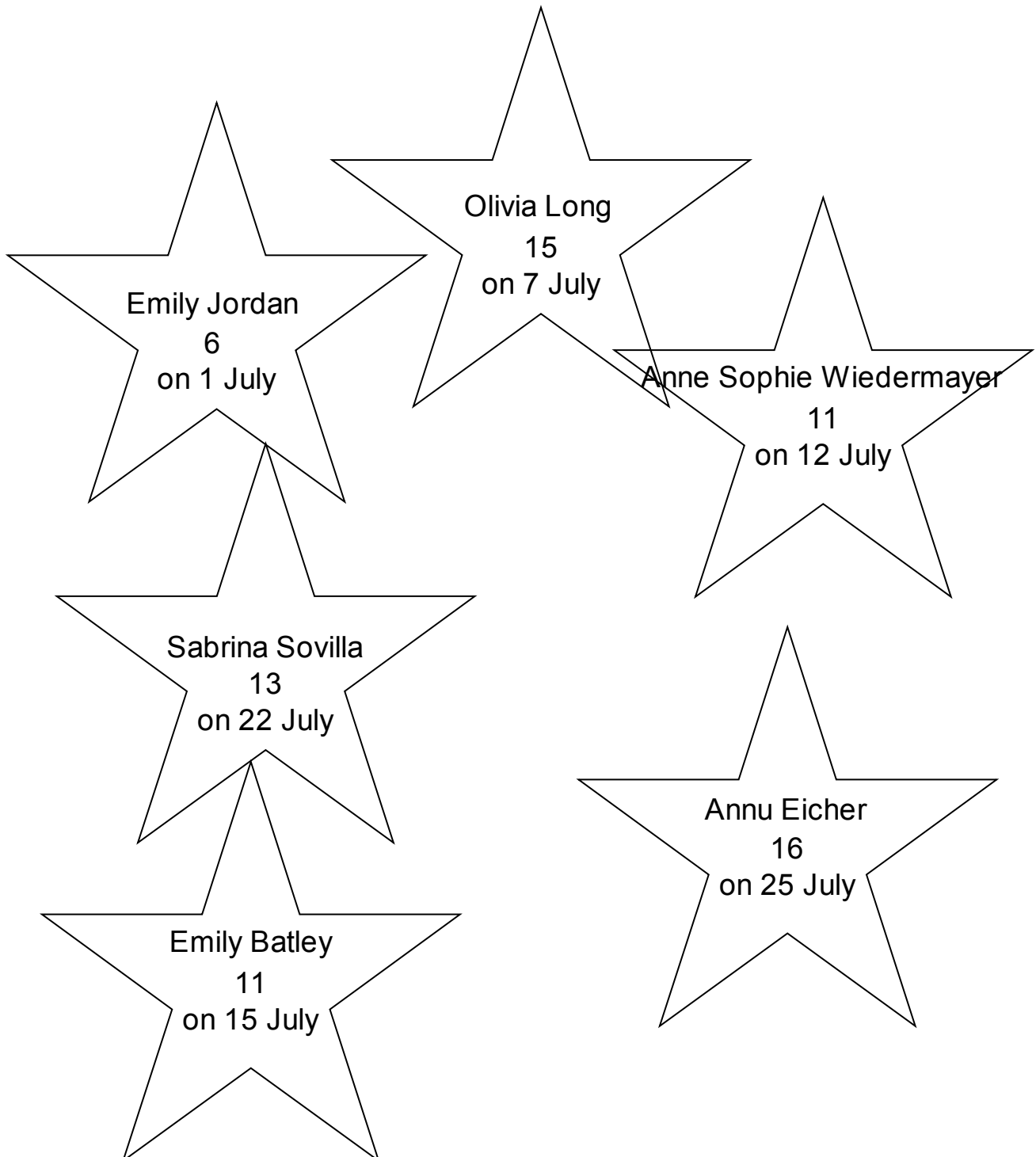
- Cats and teenagers can lie on the living-room sofa for hours on end without moving, barely breathing.

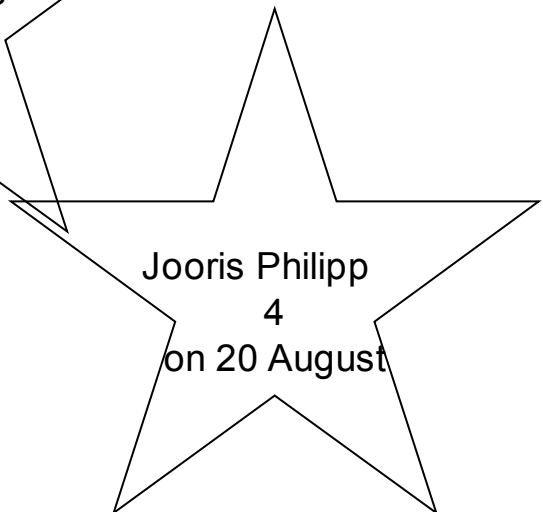
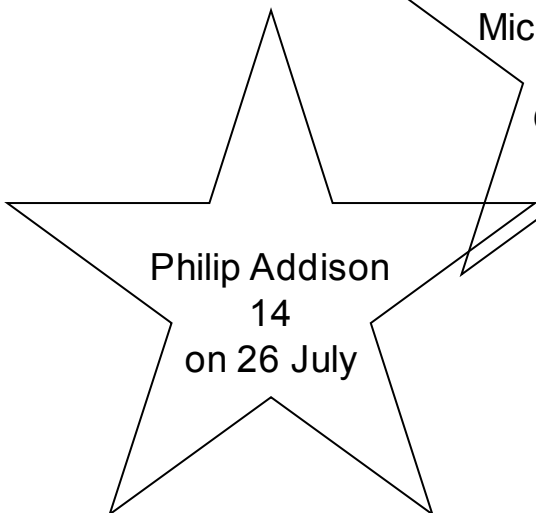
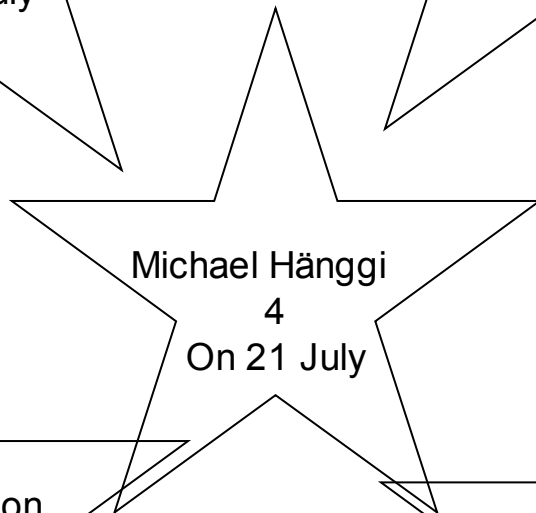
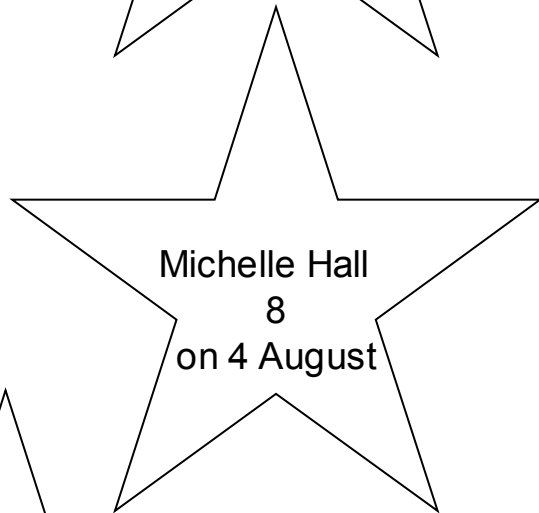
-Both cats and teenagers eat some very odd things – at very odd hours.

-Cats are obsessed with themselves and their appearance. Teenagers....!

-Neither teenagers nor cats turn their heads when you call them by name.

**Congratulations
to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays
in July and August**





For Your Diary

July and August 2009

Regular weekly events

Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
	19.00-21.00	Youth Group (<i>not 10 July – 7 August</i>)

Other events

Sunday 5 July	10.00	Youth Class
Tuesday 7 July	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 16 August	COPY DATE	
Sunday 23 August	Confirmation Class : Lunch & Information Meeting	
Thursday 27 August	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating
Friday 28 August	12.00 - 16.00	Book Sale Set up
Saturday 29 August	10.00 - 14.00	Book & Food Sale
30 August	"Waldgottesdienst" with the Old Catholics	

Future Dates

4-6 September	Church Weekend Away in Aeschi
11-12 September	SACEP Training weekend – see separate article
6 November	Raclette evening with the Old Catholics
27-28 November	Christmas Bazaar
17 December	Heiliggeist Carol Service

COPY DATE !!!

for the September issue is 16 August

COLLATING DATE

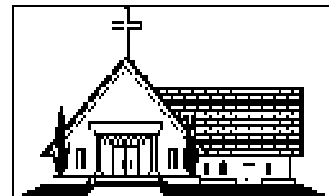
27 August 2009

Odds & Ends

English Church Services and Housegroup in Thun

The Thun church group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us!

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



Please Note There will be no services in the summer. We shall begin again on 20 August with the 19.30 Eucharist service with bible study.

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.

* * * * *

Laughlines

Father-in-law: Are you saving any money?

Young man: “Sure. It’s easy: we have a budget. And by the time we balance it every weekend, all the places where we could spend money have closed.”

Policeman: “How did you knock the old man down?”

Motorist: “I didn’t. I just pulled up to let him go across – and he fainted.”

New Confirmation Class

A new class for confirmation preparation for young people will start after the summer holidays. As Christians, we are all on a journey and we would like to invite young people (aged 14 upwards) to meet with us and with one another to travel a few steps together, learning more about God and aspects of the Christian faith on the way.

The class will run for about 10 months, with an opportunity for confirmation in the second half of June 2010. The meetings will be held on a mixture of Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, approximately twice a month. There will also be a weekend event.

To allow interested young people and their parents to find out more, there will be a meeting – with lunch – on Sunday 23 August. As this confirmation class will be structured differently from the previous ones, we will explain how it will work and there will be plenty of time for questions. If you would like to attend this meeting, or if you would like to know more about the class, please contact the chaplain or Tricia Carrick.

This new venture needs the prayer and support of the whole church family. Please pray for all those involved in starting this new group: the young people, their families and the leaders.

Confirmation for Adults: There will be an opportunity for adults to be confirmed at St Ursula's in the summer next year. If you are interested please contact the chaplain, who will arrange appropriate preparation with you.

- Tricia Carrick -

God is still green

At this year's Diocesan Synod in June, Brian Morgan gave an important presentation on the environment, including a call to observe Creationtide. We did this last September and shall be doing so again (details in the September magazine and notice sheets).

Pieter Perrett, our Environmental Officer, has done great work in pioneering environmental awareness in at St Ursula's. Because of pressure of time, he would like to pass this role on to someone else. If this sounds like you, please speak to Pieter to find out more and then get in touch with the Chaplain or Tricia Carrick, the Council Secretary. We will be very pleased to hear from you.

Thank you, Pieter, for all you have done to help us focus on this issue that affects all our lives.

PMP

Council Meeting Report

The latest council meeting was held on Tuesday 2 June.

The main topic of discussion centred around the pattern of services. The trial period, agreed last September of having Eucharist as the main (10.00) service every Sunday, has come to an end. This pattern is now adopted – with variations in style. More information should be in this magazine.

Feedback from members of the congregation on various aspects of our church life is important and council considered how to get this. There will be a discussion meeting after the Special Church Meeting on 7 June to elect a second churchwarden (separate report in this magazine). This will be followed by a questionnaire, aiming to gather input from more people.

The treasurer reported that pledged giving is lower than in previous years, perhaps because newcomers do not know about the pledge scheme. If you do not know about the financial status of the church and how you can help, please contact the treasurer or a member of council.

Council planned to hold an “Awayday” on Saturday 13 June. You should find a separate report in this magazine.

The main focus of the building committee, at the moment, is the upkeep of the grounds. Some work parties will be organised. If you can help please contact Edi Wildhaber or a member of council.

- *Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)* -

Not Angels But Anglicans – Council Looks at our Identity

A new venture for the Council was an Awayday, held in Solothurn on 13 June. Fellowship was one of the aims of the day and this began on the train before the meeting started. The day was also a time to pray and worship together, so it included the Eucharist and finished with Evening Prayer.

It was an opportunity for training and reflection, particularly on the nature of the Church and what it means to be an Anglican in Europe in 2009. After a brief look at the history of the Anglican Communion and an overview of how the Church is governed from Hector Davie, we went on to look at what were the special features of the chaplaincies in Europe and came up with such things as

- people come and go
- less sense of inherited tradition
- church as a home from home and a “substitute family”

- different denominations
- English language
- we are a guest church

This last point led into further discussion about what it is like to be a long-term resident in a foreign country. We realised that people could integrate but would always be “different”. We wondered whether our experience of adjusting to a new country could help us see how to support those non-Anglicans who make their home at St Ursula's.

We then turned to the nature of the Church. She is called to show the holiness of Jesus in the lives of her members. Some examples of this were

- our attitude towards others and respect for them
- caring for others (inside and beyond the fellowship)
- reliance on God
- a desire to worship

We noted that the Church is therefore founded by Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit but consists of fallible human beings.

Hector challenged us to state what the Church is for, what it needs to carry out these tasks and how much it costs to do these things. (The answer to the last question, by the way, is CHF 797.92 per day).

A feature of Anglican identity is the “middle way”, between Rome and Geneva. Anglicans also hold that God reveals himself to us in Scripture, tradition and reason, and that these three need to be kept in balance. This implies a relationship that evolves over time. Change, of course, can be disturbing. We can be frightened of letting go of what is familiar and comfortable because we may be afraid of losing our identity.

Finally, we drew these thoughts together as each one charted what they thought was the bedrock of our Church, what nourished our roots and what was the topsoil where growth could take place.

The atmosphere was good and supportive, drawing Council together. There were plenty of questions to take away and think more about. We concluded that we should widen this out, perhaps with a series of teaching and exploration for all the congregation. Watch this space....

PMP

United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

The role of USPG, Anglicans in World Mission, is to help Anglican Churches around the World to play their part in what God is doing.

Indeed, you may know that the USPG helped to support St Ursula's church from its early days over 100 years ago.

USPG has a vast network; it works in direct partnership with Anglican churches in over 50 countries around the world. Helping to support vital work like healthcare, education and church growth.

USPG is helping the Anglican Church to reach out with God's love. But how does USPG manage to be effective with its aid? Pieter called Stephanie Mooney, the Link Office for Africa and Asia based in the USPG London office and put the question to her:

"We are able to offer effective aid through our church network which operates at grass root level. These churches are then able to provide the services that are most needed in their local communities."

St Ursula's supports USPG's general fund which helps the church to support key projects in poor and marginalised communities. Stephanie went on to name a number of current USPG projects which are also supported by St Ursula's.

USPG cares for Young Lives

Half of the world's 2.2 billion children are living in poverty; one in three is without adequate shelter; and 121 million are out of education (UNICEF). USPG is supporting Anglican Churches as they reach out to children and young people through schools, education, healthcare and skills training.

USPG helps the Youth of Belize

The youth of Belize face many challenges that threaten their development including unemployment, violence, crime, drugs and HIV/AIDS.

With the support of USPG, the Diocese of Belize is working to teach Christian values to young people and nurture them in the hope that they will become role models and future leaders in the country. Youth groups are being established in Anglican churches. Leadership training is also being offered to young people. The groups encourage young people to work as a team and reach out to their communities. This Project is equipping volunteers with the skills to be bridge builders as they seek to nurture and guide young people in Belize today.

USPG supporting Healthcare in Malawi

A quarter of Malawi's population survive on just one meagre meal a day. Another hardship is the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, which is decimating the

working population. Faced with these difficulties, the Anglican Church is reaching out through the provision of vital healthcare in Malawi.

USPG supports two hospitals, a network of health centres covering 12,000 square miles, and a home-based care programme. St Luke's, in Malosa, is the oldest of the two diocesan hospitals. It started life in the 1940s as a medical centre for missionaries. Since then it has been rebuilt and opened to the general population.



Mr Sam Honde, a Clinical Officer at St Luke's, Malosa, Malawi

The hospital also runs a successful school of nursing, which is currently producing some of the best exam results in the country, with approximately 30 students qualifying each year. St Martin's, the diocese's other hospital, is based in Malindi, on the eastern shore of Lake Malawi. And between the two hospitals there are eight health centres, which are like mini-hospitals with inpatient facilities.

Mission is an expression of God's Love in the World

Finally, mission is not static; it is alive – because it is the active expression of God's love in the world. USPG's vision is to be at the centre of God's dynamic love, working in direct partnership with Anglicans in over 50 countries, helping to change lives for the glory of God.

Please Pray for USPG in July

Please pray:

- that religious minorities might be able to worship in peace and play a full part in civic and national affairs.
- for the advancement of inter faith dialogue and mutual respect.
- for the church's ministry to children and young people
- for the South Asia Youth Network.
- for women's fellowships and Christian efforts to uplift women.

Three Centuries of Mission

Founded in 1701, USPG is the oldest Anglican mission aid agency.

For more information on the USPG, please look at the Charity and Missions notice board in the Church hall in July or refer to the website:

<http://www.uspg.org.uk/>

The book called 'Three Centuries of Mission', commissioned to mark the tercentenary in 2001, provides an official history of the USPG.

- Charity and Mission Team -

Tearfund Presentation: Water is Life, Christ is Everlasting Life

On Sunday 14 June 2009, we were glad to welcome the Rev. Reuben Mbaguta, the leader of the TearFund Partner organisation in Uganda, and Christa Bauer from Tearfund Switzerland who gave a fascinating presentation about Tearfund's water and sanitation projects in the diocese of Kigezi, Uganda.



Reuben explained how, by 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. Christa reported on how we, as individuals and as a church, can help projects.

After an informative first-hand account of the Kigezi project, 45 people from St Ursula's Church and some from the Old Catholic Church, shared in a fellowship 'bring and share' lunch and had the possibility to interact with the visitors.

Thanks to the many helpers who helped with the preparation of the lunch.

We collected Sfr 600 for Tearfund to help with the Ugandan project.

Thank you for your support and donations.

For more information see the Tearfund website (in German):

www.tearfund.ch

Laughlines

Grandfather noticed his five-year-old granddaughter out in the garden brushing the family dog's teeth. When he asked her what in the world she was doing, she replied quickly: "I'm brushing Sooty's teeth. But don't worry, grandpa – I'll put your toothbrush back, like I always have."

Auctioneer: "Now what am I offered for this beautiful bust of Robert Browning?"

Man in crowd: "That isn't Browning – that's Shakespeare!"

Auctioneer: "Sorry – just goes to show how much I know about the Bible."

A Special Church Meeting

was held on Sunday 7 June to elect a second churchwarden. As there was only one nomination, Maxine Wildhaber was declared duly elected. This decision was greeted with applause.

The meeting was followed by a short time of discussion on various aspects of life at St Ursula's – see separate report.

- Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary) –



Book and Food Sales



We had a very successful Book and Food sale in June raising over 4500Fr for St Ursula's. A big thank you to all who helped with and supported this event.

Our next sale will be on Saturday 29 August from 10.00 – 14.00. This is just before the next magazine will be distributed, which is why there is a flyer with this magazine. We'd really appreciate it, if you could advertise this event to any friends as well as posting the flyer in an appropriate place. If you'd like more flyers, please contact the church office on 031 352 8567.

Any good quality paper backs in English will be gladly accepted in the week before the sale.

As we now hold these sales 4 times a year and as they get more and more popular, stocking the Food Stall is increasingly difficult – so if you can bring anything back from the UK/USA/Australia etc etc, we'd be really grateful. All items bought are fully reimbursed by St Ursula's. Even if flying, I also need small & lightweight items that can easily fit in your luggage. Finally, don't forget visitors from overseas who are often very willing to bring things with them! There's a list of things we most need on the hall table or you can just contact me.

Thank you

Jana Kutesko (031 809 4737)

NEWS FROM NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1, Neuchâtel

Regular Services: 2nd and last Sunday of each month at 5 pm

(see below for 30 August)

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

SUMMER SERVICES

Services will be held as usual during July and on 9 August.

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST : ANNUAL PICNIC

Please reserve the date NOW and invite as many friends as you can, especially families!!! Plans are afoot to revitalise the Sunday School – a picnic party would be a great way to start it off!

The venue has not yet been finalised but will soon be announced in church and on the website.

NB There will be no evening service at Les Charmettes on 30 August

Thoughts from Roy and Mieke

First of all we hope and pray that you are enjoying a good summer break, with many opportunities to relax and be refreshed, just being able to take time to be and to be with the Sovereign Lord.

We have been greatly encouraged over these past few months by all the new people who have been coming to church and the desire of so many to learn how to put their faith into practice during their daily lives. It has also been great to see new children in the Junior Church and share in their enthusiasm. Long may all this continue.

Following up on our very productive 'Time to Think' on 17 May, I have asked Jon Bright (LesBrights@sfr.fr) and Bill Packer (William.Packer@lexmark.ch) to contact as many people as possible across the summer and to sound them out about the issues that arose from the day and come forward with a 1 page report in time for October.

The major areas that were identified can be broken down into broad groups relating to (1) the short to medium and (2) medium to long term.

Short to Medium Term (Bill Packer)

Survey of the potential congregation, events to attract people to find the church
Styles of worship and peoples' expectations

Time of the current services

Training of suitable local worship / service leaders (see also the Long term)

Medium to Long term (Jon Bright)

Future leadership

Sources of income, could we have a 'House for Duty' minister?

Training of suitable local worship / service leaders to assist future visiting
Chaplain

Alternative venues for the services.

May I suggest that you think about these topics and feed back your thoughts to either Bill or Jon so that they can incorporate them into to their Action Plans.

I hope and pray that the future of this church will be formed and owned by you and that together we discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us about being church in Neuchâtel.

With all our love and prayers

Roy and Mieke

On 14 June, a good number of the congregation attended the 10.30 service at All Saints, Vevey, to celebrate the confirmation of Emma Packer by Bishop David.

It was a joyful and moving service in which about 15 people from Vevey and Lausanne pronounced with Emma their desire to live their lives with Jesus.



We were all touched by Emma's testimony where she likened the Neuchâtel community to the family she had had to leave behind in England. Bishop David had an inspiring message for each of the candidates as he called them by name and, focussing on the meaning of their name, suggested a specific talent to develop for Jesus.

We could not come to Vevey without the traditional meal together at "our" restaurant, together with the Packer family complete with Grandad and Meg, Uncle John and other friends. Sadly, Karen's Mum was not well enough to make the journey. God bless her and Emma and all the family.

FAQ - Who can receive Communion in our church?

If the question is about who is *entitled*, then the answer is all and none.

The Church teaches that Christ died for all and at the Last Supper the bread and the wine were shared among all the disciples, even Judas. On the other hand, none of us has a claim to receive this gift on account of our own merits. We receive it out of God's gracious generosity. This means, for example, that if we feel unworthy for some reason, that is precisely why you need to receive the Sacrament. See Luke 5:31 "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick".

In our diverse community, we are as open as we can be in our invitation. People (of any age) who have come from other churches, *and were able to take Communion there*, are invited to do so with us. For people who have not previously been taking Communion anywhere, we offer preparation before they receive the Sacrament. In the case of adults, this is normally the Confirmation course; for youngsters there is the Children and Communion programme, in accordance with diocesan regulations.

Because people come and go in our congregation, practical problems can arise. The priest or the chalice assistant sometimes has to take a split-second decision about whether to offer the Sacrament or not. Get it wrong and you give offence (although not to God, I suspect, who understands the situation better than we do).

To avoid such situations arising, it would be helpful if you would do one or more of the following:

- speak to the chaplain beforehand;
- indicate that you have come for a blessing - either by keeping your hands folded or by your side, or by holding a book or notice sheet in your hand;
- hold out your hands to receive the Sacrament only if have already been doing so at St Ursula's or elsewhere
- be mindful of the impression you give to others by maintaining a quiet and respectful attitude during these sacred moments.

PMP

Note: FAQ = Frequently Asked Question.

A Word for the Month - Ark

We all know about the Ark, which the animals entered two by two (well, fourteen by fourteen if they were yaks or goats – look at Gen: 7:7 if you don't believe me!) By building it, Noah was able to save himself and his family – and the animals – from the flood that washed away his more wicked contemporaries.

The story books picture it as a rather fat and top-heavy boat, with a sort of house on top with a sloping roof. The only description in the Bible concentrates more on its size: roughly the same as a modern Cross-Channel ferry, but with a lower superstructure and only three decks. Any clearer description was way beyond the writer's power to convey.

So if it was designed to float, why not call it a boat? What is an ark anyway? Well, in English, an ark is a chest, a wooden box, and the same is true of the Latin word, *arca*, from which it comes. And that reminds us that there was another ark in the Old Testament which was just as important, the Ark of the Covenant.

This ark was certainly a box and not a boat. It stood some 80cm high, was 80cm broad and 130cm long, and was made of acacia wood, covered all over with gold. On its lid was a gold cover, the mercy seat, incorporating a golden cherub at each end. (Cherubim were not the chubby winged babies of a Botticelli painting, but winged creatures with features of a lion, an ox, an eagle and a man.) The wings of the cherubim covered the mercy seat, forming a throne from which God could speak. Inside the ark, as the name suggests, were the two tablets of stone with the commandments which were the “testimony” of God's covenant with Israel. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, the ark also contained a four litre jar of the manna which had sustained the wanderers in the desert, and Aaron's staff, which had budded and borne fruit as a token of the priestly privileges God had given to the tribe of Levi. However, the Old Testament merely said that these lay “in front of the testimony”.

Nobody could confuse a boat and a box. The symbolic meaning of the two arks is quite different too. Noah's ark is a symbol of safety. The first letter of Peter is probably an address to candidates for baptism. 1 Peter 3:20-1 recalls how Noah and his family's escape in the ark prefigures our own rescue through baptism. The ark itself is a symbol of the church which we enter when we are baptized. Throughout the Bible, storms and floods are images of chaos, from which we are rescued only by God's strength. Remember how in the Creation narrative, God first banishes darkness, and then forces the chaotic waters apart to create dry land. The Church is God's own dry land, kept safe from the frightening chaos outside it.

The Ark of the Covenant, on the other hand, is a sign of God's holiness and glory, so holy that it could not be touched, and had to be carried on two poles thrust through four golden rings on its sides. It was kept in the holiest part of the Temple, which the High Priest could enter only on the Day of Atonement. It was also a sign of God's protection, both leading the wanderers through the wilderness and through the Jordan, and giving victory in battle, as at Jericho.

Two things, one word. But in Hebrew, Noah's Ark was a *tebah*, the Ark of the Covenant an *aron*. However, when the Old Testament was translated into Greek some three centuries before Christ, the writers used only one word, *kibotos*, and it is this word that the New Testament uses for both. (To confuse things further, the reed boat in which Moses' mother hid him in the Nile was a *tebah* in Hebrew, but a *thibis* in Greek – a word used only here and perhaps a sign that the translators were stuck for a word and just used the Greek form of the Hebrew word!)

If they used one word, they must have thought there was something in common between the two arks. In English, the word *safe* comes to mind. Noah's ark kept God's creatures safe from the destructive chaos of the Flood. The Ark of the Covenant was a safe for Israel's most valuable possession: the physical testimony to their relationship with their Creator. But in English, safes don't float!

One lesson from this is that even a simple word can mean different things to different people. Thoughts can easily get lost in translation, and when we read our Bibles, we are looking at the writer's thoughts in the equivalent of a misty mirror. Over the centuries, people have studied and restudied the Scriptures, drawing out more and more of their meaning. For, like prayer and sacrament, the Scriptures are an inexhaustible well of insight into God's love for the world, which is itself inexhaustible.

- Hector Davie -

Quotes

Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers! - William Culbertson

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do. Epictetus

We cannot get away from God, though we can ignore him. James Cabot

Materialism, open or disguised, is the logical result of thinking that above and beyond this world there is nothing else. Stephen Olford



The Suffragan Bishop

The Right Reverend David Hamid



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY IN THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE

This year *Back to Church Sunday* is being celebrated in England on 27 September*.

This is a growing initiative in the Church of England and beyond. The programme is not complicated; it is based on the simple invitation to a friend, neighbour or contact: “Would you like to come to Church with me?”

Bishop David is grateful to Mr Adrian Wilkinson, a congregational warden in St George’s Málaga and a member of the synod of the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar, who has taken the initiative of facilitating our diocese’s engagement with *Back to Church Sunday*. Adrian has set up a weblog with helpful links as well as news about our churches across Europe and their involvement:
<http://www.backtochurcheurope.blogspot.com/>

Back to Church Sunday has already been given a particular boost in the Archdeaconry of France this year as Michael Harvey, one of the founders of the movement, addressed the synod at their recent meeting in St Jacut, Brittany, from 6 – 8 May. His winning presentation was well received by the clergy and lay delegates.

I encourage the churches of our diocese to get involved in *Back to Church Sunday*. Resources, links, news and stories can be found at
<http://www.backtochurcheurope.blogspot.com/>

+David

* Because 27 September is in the middle of the school holidays here, we shall be choosing a different date – watch this magazine or our website!

Church Discussion Report

After the Special Church Meeting held on 7 June to elect a second churchwarden, about 36 people met in groups to discuss various questions. The questions were explained and each person present then decided which group to join - each group was led by a council member.

- Group 1 considered the question: “If you met someone who was looking for a church in Berne, how would you (briefly) describe St Ursula’s to them?”
- Group 2 discussed the features that they value about St Ursula’s.
- Group 3 was asked to list recent services they appreciated and discuss the good things about those services.
- Group 4 talked about the Junior Church and Youth Group.
- Group 5 considered how we could best use our premises on Friday evenings and Saturdays.

Each group gave brief feedback about their ideas and a general discussion followed, on these and other issues. All of the points raised were collected and a summary is available on the website and on the notice board in the hall.

Pieter Perrett ably chaired the meeting. After the discussion, he explained that the next stage of the process would involve a questionnaire to try to get more representative feedback from the congregation. The points mentioned in this meeting would be considered in designing the questionnaire which will be available after the summer holidays.

- Tricia Carrick -

Crossword Answers
ACROSS
1 Mosaic 4 Scales 7 Cana 8 Claudius 9 Sadducee 13 SLM 16 Self-confident 17 Sad
19 Radishes 24 Shepherd 25 Bind 26 Astern 27 Arthur
DOWN
1 Mock 2 Sandalled 3 CICCU 4 Share 5 Aide 6 Equal 10 Decor 11 Caned 12 Eilhu
13 Sherebiah 14 Moth 15 Uses 18 Ashes 20 ASEAN 21 India 22 Apse 23 Eder

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY – 4-6 September, 2009



Jugend- und Ferienhaus Aeschi (above Spiez, overlooking Lake Thun)

A great place for a Weekend Away!

There will be study sessions for adults and youth 13 and older. There will be a study programme for children aged 7-12, and childcare for those 6 years old and under. The weekend is suitable for families with or without children, couples and singles, old and young. Everyone is welcome!

Update

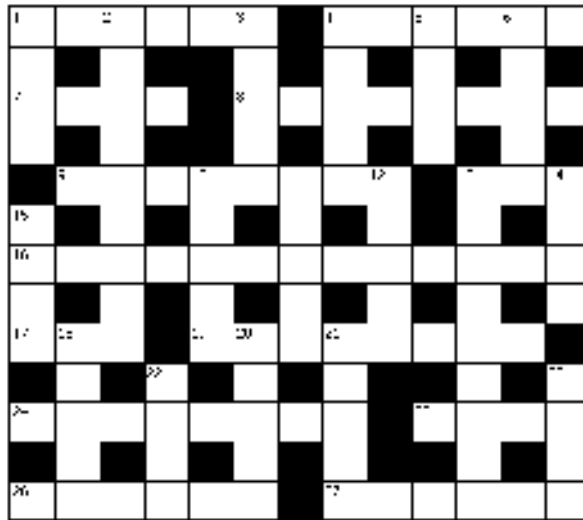
So far, we have 14 families (41 people) registered for the weekend away in Aeschi this September. If you have not yet registered, and would like to, we encourage you to register as soon as possible as space is limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Look for the bright green registration forms in the church hall, or look for the electronic version on our church website under the category "News".

In other news, our new Youth Worker will be able to lead the Youth Program at the weekend away, with three sessions for the older children held at the same time as our sessions for the adults, led by Father Peter and Shareene. Supervision for the small children during these study session times will also be provided. More information can be found in the May magazine.

If you are interested in attending or helping at the weekend away, please contact Esther Hutchison (031 351 73 47) or Jennifer Hockley (031 832 10 62) or the church office (031 352 85 67).

Note the date and come for Fun, Faith and Fellowship

Crossword



Across

- 1 Of Moses (6)
- 4 'You have been weighed on the — and found wanting'
(Daniel 5:27) (6)
- 7 Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (John 2:11) (4)
- 8 Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2) (8)
- 9 Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection (Acts 23:8) (8)
- 13 South London Mission (1,1,1)
- 16 Sure of one's own ability (2 Corinthians 11:17) (4-9)
- 17 'At this the man's face fell. He went away — , because he had great wealth' (Mark 10:22) (3)
- 19 Airs used (anag.) (8)
- 24 'The Lord is my — , I shall not be in want' (Psalm 23:1) (8)
- 25 'He has sent me to — up the broken-hearted' (Isaiah 61:1) (4)
- 26 At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
- 27 Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, — Blessitt (6)

Down

- 1 Ridicule (Luke 18:32) (4)
- 2 Encased in strapped-on light shoes (Song of Songs 7:1) (9)
- 3 Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
- 4 'Father, give me my — of your estate' (Luke 15:12) (5)
- 5 Assistant (4)
- 6 On a par (John 5:18) (5)
- 10 Credo (anag.) (5)
- 11 Beaten with a rod (5)
- 12 The fourth of Job's 'comforters', who deferred making his contribution because of his junior status (Job 32:6) (5)
- 13 Chosen as a temple attendant, he was described by Ezra as 'a capable man' (Ezra 8:18) (9)
- 14 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where — and rust destroy' (Matt. 6:19) (4)
- 15 Employs (4)
- 18 Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (Matthew 11:21) (5)
- 20 Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
- 21 Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
- 22 Recess at east end of a church (4)
- 23 One of the nine sons of Beriah (1 Chronicles 8:15) (4)



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Having heard the Minister say
that we come from dust and go to dust,
Hannah wondered whether this
was someone going or coming.

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Graham Tritt, President, tel. 031 829 34 79, email g.tritt@gmx.net
International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, [www: icberne.2ya.com](http://www.icberne.2ya.com)

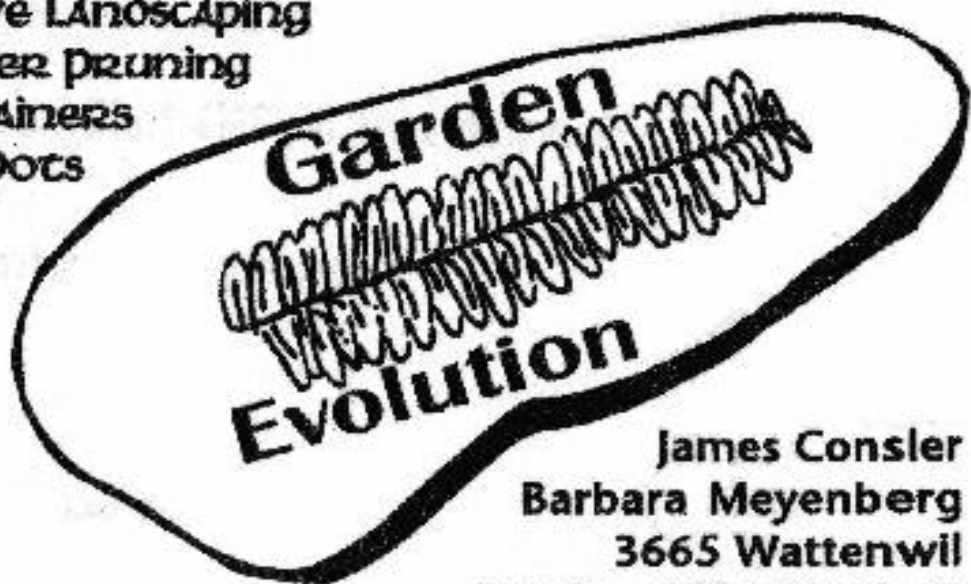
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New members are always welcome. Our website hosted by the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs is: www.angloswissclubs.ch

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Revd Linda Bisig 031 932 41 69

O bless the Lord, my soul!

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

O bless the Lord, my soul!
His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join
To bless his holy Name!

O bless the Lord, my soul!
His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits!
The Lord to thee is kind.

He will not always chide;
He will with patience wait;
His wrath is ever slow to rise,
And ready to abate.

He pardons all thy sins;
Prolongs thy feeble breath;
He healeth thine infirmities,
And ransoms thee from death.

He clothes thee with his love;
Upholds thee with his truth;
And like the eagle he renews
The vigour of thy youth.

Then bless his holy Name,
Whose grace hath made thee whole,
Whose lovingkindness crowns thy days!
O bless the Lord, my soul!