

NEWSLETTER

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Table of Contents

Message from our Chaplain.....2	The Chaplain's Jottings.....15
Calendar of Services.....3	Be still and know that I am God.....17
Rotas.....5	From the Treasurer.....17
Bishop's Christmas Message.....7	Christmas Bazaar.....18
Sharing our Nature.....9	Christmas Bazaar – Food Stall.....19
Junior Church.....11	Church Council Report.....20
Calling all Teachers.....11	News from Neuchâtel Church.....21
Nativity Service.....11	A Word for the Month - Christmas...24
Junior Church Birthdays.....12	Where have all the flowers gone?...26
For Your Diary.....13	Environment News.....27
Future dates in 2010.....14	This Month's Charity: Cecily's Fund 28
Jordan Family Apéro.....14	Pumpkin Soup Lunch.....30
Questionnaire Update.....15	Contact People.....40

Message from our Chaplain

ChurchAds.Net, a Christian publicity organisation in Britain, is appealing for donations so that they can put up posters in bus shelters this Christmas. (If you want to find out more, you can visit their website.) At least, by using bus shelters, they will get their message across before the bus arrives with the secularists' posters on the buses about there probably being no God.

These Christian posters will portray the familiar scene of the Christmas crib in a modern setting. I would like to think that there is a symbolic meaning in this activity. More than recreating the scene as it was (or so we imagine) when Jesus was born, the posters are at the same time helping people to prepare a place for him today.

This symbolism will be lost on some people, of course. There are many (including more than a few who are not Christians) who accept that a man called Jesus lived (and therefore must have been born) in Palestine about 2000 years ago. They would say he was a good man and an important teacher. This view regards Jesus as an historical figure and his birth as an historical event. By all means, they say, celebrate his birthday, as one might celebrate the birthday of George Washington or the composer Mendelssohn (whose 200th anniversary was this year).

“Christmas starts with Christ”, says ChurchAds. If we believe this, then Christmas is more than the celebration of an historical event. It also proclaims certain things we believe about God – principally that he came and dwelt among us. He took our human nature upon himself, with all its frailty but also with all its capacity for good. As St Augustine says, “He became like us in order that we might become like him”.

Any other kind of God would have no use for a crib. The cribs in our homes, churches or public places express our belief that God is in our midst today (in spite of what those other posters might say). We find him in our lives and in the lives of people we meet. If we prepare a place for him in our hearts, he will be born in us too. That is, we will begin to allow the divine nature to grow in us day by day, so that we become more in tune with the ways and will of God.

When we see Christmas crib scenes, let them remind us of the historical event that “Christ was born in Bethlehem”. But let them also say aloud *Em-manu-el* “God is with us”.

Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all.

Peter

Calendar of Services
for
December 2009
and
January 2010



Dec. 6 **Second Sunday of Advent**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Baruch 5: 1 – 9
Philippians 1: 3 – 11
Luke 3: 1 – 6

Dec. 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**
8.30 **Holy Communion (said)**
10.00 **Nativity All Age Service**
17.00 **Neuchâtel Carol Service**



Dec. 15 **19.00** **Carol Service at Epiphanie Church, Biel**

Dec. 16 **19.00** **Carol Service at Göttibach Church, Thun**

Dec. 17 **19.30** **Service of Lessons and Carols**
(in English) at Heiliggeist Church, Berne

Dec. 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Micah 5: 2 – 5a
Hebrews 10: 5 – 10
Luke 1: 39 – 45



Christmas Services



Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve**
23.00 **First Eucharist of Christmas**
Hebrews 1: 1 – 4
John 1: 1 – 14

Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**
10.00 **Christmas Family Communion**
Titus 3: 4 – 7
Luke 2: 15 – 20



Dec. 27

First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 Eucharist

1 Samuel 2: 18 – 20, 26

Colossians 3: 12 – 17

Luke 2: 41 – 52

Jan. 3

Epiphany

10.00 Eucharist

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6

Ephesians 3: 1 – 12

Matthew 2: 1 – 12



Jan. 10

The Baptism of Christ

(First Sunday of Epiphany)

8.30 Holy Communion (said)

10.00 Informal Eucharist

Isaiah 43: 1 – 7

Acts 8: 14 – 17

Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22



Jan. 14

19.30 Thun Eucharist

Jan. 17

Second Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 Ecumenical Service at the Münster

(No Service and no Junior Church at St Ursula's)

Jan. 24

Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 Holy Communion (said)

10.00 Eucharist

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10

1 Corinthians 12: 12–14, 27–31a

Luke 4:14 –21

Jan. 31

The Presentation of Christ

10.00 Eucharist

Malachi 3: 1 – 5

Hebrews 2: 14 – 18

Luke 2: 22 – 40

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



Neuchâtel Services

Sunday 13 December Carol Service – 17.00

Wednesday 24 December – Christmas Eve Service – 17.00

Sunday 3 January – 10.00

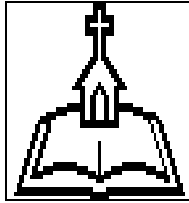
Sunday 17 January – 17.00

Rotas

READERS

December

- 6 C Hodler+P Jayaraj
- 13 Nativity
- 20 B Morgan+B Winfield
- 24 E Pfyffer
- 25 G Güntert
- 27 C Hodler+H Davie



January

- 3 S Higson+Y Chittazhathu
- 10 A Thomas+J Wong
- 17 (Münster Service)
- 24 E Pfyffer+P Jayaraj
- 31 B Winfield+J Wong

INTERCESSIONS

December

- 6 B Morgan
- 13 Nativity Play
- 20 S Brawand
- 24 S Potter
- 25 A Thomas
- 27 E Hutchison



January

- 3 S Faillettaz
- 10 D Low
- 17 (Münster Service)
- 24 J Wenger
- 31 H Davie

SIDESPERSONS

December

- 6 Y Chittazhathu
- 13 S Klein
- 20 S Higson
- 24 HELP
- 25 A Thomas
- 27 B Winfield



January

- 3 S Faillettaz
- 10 Y Chittazhathu
- 17 (Münster Service)
- 24 S Klein
- 31 S Higson

COFFEE & TEA

December

- 6 J Rockson+M Mead
- 13 H & A Kamarys
- 20 M Wittwer+J Chisholm
- 27 R Fenner+Help



January

- 3 E & M Wildhaber
- 10 M & S Brawand
- 17 (Münster Service)
- 24 J Josi+A Low
- 31 A & E Funkhouser

SERVER

December

- 6 L Robb
- 20 L Robb
- 24 M Wildhaber 23.00
- 25 R Freiburghaus
- 27 A Funkhouser



January

- 3 D Goepfert
- 10 A Thomas
- 24 M Wildhaber
- 31 A Funkhouser

Bishop's Christmas Message

It is sometimes said that if you want to know the meaning of Easter you go to the Orthodox churches where at midnight every Easter they proclaim that 'Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!' If you want to know the meaning of Good Friday and the Passion of Christ you go to the churches of the Reformation, and stand before the Cross and know the cost of the saving love of God in Christ. But if you want to know the meaning of the Incarnation you can do no better than to be with Anglicans as Christmas is celebrated.

Like all generalisations it is far too neat – yet there is a sense in which Christmas is the Christian festival which can still speak powerfully to us and draw in, without their quite knowing why, those who rarely darken the doors of churches even in this secular age. The most widely known Anglican service is perhaps the service of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast every Christmas Eve from King's College Chapel in Cambridge. It is a service which is not found in the Book of Common Prayer, and was devised, building on an earlier service for Truro Cathedral, by Eric Milner White, Dean of King's in the early part of the last century. The familiar carols and hymns that it uses are often from only a century earlier – such as 'Once in royal David's city', or 'God rest you merry, gentlemen', or Christina Rossetti's 'In the bleak mid-winter' - reminding us that the traditional Christmas, such as Christmas trees and Christmas cards, owes much to what the German Prince Albert brought to England when he married Queen Victoria. But other carols are far older and reach back into the popular piety of the Middle Ages, when Christians delighted to sing of the meaning of Christmas and the mystery of the incarnation.

As so often it is the amazing paradox that is at the heart of the praise and poetry, the paradox that God, the Creator of all, could choose in the freedom of his love and power to come down to where we are, 'to take our nature upon him', as the Christmas collect says, 'and be born of a pure Virgin.' To take one, not very familiar, example by Ben Jonson, a contemporary of Shakespeare:

I sing the birth was born tonight,
The author both of life and light,
The angels so did sound it,
And like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid,
Yet searched, and true they found it.

What was that truth? Jonson tells us:

He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was now laid in a manger.
The Word was now made flesh indeed,
And took on Him our nature.

And why? For what end and purpose?

What comfort by him doe we win?
Who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory!

From beginning to end this was a work of love, by the God whose very being is love, who created us in love for himself, and who in love stoops down to the very lowest part of our need. As another poet, Christopher Smart, puts it:

God all bounteous, all creative,
Whom no ills from good dissuade,
Is incarnate, and a native,
Of the very world he made!

The God whom we know and worship and adore is not a distant God, not a God of ideas and abstractions, but a God who comes to us as one of us, who comes among us in the fragility of an unborn life, beginning as we begin as those formed in the hiddenness of our mother's wombs – which is why Christians can never be casual about caring for that unborn life, can never treat abortion as no more than a matter of choice. God identifies with us from the very beginning, going, as Bishop Lancelot Andrewes once said, 'to the very ground-sill of our nature.' St Paul wrote to the Christians of Corinth of how for Christians the power of God was known most paradoxically in the weakness of the cross, the crucified God was the one who saved – yet that foolishness of God, that weakness of God, is already there at Bethlehem in the child laid in the pricking straw of the manger, which devout Christians saw as foreshadowing the sharpness of the crown of thorns of the crucified.

Christmas speaks to us of a God who is love totally and completely, a God who loves us so recklessly and in so overwhelming a fashion, that he comes down to the lowest part of our need. He speaks to us as one of us, as our flesh and blood, which is why St John sums up the mystery of the incarnation as 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us'. And St John goes on to say that in that total self-giving of love, 'we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.' No wonder the shepherds on the cold hills outside Bethlehem were startled by the angelic armies of heaven singing 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill

towards men! If that is indeed the truth of the God who made the vastness of the universe, and the richness of creation, and who also made you and me, every human being, in the image and likeness of his love, then to live by and from that love and grace which came to us at Bethlehem to take us by the hand, is to live by that which alone can sustain us and transform us, and transform the whole world, into that new creation which is our end, our purpose, and our very being. This is indeed our story and our song; this is our life and our mission to the world; this is the love we are called to live; and this is the eternal life which here and now we are given, as the Child of Bethlehem feeds us with his own life in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. 'O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!'

It is in that faith and love that I wish you the true and joy and blessing of Christmas.

+Geoffrey Gibraltar

Sharing our Nature

*Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.*

Mrs Alexander's "Once in royal David's city" is one of her *Hymns for Little Children*, first published in 1848 (when she was still Miss Humphreys). The little book of hymns went through over sixty editions in her lifetime, and some of the hymns, like this one, are still sung with pleasure by young and old.

It is good to see Christmas with the eyes of a child. (Come to our Nativity service!) It is good to recapture some of that innocent wonder the shepherds would have experienced when they heard the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest heaven"; the wonder when they "found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger"; the wonder which Mary and Joseph would have experienced when the mysterious visitors arrived with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. There is an air of excitement about Christmas which the older folk among us are in danger of losing.

"The whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now" wrote Paul (Rom. 8:22). With the birth of Jesus, the way to salvation was laid wide open – in the words of another carol, "the hopes and fears of all the years" were met in Bethlehem when Christ was born.

Miss Humphreys taught little children, and her hymns usually have an element of instruction in them. (One of her hymns, which has fallen out of favour since her time, begins: "Little children must be quiet / When to Holy Church they go, / They must sit with serious faces, / Must not play or whisper low."). The lines at the head of this article contain one of many truths about Christ's coming.

For God was no longer a distant being, hidden behind clouds and issuing commandments to be set down on blocks of stone and scrolls of parchment. God was here as one of us, living a human life, sharing in our joys and sorrows. "Tears and smiles like us he knew." To lead the sort of life God wants, we need only imitate Jesus, who "left an example, so that we should follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:21).

But is being a Christian simply a question of sitting and asking ourselves what Jesus would have done in our own situation? Can we actually know what Jesus would have done in our own situation? How do we know that Jesus was "mild, obedient and good"? The Gospel writers do not tell us anything about his childhood, except that when he was twelve he caused his parents "great anxiety" (Luke 2:48). If we take the Bible as our guide, we will get no clear instructions on whether we should let our children play video games, or whether we should volunteer to fight in Afghanistan.

Christmas is a time of new beginnings, of new life. The season itself provides a chance to grow closer to God. Amid the carols we can hear the message of the angels, that a new era of peace and joy has dawned. If only the world could hear the same message! For it is not just a message for our own ears, but for us to spread around us.

At Christmas, God came into the world in a unique way, sharing our own flesh and blood (and, incidentally, sharing his own flesh and blood with us). But from the beginning of his life, he was there not only for individuals, but for a wider community. He was not visited by one shepherd, but by a whole troop of them. He was not visited by one wise person (not even necessarily by three!) but by a group of them. Although he met and talked with individuals – Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, the Samaritan woman, he gathered groups around him, with an inner group of twelve. And these twelve (or eleven of them plus Matthias (Acts 1:26)) became the nucleus of his church.

Being like Jesus means living together with others, living in a community, sharing ourselves. We are Christ's body now, and the letter to the Corinthians describes how each of us should fit in and play our part, respecting each other and valuing each other's talents. If only we could!

-Hector Davie -



JUNIOR

CHURCH

Calling all Teachers

Our Junior Church relies on you to help our children grow in faith, knowledge and love of the Lord. Over time, teachers move on and children grow up. We need fresh help with teaching Junior Church. It's easy, pleasant, and there is a supportive team to share ideas and give advice.

If you could spare an hour or so once a month (plus preparation time!) to help, please get in contact with the Chaplain. Any member of the Junior Church team would be pleased to help you make up your mind.

And if you really can't help, please pray about this – the need is urgent!

NURSERY ROTA

December 6 Walter Bisig and Jerusha Viggiswarapu
13 NATIVITY PLAY / NO CRÈCHE
20 Cecily Klinger and Maxine Wildhaber
27 Chloë Hodler and Sarah Bouldin
January 3 Lynn Robb and Belinda Aréstegui
10 Rebecca Eze and Maxine Wildhaber
17 MUNSTER SERVICE / NO CRÈCHE
24 Sara Hutchison and Agatha Pfister
31 Allison Masciadri and Catherine Augustine

Nativity Service

The annual Nativity Service will take place on Sunday 13 December at 10.00. This will be a celebration of the birth of Christ.

Many children and young people are taking part in re-enacting the Christmas story during this service. If your children are not yet involved and would like to take part, please contact Patricia Schwager (031 951 7173).

Even if you are not actively involved, we hope that you and your family will join us in worship at this special service.

During the Junior Church time on Sunday 6 December, we will be learning some of the songs for the Nativity Service – please encourage your children to attend (adults are welcome too).

Congratulations

to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays
in December and January

Samuel Klein
9
on 17
December

Annabel Hebeisen
8
on 12
December

Sandy Colla
8
on 21
January

David Eze
1
on 1
December

Jonathan Carrick
16
on 24
January

Jonathan Hebeisen
11
on 28
January

Matthew Wildhaber
16
on 30
January

For Your Diary

Regular weekly events

Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots (not 23 or 30 Dec)
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork (not 25 Dec or 1 Jan)
	19.00	Youth Group (not 25 Dec or 1, 22, 29 Jan)
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice (not 26 Dec or 2 Jan)

Other events

Tuesday 1 December	19.30	Church Council
Friday 4 December	12.00 – 13.30	Study Course
	19.00 – 20.30	Study Course
Saturday 5 December	09.30 – 11.30	Nativity Play Rehearsal
Sunday 6 December	10.00	Youth Class
Tuesday 8 December	19.00	Contemplative Prayer at the Centre in Liebefeld – see separate notice.
Thursday 10 December	10.00 – 12.00	Christmas Tree Decorating
Friday 11 December	12.00 – 13.30	Study Course
	19.00 – 20.30	Study Course
Saturday 12 December	09.30 – 11.30	Nativity Play Rehearsal
Sunday 13 December	10.00	Nativity Play followed by leaving Apéro for Isabel Jordan and family
	17.00	Neuchâtel Carol Service
Tuesday 15 December	19.00	Biel Carol Service, Epiphaniekirche
Wednesday 16 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service, Göttibach
Thursday 17 December	19.30	Carol Service, Heiliggeistkirche
Friday 18 December	12.00 – 13.30	Study Course
	19.00 – 20.30	Study Course
Tuesday 22 December	19.00	Contemplative Prayer at the Centre in Liebefeld – see separate notice.
Friday 8 January	19.00	Youth Group – Parent-Teen Event
Sunday 10 January	10.00	Youth Class
	10.00	Confirmation Class
Friday 15 January	19.00	Confirmation Class
Saturday 16 January	14.30 – 16.30	Afternoon Tea hosted by the Pastoral Care Team
Sunday 17 January	10.00	Ecumenical Service at the Münster
COPY DATE		
Thursday 28 January	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating

Friday 22–Sunday 24 January		Youth Group Weekend Away
Sunday 31 January	10.00	Youth Class
	10.00	Confirmation Class

Future dates in 2010

Saturday 27 February	10.00 – 14.00	Book & Food Sale
Friday-Sunday 30 April-2 May		Archdeaconry Choir Festival
Saturday 5 June	1000 – 1400	Book and Food Sale
Saturday 4 September	1000 – 1400	Book and Food Sale
Friday-Sunday 17-19 September		Weekend Away
Friday 26 November	1700 – 1930	2010 Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 27 November	1000 – 1500	

COPY DATE !!!
for the February issue is
17 January
COLLATING DATE
28 January

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
 Bubenbergrasse, Thun. For more information please contact Rachel
 Huguenin at ☎033 336 29 54.

* * * * *

Leaving Apéro for the Jordan Family

Everyone is warmly invited to join Isabel Jordan and family, after the 10.00
 Nativity Service on Sunday 13 December, for an Apéro in the Church Hall.
 This will be their last Sunday in Berne before Isabel, Emily and Thomas join
 David in Mainz so we hope you will be able to share a glass of wine (or
 juice) to say “Bon Voyage” and to wish the whole family much joy and
 happiness in Germany.

Questionnaire Update

Finding our Common Vision

A warm thank you to everyone who responded to the "Finding our Common Vision" questionnaire. Between its launch in October and the closing date of 8 November, 212 questionnaires were sent out and 162 responses were received - a very high response rate for this kind of exercise.

Even a first statistical skim of the respondent groupings shows what a challenging task we have ahead of us: respondents were from 16 nationalities, nearly half with dual nationality; 40% were not Anglican by background; and there was a good spread across the age ranges. But St Ursula's has clearly had a unifying influence: nearly 75% of respondents had been coming for more than 5 years.

It will take a while longer to process the results fully, collate the comments and present all this in a usable format. Our target is for early in the New Year. We hope that then the results will give us a constructive and stimulating basis for discussion and decision-making. Be prepared to take part!

*Isabel Jordan, Hector Davie and Pieter Perrett
The "Common Vision" survey team.*

The Chaplain's Jottings

Advent Appeal

The Bishop has designated Child Aid as his Advent Appeal this year. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus "poor and in a manger", this is a very fitting cause. The aim of Child Aid is to "transform" the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. It is a Christian charity and its motto is "with God nothing is impossible".

They work with carefully selected local partners who offer long term development initiatives for disabled children, orphans and those from vulnerable families.

Read more on the website, www.childaidrr.org.uk

It is our turn to designate the charity for the collection at the Heiliggeist Carol Service and Council has agreed that it should go to Child Aid.

Christmas in the Chaplaincy

Our services follow the usual pattern (except that the service at Göttingen is on a Wednesday this year). For full details, see elsewhere in the magazine.

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that we keep the fourth Sunday of Advent on 20 December and it is not a Christmas service!

Remember – Christmas begins with Christ, so come and worship him in church (wherever you are).

Tree

The Danish Church is once again kindly donating a tree for St Ursula's. We are planning to decorate it on Thursday 10 December. If you would like to help, please come along.

United Service

St Ursula's will once again be taking part in the united service at the Münster on Sunday 17 January. The service forms part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Week developed from an Octave (period of eight days) of Prayer devised in 1908 by the American Episcopalian clergyman Paul Wattson, and Spencer Jones, the Vicar of Moreton-in-Marsh in England.

The churches pray together during this week "not that others may be converted to us but that we may all be drawn closer to Christ".

Since 1966 the Week has been a joint project of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches.

Anyone for tea?

Following the very successful event in the summer, the Pastoral Team are hosting another Afternoon Tea in the Hall on Saturday 16 January. It is an occasion for people to get to know each other better and generally to enjoy each other's company.

Tea will be served between 14.30 and 16.30 but you can come along at any time. If you can help on the day, or in advance by baking a cake, please contact the Church Office.

Please think who might need transport and contact them if you can offer a lift.

Prayers

The Prayer Diary on the back cover has been running for a few months now. I hope you find it a help. Some people say they don't need to be told what to pray for. I am sure you all have plenty of topics for your prayers but, nevertheless, to pray together does strengthen the sense that we are "all one in Christ Jesus".



Wishing you all
a very happy Christmas
and every blessing in the New Year
Peter and Shareene



Be still and know that I am God

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AT THE CENTRE IN LIEBEFELD

On Tuesday 8 and Tuesday 22 December we will be listening to the second and third (final) parts of an audio workshop by Father Thomas Keating who will continue his introduction to contemplative prayer, a way of inviting God into our lives and to discover the treasure of holiness always present in ordinary events. After listening to each workshop we will have a short time of quiet prayer.

The meetings start at 19.00 and are held at my house, Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld.

Because of personal circumstances, I will not be able to host prayer meetings in January and February but intend to continue in March 2010.

Brian Morgan

From the Treasurer

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our pledge appeal. As I write, we are only a third of the way to our target, but I know that many of you renew your pledges automatically, without filling in the form I send you each year. It is always good to receive the completed form, through the post, in the collection bag or in my mailing tray in the upper hall, for if we know that we have enough to cover our budget, we can plan activities without resorting to cheese-paring activities: without charging for materials, for example.

Thank you also for your generous support of the charities we give to. Over the year, the church itself gives a tenth of its pledged income to outside charities, and in addition to this, the entire proceeds of the collections at Trinity, Harvest, Christmas and other special Sundays go to charity. We plan to make a special effort this year, and give all our church collections during Advent to charity, as a sign that we as a church are committed to relieving those in need not only through our prayers, but in a practical way. (The collection on 27 December and subsequent Sundays will be used for St Ursula's regular work.)

I hope that at this season you will remember these two needs: the need of St Ursula's, and the need of the poor, the sick and the disadvantaged – remember them not only in your prayers, but in your giving.

Christmas Bazaar

As you read this the Bazaar will just have been held and so Maxine and Lynn would like to thank all of you who participated in all the many ways to make it a success. It is not simply about the amount of money that we make but also about the sharing, helping and of course the wonderful Fellowship we experience in working towards the Bazaar.

We would like to thank all team leaders for organizing and inspiring the teams to be the enthusiastic and caring individuals that met people as they came to St Ursula's to participate in our Bazaar: Our thanks to Sharon, Jana, Sue, Elisabeth, Libby, Jennifer, Tina, Judy and Francoise.

Special thanks to Tricia for her computer expertise and her creative Beamer slides. And to Rose-Marie Coombs for icing 21(!) cakes.

Our grateful thanks to all the helpers who baked, cooked, iced, packed food for the Bazaar. This also extends to those who moved furniture up, down and roundabout to set-up and down for the Bazaar. So many of you have contributed in innumerable ways - please accept our thanks in acknowledgement of your contribution.

We thank you all.

Blessings

Maxine Wildhaber and Lynn Robb



"But, apart from the pews, the sermon, the hymns, the coffee and, 'all that praying', you'd come again?"



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – FOOD STALL

The food stall has continued to operate successfully at every booksale in 2009 and for ensuring that I get food to sell on such a regular basis, once again, I'd like to **THANK IN A VERY BIG WAY** my main shoppers; Jackie, Andrew and Margaret & Jon. **THANK YOU** to those who bring back as much as they can even though they're travelling by plane – every thing helps! A **BIG THANKS** is also due to all those who've made the jams, marmalades and pickles for the stall – it's brilliant that we're able to sell homemade preserves at all of the sales. Also, a thank you, to all my family both here and in the UK for their tolerance and patience, as well as for their shopping and storage for me. I appreciate every single one of you and without you **ALL**, the food stall wouldn't be possible.

I would also like to give a **HUGE** thanks to all the people who help move the boxes & boxes of food from and back to the attic at every sale, to those who help me set up the stalls each time and finally to the absolutely brilliant friends who help year in and year out at the food stalls and especially the bazaar – I'm so glad you all still enjoy "playing shop" as much as I do and hope you will continue to do so in 2010!

Finally thanks to all of those who bought things from the stalls throughout the year and for supporting St. Ursula's in this way.

Hoping to see you at **BOTH** the Christmas Bazaar **AND** at the food stall on 27 February 2010. Wishing you all an excellent Christmas and 2010.

Jana Kutesko

Laughlines

I was in the express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?"

Church Council Report

The last council meeting was held on Tuesday 3 November. We welcomed three representatives of the Junior Church and this was the main topic of the meeting. The situation is urgent and will become critical in January. Four or five new teachers are needed from January to compensate for those who are leaving, otherwise we will not be able to continue to offer all the classes every week. It is also very important that we find a leader for the Junior Church who can have an overview of what is happening and keep in touch with teachers, children and parents. Please pray that a solution can be found soon.

As always, council discussed the financial situation which has stabilised slightly. However the year will almost certainly end with a significant deficit. The pledge response has been fairly typical so far, so no big change there.

Council approved the charity giving for this year, according to the list prepared by the Charity and Missions Committee. Because the financial crisis is hitting poor people particularly hard, council agreed that we should give more to charity this year. So all our collections in Advent will be given to various charities - look at the notice sheets for more information.

No major building projects have been undertaken recently, but some repairs and renovation are outstanding like the ceiling in the hall and the flooring in the bedrooms of the church house. In addition, quotes will be obtained for decorating the offices and replacing the carpets there - council will discuss this in December.

The house in Aeschi, where we were this year, will be booked for next year's weekend away from 17 to 19 September. An initial planning meeting will take place soon, so look out for more information in the next magazine.

Many other topics were discussed at this meeting: welcome cards, questionnaire, book table, "Nacht der Religionen", bazaar, dates for book sales, rotas, and much more.

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

- Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary) -

NEWS FROM NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1, Neuchâtel

Regular Services: 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

1st Sunday : 10 am: Junior Church meets in the Yo-Yo hut. The children join their parents for Communion

3rd Sunday : 17.00 Family Communion Service

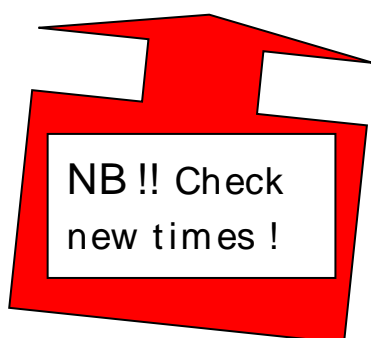
Minister in charge: The Rev. Roy Farrar

Chemin du Chasselas 11

2012 AUVERNIER

Tel : 032 730 51 83

www.neuchatelchurch.ch



NB !! Check
new times !

As from January 2010, we shall be holding our regular services as shown above. ie for January:

Sunday January 3rd at 10 am

Sunday January 17th at 5 pm

DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

CAROL SERVICE: SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER at 17.00

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE 24 DECEMBER at
17.00**

BIBLE STUDY at Mieke and Roy's flat, 8 pm:

Tuesday 1 December

Tuesday 15 December

Tuesday 19 January

DEBATE AT EIGHT: Sunday 24 January at Mieke and Roy's flat, 8 pm

Informal Communion at Mieke and Roy's flat: Sunday 20 December at 20.00

NO SERVICE ON DECEMBER 27th

From Roy and Mieke

Anyone who has been in the church over the last few months cannot have missed the growing size and growing excitement about what the Lord is doing amongst us.

If the Junior Church continues to increase in size, we **MUST** get some more helpers involved to teach and to act as assistants at least once every two months. What a great problem to have!!!

Only a few months ago a lady approached me to say that she wanted to understand about the teachings of Christianity and after she had been to the Alpha course for a few weeks she told us that she had committed her life to Jesus Christ...



Sonya's baptism took place on the last Sunday of November and was a time of wonder and joy for all of us. For Mieke and I it really was the moment when we realised why the Lord had asked us to come to Neuchâtel, this is a lovely example of what I said in last month's magazine about 'Come Grow and Go', as Sonya

will be returning to the U.S.A. with her husband and children soon after Christmas.

The Alpha course has stimulated a lot of people and there have been several requests to start an evening course. We would be happy to arrange this in the New Year, so if you are interested in coming to a 12 week course meeting most weeks (allowing for school holidays), then please contact me and we will arrange a suitable evening. It means that we shall follow the Nicky Gumbel book 'Questions of Life' and have an open and wide ranging discussion about the issues raised week by week of course with biscuits and coffee etc!!



At our last Church Council meeting, we received the two reports we had commissioned from Jon Bright and Bill Packer concerning the future plans for the church. These will be considered in detail by the Council at its meeting in early December and then be made available to the whole church for wider discussion. One of the issues that they raise is the possibility of the church funding what is called 'House for Duty' so that when we move on, expire or quietly slip away, there will be funds to encourage a retired a minister to come to and live in Neuchâtel and so continue ministry here "sur place".

Big hopes and expectations, but is that what the Lord is asking of us? Pray hard about it and when you have finished continue to pray.

THANKS !

THANKS !

THANKS !.....

...to all who contributed to the wonderful success of Neuchâtel's Harvest Festival on 25 October. The treasurer reported that we raised over 2100 francs for Beryl Baker in Paraguay.

You may have heard that an English nurse, Wendy Power, has gone to the Chaco for several months with a view to possibly working there with Beryl permanently. She sends a monthly news letter with plenty of photos giving updates of their growing collaboration. It gives a very good insight into how our gifts are used and how necessary they are. If you would like to receive these letters, you can sign up for them on Wendy's website at www.wendypower.org.uk

Echoes of the Neuchâtel Church Council meeting held on 9 September

For some time, the council has been aware of the difficulties inherent to a service at 5pm for families with young children. As, for the present, as we are fortunate in having a resident minister, we are seriously investigating the possibility of having one service a month at 10am. Junior Church would be organised during this service. If everything can be arranged with the other churches using the premises, we hope to ring in the changes with the new year. **Watch this space!!!!!!!** (See above – Ed.)

To conform to the new Diocesan Child Protection policy, a document has been drawn up similar to that now in use at St Ursula's, Berne, which we were kindly permitted to use as a model. A Child Protection Officer will be elected to serve for a maximum of 3 years. Teachers and helpers are required to submit to the necessary checks and two people are always required to be present during the class. As the Junior Church team is still so small, a member of the congregation may be asked to volunteer to accompany the children once in a while.

Laughlines

Shortly after my husband passed away, one of my daughter's Jewish friends approached her with a question. "Kate," he said, "I've never attended a Catholic wake before. What is the significance of the widow not wearing shoes?"

Kate replied, "My mum's feet hurt."

A Word for the Month - Christmas

We all know what Christmas is. And we all know (I hope) that the Bible does not mention Christmas. Nor does it mention snowmen, holly, ivy or reindeer.

What the Bible does mention is Christ's birth. Both Matthew and Luke go into some detail about the circumstances. Although the two of them see the events from different viewpoints, they agree on a few central details: Mary's virgin innocence, Joseph's passive involvement, the appearance of an angel, the birth in Bethlehem. The remaining details – the magi, King Herod, the shepherds, the journeying, the manger – reflect what Matthew and Luke saw as significant parts of the story. For John, on the other hand, the significance could be summed up in eight words: “the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us” - no need for further detail.

When the apostles went out to tell the world about Jesus, it was not in the first place to tell people about the happenings in Bethlehem. Paul reminded the Corinthians: “I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures...” (1 Cor 15:3-4) The events in Jerusalem formed the central message. But of course as a prelude Christ became human, one of us, and Paul recalls to the Philippians the significance of this, perhaps quoting an early hymn: “Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:6-8)

Christianity is (or should be!) a religion of joy. For the early followers of Christ, joy lay in forgiven sins, and above all in the joy of the resurrection. They celebrated this joy when they met each week on the day of the resurrection. But at Christ's birth too, the angel gave the shepherds “good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

Over the early centuries of the church, the practice grew up of remembering holy people, often on a significant anniversary. Sometimes people would meet at a church associated with a particular person. But for Jesus, there was no “significant anniversary”. Nobody knew when he was born (and if the shepherds were out with their flocks at night, it would not have been “the deep mid-winter”!) The events of his life had no calendar date, except for his crucifixion and resurrection – and even those had to be dated by the sun and moon

together, where the calendar used in the Roman empire measured only by the sun.

So the practice grew up of remembering Jesus' birth on a day when people in the empire rejoiced – when in the depths of winter the days started to grow longer again, when the sun started to grow in strength. In the same way, people celebrated John the Baptist's birth in mid-summer (where John's saying “He must increase and I must decrease” (Jn 3:30) reflected itself in the duration of daylight), and the angel's announcement to Mary on 25 March, which remained the start of the new calendar year in England until 1753.

25 December is known in German as *Weihnachten*, the old plural form recalling that the whole season was holy (and we still talk of the twelve days of Christmas). In Scandinavia, the name we know in English as Yule recalled a pagan God, and was the name of a whole month, but over time, Yuletide lost its pagan significance and came to refer to our Christian festival. The French *Noël* and the Italian *Natale* stem from the Latin word for “birth” - not Christ's birthday, but the day for recalling Christ's incarnation!

In English, the word Christmas goes back to the earliest days of the language – Christ's Mass, Christ's Festival. In addition to Christmas, a few British traditional festivals retain names in English ending in *-mas*: Candlemas (2 February), Lammas (2 August) (the *loaf-mass*, or Harvest Festival), Michaelmas (29 September). These were all days which marked the beginning or the ends of seasons. They were celebrated with fairs, with processions, with local traditions. They were of secular as well as religious significance, and after the Reformation many of them lost their focus, and became little more than days on which rental payments were due. But one of them never lost its significance. Christ was the focus of Christmas, and remains so today.

-Hector Davie -

FAQ : It's Advent – where have all the flowers gone?

The Christian year begins on Advent Sunday. In our three-year cycle of readings, we start Year C which highlights the Gospel of Luke. Advent is a four-week season of preparation for a great event.

Unlike the shops and streets, which are a blaze of lights and colour at this time of the year, the church looks empty and drab. The liturgical colour is purple, just one shade away from black. There are no flowers and the joyful “Glory to God in the highest” (*Gloria*) has given way to the more sombre “Lord, have mercy” (*Kyrie eleison*). This is because Advent is a serious time. We are preparing for the human birth of God's son into poverty and suffering. We recall our own unworthiness in contrast to God's amazing generosity. This sombre atmosphere reflects a world where “the people walked in darkness”. Furthermore, during Advent we are encouraged to contemplate the end of all things, and, in particular, the second coming of Christ in judgement.

When Christmas actually arrives, these four weeks of Advent restraint actually highlight the glory of the feast. This is in contrast to the secular mood, which is often one of anticlimax or exhaustion after all the garishness and hectic activity. At our Christmas services, the effect of the flowers and other decorations in church is increased. The *Gloria* sounds out with greater joy and significance. The colour is white for celebration, symbolising the light of Christ coming into the world. It contrasts with the actual darkness outside, with the short days and the bareness of the vegetation. The coming of Christ is a sign of hope, a sign that there is still life.

In properly keeping the seasons, the Church is teaching us about important Christian truths. As so often, this teaching is not just done through words or by engaging the brain only. This is teaching by experience - by seeing, doing and reflecting. The last is important, especially when the symbolism is unfamiliar to you. Ask yourself: what do these changes in colour and mood tell me about God and his purposes?

As you do so, you will realise that this is not just dead tradition but a way of linking together our human situation, creation and God's purposes. It should not surprise us that we are encouraged to take note of these details, for keeping the seasons is a means of expounding the mystery of the Incarnation, that is, in Jesus, God the Word became flesh.

PMP

Environment News

(From the Diocese in Europe Environment Newsletter)

On the lead up to the historic UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen there is plenty going on all over the world. In the UK, the Church of England together with other churches and organizations will be joining in a Climate Wave march following a service at Central Hall Westminster. They will be giving the world leaders a send-off they can't ignore. A human wave of tens of thousands people will flow through London in support of climate justice for all God's creation.

"Act local as well as national urges the Archbishop". In a recent lecture at Southwark Cathedral – sponsored by the Christian environment group Operation Noah – Dr Rowan Williams set out a Christian vision of how people can respond to the looming environment crisis. The Archbishop's talk, "The Climate Crisis: A Christian Response" is available at www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/2565

Owen Prewett, a member of the "green team" at St Alban's, Copenhagen, has asked me to publicize the World Council of Churches' call to "Let the bells ring". Sunday 13th December marks the height of the talks at the climate negotiations in Copenhagen. At 3 p.m. – marking the end of a high profile celebration at the Lutheran Cathedral in Copenhagen – the churches in Denmark will ring their bells, and Christians throughout the world are invited to echo them by sounding their own bells, shells, drums, gongs or horns 350 times. 350 refers to 350 parts per million, the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere according to scientific reasoning. If you plan to ring your bells or make other sounds – and this event has not been published in your host country - it may be an idea to have a hoarding or leaflets telling the local people why you are doing it. Please find more at www.bellringing350.org

Thank you as ever for your interest. As always I am very pleased to receive comments and news about environment projects from the chaplaincies. Please pray that Copenhagen will bring a real progress coupled with climate justice.

Brian Morgan

Diocesan Environment Officer

Charity of the Month - Cecily's Fund

Dear friends and loyal supporters of Cecily's Fund,

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this past year, which has had a musical theme for our fund raising. Here are a just a couple of examples of the inventive ways money was raised this year.

Evenings of musical and artistic entertainment

Sue Skaf, Director of American Friends of Cecily's Fund threw a 'Sounds of Spring' musical soirée in March. This is how she described it; "There were about 30-35 guests, the musicians - all local acquaintances of mine - were WONDERFUL, a great mix of classical and "fun" Broadway, including piano, violin, trumpet, cello and vocal. The recital lasted almost one hour. Guests donated \$1,000 on the day and those who could not make it promised donations. It definitely gave a warm feeling to all concerned, and they had a wonderful time."

Another one of our supporters invited friends and family to join them for drinks and a simple supper at which everyone was asked to offer "contributions of artistic entertainment". They suggested guests "re-work a piano piece you played as a child, recite a favourite poem, present a favourite slide, read a passage from a novel or review a book, show and talk about a painting by yourself or someone known to you, challenge a fellow guest to join you in a foxtrot or a waltz, twirl a hoop, juggle ..." The party was a great success and they raised £1,000 for Cecily's Fund!

Cecily's Fund Trustees' Annual Report 2008/09

Cecily's Fund Trustees' Annual Report for the year to end June 2009 is now available on line and in hard copy. It was approved by the Trustees on 4th September 2009 and presented to supporters at our informal Annual General Meeting, Cecily's Day, on 5th September. It contains details of the achievements and challenges of the past year and includes a summary of the year's financial information.

Cecily's Fund wins award for transparent accounting

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our 2008 Annual Report and Accounts on our website has been awarded first prize* in the Institute of Chartered Accountants' Charities On-Line Accounts Award. Judges commended our clearly stated vision and mission, easy sign-posting of the report and the fact that we make clear links between money raised and money spent. We're particularly pleased to have received this award as being

transparent and accountable to our supporters, our partners, and the young people we help them to support, is fundamental to Cecily's Fund's philosophy. We are very grateful to the ICAEW for the award and the prize of £1,500 which will go a long way towards supporting our partners' work with extremely vulnerable children in Zambia.

*(for charities with income £100,000-£500,000)

Background Information

For anyone new to St Ursula's, who doesn't yet know about the important work of Cecily's Fund, supported by our church: Cecily's Fund is a UK/CH/USA registered charity enabling Zambian orphans and other vulnerable children to go to school. Many of these children were orphaned or made vulnerable as a result of HIV and AIDS. Without school they have little hope or support. But at school they:

- Get support from adults and other children
- Gain the knowledge and confidence they need to stay healthy and avoid getting HIV
- Gain the skills they need to get further education or earn a living.

Cecily's Fund provides shoes, uniforms, books, pens, equipment and school fees, without which these children would not be able to go to school. We also help them to train as Peer Health Educators and Teachers. All this is possible only with the help of our loyal supporters.

www.cecilysfund.org

The Cecily's Fund website is very comprehensive, informative, and thorough. We encourage you to visit it to learn more about Cecily's Fund, and refer to it regularly for up-to-date information and reports on various activities.

Fundraising in 2010

Next year there will be another fund raising theme, FOOD! So, calling on all you foodies out there:

What ideas do you have to raise money? How can we raise money here in Switzerland? We look forward to hearing from you. Watch this space!

On behalf of Alison and Basil Eastwood, and all the children in Zambia who benefit from your donations, thank you most sincerely for your ongoing support. Thank you also for your ongoing, invaluable prayer support. We look forward to meeting with Alison & Basil Eastwood on Sunday 6 December after the Church service at St Ursula's, and at the opera in Neuchâtel later that same day. We conclude with prayer requests, thanksgivings, and best wishes to all.

Jennifer Hockley and Linda Bisig

We give thanks for:

- Another fun and successful year of fundraising.
- Winning the accounting Award, and all the hard work behind the scenes.
- The hard work of Basil and Alison and all the support staff.
- Academic success of all the children and young people in the education programmes.
- All the grandparents and other carers of the orphaned children.
- Those who care enough to be involved in Cecily's Fund in any way.

We pray for:

- The children themselves, to enjoy school and achieve much.
- Hope for a brighter future.
- Continued strengthening of links with the Zambian Government.
- The teachers, that they are motivated and enjoy their achievements.
- Ambition and enthusiasm also for social learning.
- Continued improvement in the fight against HIV and Aids.
- Another great year of fun and achievement raising money and awareness.



Cecily's Fund Traditional Pumpkin Soup Lunch



Dear friends,

Thank you very much indeed for your very generous donations in support of children who have been orphaned by HIV in Zambia.

Also a big thank you to the helping crew in the background: Sharon Bachmann, Tricia Carrick, Janet Wenger, Janice Schaub, Cecily Klingler, Shelagh Brawand, Corinne & Andreas Bomonti. Thanks to Annemarie Low and Vreni Hawker for cooking a tasty gluten-free soup and to Janice Schaub, Sharon Bachmann, Diane Lohri and Pamela Arnaud for spoiling us with something yummy for dessert. Also a special thank you to Liz Perrett who donated hand-knitted socks and wonderful scarves which could be taken for a donation too.

Our traditional Soup Lunch took place on Wednesday 4 November, at St Ursula's in Berne. We raised **Fr 1140.-** for the orphans in Zambia and we could not have done it without you. Many thanks!

ARTISTS' CHRISTMAS MARKET

30 November – 13 December

Open daily from 11.00 – 19.00

Vernissage 30 November 17.00 – 20.00

This market includes some of the works from artists that have exhibited during this year at Artplace88 as well as exhibits from some local talents. There will be a selection of paintings, sculptures, photography prints, glass and table decorations and lots more.

A list of the artists and their work can be found at www.artplace88.com There is still time for those of you who would like to join in and buy a table.

On 6 December Michael Jones from the British Cheese Centre will be hosting a free cheese tasting of some favourite English cheeses and some special Christmas cheese. You can also sample some real British ale.

This will all take place at:

Artplace88
Dorfstrasse 73
3073 Gümligen

Contact number for questions:

Olivia Kappert
079 300 38 88

Dear Friends,

This is an Invitation for a **Day Trip on Saturday 19 December** to the **Christmas Market in Freiburg im Breisgau**, with Maxine Wildhaber to celebrate her special birthday!

Join us for coffee and chats on the train, lunch in a restaurant or in the market (to be determined!) in Germany, and time together (or separately if you are on a mission for something special) roaming the Christmas Market in Freiburg - a time for Christmas shopping and fellowship and celebrating a special birthday with a very special lady!

Our tentative plans are as follows:

Anyone who wants to join us should contact Jennifer (details below). We can either purchase our train tickets separately or together (I recommend this for a discount if we have a group of 5 or more and for reserved seating together). Our tickets will be from Berne so you will be responsible for getting yourself to the main station in Berne to Platform 7, for the ICE to Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, by 09.00am.

Outward Journey:

Berne Sat, 19.12.09 dep 09:04 Platform 7 ICE 276 InterCityExpress, to Freiburg im Breisgau (D) arr 10:55

Return Journey: Arrival back in Berne at 16:56 or 17:56 - details to be provided.

Would you like to come with us?

If so, please contact Jennifer Hockley, at home Tel: 031 832 10 62 or hockley@bluwein.ch or in the church office at 031 352 85 67 or berne@anglican.ch, **at the latest by Sunday, December 13.**



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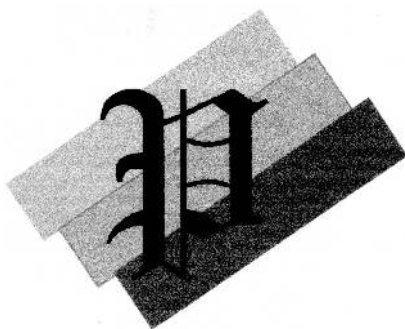
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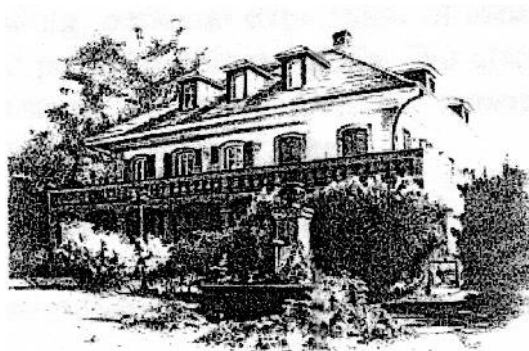
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Graham Tritt, President, tel. 031 829 34 79, email g.tritt@gmx.net
International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, [www: icberne.2ya.com](http://www.icberne.2ya.com)

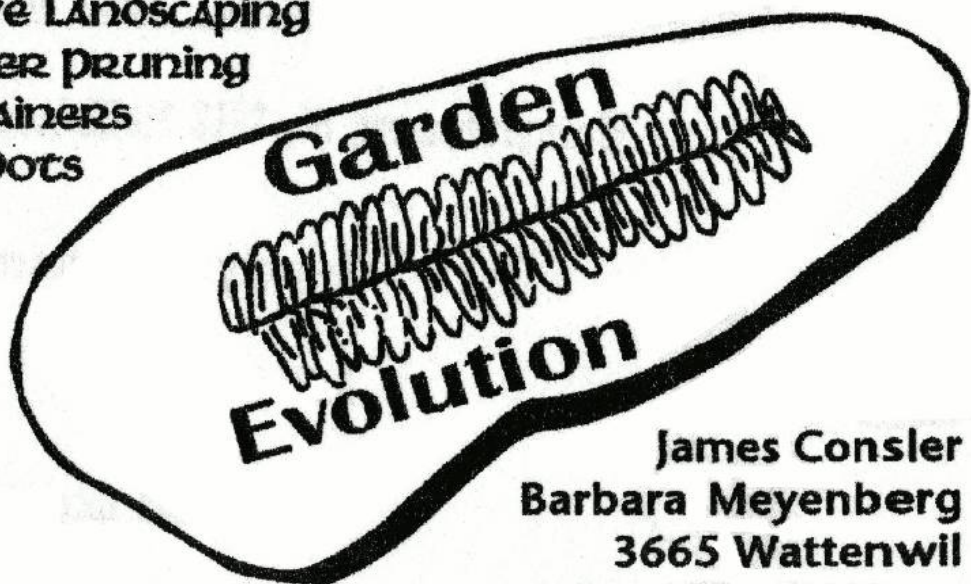
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tel. 033 438 35 45, email: wd@bluewin.ch

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Andy Prior

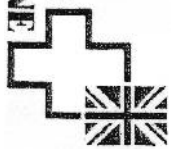
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SWISS-BRITISH
SOCIETY BERNE



The Swiss-British Society, Berne organizes and supports cultural and social events throughout the year, such as guided tours of museums, archives, collections, lectures, concerts and drama performances in and around Berne. All these have some strong British link.

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

Contact: Jenny Haller Pratt
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Ken Hawkes Carpenter and Joiner

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Brian Morgan 031 971 13 36

Janet Wenger 031 839 46 53

Lay Representative to Diocesan Synod:

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Normally staffed Monday - Thursday mornings

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Intercessions: E Hutchison 031 351 73 47

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Chaplain's Day off: Normally Wednesday

HONORARY ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Revd Linda Bisig 031 932 41 69

NEUCHÂTEL

Revd Roy Farrar 032 730 51 83

LAY READER

David Low 032 677 30 29

PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

1-5 December: First week of Advent

The fulfilment of God's promises

Seasonal chaplaincies in Interlaken, Kandersteg and Wengen

The Bishop's Advent Appeal (ChildAid)

Those living with HIV/AIDS

6-12 December: Second week of Advent

Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free

The Summit on Climate Change in Copenhagen

UN Human Rights Day (10 December)

Vocations to Ministry

13-19 December: Third Week of Advent

Bear fruits worthy of repentance

Discipleship

People attending Carol Services

People travelling

20-24 December: Fourth Week of Advent

See the glory that is coming from God

People facing Christmas alone

Those maintaining essential services over Christmas

All in hospital at this time

25 December: Christmas

Rejoice! The Saviour is born

26 December: St Stephen

The Church's solidarity with the persecuted

27 December – 2 January: First week of Christmas

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly"

Children in danger today

The peace of the world

God's blessing for the year to come

3-9 January: Epiphany

"We have seen his star in the East"

Faith to follow Christ

Christians in the Middle East

A proper use of our wealth and influence

10-16 January: First week of Epiphany

The Baptism of Christ

Remembering our Baptismal promises

Our Pastoral Care Team

Places in the news this week

17-23 January: Second week of Epiphany

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The united service at the Münster

The Willibrord Society

PartnerSein

24-30 January: Third Week of Epiphany

Jesus the Teacher

Local schools and colleges

Junior Church and Youth Group

Holocaust Day (27 January)

31 January: The Presentation of Christ

That our eyes may see our salvation

St Ursula's Church
(Anglican/Episcopalian)

and the

Roman Catholic Community

will celebrate a traditional

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

of

LESSONS & CAROLS

with the Carol Choir of Berne

Barbara Künzler, Choirmaster

Martin Kasperek, Organist

at the

HEILIGGEIST CHURCH

Bahnhofplatz, Berne

Thursday 17 December

19.30

All are welcome – Come and sing

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St Ursula's Church – Jubiläumsplatz, Berne
Heiliggeist Church – Spitalgasse, Berne
Pfarrkirche Epiphanie – Biel / Bienne
Chapelle des Charmettes – Neuchâtel
Göttibach Church – Thun

Sunday 13 December 2009

10.00 **NATIVITY SERVICE** - St Ursula's
17.00 **FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ALL THE FAMILY** - Neuchâtel

Tuesday 15 December 2009

19.00 **LESSONS & CAROLS** - Biel / Bienne

Wednesday 16 December 2009

19.00 **LESSONS & CAROLS** - Göttibach Church

Thursday 17 December 2009

19.30 **LESSONS & CAROLS** - Heiliggeist Church

Christmas Eve

17.00 **FAMILY CHRISTMAS COMMUNION** - Neuchâtel

23.00 **FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS** - St Ursula's

Christmas Day

10.00 **CHRISTMAS FAMILY EUCHARIST** - St Ursula's

Sunday 27 December 2009

10.00 **EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS** - St Ursula's