

NEWSLETTER

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Message from our Chaplain

Since its launch in 1997 Marriage Week has been celebrating the importance of marriage as the basis for family life. Timed to include St Valentine's Day (14th February), the Week started in Britain but has now been taken up by many countries, including the USA and Switzerland. (There is a Swiss website, www.marriageweek.ch)

Marriage remains incredibly popular. In Switzerland the annual number of marriages has increased from 38,700 to 41,500 during the past ten years. Over 90 percent of young people in Britain hope to be married at some point in the future. Even in these days, two out of every three first marriages are still "until death do us part".

Marriage is good for us for a variety of reasons. Statistics suggest that married people are healthier and live longer. And there are financial advantages too in some countries, including Switzerland. (In Britain, perversely, you can lose tax allowances and social security benefits if you are married. Church organisations like the Mothers' Union are lobbying to change this.)

But, as Christians, we believe marriage is good for another reason. The Marriage Service in the Book of Common Prayer tells us "Matrimony...is an honourable estate, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church". What these old-fashioned words are saying is that the relationship we call marriage is an illustration of the love God shows to his people. He loves us "for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health". That is why Christian marriage is a sacrament, not just a legal arrangement.

This year, St Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday and we shall be marking the occasion at St Ursula's by celebrating marriage at our 10.00 Eucharist. It is to be a service for everyone, married or not. You will have the opportunity to give thanks for a marriage that is important to you (your own, your parents' or your children's perhaps). As well as giving thanks, we can pray for people whose marriages are in difficulties and for those who have experienced sadness in their marriage. We will also want to pray for engaged couples and the support and guidance the Church gives them as they prepare for marriage.

You are invited...why not enter into the occasion and wear a flower in your buttonhole?

Peter

Calendar of Services

for

February 2010



- Feb. 4 19.30 Thun Eucharist
- Feb. 7 Second Sunday before Lent
 10.00 Eucharist
Genesis 2: 4b – 9, 15 – 25
Revelation 4
Luke 8: 22 - 25
- Feb. 14 Sunday next before Lent
 8.30 Holy Communion (said)
 10.00 Informal Eucharist “Celebrating Marriage”
Exodus 34: 29 - 35
2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2
Luke 9: 28 – 36
- Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday
 18.30 Holy Communion (Preacher: Fr Christoph Schuler)
Joel 2: 1 – 2, 12 - 17
Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 - 21
- Feb. 18 19.30 Thun Eucharist
- Feb. 21 First Sunday of Lent
 10.00 Eucharist with Prayers for Healing
Deuteronomy 26: 1 - 11
Romans 10: 8b - 13
Luke 4: 1 -13
- Feb. 28 Second Sunday of Lent
 8.30 Holy Communion (said)
 10.00 Eucharist
Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 - 18
Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1
Luke 13: 31-35

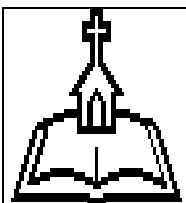
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Neuchâtel Services
Sunday 7 February – 10.00
Sunday 21 February – 17.00

Rotas

READERS

- 7 A Funkhouser+A Masciadri
- 14 P Jayaraj+S Higson
- 21 E Pfyffer+J Wenger
- 28 T Carrick+Y Chittazhathu



INTERCESSIONS

- 7 E Hutchison
- 14 H Davie
- 21 D Low
- 28 S Faillettaz

SIDESPERSIONS

- 7 Y Chittazhathu
- 14 S Klein
- 21 B Winfield
- 28 S Faillettaz

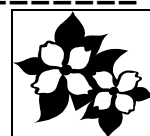


COFFEE & TEA

- 7 S & M Brawand
- 14 M Wittwer + J Chisholm
- 21 M Mead + E Vondracek
- 28 A & H Kamarys

FLOWERS

- 7 Y Chittazhathu 14 Y Chittazhathu
- 21 Lent (no flowers) 28 Lent (no flowers)



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

SERVER

- 7 R Freiburghaus
- 14 M Wildhaber
- 21 A Funkhouser
- 28 D Goepfert



CHALICE ASSISTANTS

- 7 E Hutchison + H Davie
- 14 P Hawker + J Wenger
- 21 D Low + R Freiburghaus
- 28 E Hutchison + K Chittazhathu



DUTY COUNCIL MEMBER

- 7 J Eze
- 14 A Masciadri
- 21 T Read
- 28 H Davie

AUDIO

- 7 W Bisig
- 14 A Tomczak
- 21 H Wenger
- 28 E Wildhaber

*Rota changes after the publication date can be found on the web site.
Please notify any changes to the church office.*



What about the Dragons?

In Tultitlán, a suburb of Mexico City, there is a church dedicated to Santa Muerte – St Death. The saint accepts gifts of money and tequila. She is sometimes portrayed smoking a marijuana joint.

In Nyanza province in Kenya, members of a church called Legio Maria seek to control the spirit world through possession, exorcism, and the use of mediums. Their churches have enormous ornaments, their members carry enormous rosaries – the larger a crucifix or image is, the more powerful it is.

At Beatenberg, you can visit the cave where St Beatus, baptized in England by St Barnabas and ordained at Rome by St Peter, fought with and killed a dragon which tried to hinder his work of converting the pagan Helvetii. Fighting dragons, no doubt in imitation of the archangel Michael (Rev 12:9), was one of the challenges of being a saint, it seems!

Many tourists in Australia visit Ayers Rock, or Uluru. Parts of the mountain are sacred and may not be photographed, and the local people want to close the path to the summit because it crosses a track made by a python in the Dreamtime.

You may wish to take some, or all, of these stories seriously, or quite the reverse! And you can no doubt think of other examples of pagan legend and heathen superstition coming into contact with Christian teaching.

Missionaries bringing the Gospel to a pagan people have two choices. They can reject everything in the pagan culture that is associated with old beliefs, or they can accept as much as possible and try to give it a Christian meaning. So in Britain, we find springs sacred to the Celtic gods rebaptized as “St Bridget's Well”, or the like. We find sacred trees given a Christian message (think of “The Holly and the Ivy”). We find ceremonies like dancing round the maypole or lighting the winter fire in November emptied of their pagan religious significance and incorporated into the Christian year.

But which customs of other societies can be tolerated and which are dangerous? The tragedy in Haiti reminds us of the power of voodoo – can this be incorporated into Christianity? In South Africa, the church struggled, and perhaps still struggles, with the practice of polygamy. Is monogamy part of the Christian message, or is it a part of the culture of Jesus' time, hallowed by him and by the early Church, which might be adapted in a different way to societies outside Europe and the Middle East? As attitudes change, to slavery, to the rôle of women in society, to the use of weapons, should we as Christians reject them, or try to give them a Christian perspective?

“If you can't beat them, join them,” some might say. But the Bible gives a different perspective. On one hand, the writer of Deuteronomy was in no doubt that God wanted nothing to do with pagan customs. They must be rooted out, and those who practise them must be put to the sword. In fact, though, it is clear from the rest of the Old Testament that the other nations continued to coexist with the Jewish people, and went on reverencing their sacred pillars.

But this was not “joining” the heathen. Foreign ideas about creation, floods, kings, angels and so on were not simply taken over – quite the reverse. The Jewish faith transformed them into something new and unique.

Jesus came, he said, “to fulfil the Law” - the dot on each *i* and the cross-stroke of each *t* of the old Law would remain to the end of time (Matt 5:18). And when Christians moved outside the Jewish world, they took this attitude with them. When Paul met Athenian worshippers of “an unknown god”, he did not condemn them, but explained how the God in whom “we live and move and have our being” was none other than the God and Father of Jesus Christ. (Acts 17:22-31) Old ways were not replaced, but fulfilled in Jesus.

The people whom Christians condemned were those who did not put God first. A big issue for the early Church was eating meat which had been butchered according to pagan ritual. Throughout the New Testament it is clear that this was permitted, unless it gave rise to offence, or unless it caused the faith of a “weaker Christian” to waver. The only commandment was to love God and to love one's neighbour.

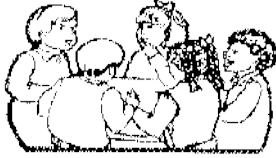
A month ago we recalled how *The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*. The Jewish prophets had their hopes and fears. The worshippers of the Unknown God had their hopes and fears. All cultures, all religions, even the worshippers of Santa Muerte have their hopes and fears. If they are left to superstition, they will remain hopes and fears. But Christ, who fills and fulfils the whole of creation, can transform them and give them a new perspective. Our eyes should be fixed not on the saint fighting the dragon, but on the news the saint is bearing – the news of love and salvation.

Hector Davie

Laughlines

Two men were sitting on a riverbank fishing. Suddenly, they looked up to see a funeral procession going over the nearby bridge. One of the men took off his cap and solemnly held it over his heart. "That was a nice gesture," observed his friend.

"Oh," replies the first, "it was the least I could do, we were married for 25 years."



JUNIOR CHURCH

Thanks to all Teachers

Many thanks to all those new and existing teachers who responded to our appeal for help at the end of last year. We now have enough teachers to continue to run four classes every Sunday: Sparklers for children aged 3 to 5+, All-Stars for children aged 5 to 8+, Trailblazers for children aged 8 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+.

Meeting Times

The Junior Church normally meets every Sunday in the year, unless there is a special All-Age service. It begins with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church. After this, all the children and teachers meet together in the hall for a brief introduction, prayer and to collect our gifts for Tear Fund. This is also an opportunity for giving out notices and welcoming newcomers and visitors. The children then go to their own classes.

Every Sunday the Sparklers return to church at the Peace. On the first and third Sunday of each month, the other classes do not return to church but remain in their groups for more teaching.

Nursery

All children under 3 are welcome in the nursery (crèche).

A reminder to parents: please collect your child immediately after the service; you may also fetch your child before communion, if you would like him/her to receive a blessing.

Thanks to the following people for taking care of our smallest members this month:

7 Françoise Hänggi and Astrid Tomczak

14 Rebecca Giulini and Jana Kutesko

21 Marty Hebeisen and Blanka Piper

28 Walter Bisig and Maxine Wildhaber

Social Group for 7 – 12s

There is a new social group aimed at the children in the Trailblazers and All-Stars classes who are aged 7 to 12. The group will meet on Saturdays about every two months, and it started on 23 January. If you would like more information please speak to Thenjiwe Germann or Francoise Hänggi on a Sunday after church or email Tina (tina@stursula.ch).

Bake Sale

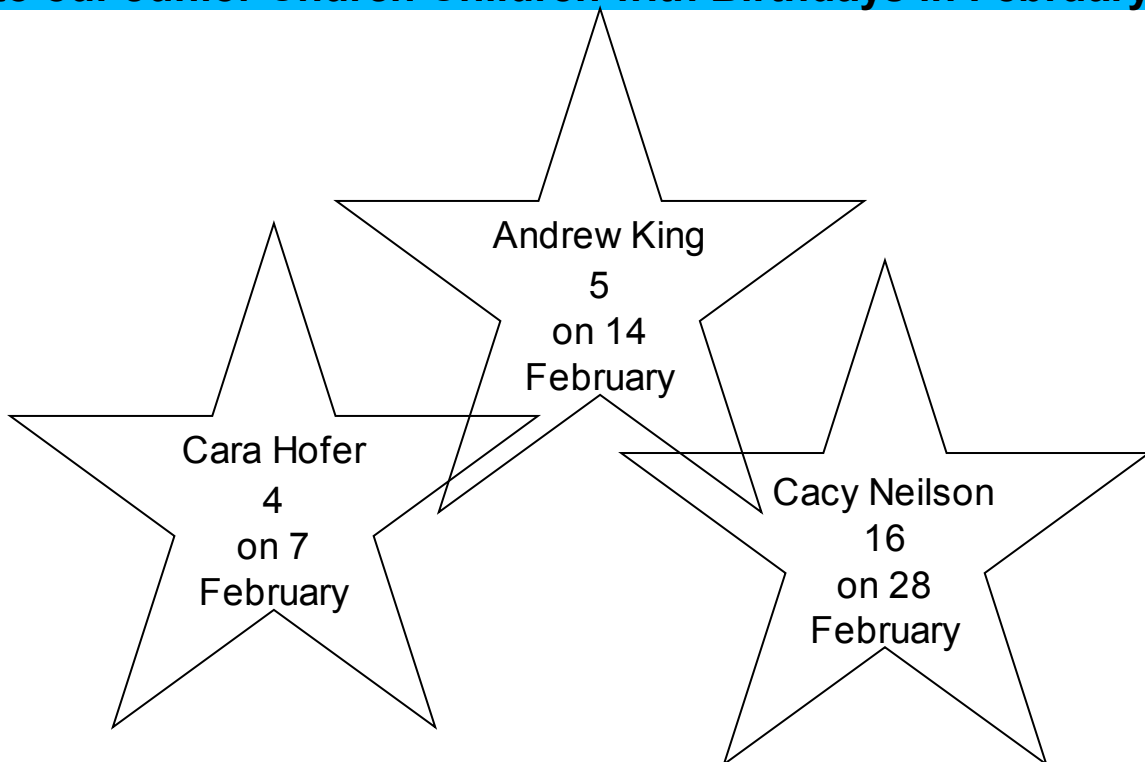
The Junior Church will be holding a bake sale on Easter Sunday, 4 April, after the service in aid of Tear Fund. The 7-12s group will be making chocolates and fudge on Saturday 27 March for this sale. Other contributions are welcomed. Also please come and buy.

Easter Picture Competition

Calling all artists aged 14 or under: Can you draw us an Easter picture? If so, please give it to your Junior Church teacher by Sunday 14 March. The best four will be printed in the magazine and some may be used in our Easter services. There will also be a small prize for the best picture.

Congratulations

to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in February



For Your Diary

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice

Other Events

Tuesday 2 February	19.30	Church Council
Friday 5 February	19.00	Confirmation Group (Youth)
Sunday 14 February		COPY DATE
Wednesday 17 February	18.30	Ash Wednesday service
Sunday 21 February	10.00	Youth Group & Confirmation Class
Thursday 25 February	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating
	19.00	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Friday 26 February	19.00	Youth Group
	19.00	Confirmation Group (Adults)
Saturday 27 February	10.00 – 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 28 February	12.00	Lenten Soup Lunch

Future Dates

Sunday 14 March	1130	Lenten Soup, Old Catholic Church
Saturday 27 March	1000 – 1200	Social Group for 7 – 12s
Sunday 28 March	1200	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Sunday 4 April (Easter)	1200	JC Bake Sale in aid of Tear Fund
Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 April		Youth / Family trip to Taizé
Friday-Sunday 30 April-2 May		Archdeaconry Choir Festival
Saturday 22 May	1400 – 1630	Afternoon Tea
Saturday 5 June	1000 – 1400	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 20 June	1000	Confirmation
Saturday 4 September	1000 – 1400	Book and Food Sale
Friday-Sunday 17-19 September		Weekend Away
Friday 19 November	1700 – 1930	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 20 November	1000 – 1500	

COPY DATE !!!
for the March issue is
14 February
COLLATING DATE
25 February

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

Archdeaconry Choir Festival

This year the traditional annual Archdeaconry Choir Festival will be held in
Lausanne at the weekend of **1 - 2 May**. It is planned to start with a joint choir
practice on Friday Evening, 30 April, continue all day on Saturday with
rehearsals, followed by a sung Evensong at Christ Church on Saturday
afternoon, and a sung Communion Service on Sunday Morning.

The music that the combined choirs from the Anglican Chaplaincies in
Switzerland will sing will include the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* by Walmisley,
Preces and Responses by Sanders, a choral setting for the Communion
Service, and Anthems and Motets by H. Purcell, A. Carter, E.C. Bairstow and
E. Bullock.

St Ursula's Choir practices are held on Saturdays from 09.30 until 11.30.

We will rehearse the music for the Festival and also for singing at some
selected services at St Ursula's Church. If you are interested in joining the choir
please get in touch with Hans-Karl or Elisabeth Pfyffer (Phone 026 4920 326,
e-mail: hanskarl.pfyffer@bluewin.ch)

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Prayer at the Centre in Liebefeld

There will be no meetings during February. The schedule for March onwards
will be published in the church magazine for March. I am praying about holding
a daytime meeting for contemplative prayer and possibly repeating the audio
workshop. This would be in addition to evening meetings. Your input is always
welcome (by e-mail to bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch, please).

Brian Morgan

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM will be held on **Sunday 28 March at 12.00**. Please note this date now. We hope many members of the congregation will be able to attend this important church meeting.

At the AGM we will elect church wardens and church council members. If you would like to be able to vote at these elections (or perhaps stand for election yourself), you need to be a member of the Electoral Roll. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, please consider joining – you can find an application form in this magazine.

Please also think and pray about future church wardens and council members. Consider whether you, or someone you know, might contribute to the life of St Ursula's in this way.

You will receive the official invitation to the AGM with the next magazine, but please note the date and time **now**.

Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)

Music Group

As many of you know I have taken over the Music Group from Isabel Jordan, who left for Germany last month. She did an excellent job of leading, encouraging and inspiring the group, thank you Isabel.

With this ministry come lots of challenges for me e.g. learning the much developed pathways of communication in our church, and discovering what I don't know! I know that the music group is very important to so many of you.

We are a committed group of people who are happy to serve God and you in the worship in our church. If you feel called to offer your talents in this way please feel free to contact me. I will write a fuller article for next month's magazine.

For now, thank you for your support and encouragement so far and please continue to pray for us. Thank you. With every blessing,

Rev Linda Bisig

Christmas Bazaar

On behalf of everyone at St Ursula's Church we would like to thank all those who donated gifts of time, money or goods to our 2009 Christmas Bazaar.

Thank you for your generosity and wish you all a very blessed New Year.

Lynn Robb and Maxine Wildhaber

Lunch Invitation in Lent



We would like to invite you to a



Soup Lunch in aid of **Cecily's Fund**

At: St Ursula's

Date: Sunday 28 February 2010

Time: after church

Please join us for an informal lunch of delicious home-made soup and good company! We will provide soup, bread, tea and coffee. If you would like to bring some cake or cookies to share they would be most welcome.

There will be a basket for voluntary donations which will go to Cecily's Fund to support their work providing education for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia.

www.cecilysfund.org

Cecily's Fund is UK registered charity no. 1071660

Church Council Report

The council meeting held on Tuesday 1 December was a short business meeting followed by a time of fellowship.

Several ongoing issues were discussed:

- There are several new teachers for the Junior Church, but no leader. For the time being, there will be meetings for all teachers to keep things running. Jana has volunteered to do all the administrative tasks for which we are very grateful.
- Quotes have been obtained for replacing the carpets in the bedrooms in the church house and in the offices, also for painting the offices. Hopefully this work can be done in the Spring.
- The Advent collections will be split between USPG, CMS and PartnerSein, apart from the one from the Nativity Play which will go to Tear Fund as usual.
- The future of the music group was unclear, with Isabel leaving. (*Since the council meeting a solution has been found.*)
- Evaluation of the responses to the questionnaire continues. A presentation to council and to the congregation will be planned.

The treasurer reported that the response to the pledge appeal was not good – far fewer responses than in recent years. If our income is reduced, we will have to consider what to do – council would appreciate your prayers.

Concern was expressed about the gate which is difficult to open and shuts with a bang. It seems that it is difficult to fix, but the building committee will look at it.

Seven members of our congregation attended the SACEP seminar in November on the subject of communication. We hope to be able to use what we learned – see separate article.

There will be a Lent course held in various centres – see separate article.

Various other dates for 2010 were agreed – look out for information in the magazine.

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

Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)

From the Treasurer

With nearly all the figures in, it seems that the Church's finances last year have remained in balance. This is very largely thanks to those of you who contributed with money, time and talents to our work of knowing Christ and making him known.

I shall be sending our formal thanks very shortly to those who gave through our pledge scheme, and I would like to thank all whose gifts, large or small, came anonymously as well.

The Church exists to serve God and to serve our neighbour. The Federal Tax Law treats these two activities quite differently, and so gifts to St Ursula's Charitable Association (which serves God in ways the tax office regards as *gemeinnützig*) may be deducted from your taxable income. Please let me know if you have any difficulty claiming this relief!

Magazine Subscriptions

Elsewhere you will see that a team has recommended making our magazine bi-monthly from April of this year. As a result, there would be seven issues in 2010 instead of ten. To make our communication more effective and relevant, the weekly notices will carry news and photographs. (They will also be published on the church's website, as at present.)

As a result, our subscription has been reduced *pro rata*, from Fr28.50 to Fr20. If you collect your magazine from church, thus saving postage, you may deduct Fr6 and pay only Fr14. It helps us if you pay promptly – it also helps us if you pay through your bank or post account rather than over the post office counter.

The Treasurer

Electoral Roll Revision

Each year our Electoral Roll is revised just before the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM we elect representatives to the church council and also the churchwardens.

In order to vote at these elections, or stand for election yourself, you **must** be on the Electoral Roll. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, please consider joining. There is an application form on the next page of this magazine. Application forms are also available in the church hall or can be obtained from the church office. The closing date for the receipt of applications is **Monday 8 March**.

If you have questions about the Electoral Roll or are unsure whether to join please speak to me or a member of council.

Tricia Carrick (Electoral Roll Officer)

Application for Entry on the Electoral Roll

I,
(full Christian names, surname and title (Mr, Mrs, Miss etc))

of

.....
(full postal address)

apply to have my name entered on the electoral roll of the chaplaincy of

St Ursula's Church, Berne

which is part of the Church of England Diocese in Europe.

1) I am baptised

2) I am aged sixteen or more years

or I shall reach my sixteenth birthday on (being a date before the AGM)

(delete as appropriate)

3) I am a member of the Church of England or of a Church in full communion with the Church of England

or I am a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and am in good standing with that Church

(delete as appropriate)

4) I have been a participant in public worship at St Ursula's or one of the affiliated churches in Neuchâtel or Thun during a period of three months prior to the date of this application

or I have been on the electoral roll of my previous Church

(delete as appropriate)

Signed Date

When completed, this form should be returned to:

The Electoral Roll Officer
St Ursula's Church
Jubiläumsplatz 2
3005 Bern

Notes for the Completion of the Electoral Roll Form

What is an Electoral Roll?

It is the chaplaincy's register of electors, the list of those qualified to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where elections take place for

- a) the members of the church council
- b) the representatives to the archdeaconry synod
- c) the church wardens

Additionally, any person entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting may raise any question of local or general church interest.

Who can be a member of the Electoral Roll?

Membership of the Electoral Roll is open to members of the Church of England, members of churches in communion with the Church of England, and members in good standing of another church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Members must be baptised, aged 16 or over, live in the canton of Berne or the surrounding area, and have worshipped at St Ursula's for the last three months.

What difference does it make?

By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that all the Synodical councils of the Church (church council, archdeaconry synod, diocesan synod and general synod) are fully representative of their members. Synodical government gives an opportunity for partnership between bishops, clergy and laity in the life of the Church. It is intended to enable church people at every level to be in touch with the Church as a whole and to play their part in decision making.

Completing the Electoral Roll Form

The form should be easy to complete, but if you have any problems or difficulties, or if you have any questions about the Electoral Roll please speak to the Electoral Roll Officer or the chaplain (contact details are given at the back of the magazine). Once you have completed the form, please post it to the address given on the form, or hand it in to the church office or to a council member.

Tricia Carrick (Electoral Roll Officer)

Getting Messages Across

Seven members of St Ursula's attended a SACEP seminar on 21 November 2009 on the topic of communication. The seminar was led by John Truscott, from England, who gave us lots of ideas how to improve our communication both to existing members of the congregation and to outsiders.

The "communications team" (as we have called ourselves) met in December to begin to see how to apply the ideas from the seminar to St Ursula's. We agreed to focus on internal communication as a first step and decided to:

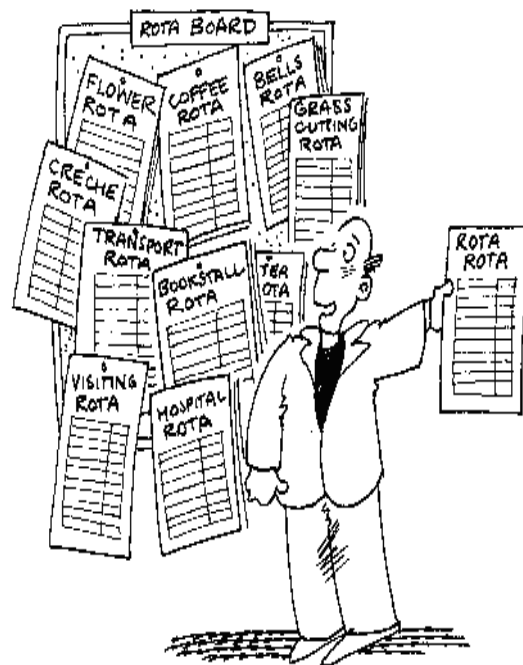
- change the weekly notice sheet into a weekly newsletter. The readings will be available on a separate sheet for you to pick up, if you'd like to have them. The format of the newsletter sheet will be changed and incorporate pictures whenever possible.
- produce a leaflet in colour to advertise the Lent and Easter services. This will include photos from last year.
- produce the magazine every two months from April. The format will also be modified so that it and the weekly newsletter obviously come from the same place.

We would like your feedback on all of these - please send comments to berne@anglican.ch.

Together with the change in the format and frequency of the church magazine, Wendy will be stepping down as editor from the end of February (after producing the March magazine). Wendy has been our magazine editor for very many years and we wish to thank her for her dedicated, faithful service over such a long time. We will be arranging an opportunity for you to do this personally.

However, it means that we need a new editor. Please get in touch with the church office if you feel called to this ministry or if you know someone we could ask - it could also be a team effort.

Tricia Carrick



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

NEWS FROM NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1

Services are held twice monthly :

10 am on the FIRST Sunday of the month.

Children meet for Junior Church at 10 am in the Villa Yo-Yo and join their parents in church for Communion.

5 pm on the THIRD Sunday of the month : Family Communion service

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

Tel : 032 730 51 83

www.neuchatel-church.ch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bible Study at Roy and Mieke's home, at 8 pm:

Tuesday 9 February

Tuesday 23 February

Debate at Eight at Roy and Mieke's home, at 8 pm:

Sunday 28 February

A Life Worth Living - follow-up to the 2009 Alpha course:

Tuesdays at 10 am at Roy and Mieke's home

A new evening Alpha course is coming up – see Roy for dates and details

ECHOES OF THE CAROL SERVICE

Seating almost became a problem at the carol service attended by well over 100 people. Added treats to the well-loved carols and readings, were the beautiful decorations to the church and the children's rendering of the "Christmas alphabet" sketch. The delicious refreshments afterwards gave us the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones.



Baptism of Sonya Huy - November 2009 at Neuchâtel Church



A daughter of Chinese immigrants, I was born and raised in the United States without any specific religious upbringing. Growing up as a first-generation Chinese-American, I had heard of Confucianism and Buddhism as these were traditional Chinese beliefs but actually practising any kind of religion was not part of my childhood.

My real desire to learn about Christianity was sparked when I was 22 and backpacking around Europe for four months. On a whim, I travelled to the country of

Turkey where I happened to visit the ancient Greek city of Ephesus.

I was awestruck when I saw the fish symbol representing Jesus carved into the marble sidewalks among the ancient ruins and it was at that moment when I realized that Jesus Christ truly existed. I left Turkey and headed to Prague where I mentioned this experience to a fellow traveller who introduced me to C.S. Lewis' book "Mere Christianity".

When I returned home to the US, I read some Lewis books but at that time, they didn't show me how or why I should believe in Christ. For a few years, I didn't think about God as I concentrated on finding earthly happiness, in the form of a meaningful career and a potential husband.

Eventually I went to China, curious to visit my mother country and to seek job opportunities. It was in Beijing that I met my Chinese-French husband who was raised in a practising Buddhist household and introduced me to Buddhist rituals. Our wedding even included a ceremony in which six Buddhist monks blessed us, but I never felt an affinity for Buddhism as much as I tried to please my husband.

We were living in Hong Kong both busy with jobs and eager to start a family, but after I gave birth to our two sons, my desire to learn about Christianity was rekindled.

Whenever I heard someone was Christian, I would casually ask about their church, as I was still unsure of my commitment. I knew that if I began to

explore Christianity, it would likely be a solitary activity as my husband felt strongly about his Buddhist background and did not understand why I was interested to go to church.

Unbeknown to me, my father had been seeking Christ most of his life and became a devout Christian after he retired in Thailand six years ago. Especially during the past two years he encouraged my family and me to find a church and prayed that we too, would find comfort and guidance in Jesus Christ.

During the 11 years we lived in Hong Kong, only twice did I gather the courage to venture out to the Sunday service of two different churches. In both cases I never went back, the service with its masses of people left me feeling isolated, overwhelmed and unfulfilled.

Then over one year ago, my husband's new job relocated us to Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Shortly after our arrival, I started taking intensive French classes at a school that sponsored American missionaries to learn French before they went to Africa. I became friendly with one of my missionary classmates. I mentioned to her that my younger son, Oscar sometimes asked me questions about God and that I didn't know how to answer them. She bought Oscar a children's bible and together with her husband, sat down with him one day to answer his questions. Both my sons were interested in the Bible stories but Oscar was especially curious about the reasons and meaning behind the actions in the stories.

I wanted to foster my sons' interest in the Bible and in late May this year, we finally found our way to the Neuchâtel Church and met the Minister, Roy and his wife Mieke. The first time I went, I felt welcomed in this small church. Wonderfully, I saw a friend also there for the first time. I was glad there was someone of whom I could ask questions during the service as the 'rituals' always intimidated me in my previous visits to churches.

Roy and Mieke took an interest in my situation and never made me feel embarrassed about my awkward questions and skepticism about God's teachings.

Roy perceived my state of confusion and offered me a copy of "Alpha – Questions of Life" by Nicky Gumbel. This book clearly and frankly explained how and why I should believe in Christ.

With Roy and Mieke's guidance, the accompanying Alpha course that I attended with a small group of other church members became a turning point in my life. Before we left Neuchâtel, there was no doubt in my mind that I wanted Roy to baptize me.

I am grateful for our time in Neuchâtel, as disappointingly short as it was, for the tranquil beauty of this small city and the ever-changing magnificent lake views nurtured the realization, awe and contemplation I needed to “see” God.

I am also grateful to Roy and Mieke, for through their ministry and friendship, I have gained the understanding and conviction that I needed to come to faith in Christ.

The day of my baptism touched me in many ways - hearing the singing of the hymns that I chose, feeling the love from the children in the baptism cards they made for me and from the friends who came up to sign me with the cross during the ceremony, and experiencing the cleansing act of baptism. I was especially touched and thank God for the presence of my husband that day, his unbridled enthusiasm during the ceremony and his support for my becoming a Christian.



In anticipation of our move to New York in January 2010, I feel both serenity and optimism with Jesus Christ in my life. Unlike my childhood, I want my sons to grow up with the love, support and guidance of Christ in their lives.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” Matthew 7:7

Thank you, Sonya, for sharing your journey of faith with us. We loved having you at Neuchâtel and pray that God will truly bless you and all the family in your new life in America.

Chaplain's Notes

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent starts quite early this year and Ash Wednesday is on 17 February. We shall celebrate Holy Communion at 18.30, with the usual Ash Wednesday ceremonies. At this service, the preacher will be Fr Christoph Schuler from St Peter and St Paul's Church.

To make the ash for this service, we use the palm crosses from last year. Please bring yours back to church as from Sunday 31 January.

Ash Wednesday is one of the days when Christians should make a special effort to be in church, so please join us and get Lent off to a good start.

LENT GROUPS – PLENTY OF CHOICE

There will be no fewer than five groups meeting during Lent, all following the same course. They will be meeting on different evenings and at locations around the area. You can choose which one to attend.

Mondays – Stettlen, contact Linda Bisig (031 – 932 4169)

Tuesdays – Rufenacht, contact Sue Faillettaz (031 – 832 4245)

Wednesdays – Wohlen *

Wednesdays – Liebefeld *

Fridays – Fraubrunnen *

* - If you are going to one of these last three, please contact the chaplain for the moment and he will pass on names to the people running the groups.

The course:

We shall follow the latest York course again. The one we used in Advent gave rise to lively discussion at times. This one is called "When I survey..." and considers Christ's cross and ours. The course explores themes like the place of silence in a busy world, despair and hope, the challenge of living as disciples today. Contributors to the CD which accompanies the course include Sir Richard Dannatt, the head of the British army until 2009 and for many years a committed Christian, and John Bell from the Iona Community. (Later in the year you can meet John Bell in person as he is the speaker at the next event run by SACEP, the Archdeaconry Education Programme.)

A donation of ten francs is requested to cover the cost of materials. To help us make sure we have ordered enough booklets, please let us know as soon as possible that you are taking part.

CONFIRMATION – NOTE THE DATE

We shall be welcoming Bishop Geoffrey, our diocesan Bishop, to St Ursula's on Sunday 20 June and he will be confirming our candidates at the service that morning. The teenage group has been meeting for a while now and we are exploring together what it means for a young adult to be a Christian today.

Adult Group starts soon

We have had enquiries already from some adults already who are interested in Confirmation. More are welcome to join. You can be confirmed at any age and, in fact, in my experience the number of adults coming forward is on the increase as people discover a faith later in life.

There will be a preliminary meeting in the church hall on Friday 22 January at 19.00 to arrange convenient dates and times. (If you didn't see this item until after that date – don't worry. Give me a call and I will let you know what the arrangements are.)

JUNIOR CHURCH – A NEW START

Thank you to everyone who came forward to help with Junior Church. Our prayers were answered in generous measure. The Nativity Play received great acclaim – thanks to Tricia and all who helped - and Junior Church began the year on a new and confident note.

We have instituted quarterly meetings for all the teachers to discuss the course, look at rotas etc. At our first meeting, there was one thing we would like to bring to the attention of all concerned, namely that Sparklers go back to church every Sunday. The other groups will stay out on the first and third Sundays, as before. We are also building up a “bank” of easy hymns for the children to become familiar with. They will be repeated fairly frequently over the next few months and then they will be able to join in confidently when they are in the services with everyone else.

NEW ENERGY

It is not only Junior Church that has had a new start. Someone remarked to me recently that many aspects of our church life felt like that. People are joining us. New energies are being released and people are coming forward with ideas. We live in exciting times!

Peter

Finding our Common Vision – Questionnaire Update

The large amount of data resulting from the survey has now been drawn together and presented in several easily understandable tables and diagrams. Work is still needed on collating the comments, however. The survey team met with Father Peter on 19 January to discuss how best to present the results in a useful format to Council on 2 February. The Council will subsequently be forming a strategy based on the feedback, and this will form the basis matter of a Council day away in the spring. The team agreed that the 166 responses to the questionnaire are an accurate representation of the congregation, and we are encouraged by the fact that there appears to indeed be much common ground within our Church family on which to work in the future. The team is hoping to present the results to the congregation as soon as possible after the Council meeting in February.

Since Isabel Jordan has left Switzerland, it was agreed that Allison Masciadri should take her place on the survey team. Isabel is willing, however, to continue providing support in the process where necessary. We would like to thank her for all her work on the questionnaire and the input she has provided up to now.

-The Survey Team: Pieter Perrett, Hector Davie, Allison Masciadri -

Farewell

On Sunday 13 December, members of the music group accompanied the singing at the Nativity Play, which was appreciated by many.

Unfortunately, this was the last time Isabel could play as she and her family were leaving Berne. So after



the service we said goodbye to Isabel, Emily and Thomas. During this, the choir sang a blessing. We wish the whole family many blessings in their new life in Germany and thank them for all they gave us in the time they were here.

[There are more pictures, including some of the Nativity Play, on our web site]



How about going to Freiburg????

Well this is what Jennifer asked me a few months ago.....so here we are at 9.00 at the meeting point in the Bern Bahnhof.

Jennifer had organized our trip to Freiburg im Breisgau and we were all looking forward to spending some time together and to feeling the enchanting Festive Season atmosphere that Christmas markets evoke.

The mood was high on this 19 December 2009 and soon the quiet Swiss train got rather animated with English speaking voices. The trip seemed rather short also thanks to the very good gipfeli brought by Linda.

Freiburg was, let's say, rather cold (-8 C) but we ladies did not get discouraged and we found out that the best tip to keep us warm was to try the different Glühweins. Fortunately they only had two kinds....

The Christmas market was unique and we had the opportunity to do our last Christmas shopping.



At midday Andy found the right place to have lunch, spacious enough for all of us to sit down, relax and enjoy some fellowship.

In the afternoon we enjoyed browsing around the town and above all we appreciated the laughing and the being together, the hours flew away and soon it was time to go back.



I would like to thank everybody who participated and made this day very special to me. A BIG THANK YOU to Linda, Esther, Lynn, Kate, Sue H., Andy, Mary, John & Rebecca + Rachel & David.

Last but not least to Jennifer for her great organizational skills and for taking care of all of us so well!!!!

This day away made me realize, and I hope you too, how vital it is from time to time to be together with our Church family, for sharing, for fellowship and above all for Him.

*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.
(Matthew 18:20)*

Maxine Wildhaber

[You can see these pictures – and others – on the church's Picasa site – navigate to it via the site map or the magazine page]

News from St Ursula's Charity and Missions Team

For many years St Ursula's church has set aside 10% of the pledged giving for charitable and missionary work. In the past year however, the Church Council came to the conclusion that this was not enough. Knowing that the poor and destitute have been hit hardest by the financial crisis, more – not less – needed to be done. So Council decided to set aside the Advent collections for charity in addition to the 10% of pledged giving. Together this amounted to almost Fr22'000. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed as follows:

Discretionary	20.00
Lifewords (Christian Literature in many languages)	500.00
Partners (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	4166.00
AKiB (Passantenhilfe and Zentrum 5)	2000.00
Family Life Mission in Poland	3300.00
Church Mission Society	2004.80
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	2004.80
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo	1600.00
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	1000.00
Street Children's Mission, Thailand	1000.00
Institute for the Deaf Allah Kariem, Jordan	1100.00
Cecily's Fund, Educating AIDS-orphans in Zambia	1600.00
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project Sakhu'lutsha	1600.00

In addition we received Fr5343.30 through dedicated collections for:

Royal British Legion (Remembrance Sunday)	569.55
Partners – Old Catholic Relief Organization (Trinity Sunday)	345.60
Tear Fund (14 June, Harvest, Christmas, Junior Church collections)	4428.15

The Charity team tries to maintain a balance between local, regional and international projects and keep in touch with the recipients. In addition, Housegroups and other members of the congregation have taken a special interest in a charity of their choosing, have had direct contact with them, and pledged to pray for them regularly.

It is always heart-warming to read the responses we get to our gifts and prayers as seen in the excerpts below:

Rob Mackay, Scripture Union Lifeskills Education ***“We are ever grateful to the Christian brothers and sisters at St Ursula’s who are moved to give to our work here at Sakh’Ulutsha. Your prayers are also an enormous encouragement to us here as we are strengthened by knowing that other Christians petition the Lord on our behalf on a regular basis.”***

Breikela Andrea, Zentrum 5 (Integration Centre for Migrants, AKiB), Bern ***“Im Namen des Zentrum 5 danke ich Ihnen ganz herzlich für Ihre grosszügige Spende. Ihr Beitrag wird dem niederschweligen Deutschkurs mit Alltagsorientierung für Frauen zu Gute kommen.“***

Cecily’s Fund ***“It is only with the help and generosity of supporters like you that we are able to make a positive difference to so many needy children in Zambia. Thank you once again for your kind donation in support of Cecily’s Fund, which is very much appreciated.”***

SGM Lifeworlds ***“It is especially in the difficult financial circumstances that we get to know the value of true friendship and sacrifice. We want to thank you for supporting SGM Lifeworlds and let you know that your donation is having a direct influence on other people’s lives. We also want to assure you of our prayers for you and your dear ones. Thank you for sharing our dream of connecting people with God’s Word to see lives inspired and changed!***

Church Mission Society, Debbie Lalnunhlui about a project with urban youth in Bangalore, India ***“It is so amazing to see the works of the Holy Spirit, I see lives changed, sickness being healed, young people coming out of their depressions and start living normal lives. It is so important for them to be healed spiritually and emotionally and they often need someone who understands, listens, and is willing to give them time!”***

What a privilege to be in touch with the worldwide Christian community and to encourage and help each other through prayer!

We encourage you to take the above list as a prayer guide for this month.

- ❖ Pray for the leaders in the various organizations as well as the workers at the front
- ❖ Pray for sufficient resources: finances, personnel, equipment etc.
- ❖ Pray for the people being reached by the various projects
- ❖ Pray for the political situation which often makes ministry more difficult

Check the board in the upper hall and www.anglican.ch/berne for additional information on the various organizations.

- Esther Hutchison Funkhouser for the Charity and Missions Team -

FAQ : What's so special about being Anglican?

The Anglican way of Christian living and worship is wide enough to include people at different stages on their journey of faith and it does not require people to sign up to closely defined statements of belief. It has supported and encouraged people in the exercise of their faith over the years – indeed centuries.

Ancient cathedrals and traditional forms of worship (even in contemporary language) show us that the work of the Holy Spirit did not come to an end after the events of the New Testament. We stand on the shoulders of many generations of believers. Anglicans recognise that these include mediaeval saints like Aidan and Hilda, people of prayer and poets like Julian of Norwich and George Herbert, political activists and social reformers like William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler. People like them have contributed to our Anglican heritage.

Features like set liturgies, government by bishops and synods, well-loved prayers and hymns provide a structure in which Anglican variety can exist. They are like the walls of a house that shelters family members of different ages and with different opinions about all sorts of things.

Jesus was born into a human family and spent his adult ministry in the company of a very mixed group of followers. Theologians call this “incarnation”. This means that God was “in” “carnis” - flesh or body. (See the article by Hector Davie in the December magazine.) Anglicans tend to stress the importance of the incarnation, in particular its community or family aspects. We are part of our family of parents, siblings, children etc. But we are also part of the family of the church congregation we belong to and, through them, of the family of the Diocese and the wider Church. Anglicans also tend to think of the Church as being “incarnated” in the fabric of society, and there for everyone, whether members or not. They share this view with other historic and national churches.

Basically, then, what is special about being an Anglican is that we benefit from a rich Christian heritage. We are willing to share this with anyone who cares to come alongside us. It may not be the latest thing but it has stood the test of time and we are happy to call it home.

PMP

A Word for the Month - Ecumenical

Two months back it was Christmas – a word everyone knows, but which you won't find in the Bible. So for this month's word, here is a bit of church jargon. Is it a word from the Bible? Well, yes and no.

We can guess that the word electrical has something to do with electricity, that the word mechanical has something to do with machines, but what on earth is an ecumen? Or has someone got the spelling wrong, and should it really be “economical”?

As with all good jargon, it is hard to guess the meaning of the word if you don't know it. In fact, the word from which it comes does not exist in English, but only in Greek. It isn't “an ecumen” but “the *oikoumene*”. As *oikein* means to dwell (and *oikos* means a house), the *oikoumene* means everything that can be dwelt in – the whole inhabited world.

When Jesus foretells that “the gospel will be proclaimed throughout the world” (Matt 24:13), when the Devil shows Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world”, when Paul recalls the Psalmist's cry that heaven's words of praise “have gone out to the end of the world” (Ps 19:4, Rom 10:18), when a decree goes out from Caesar Augustus that “all the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1), the word used is *oikoumene*.

But Caesar Augustus didn't really plan to register the whole of humanity – just his own people. Nor was Demetrius in Ephesus really claiming that “the whole world” was flocking to worship the goddess Diana (Acts 19:27). So “ecumenical” has taken on a slightly narrower meaning: concerned with everyone who loves and serves Jesus as Lord and Saviour – the whole church, the whole body of Christ, the whole household of faith, so to speak.

In the distant past, it was easy to know what was meant by “the whole church”. The Emperor Constantine could call the leaders of the whole church to an “ecumenical” Council at Nicæa in 325 to settle the question of whether Christ was “a created being”, or “he through whom all things were made”. At a time when the Empire was centred in Istanbul, the leader of the church there was respected as “the Ecumenical Patriarch”. But with the division of the church into East and West, and with the divisions brought about in the 1500s and later by the Reformation and its aftermath, ecumenism became a distant dream and not a present reality.

For Jesus and the apostles, the church could only be one body, united just as Jesus and the Father are united (John 17:11), by having one Lord, one faith and one baptism (Eph 4:5). But with the Reformation, churches settled into little niches, and if their members prayed for unity, they were often praying that others would recognize the error of their ways and come back to their particular fold.

In the 19th century, churches in the west started to realize that their divisions were harming their witness and their ability to serve others. A number of inter-denominational bodies started – the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) (1844), the Evangelical Alliance (1846), but there was no serious move to unite churches.

The modern ecumenical movement gained momentum with the institution of a week of prayer for Christian unity – an idea which the Evangelical Alliance proposed, and which the Anglican churches and the Roman Catholic church developed in the 1870s. The week moved to its present date (focused in most countries on 25 January) in 1908. The desire for ecumenical cooperation increased between the wars, and led to the formation of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

There is no space to go into the deeper questions of ecumenism here. Is the aim structural unity, as with the formation of the Church of South India in 1947? Is the aim dialogue, getting to see and understand the similarities between different ways of serving and worshipping God, as with the discussions between the Roman Catholic church and the Church of England? Is the aim getting churches to share the sacraments together, as with the Anglican churches and the Old Catholic churches of the Union of Utrecht? Or is it more to work together in specific fields: social work, religious education, outreach, Christian witness in a secular world, as with AKiB, the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft christlicher Kirchen in Bern*?

And is there common ground to build on? The anonymous saying: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity” begs the question of what the essentials are. The literal truth of the Bible? A belief that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine of the Eucharist? A ban on contraception, or on gay relationships, on female clergy?

What is essential is a love for God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and a desire to follow Christ. Only if we have this love within us can we share it with the *oikoumene* – with the whole inhabited world. For this is the unity that God desires.

HD

Copenhagen – the Diocesan Environment Officer writes:

The eyes of the whole world were focused throughout 2009 on the much heralded UN Climate Change Conference COP15 which was held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December. I do not think I exaggerate if I call the final outcome a near disaster for God's creation and mankind. For the world leaders at the table it was not possible to reach a fair, ambitious or binding agreement to arrest the increase in global warming within + 2°, remembering it is the world's poorest people who are prone to suffer the most. Lust for pride, possessions and power, man's most mournful sins, stood in the way of any chance of a multilateral contract.

Throughout the year millions of people all around the globe have been making their fears and anger about global warming known to their leaders and governments by way of rallies, protest marches, protest letters, church services and prayer. Many have adapted their own lifestyles to live more environmentally friendly by way of an example. But clearly it is the governments of the super rich countries of today that are not prepared to see cuts in their industrial production nor provide funds to help the poorer nations face the challenge of climate change.

Does the human race deserve to survive?

How tempting it is to ask this question after the results of COP15. Perhaps those who care about the world in all its beauty and biodiversity and as a dwelling place of future generations were just expecting too much too quickly. Hence the great disappointments and anger! But I believe they - we - were right to expect a binding agreement from COP15 and I can only take solace from the fact that things are perhaps not quite as grim as they may seem. Much has been hopefully learnt by all governments, especially the recognition by rich countries that they can no longer bulldoze the poorer nations into accepting terms which are to their disadvantage. Hopefully there will be more political, social and economic goodwill offered at future meetings. Further conferences are planned for 2010 and this time all eyes will be on COP16 to be held in Mexico City in December. Please continue to protest, rally, write petitions and pray for an international binding agreement on climate change in 2010.

In fact may I recommend that all churches in our Diocese start planning NOW for Creationtide – a Time for God's Creation - as a season in September/October! And may I encourage you to also remember Climate Change in your Lent studies and prayers.

Brian Morgan



Halfway through a romantic dinner, my husband smiled and said, "You look so beautiful under these lights." I was falling in love all over again when he added, "We really should get some of these lights."



For our honeymoon my fiancé and I chose a fashionable hotel known for its luxurious suites. When I called to make reservations, the desk clerk inquired, "Is this for a special occasion?"

"Yes," I replied. "It's our honeymoon."

"And how many adults will there be?" she asked.

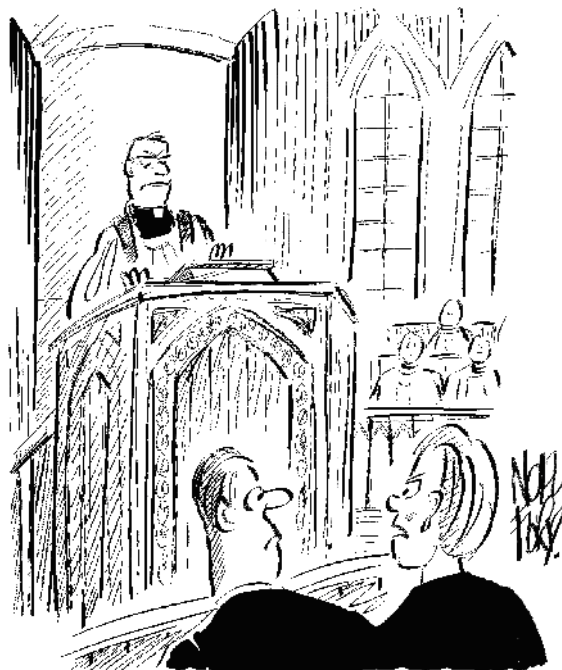


Know your spouse

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace were told by the instructor: "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He addressed Tom. "For instance, can you name your wife's favourite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's self-raising, isn't it?"



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!



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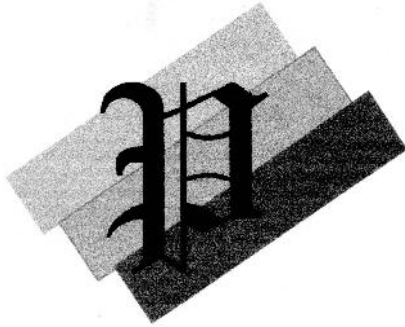
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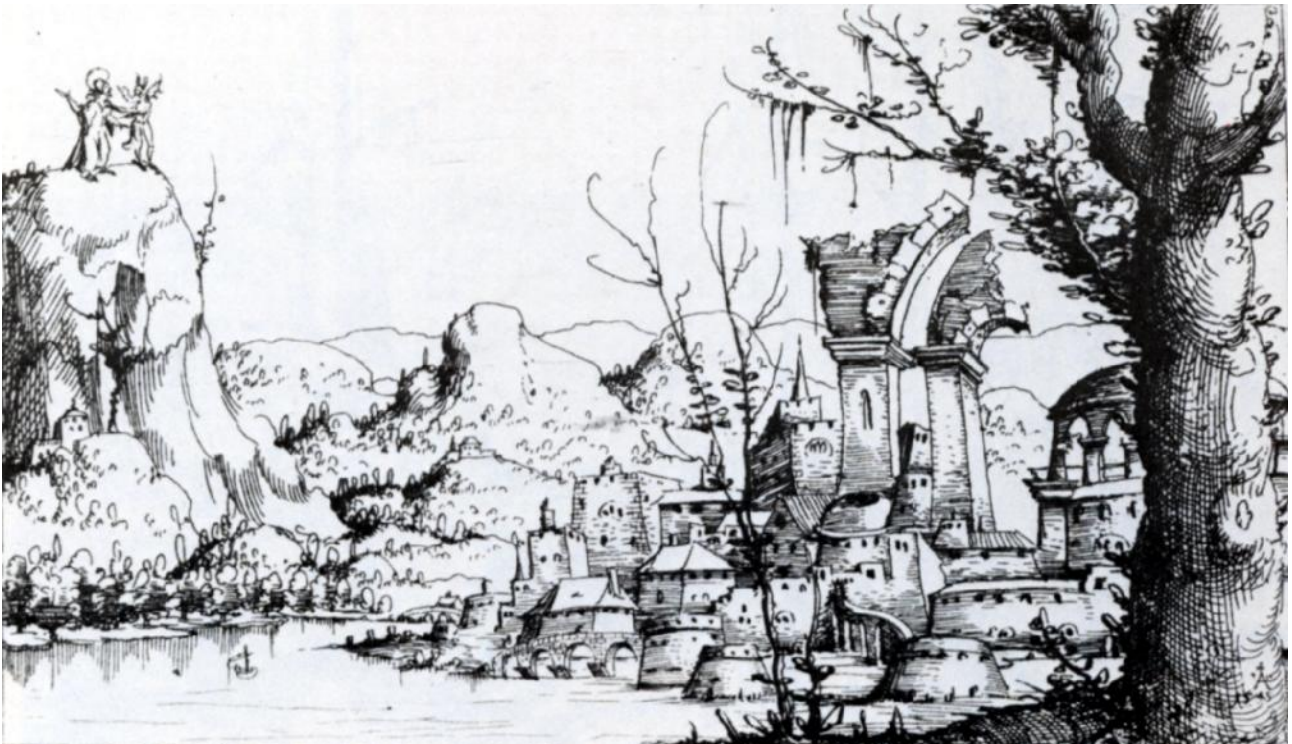


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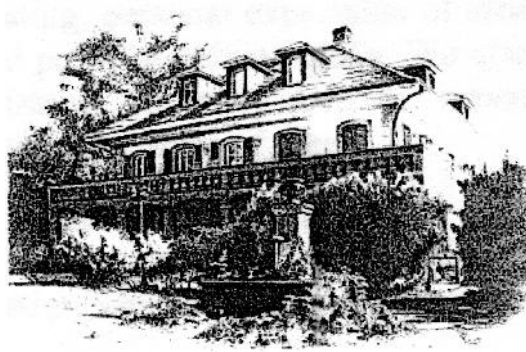
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The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count nearly 200 members and their families from more than 40 nations. Our common language is English, but among our members many other languages can be heard. We hold a monthly meeting with guest speakers and presentations on a wide range of topics, and publish a monthly Newsletter. We are waiting to welcome you!

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)

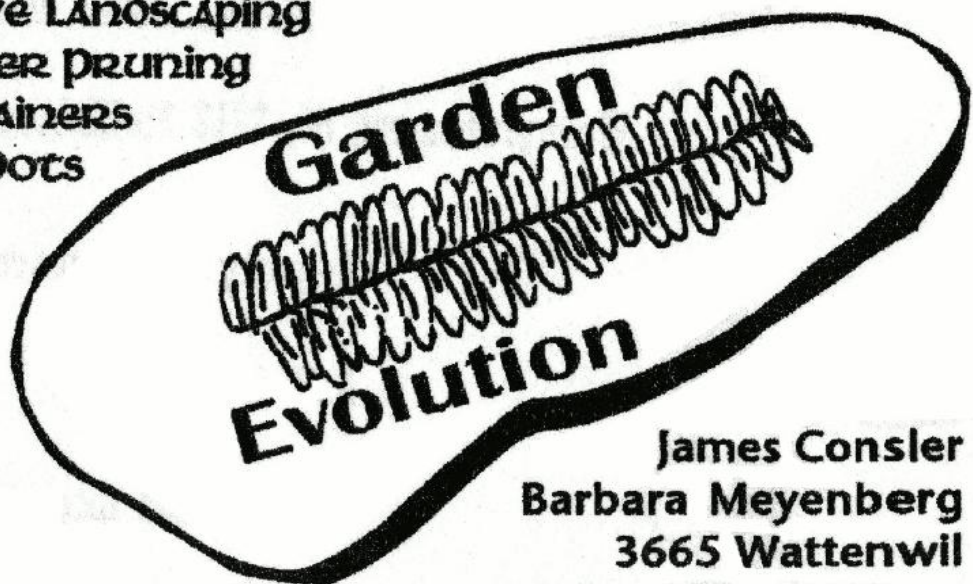
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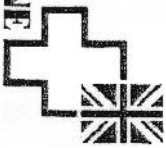
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The Swiss-British Society, Berne organizes and supports cultural and social events throughout the year, such as guided tours of museums, archives, collections, lectures, concerts and drama performances in and around Berne. All these have some strong 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
Balmweid 51, 4525 Balm
☎ 032 637 34 84 Jenny.Derek@freesurf.ch

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Brian Morgan 031 971 13 36

Janet Wenger 031 839 46 53

Lay Representative to Diocesan Synod:

Brian Morgan 031 971 13 36

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Normally staffed Monday - Thursday mornings

Church Hall 031 351 05 76

CHURCHWARDENS

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Maxine Wildhaber 031 301 75 62

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Maxine Wildhaber 031 301 75 62

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ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

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Choir

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Music Group

Linda Bisig 031 932 41 69

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Tina Lutz

CHAPLAIN

Revd Peter Potter 031 351 03 43

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 FEBRUARY

- Monday *St Brigid* – the gift of compassion
- Tuesday *Presentation in the Temple* - Our work with young families
- Wednesday Members of Parliament
- Thursday “Sans papiers”
- Friday Our Confirmation candidates
- Saturday Those persecuted for their faith
- **Sunday (2 before Lent)**
- Monday General Synod, meeting this week
- Tuesday Chaplaincies in winter resorts
- Wednesday Local integration projects
- Thursday The schools and colleges our young people attend
- Friday Rowan our Archbishop; Geoffrey and David our Bishops
- Saturday Couples preparing for marriage
- **Sunday (1 before Lent) Marriage Week**
- Monday Marriage guidance counsellors
- Tuesday The Swiss Archdeaconry
- Wednesday **(Ash Wednesday)** Our journey through Lent
- Thursday Our Lent course, *When I survey...*
- Friday Christian-Muslim relations
- Saturday Mission to Seafarers
- **Sunday (Lent 1)** The Church's healing ministry
- Monday Local medical services
- Tuesday Prisoners, their families and their victims
- Wednesday Vocations to the ordained and licensed ministry
- Thursday Altar servers at St Ursula's
- Friday The book sale tomorrow
- Saturday *George Herbert* – church musicians
- **Sunday (Lent 2)** – serving God in daily life