St Ursula's Church Magazine

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COPY DATE

for the August-September issue

Sunday 11 July

(Copy to Church office please)

Chaplain's Message

I have just finished *The Lost Symbol*, the latest Dan Brown blockbuster. It is a rattling good yarn with a cliff-hanger at the end of every chapter. This one doesn't claim to expose Christianity but he does say some startling things about the Bible.

As you would expect, the story is full of symbols, mysteries and puzzles that have to be solved. This time they are based on Masonic rituals, so I have no idea how accurate they are. (In the two earlier books, it wasn't hard for me to spot mistakes and distortions about Christianity). One character says the Bible is a sacred book for Masons because "there exist powerful secrets hidden in its pages" but people have "to be initiated before learning the secret teachings".

This idea did not start with the Masons but with a group of sects at the time of the Early Church. We call them *Gnostics*, from the Greek word for "knowledge". They believed the Bible was a kind of code, a key to solve the mysteries of the universe. If you had the knowledge, you would be saved. Paul's letter to the Colossians warns against such ideas. John 20:31 ("that believing you may have life in his name") similarly tells us that we are saved by faith not by knowledge.

We Christians do not read the Bible looking for codes or clues to ancient mysteries. Nor do we look for hidden instructions about what is going on today, hoping it will reveal God's plan for the world or for ourselves. That is simply not what the Bible is for.

Yes, some of it contains instruction (e.g. the Book of Leviticus) but more of it teaches about the ways of God through poetry and stories. These appeal to the imagination and the emotions. The parables, for instance, are not stories with a hidden meaning but stories that invite us to imagine what it is like to be part of what is going on. Sometimes we might feel like the prodigal son, at others like the older brother or the father.

When we read the Bible we need to avoid the twin perils of wooden literalism and wild speculation. Use your head, Professor Langdon, but let your heart speak too.

Keven

Chaplain's Notes

"Who is on the Lord's side?"

Unless you are taking your holidays on the moon this year, you will probably notice that football (soccer) will be in the news in the next two months. At St Ursula's too, we shall not let this pass us by.

In case you are wondering what church has to do with football, think of words

like fouls (sins), offside (trespass), save, defend. Our baptism vows are a way of saying whose side we are on – and there will be a baptism at our informal Eucharist on 13 June.

The liturgy will also have a footballing theme to it that day, so why not enter into the spirit of the occasion and wear your team's shirt. That way we can celebrate our diversity and also show that we all share the same goal.

Also on the subject of **footie**, we are hoping to be invited to the Old Catholics' football tournament again. The Junior Church Activity Club plan to get a team together this year. Look out for more details.

Promotion?

On 20 June, when the World Cup will be well and truly under way, some of our young people will be confirming that they are on the Lord's side. We shall be welcoming Bishop Geoffrey to our Confirmation Service and perhaps it is not too fanciful to think of this as an occasion when these young people are being promoted to full adult membership of the Church.

Olivia, Ruby, Vanessa, Eric, Jonathan and Leo are being joined by three adults from our church, Katrina Fenner, Linda Pantillon and Lenka Pagano, and also three people (Lucy, Tara and Jonny) from Neuchâtel and possibly one from Lausanne. Please pray for them all.

Thank you

Two long-standing members of our church family at St Ursula's are Wendy Astor and Frau Anna Tschopp. There were tributes to Wendy's 25 years as magazine editor in our March magazine. Frau Tschopp has been our church cleaner for almost as long. We shall have a chance to say thank you to them in person at the apéro after the service on 27 June.

Sing praises to the Lord

We shall be repeating our summer choral service at the Göttibach Church, which was greatly appreciated last year. St Ursula's choir will be joining the Thun Church Group and will sing some of the items from this year's Archdeaconry Choir Festival. There will be a chance to join in some favourite hymns. The service is on Thursday 1 July at 18.30 and all are welcome. Please join us and spread the word.



New name

The Old Catholic congregation which now owns the Göttibach Church have decided on a patron saint. There was a special service on 9 May, when the church was dedicated to St Beatus. We wish them every blessing in this new stage of their history.

Congratulations

We send our congratulations, prayers and best wishes to Canon Peter and Vreni Hawker on their Golden **r** Wedding Anniversary in July.



AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held after the morning service on



Sunday 28 March.

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

This year there were no contested elections - both churchwardens and all existing council members were

elected unopposed.

The AGM minutes, containing the formal record of the meeting, will be available soon for you to collect from the church hall. The booklet containing the annual reports is still available in the hall.

The AGM was followed, after a short break for refreshments, with a presentation of the initial results from the questionnaire carried out in November 2009. These results can be seen on our web site (or follow this link: http://www.stursula.ch/QuestionnaireResults.pdf).

Church Council Report

Council meetings were held on Tuesday 6 April and Tuesday 4 May.

The meeting on 6 April (the first one after the AGM) was the handover from the old council to the new council. The main business at this meeting was to appoint the various council officers, but there were no significant changes - you can find a list at the back of this magazine. The meeting was followed by a time of fellowship.

There were a lot of topics handled at the meeting on 4 May:

As always, the **financial situation** was discussed - currently income is lower than budgeted, but not significantly so. There was nothing important to note.

The **building work** continues: The carpet in the church will be replaced soon and council members had an opportunity to look at and feel the samples provided by the firm who will do the work. The offices will be painted soon. A cupboard has been built for the storage of British food, so that it does not need to be stored in the offices.

The **arrangement of the furniture in the halls** was discussed - and a small change made. Please give us feedback. The position and the use of the notice boards and the practice of "sticking up" notices everywhere needs further consideration. Please tell us what you think. Some more small changes will be made soon.

As two people (**Wendy Astor and Frau Tschopp**) who have served the church for very many years are stepping down from the jobs they have done, we will hold an apéro to thank them after the service on 27 June (see page 4).

Council were also informed that Jennifer has resigned from her work in the office and Tina from her job as youth worker. They will both be leaving in the summer. We are not looking to recruit an additional person for the office as Jana will increase her hours - holidays and sickness will be covered by volunteers. On the other hand, we do need to consider what to do about youth work.

In the summer we will welcome **a student from USA** who is doing a placement as part of his training to become a priest. He will spend 6 weeks in Berne, with his time shared between us and the Old Catholic church of St Peter and St Paul (see page 13).

Junior Church is currently going well; there was a meeting of teachers on 27 April. However new teachers are needed for the older classes (Pilots and Trailblazers (ages 8 to 14)) from the summer.

There will be a **confirmation service** on 20 June for some of our young people and adults, who will be joined by others from Neuchatel. Bishop Geoffrey will take this service. Council agreed to organise an apéro for the whole congregation after the service. It will be followed by a lunch for those being confirmed, their guests and the bishop.

Council planned an **Awayday** for 8 May to discuss some of the results from the questionnaire. The topics would be Youth, Outreach and Identity.

If you would like more information about these meetings, 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

Junior Church Sleepover

This year's Junior Church Sleepover was held on the Pentecost weekend (21 - 22 May), so it was clear which theme to choose - "The Holy Spirit".

And what a lot we learned together: that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, how the Holy Spirit empowers us to tell others about Jesus, how the Holy Spirit fills us and keeps us connected to God wherever we are, about the fruit of





the Spirit. We had stories, songs, craft and other activities - all telling us something about the Holy Spirit. Times of worship and prayer were also an important part.

Our traditional sleepover elements include eating together, a campfire, s'mores, lots of games and fun, and the pancake breakfast (which is probably the most popular of all!).

This year, 22 children aged 6 to 12 slept in the church halls on Friday night. 6 adults and 1 young helper were with them (and also slept part of the time). Many more adults and young helpers came on Friday evening and/or on Saturday morning. We were pleased to have

the young people's confirmation class join us and lead the teams for the scavenger hunt in the forest.

You can see pictures of the sleepover on the church's web site.

Tricia Carrick



June-July 2010

St Ursula's Church Weekend Away Interview 2 of 3

by: Jennifer Hockley (based on real feedback from 2009)



Did the Weekend Away meet your expectations based on the information available and/or your experience in years past?

"Yes, food & activities great."

How would you rate the accommodation and its suitability?







How would you rate the food?

"Two hot meals excellent, rest well-planned."

How would you rate the experience of helping to prepare, serve, and clean up after a meal?

"It's a great idea, we should continue with that."

"...contributes to fellowship, to be kept."

What did you like most about the Weekend Away?

"Being together as a family, connecting with fellow Christians, various activities, spiritual discussions & prayers."

"Being together with everyone, seeing that people were enjoying themselves."

REGISTER NOW!

How do I register for the Weekend Away?

With a form on our website or available in the church hall

Space is limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Suitable for **families with or without children**, **couples** and **singles**, **older** and **younger** members of our church family –

All are welcome!

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2010

JUGEND- UND FERIENHAUS, AESCHI

(above Spiez, overlooking Lake Thun)

The Revd Dan Morrow from Zurich will lead the sessions on

"The Art of Faith"



Friday supper & Getting instructions and maps for the Adventure Trail

Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2010 in Lausanne



The annual Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held at Christ — Church in Lausanne during the weekend of 30 April, 1 and 2

May. There were about 50 singers from the various Anglican chaplaincies in Switzerland, with 10 singers from St Ursula's Church.

As usual we had a very competent personality as our Festival Music Director: Simon Lindley from Leeds. He is an outstanding church musician as organist and choir master in Leeds. He holds or has held several high ranking offices in various organisations such as the Royal College of Organists, the Trinity College of Music, the Royal School of Church Music. He has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Leeds Metropolitan University in recognition for his outstanding contributions to musical life in Leeds.

Under Simon Lindley's very competent leadership we sang at the Evensong on Saturday and the Communion Service on Sunday. For Evensong the music included the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in D minor by T. Walmisley, Psalm 119, the anthem *Hear my prayer O Lord* by H. Purcell, the *Preces and Responses* by J. Sanders. The Communion Service on Sunday included the setting by N. Rawsthorne, Psalm 148, and the Motets *O Salutaris Hostia* by E. Elgar and *For the Beauty of the earth*' by A. Carter.

On Sunday 2 May, in the evening, the choirs sang an ecumenical Evensong in Lausanne Cathedral using the same musical settings as on the day before, with our Archdeacon, Ven. Peter Potter, preaching, and Rev. Adele Kelham from Lausanne leading the service.

The Festival Organist was Mark Charles from Geneva; he contributed brilliantly by accompanying the choir and with rousing voluntaries at the end of the services.

Thanks to all who contributed and participated, this 28th Archdeaconry Choir Festival has once again been a great and up-lifting event, both in terms of

joint worship and of sung music reflecting the musical traditions in different styles and times. Special thanks go to all at Christ Church in Lausanne who generously hosted the event. Many thanks also go to the singers from St Ursula's Church. Sadly three singers from Berne who had come to most of the rehearsals in Berne, were unable to participate in Lausanne for reasons beyond their control. All singers dedicated quite some time at rehearsals preparing for participation at the Festival and joined the singers from the other Anglican Churches in Switzerland.

The Choir Festival is one of the few institutionalised events where members from different Anglican churches of the Archdeaconry traditionally meet for joint worship and for getting to know each other. Hans-Karl Pfyffer

New Bottles, Please

Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat."

We shall never know the answer to this question (which you'll find at the beginning of Matthew 15), because Jesus immediately launched into an attack on his questioners. Clearly the Pharisees were not interested in a discussion about basic hygiene! What interested them was that Jesus and his disciples had broken "the tradition of the elders". Jesus' response focused on this tradition, and how far it could lead people from true faith, so that, in Isaiah's words, the Pharisees "honoured God with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Jesus' argument was that the Pharisees had become out of touch with the heart of their relationship with God. In his reply, Jesus concentrated on a legal formula they had concocted which allowed people to wriggle out of their obligation to support their parents – thus breaking one of the basic commandments, "Honour your father and mother."

The Pharisees thought that their scholars, the scribes, had a special insight into religious truth. A similar situation exists in Islam, where groups of scholars, the *ulema*, pronounce on questions of faith and practice. What about us Christians –

does anyone have a "special insight"?

Well, Jesus promised his apostles that the Holy Spirit would "lead them into all truth" (John 16:13), and in Acts 15, we find them coming together to reach agreement on special questions about which Jesus himself had said nothing.

What this means in practice varies from denomination to denomination. Christians all agree that there is a core of truth which has been believed "always, everywhere and by everyone" (as Vincent of Lérins put it in the fifth century), but different branches of the church have found the final judge of truth to be in their own interpretation of the Bible, or in the pronouncements of particular synods, particular scholars, or particular leaders, including the Pope.

The Church of England bases its beliefs on "scripture, reason and tradition" - a combination said by some to have been coined by the sixteenth century Anglican theologian, Richard Hooker. But there are questions which scripture and reason do not directly answer, and where tradition threatens to imprison us and not to liberate us.

In 1215, the western church defined a doctrine about the precise way the bread and wine of the Eucharist became the body and blood of Christ. It was declared that this was through a complete change in the essence, the substance of the bread and the wine. The doctrine was known as transubstantiation. It was widely misunderstood, none of the reformed churches or the Orthodox churches of the east agreed with it, and today it has been said that even 70% of Catholics do not believe in it. A similar situation exists with the moral issues of contraception. Are there cases where

common sense says one thing, tradition another? Do traditions remain traditions for ever?

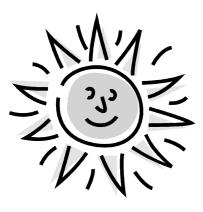
Society has changed, and continues to change. For example, attitudes to death are different in different societies: life is now much more worth living in the affluent west. The availability of contraception has led people to question what constitutes an improper relationship. Urbanization and a lower reliance on farming and village life have changed the way personal relationships are formed.

At the same time, there are new issues - video violence, drug abuse, the manipulation of public opinion by political parties, oppressive working conditions. These too require us to think carefully about what is right and what is wrong.

It is dangerous to follow blindly the ways of society at large. Think for example of sexual morality, where in the popular mind, divorce and serial monogamy are permissible, but unfaithfulness within a committed relationship is condemned as

"cheating". But at the same time, it is dangerous to look only at tradition, or only at scripture, or only at reason for an answer. We need a balance. This was Jesus' message to the Pharisees. We must remember that the new wine of the kingdom cannot always be kept in the old bottles of tradition, and that new challenges and new circumstances require fresh thought and fresh expressions of our faith. *Hector Davie*

A Summer Visitor



Shortly, we shall be taking part in a rather unusual bit of church cooperation. Together with our friends at the church of St Peter and St Paul, we shall be welcoming a theological student from America for a six-week visit – three weeks with the Old Catholics, three weeks with us. The idea comes partly from an idea of the Swiss Willibrord Society, which tries to promote collaboration between Anglicans and Old Catholics. The Willibrord Society are contributing a grant to make this possible.

Jadon Hartsuff is 32, and is studying at the General Theological Seminary in New York – the oldest training college of the American Episcopal Church, and one that has particular links with the Old Catholic community here – Professor Urs von Arx from the university here was awarded an honorary doctorate there in 2008. Jadon is from the Diocese of Los Angeles, and before he started training for the ministry was a management consultant in the area of interior design.

He will be broadening his experience and helping us and our Old Catholic friends in a number of ways, with worship, with pastoral work and with outreach. We welcome him and pray that the experience will enrich us all. *Hector Davie*

FAQs: How does the Church help me in my daily discipleship?

The Church of England has a huge amount of expertise and resources for us to use in our prayer life and Bible reading, as well as opportunities for getting involved in the wider mission of the Church.

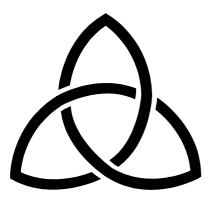
This is not surprising as it has been around a long time and has contacts all over the world. Unfortunately its resources do not seem to be well known at St Ursula's so we sometimes miss out on valuable material and contacts.

The many organisations and agencies under the Church's umbrella cover almost any aspect of Christian life -

- 1. **the Mothers Union**, a worldwide organisation that supports marriage and family life. It runs a wide variety of social projects in Africa and elsewhere. Its prayer diaries and Wave of Prayer involve members in praying for the work of the Church throughout the world. www.themothersunion.org
- 2. the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) and the Church Mission Society (CMS), the two main Anglican mission agencies. We support both of these through our Charities Team. They support schools, hospitals and other projects run by churches in all parts of the world.
- 3. **our own Bishop's Lent and Advent Appeals**, other ways to get involved in prayer and financial support for the work of the Church. Similarly *Partner Sein* (see article on page 33), run by our sister church, the Old Catholics, supports projects in the Third World, many of which are actually run by Anglican agencies.
- 4. **the Diocesan Prayer Diary**, which appears twice a year and is available in church. It helps us to link in prayer with the other chaplaincies in the Diocese and also with dioceses throughout the world.
- 5. **Transforming Worship**, a recent arrival that encourages us to take seriously what our worship is for and how we can do it better www.transformingworship.org.uk
- 6. **the Royal School of Church Music**, which encourages high standards of church music in various styles.
- 7. **the Bible Reading Fellowship**, which is ecumenical but used and recommended by many Church of England people. See the back of the Magazine for our contact and also www.brf.org.uk
- 8. **Church House Publishing** (www.chbookshop.co.uk), whose slogan is "your first stop for Christian books"

These are just a few examples. Have a look at the Church of England's website www.cofe.anglican.org There is plenty there to get you started.

A Word for the Month - Trinity



Christians through the ages have believed in one God, who is Father, who is Son, who is Holy Spirit. And have laboured through the ages to understand the relationship between these three. This article is not going to explain who the Triune God is, or how God can be both three and one – that would be too great a task! Instead, this is a quick survey of how the Bible and Christians through the ages have looked at these questions.

The early church saw God's threefold nature hidden in the pages of the Old Testament. In Genesis 18, God comes to Abraham at Mamre and promises that his wife Sarah will bear a son. But it is not God whom Abraham talks to – it is three visitors. And in the same way, Christians saw the Trinity in the thrice-repeated "holy, holy, holy" which the seraphim called to each other in Isaiah's vision (Is. 6).

The New Testament is far clearer. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, the risen Jesus commands the apostles to go and make disciples of all nations, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" - "name", notice, not "names"! The threefold formula occurs in the epistles too. The second letter to the Corinthians ends "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you", and the first letter of Peter, arguably a baptismal sermon, begins by reminding Christians how they have been "chosen and destined by the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood."

The threefold name used in baptism may well be the reason why the so-called "Apostles' Creed" takes the form it has – candidates were expected to know the essential facts as a part of affirming their faith. It was not until the early fourth century, though, that people wanted to go into more detail about the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Were they three persons, or three aspects of one person? Were they equal or were the Son and the Spirit in some way subordinate. Were they really God, or were they created powers or beings?

The leaders of the church were called together by the Roman Emperor Constantine to meet at Nicaea, in present-day Turkey, in 326. To each of these questions, they chose the first answer. Neither the Son nor the Spirit was created – the Son was "begotten", the Spirit "proceeded" (this latter word led to difficulties later, partly because it gave slightly different impressions in Greek and in Latin).

Defining beliefs precisely was important at the time, because of the influential groups who had different ideas which threw into doubt the whole relationship between God and the world. But to us, the Trinity is not something to question. Seeing God in three Persons is a help in forming our own relationship with God – one that flows from the relationship within the Trinity itself, one that has been likened to a burning fire of love. May that love flow into our own hearts too. *Hector Davie*

Contemplative Prayer at the Center in Liebefeld

What is the essence of contemplative prayer? The way of pure faith. Nothing else. You do not have to feel it, but you have to practice it.

Thomas Keating; Open Mind, Open Heart

Feel free to join the practice group on 8 and 22 June at 19.00 at Brian's house in Liebefeld.

There will be no group meetings in July.

For further details contact Brian on 031 971 66 81 or bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch



Young People's Corner

Junior Church is happy to announce that they meet every Sunday for their Bible story telling. Our Sunday service starts in church and after that we go for our brief introduction, prayer and money collection in the hall.

Bible Teaching

In April we started the life of Joshua and how he discovered that with God's help, anything is possible because God is powerful. In May we learnt about how to have an opportunity to know God through Jesus. In June we will be learning more about who Jesus is and how he demonstrates his love and compassion as he meets people who need his help.

Activity Club

The 7-12 club members were excited and looking forward to being up on the Gurten for fun games and a barbecue but unfortunately the rainy weather did not allow us to do this. We still had exciting games and a barbecue at church despite the change of venue. The activity club is sad as they are going to miss Elisabeth Tyson who will not be with us in August. She is moving back to her home country.

Since we meet every two months our next outing will be in August after the school holidays on 28 August from 10:00-17:30. We will definitely have fun in Schwarzenburg. Information will be sent to parents at the beginning of August.

Events



The bake sale was successful. The Junior Church raised around 350CHF towards the Tear Fund project. Thank you to all who participated in this to make it a success.

The holidays are soon and most families travel during this time. The Junior Church will combine classes as there will be few children attending Junior Church at this time.

Young People's Confirmation Class

The young people's confirmation class is going well - the five young people are committed to the course and seem to be enjoying it. The class ends in June with a highlight: A weekend away from 11 to 13 June. This will be in Sargans and include teaching on "The Bible", along with times for prayer and worship. There will be plenty of time for fun too.

As you already know, the confirmation service led by our Bishop will take place at 10.00 on Sunday 20 June. This will be followed by an apéritif for the whole church family and lunch for those being confirmed and their invited guests.

Please pray for the young people - Leo Eigner, Olivia Long, Vanessa Schwager, Eric Sovilla and Ruby Wildhaber - as they prepare for this important step in their Christian life.

Tricia Carrick

Farewell

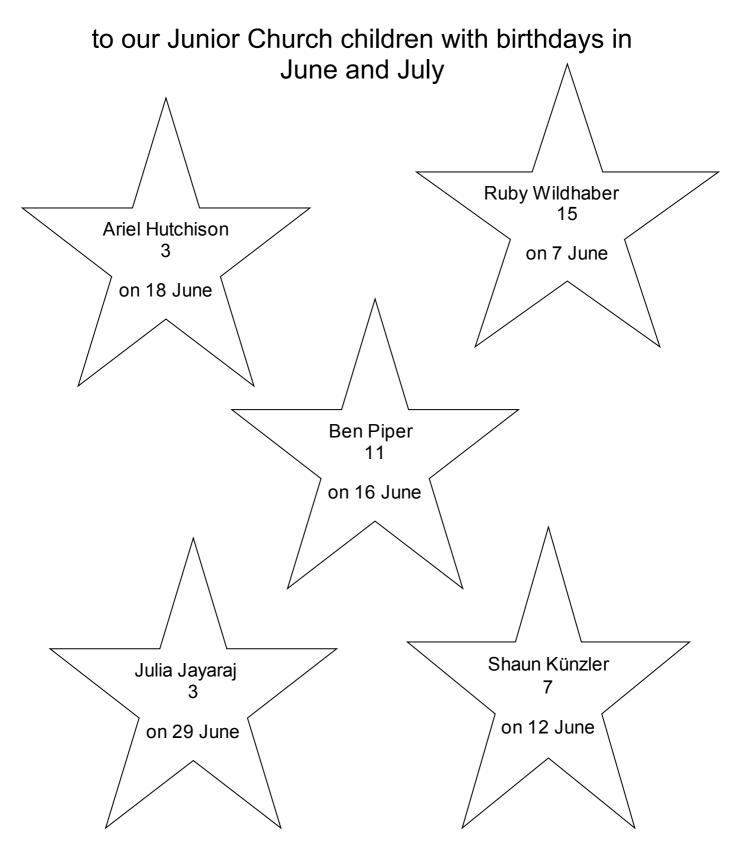
In August I became the youth worker at St Ursula's, but I started working with the youth group nine months earlier, in November 2008. During my time at St Ursula's, I have seen the young people grow in their curiosity about God, develop their gifts, and mature into incredible young adults. They have blessed me in so many ways: with their questions, their gifts, their words of encouragement, their honesty, their excitement, and their willingness to serve. I hope that I have also blessed them and made a difference in their lives. I am so grateful for the opportunity that I have had to serve these young people, their families, and the church community.

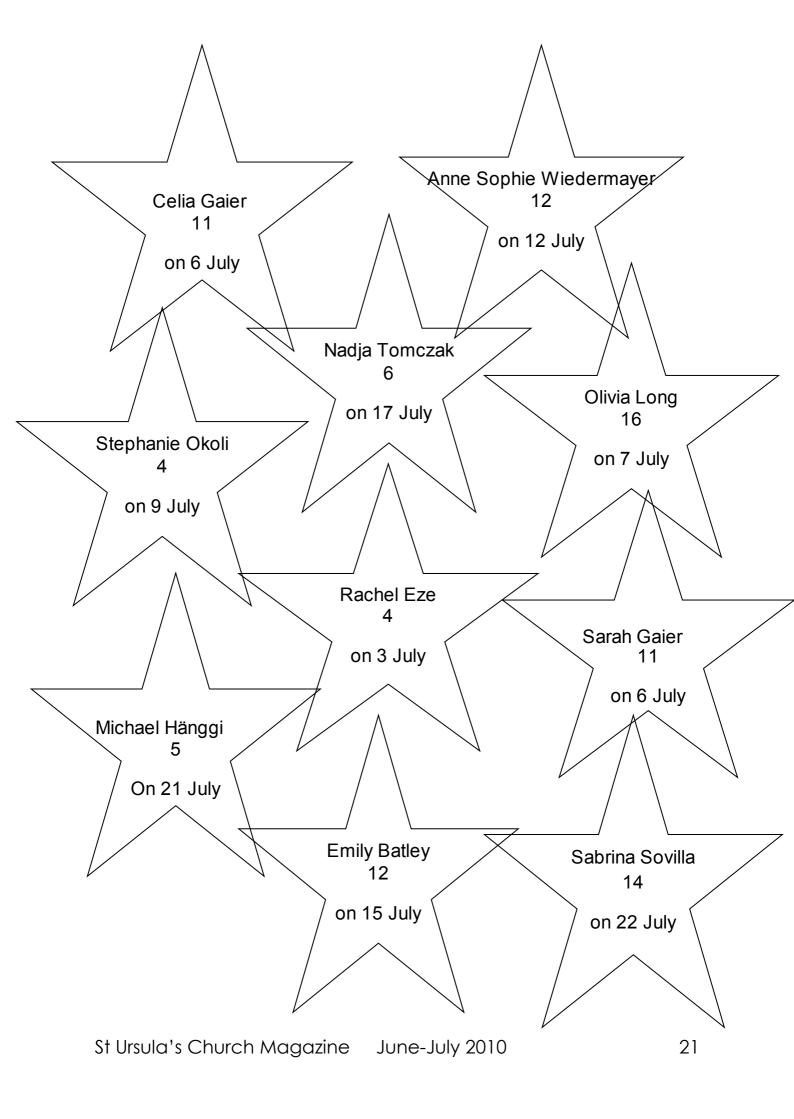
However, I believe that it is time for me to move on to something new, so in the fall I will be starting my Masters studies in marketing at the University of Bern. This decision was very bittersweet. Although I am excited to go back to school, I will miss the many people who now hold such a special place in my heart and sincerely hope that our relationships will continue. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns (Philippians 1:6, NLT). *Tina Lutz, St Ursula's Youth Worker*

Calendar of Services

6 June	Trinity 1 10.00 Eucharist <i>1 Kings 17:17 – end; Galatians 1:11 – end; Luke 7:11 – 17</i>
13 June	Trinity 2 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 Informal Eucharist & Baptism with a World Cup theme <i>Psalm 5:1 – 8; Gal 2:15 – end; Luke 8:1 – 3</i>
20 June	Trinity 3 10.00 Confirmation <i>1 Kings 19: 9-15; Gal 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39</i>
27 June	Trinity 4 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 Eucharist <i>1 Kings 19:15 –16, 19 –end; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51 – end</i>
4 July	Trinity 5 10.00 Eucharist <i>Isaiah 66:10 – 14; Galatians 6:7 – 16; Luke 10:1 – 11, 16 – 20</i>
11 July	Trinity 6 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 Informal Eucharist <i>Deuteronomy 30:9 – 14; Colossians 1:1 – 14; Luke 10:25 – 37</i>
18 July	Trinity 7 10.00 Eucharist <i>Genesis 18:1 – 10a, Colossians 1:15 – 28, Luke 10:38 – end</i>
25 July	St James the Apostle 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 Eucharist <i>Acts 11:27 – 12 :2; 2 Corinthians 4:7 – 15; Matthew 20:20 – 28</i>

Congratulations





Prayer Diary

June

- 1. Tuesday Help needed in the church
- 2. Wednesday World Council of Churches
- 3. Thursday Thanksgiving for Holy Communion
- 4. Friday Tomorrow's booksale
- 5. Saturday *Boniface,* the missionary work of the Church in Europe
- 6. **Sunday** Our charity of the month
- 7. Monday Farmers
- 8. Tuesday Church musicians
- 9. Wednesday Columba, the Iona Community
- 10. Thursday *Barnabas*, encouragement in our faith
- 11. Friday New arrivals in Berne, Neuchâtel and Thun
- 12. Saturday The confirmation weekend away
- 13. **Sunday** Christians in sport
- 14. Monday The Pastoral Team
- 15. Tuesday Spitex
- 16. Wednesday The Church office staff
- 17. Thursday The leaders of the nations from which we come
- 18. Friday Local medical practices
- 19. Saturday The Archdeaconry Synod meeting in Zurich
- 20. **Sunday** All being confirmed at St Ursula's today
- 21. Monday Young people leaving school
- 22. Tuesday Fair trade practices in the world
- 23. Wednesday Ecumenical relations in Berne
- 24. Thursday Birth of John the Baptist
- 25. Friday People on holiday
- 26. Saturday People being ordained priest or deacon
- 27. **Sunday** Colleges training candidates for the ordained ministry
- 28. Monday Ethical dealings in the financial world
- 29. Tuesday *Peter and Paul,* the Old Catholic Church in Berne
- 30. Wednesday Seasonal chaplains at holiday resorts

July

1.	Thursday	Evensong at St Beatus, Göttibach
2.	Friday	People looking for holiday jobs
3.	Saturday	Thomas the Apostle, Christians in India
4.	Sunday	The congregation at Neuchâtel
5.	Monday	Our charity of the month
6.	Tuesday	Environmentally-friendly travel
7.	Wednesday	Christians facing discrimination
8.	Thursday	The protection of children and vulnerable adults in the
		Church
9.	Friday	Local hospitals
10.	Saturday	Merchant seafarers
11.	Sunday	St Peter's, Zermatt on its 140th anniversary
12.	Monday	The people of Northern Ireland
13.	Tuesday	Marriage counsellors
14.	Wednesday	Our Junior Church
15.	Thursday	Holiness in our daily lives
16.	Friday	Peter and Vreni on their Golden Wedding anniversary
17.	Saturday	The United Nations
18.	Sunday	Religious communities
19.	Monday	The Bishop's Staff Meeting
20.	Tuesday	Local businesses
21.	Wednesday	Diplomatic representatives in Berne
22.	Thursday	Mary Magdalene, ministry to people with mental
		health problems
23.	Friday	Christians in the media
24.	Saturday	Visitors to our churches
25.	Sunday	James, following in the steps of the apostles
26.	Monday	Anne, our ministry to the elderly
27.	Tuesday	People serving on peace-keeping missions
28.	Wednesday	Transport workers
29.	Thursday	All who contribute to the magazine
30.	Friday	Thanksgiving for God's goodness in creation
31.	Saturday	Ignatius of Loyola, missionary

Rotas

June 2010	6 June	13 June	20 June Confirmation	27 June
Duty council	B. Morgan	H. Davie	A. Masciadri	H. Davie
Readers	C. Hodler M. Shearmur	B. Winfield P. Jayaraj	M. Wildhaber O. Long	Y. Chittazhathu J. Wong
Intercession	S. Faillettaz	D. Low	J. Carrick E. Sovilla	T. Carrick
Sidesperson	S. Faillettaz	B. Winfield	B. Morgan	J. Wenger
Video/Beamer	A. Thomas	M. Wildhaber	A. Funkhouser	P. Perrett
Audio	A. Tomczak	W. Bisig	W. Bisig	H. Wenger
Server	D. Goepfert	R. Freiburghaus	Matthew Wildhaber	L. Robb
Chalice	P. Perrett K. Chittazhathu	D. Low	D. Goepfert D. Low	R. Freiburghaus B. Morgan
Flowers	E. Eigner	K. Hoag	J. Josi	M. Wittwer
Tea and Coffee	M. Mead	E. & A. Funkhouser	A. Dedai J. Chisholm	A. & H. Kamarys
Crèche	R. Eze M. Wildhaber	S. Hutchison A. Pfister	S. Bouldin A. Tomczak	R. Giulini M. Hebeisen

July 2010	4 July	11 July	18 July	25 July
Duty council	J. Eze	E. Wildhaber	T. Read	J. Eze
Readers	C. Hodler B. Morgan	A. Thomas P. Jayaraj	T. Carrick D. Low	B. Winfield J. Wong
Intercession	S. Faillettaz	H. Davie	S. Faillettaz	P. Hawker
Sidesperson	S. Faillettaz	Y. Chittazhathu	S. Klein	B. Winfield
Video/Beamer	J. Carrick	M. Wildhaber	H. Davie	J. Carrick
Audio	E. Wildhaber	A. Tomczak	HELP	HELP
Server	M. Wildhaber	A. Thomas	R. Freiburghaus	A. Funkhouser
Chalice	B. Morgan K. Chittazhathu	H. Davie HELP	P. Hawker D. Low	R. Freiburghaus H. Davie
Flowers	C. Hodler	Y. Bomonti	R. Schelker	V. Hawker
Tea and Coffee	J. Josi A. Low	M. Wittwer C. Eggler	S. Faillettaz A. Carrick	R. Fenner M. Welti
Crèche	A. Masciadri C. Augustine	No Crèche	No Crèche	No Crèche

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
	19.00-21.00	Youth Group - only 4, 18, 25 June (off-site on 25 June)
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir practice – only in June

Other Events

Saturday 5 June	10-00 - 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 6 June	10.00	Confirmation Class
Wednesday 9 June	18.00 - 20.00	Music Group Practice
Friday 11 June	19.00	Adult Confirmation Class
Friday 11 June -Sunday	13 June	Confirmation Class Weekend Away
Tuesday 15 June	19.00	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Friday 18 June	19.00	Confirmation Rehearsal for all candidates
Sunday 20 June	11.30	Apéro after Confirmation Service
Sunday 27 June	10.00	Youth Group

Sunday 27 June	11.30	Apéro for Frau Tschopp & Wendy Astor
Thursday 1 July	18.30	Summer Choral Service at Göttibach
Tuesday 6 July	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 11 July	10.00	COPY DATE
Thursday 22 July	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating

Future Dates

Sunday 28 August	12.00	"Back to Church" Sunday International Bring and Share Lunch
Saturday 4 September	10.00 - 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Friday 17 -Sunday 19 Se	ptember	Church Weekend Away
Friday 19 November	17.00 - 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 20 November	10.00 - 15.00	

Christmas Bazaar

The Bazaar team are looking for somebody to be responsible for the advertising of



the annual Christmas Bazaar. This needs someone with a little time to spare, who speaks both English and German and is computer-literate. For further details please contact Maxine Wildhaber (031 301 75 62) or Lynn Robb (031 931 46 71 or lynn_robb@yahoo.com).

We look forward to hearing from you!

News from Neuchâtel Church

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1

Services are held twice monthly :

10.00 on the FIRST Sunday of the month: Children meet for Junior Church at 10.00 in the Villa Yo-Yo and join their parents in church for Communion.

17.00 on the THIRD Sunday of the month: Family Communion service

Minister in charge :The Rev. Roy FarrarTel : 032 730 51 83Chemin du Chasselas 112012 AUVERNIERwww.neuchatel-church.ch

AWAY DAY TOGETHER – don't miss this!

Roy will be holding a teaching half-day on

Sunday 13 June from 9.00- 12.30.

"The DNA of God's Covenant Love" - a look at the book of Hosea. Venue: Roy and Mieke's flat. Please let Roy know if you can come.

CONFIRMATION, A TIME FOR REJOICING

Three of our members, Lucy Maliki-Rama, and Tara and Johnny Rogerson, will be confirming their faith during the special service at St Ursula's, Berne, on **SUNDAY, 20 JUNE at 10.00**

Our service that day will, of course, be at 10.00 at St Ursula's, to support them and their families in love and prayer.

!!!<u>N.B.</u> NO 17.00 service on that day in Neuchâtel!!!



Brief report of the Neuchâtel AGM

Twenty-three members were present at our Annual General Meeting held on 25 April at 17.00. The Ven. Peter Potter opened the meeting with a prayer for God's Spirit to guide the Neuchâtel church in its concerns and workings. He then invited Roy to chair the meeting.

Reports from the Churchwarden, Junior Church leader and Minister in charge all showed the "buzz" that made 2009 a year to be grateful for: increased membership, eager and regular attendance at various groups exploring and deepening Christian faith, the highlights of Emma's confirmation and Sonya's baptism, and the support and care for individual members.

Matters for concern included the continuing lack of members willing to boost the Junior Church team and the fact, pointed out in the Treasurer's report, that financial support was down on the 2008 results. The latter was partly explained by a large single donation received in 2008.

Concluding his report, Roy announced his decision, after three years in Neuchâtel, to step down as minister in charge at the end of August. He and Mieke will continue dividing their time between Auvernier and England. Warm and heartfelt thanks were expressed for their devotion to building up our community and renewing our Christian purpose.

A discussion ensued as to the future of the church. Having witnessed the immense benefits of having a residential minister, we are naturally keen to continue this practice if possible. However, this implies a big financial commitment which is something we have never undertaken in this church. Several suggestions were made to find and motivate new donors. Peter Potter explained the Anglican procedure in the nomination process and, by various possibilities that he evoked, showed that he understood our position and will endeavour to find a suitable solution.

The church committee was re-elected with the addition of 2 new members: Abbie and Jeanne.

Church Committee

Marc Bell	Treasurer
Karen Bell	Child Protection Representative
Jon Bright	
Julie Bright	Junior Church Coordinator
Patricia Smith	Secretary/Assistant Church Warden
Jennifer Veenendaal	Churchwarden and Synod Representative
Rosemarie Zimmermann	
Abbie Therrien	
Jeanne Vuille	
Miriam Wolfrath	Honorary Member

The dates of the following Forthcoming Events were decided:

15 August	Outdoor Service & Picnic at Colombier
	& Farewell to Roy and Mieke
17 October	Harvest Festival and Pledge Sunday
12 December	Christmas Carol Service

Dates for Your Diary

BIBLE STUDY at Roy and Mieke's flat, 20.00:

Tuesday 8 June Tuesday 22 June NO BIBLE STUDIES IN JULY

DEBATE @ EIGHT at Roy and Mieke's flat, 20.00:

Sunday 27 June NO DEBATE @ EIGHT IN JULY



St Ursula's Church Magazine

June-July 2010

From Roy and Mieke



The Lord commanded us to **pray without ceasing**. This is our privilege and right as children of God. Prayer is a conversation with our Father, to listen, to reflect and to ask Him for what we need (and maybe for what we want!).

Following the exciting reports at the Annual General Meeting in April, the need to pray is the most important thing we can do as a church.

We told you then, that we will be standing down from the

responsibility of running the church from the beginning of September this year. Both of us feel the time has come to slow down and take more time for ourselves, but we shall not be moving away from Auvernier for the foreseeable future. This means that we will be more than willing to help in any way that supports the church in its growth.

When Jesus sent out the 72 disciples (about twice the current membership of the church) he gave them two commands about what they were to do: 1) Tell the people that the Kingdom of God was near and 2) heal the sick they met on their journeys.

Faced with these commands I am quite sure that they spent a lot of time praying for wisdom and for the courage to get on with spreading the gospel message.

That, I believe, is the situation that faces the church at this stage in its history. We have grown, we are becoming increasingly known in the community, but each of us needs to spend a lot of time praying whilst we follow the Lord's commands.

As we pray, the Lord will meet our needs and will continue His plan for this church and the style of leadership it needs for the future. But we have to get out there and get on with it. Luke 10:17-24 tells of the amazing prayer of praise that Jesus gave when they returned. Full of the Holy Spirit, He pours out His praise to the Father for these simple disciples who had seen the great plan of salvation at work, where lives were changed and the power of the Lord had been made manifest.

I have asked you many times to "*pray your socks off* " that the Lord will reveal His plans for this church and for the next exciting phase of its growth. So get on with it!

Good News!

At the Committee meeting held on 28 April, Julie announced that, after the AGM, several people came forward to offer their help with the Junior Church. Halleluia!



The Lighter Side

Untimely Answered Prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, 'Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?'

Tommy answered soberly, 'I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!'

Charities we support:

June: Partner Sein

This current magazine is being published on Trinity Sunday, the day when, along with our friends in the Old Catholic Church, we dedicate our giving at our services to the charity known in English as "Partners".



Some of the charities we contribute to run a single project. It may be a large one, working in several places, like Cecily's Fund, or a smaller one, like that of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf. This has the advantage that we can focus our prayers and our giving more effectively, but the disadvantage that it is difficult to monitor every project we give to, and difficult to react speedily if needs change. Because of this, we also give to big charities, like Tear Fund or the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, USPG, who have experienced co-ordinators out in the field, enabling them to react efficiently to local needs.

Partner Sein is in between the two. It is small, so it allows us to have more personal contact with the projects it gives to. In the hall, you will find this year's list of projects (you can also find it on line at http://users.south-tyrolean.net/altkatholiken/ partnersein/pse.html) – there are some thirty of them. And at the same time, it has the skills and experience to pick out individual projects locally and to build up strong contacts with them.

The strength of this is helped by the close links between the Old Catholic and the Anglican Churches. Partner Sein's focus this year is on Africa, and one of its largest projects is in Kanoni, Uganda, in the twin fields of schooling for AIDS orphans and of primary education, in partnership with Canon Godfrey Makumbi, of the diocese of West Buganda. In the Congo, Ruanda, Burundi, and also in Hong Kong, projects are run in collaboration with local Anglican churches, and in the Philippines, another "focus area" for Partner Sein, the charity works closely with the Philippine Independent Church, another body with which we as Anglicans enjoy a special relationship.

Education features strongly in the projects supported, including the training of apprentices, and help for theological colleges for priests and ministers in countries where resources are few. But there are also projects in the field of microcredits (including the "Cow for a Family" project in Congo which was the charity's focus some years ago), support for hospitals and clinics, and well-drilling projects. Partner Sein supports a refuge for women in Hong Kong who have been enticed there from other parts of south-east Asia as domestic servants and then maltreated. And at Bishkek, in Kyrgyzstan, they help a home for handicapped children.

This year, as with the other major Swiss charities, their motto is "The Right to Nourishment: Stop Unfair Trading" and to focus our prayers for June, we should:

- 1. remember the poor, and pray that projects like "A Cow for a Family" and the giving of microcredits enable people to achieve dignity and independence;
- 2. remember the young and vulnerable, and pray that children's homes in Kyrgyzstan, work with AIDS orphans, and hostels for exploited women bring them the love and security they need;
- 3. remember the work of spreading the gospel where resources are few, and pray that the help for theological seminaries, for religious communities and for parish projects strengthen the message of God's Church; and
- 4. remember the sick and suffering, and pray that the project to build a boat to take patients to the cholera clinic on Lake Kivu, and support for the clinic itself, will alleviate part of that suffering.

Hector Davie, for the Charity and Missions Team

July: Scripture Gift Mission (SGM) Lifewords

SGM was founded in England in 1888 by William Walters. He was a publisher who wanted to make the Bible accessible and freely available to all. SGM has grown into an international organization and now publishes resources in over 1,000 languages including more than 200 pioneer languages in which no scripture had ever before been printed.



The SGM vision is to help people tell and live the Bible's story in their world, their way. For this aim they have booklets, films, and other resources and train counsellors and educators.

SGM's new name

A few years ago SGM changed its name to "**Lifewords**" to emphasize the mission's work which is not about giving away Bibles but about "creatively equipping God's

people". Lifewords has workers in all parts of the world such as on the Pavement Project in Brazil, the Choose Life project for African schools and many others. The Pavement Project workers encourage street children to talk about their fears and hurts and through prayer and Bible stories those children can receive healing and affirmation. The Choose Life program helps 11-14-year-olds make good choices for themselves and their communities by applying biblical values of love, peace, justice, freedom and concern to their everyday lives.

One current Lifewords goal is to support a campaign in the UK aiming to "get the whole of the UK church engaged with the whole of the Bible for the whole year" in 2011. Other specific projects are aimed at Canada, Malta, and Russia and the Ukraine. Lifewords was active with Canadian churches to spread the gospel during the Olympics. They supported Polish mourners after the airplane crash which killed their leader and many other important public figures.

We can support Lifewords by praying for its work, helping financially with donations or purchasing products they offer. To find out more one can search on the Web at www.sgmlifewords.com.

We can pray for the following:

- for the teams revising, adapting and writing new material for people in all countries, that needs will be met
- for the various projects in Brazil, Africa and elsewhere
- for necessary resources to finance projects
- for open hearts to respond to the gospel
- for flexibility to address current challenging issues so that life-transforming connections with the Bible will be found

Lifewords offers free subscriptions to Life Changing Words, a service which provides daily Bible verses and short commentaries on various issues. Use the above mentioned Web address to subscribe.

Visit to Cecily Fund Projects in Zambia, July 2010

When I first started travelling to Switzerland from my former home in Minden, North Germany, before finally arriving here for good in October 2006, I attended St. Ursula's whenever I could. From the very first visit, being an avid reader of notice boards and 'bumph', I soon picked up on the striking EasyJet orange of Cecily's Fund and its distinctive smiley logo. It immediately struck a chord and here's why.

Shortly before I moved here, a tragedy hit the family of my daughter's best friend in Minden: their 17-year-old son was killed by a juggernaut on his return home from school by bike one lunch time. I saw what the terrible grief had done to the family, indeed much of the town grieved too as they were a well-known local family and Felix a prominent member of his school's rowing team. But it seemed to me, and here I think cultural differences kicked in, the grief was all behind closed doors; it was inward looking and very very debilitating, and not just for the close family. The school appeared to do nothing – no Assembly announcement (no such thing as Assembly), no comforting words from the Head (even to the family, I learned later), it was all too awful, too awkward, to be skirted around, cross the road rather than say something, let alone do something. I felt at the time that the immense amount of good will and sympathy towards the family could so easily and gratefully have been channelled into a cause for the good, a memorial of some sort, a cup in Felix's memory, a boat for the rowing club, whatever. But suggestions were not taken up and that was that, the impetus lost.

Then I came here and learned of the background to Cecily's Fund. To lose a child is the most devastating experience anyone can suffer but in this case something good and lasting has arisen from grief and loss. As is well known to readers, Cecily was working as a volunteer in Zambia on an Aids project and out of the tragedy of her death there, in a road traffic accident like Felix, Cecily's Fund has arisen. The work she was contributing to has been continued and expanded with imagination and energy by her family, the Eastwoods, in a way that could not have been foreseen 12 years ago when Cecily died.

I had attended various Cecily Fund fundraising events: soup lunches, Diva opera performances at Neuchatel, and purchased beautifully designed Fund Christmas cards. So when I heard that a visit to Zambia was planned this summer, to be led by Cecily's parents Basil and Alison, I immediately registered interest, along with a friend from Vevey, Sandra Darra whom I had got to know on last year's diocesan pilgrimage to Israel. Flights were booked in February and now we have a provisional programme as well as details of fellow travellers (some from Oxfordshire, Cecily's home county, and a contingent representing Cecily's Fund in the US). We will visit

schools, teacher training colleges and health education classes, all supported by the Fund.

As so often happens when one is preoccupied with a particular topic, Zambia keeps cropping up: some of the African carers who look after my 89-year-old mother in her Surrey nursing home come from Zambia. One has a sister in Kitwe where the work of Cecily's Fund is based. I now take my map when I visit there and we talk currency and coach travel. My son, studying for a History BA at Manchester Uni, was writing an essay over the Easter break on the role of women in the 1930s in the Copperbelt (where Kitwe lies). Useful background information, for sure! A friend has just sent me a Guardian Weekly article about Riders for Health, who have now extended their activities to Zambia: motor cyclists speed up the journey of blood samples to test if babies of HIV-positive mothers need to start on antiretrovirals which can reduce their chance of developing full-blown Aids to a mere 2%. The bigger picture is starting to take shape, but I feel nothing is really going to prepare me for what I will experience when I actually get there. That it will be an in-your-face culture shock, I know, and I will thus spend no more time anticipating and imagining what this might be like, and least of all, what my own role might be - on the trip itself and thereafter. If you are interested, I can follow this up with a further article when I return and talk of my experiences there to whoever might wish to hear. The group travels to Zambia on 9 July.

Hilary Sharp



DUCATING ZAMBIAN CHILDREN ORPHANED BY AIDS www.cecilysfund.org

A Letter from Jennifer

Dear friends at St Ursula's,

It is with a mixture of emotions that I announce my resignation as of 30 June 2010, from the Joint Position (with Jana Kutesko) of Church Administrator. Although I feel sad to be resigning, I take satisfaction from the feeling that I have made a positive contribution. I am most proud of helping the church through the interregnum period and through Peter and Shareene's first years here. I am also proud that I helped to introduce a new electronic calendar, a new notice sheet, notices on the web, and that with only a few exceptions, I have always made sure that everything is ready for Sunday services despite illness and holidays and, at times, workload. I've also enjoyed helping organize the weekend away and pastoral care workshops (both of which I will continue doing on a voluntary basis).

I am grateful to past Wardens and Council Members for this employment opportunity. I am also grateful to Sue Faillettaz for looking after the children when I've been working, and to Jana with whom I have established a very good working relationship. And, last but not least, I have enjoyed working both with and for Father Peter very much, and have been very grateful to both Peter and Shareene for their presence here at St Ursula's.

Our working relationship was somehow blessed from above when we were in



England in April 2009 at Easter time. We were staying in Bradford-on-Avon (near my sister who lives in Bath) and spending the day there.

My Dad wanted to see the old Saxon church by the river and next to it was Holy Trinity Church which William and Gemma happily

wandered into. It is a beautiful church, and we spent quite a bit of time wandering in peace, admiring the choir stalls (made with wood from Canada!), the stained glass windows, and, among other things, the kneelers. One particular kneeler caught my eye. I picked it up, turned it over, and on the back it said "Worked by Mrs. C. Hodge and sponsored by the Reverend Peter M.



Potter, Curate 1985-1988, ordained priest in this church, Petertide 1986". Could it be *our* Peter M. Potter I wondered? I had to ask! So, I tentatively approached the

ladies sitting by the door, explained who I was and where I was from, and who our (then relatively new) chaplain was at St. Ursula's. "What is the name of your Chaplain's wife?", they asked. "Shareene!", I said with a big smile on my face. "Yes! That's *our* Peter M. Potter too!", they exclaimed. And not only that, Mrs. Hodge (the lady who had actually stitched the kneeler) was one of the ladies that I was speaking with! And from there we chatted away excitedly. They told me that not all the kneelers get put out each day – just a selection. What were the chances of that one in particular being out on display, and that one in particular catching my eye? It was amazing to me how, in this holy place, people and places came together as if reaffirming God's plan for us all. This was one of my favourite moments of the last three years – coming home to tell Peter and Shareene this story - and I am happy to finally share it with others as well.

Thank you again to the church congregation for the opportunity to serve our church as Administrator. Although my time in the office is coming to an end, we as a family will be happy to continue worshipping here, contributing to the life of the church,

and being part of this church family.

See you on Sundays, Jennifer Hockley







Photos: Gemma in the doorway of the Saxon Church; Holy Trinity Church with Neil, William and my Mom chasing after Gemma; and Mrs. Hodge herself with Father Peter's kneeler – happy to have made this unexpected connection!

St Ursula's Church Magazine June-July 2010



"We'll sing the first verse, hum the second, and lip-sync the third."





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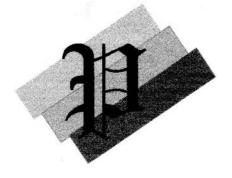
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Malergeschäft Prince

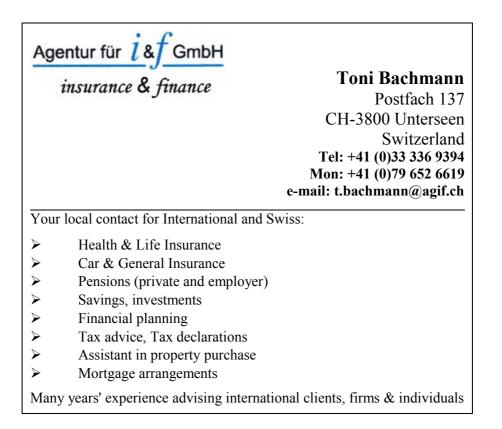
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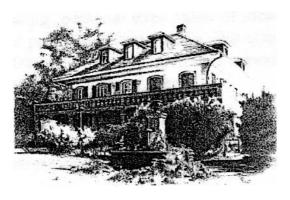
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> Graham Tritt, President, tel. 031 829 34 79, email g.tritt@gmx.net International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, www: icberne.2ya.com

Annual membership: CHF 35 for singles, CHF 45 for families. For membership enquiries, contact Werner Dettwiler, tel. 033 438 35 45, email: wd@bluewin.ch





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.

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Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,
6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;
7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. 9 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!