

St Ursula's Church Magazine

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Chaplain's Message

Every Eucharist ends with "Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord".

This is a rather free translation of the Latin *Ite, missa est*, which means "Go, the Mass is ended". There is more to it, though. The word in the middle suggests another translation - "You have been given your *mission*. Go and get on with it". The Eucharist itself is a kind of dramatic teaching aid in which God is saying, "This is the way I do it. Now you try". In other words, on Sundays we are being trained for mission.

Emil Brunner, a Swiss theologian, famously said "The Church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning". In my Pledge Appeal letter I have written that the job of the Church is to save souls. That is the Church's mission. Last year's questionnaire showed that many of you saw the importance of this task and I pray that your response to the Appeal will give us the resources we need.

We do mission in various ways -

1. **Worship.** This is our shop-window. It should show that we are a fellowship of people whose lives are changed for the better by our relationship with God. The Eucharist is our most important evangelistic tool because mission begins in worship and ends in worship.
2. **Invitation.** How can we attract people into this soul-saving community? We can invite by word-of-mouth but also by our lifestyle and behaviour.
3. **Nurture.** Christians invite others to join them on a journey to wholeness, towards being more evidently made in God's image. The journey can be difficult and frustrating. We can get lost or come to a halt. That is one reason why we need others to share the journey with us.
4. **Service.** Somebody once wrote "The service begins when the service is over". That is, we are sent out to put into practice the limitless self-giving love we have experienced in the Eucharist. By serving the needs of our fellow men and women, at home and abroad, known and unknown, we are imitating Jesus, who said "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20).

The initial letters of these headings are WINS. They are an easy way to remember that, when the Church is doing what she is called to do, she wins souls for Christ.

Peter

A Word for the Month - Joy

In our bookcase is a book found in many an American kitchen: *The Joy of Cooking*. It is a chatty cookbook, fun to read, but not likely to make anyone following its recipes jump for joy. And what is joy anyway?

Outside the world of book titles, joy is a word we seldom use nowadays. And if we use it, it is very often in a “religious” context. The same goes for the verb, rejoice. Football supporters do not “rejoice” when their team wins – they go wild, they celebrate, they clap and cheer and show their exuberance in numerous ways.

Some of the occasions the word appears in the Bible are memorable. In Galatians 5:22, for example, Paul reminds his readers that the Spirit bears fruit in the form of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” It is interesting that all the other eight fruits in this list involve other people, and we may suspect that by joy Paul also meant a radiant joy, an infectious joy, one that catches up other people, and not simply a private joy that one keeps to oneself.

Then there is the message of the angel to the shepherds at the beginning of Luke's Gospel, bringing “good news of great joy” - and again this news is not something that will bring them private pleasure – it is “for all the people”, and indeed we read how the shepherds returned from the manger “glorifying and praising God for all they had seen.”

And then there is the promise in Isaiah 55:12 to the Jews exiled in Babylon. Their captivity will end, and they will “go out in joy and be led back in peace.” Again, the joy overflows into a public display of happiness, so public that it extends even to the trees of the field!

Isaiah 55:12 repeats what the prophet has said a little earlier, at 51:11 - the ransomed of the Lord will return to Zion with singing; “everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” As Christians, we are “the ransomed of the Lord”, and we can share in that joy – the opposite of sorrow. (Another word, incidentally, which we seldom use in everyday conversation.)

Joy and sorrow are personal emotions, which we feel within us. But in the Bible, they often show themselves in the way people behave. Joy is something you share with others, and not just something you keep to yourself – and sorrow too is better shared.

We live in a world where the word joy is seldom heard. Partly this is because the word itself has become a piece of Christian jargon – something that we Christians

understand among ourselves (or think we do), but whose meaning is unclear to people outside the Church. But partly it is because we are less awake to the delights of God's presence in the things that go on around us. If we wake up to the joy of meeting God in our everyday life, then we can share that joy with those around us: Christians and non-Christians alike. For joy is meant to abound, to overflow, and to reflect the way God made us – creatures of joy.

- *Hector Davie*

Church Council Report

There was no council meeting in August as it was holiday time. There was a council meeting on Tuesday 7 September.

A significant amount of building work has been done – the offices have been painted and the floors replaced. The next big project is the replacement of the ceiling and lighting in the upper hall – council discussed some possibilities but the final decision will be taken at the next meeting in October. The fridge in the kitchen will be replaced as it is 17 years old.

Some specialist work is required on the trees to remove dead branches etc. A work party will be organised soon to do some autumn tidying-up in the garden.

As always, the financial situation was discussed. Our income is below budget, so ideas to encourage people to give more (especially by pledging) were considered.

In addition to the need for money, the need for volunteers for the various rotas was discussed. In particular, people are needed for manning the audio equipment, as servers, and for serving tea and coffee. As well as these Sunday morning tasks, people are also needed to help with sorting books for the book sales. If you can offer help, please contact the office.

We have a new notice board in the hall – the use of the various notice boards was agreed and signs will be prepared.

As always, many other topics were discussed – far too many to mention in this brief report, but please ask if you would like to know more. Contact a council member – the list is at the back of this magazine or on the web site.

- *Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)*

Chaplain's Notes

"Creation flourishing"

A special service focussing on God's creation and our responsibility as his stewards has become a feature of our Church year. This year's service will be on 10 October. It will be an All-Age service and our Environmental Officer, Stefan Germann, will share some of his ideas.

Harvesting Gifts

The Harvest Thanksgiving service at St Ursula's is on 24 October. Please bring along your produce either on the Saturday when the church is being decorated, or to the service itself. As usual, we will auction the produce afterwards in aid of the work of Tear Fund.

Although harvest and the environment are closely linked, the emphasis of the one is thanksgiving and of the other is responsibility. Harvest is also the time when the replies to the Pledge Appeal are returned. This too has to do with our Christian Stewardship. In gratitude for God's giving to us, we pledge ourselves to share our gifts of time, talents and money for the work of his Church.



As well as money, the Church does need people to volunteer for the many jobs that need doing to maintain and extend our mission and ministry. More details are contained in the Appeal letters which you will be getting soon.

Harvest Thanksgiving at Neuchâtel is the week before and there too a generous response is needed to help the church to grow.

People and Places

After the retirement of *Roy Farrar*, the congregation at Neuchâtel have agreed to engage a resident priest on a house-for-duty basis. This means that the church will house the priest in exchange for taking services (but no stipend is paid). This is a big step forward for Neuchâtel and they will have to double (at least) their giving. But we go forward in confidence and faith.

We have a new Youth Leader, *Mary McKinley*, who will be running our youth group from 20 October. She is American and has also lived in England. As well as having studied theology, she has experience of working with children and teenagers, so she will be quite an asset to our church family.

Best wishes and congratulations to *Wendy Astor*, who has a big birthday on 13 November.

We welcome the *Revd Carolyn Cooke*, who has been appointed as the new chaplain at La Côte. She is currently serving in a parish in Nottingham and she will be licensed at La Côte on 14 November.

Nacht der Religionen 6 November

Once again the ecumenical "Little Entente", consisting of the Old Catholics, the Lutherans and ourselves, will be joining forces at the St Peter and Paul Church. Our choir will lead us in Choral Evensong, at 20.00 and the evening will end with Lutheran Compline at 22.00. Bishop Hans Gerny will be signing copies of his latest book, on the Lord's Prayer, and there will be refreshments in the crypt.

Please contact me if you can help welcome visitors, serve refreshments or provide a cake.

All Souls and Remembrance Sunday

This year the All Souls and Remembrance services fall on different Sundays. We shall commemorate our own loved ones, as well as others whose funerals have been taken by our clergy over the past year, on 7 November at 10.00. The list for you to add names will be available beforehand as usual. Many people find this a helpful and comforting service. If you know anyone who has been bereaved, please invite them.

The Remembrance Sunday service will be on 14 November. Poppies will be on sale beforehand and there will be the traditional laying of wreaths.

Healing Prayers

Our next service with prayers for healing will be on the Feast of Christ the King, 21 November. This is the last Sunday of the Church's year and our prayers for healing – like this season's celebration of All Saints (31 October) and the commemoration of All Souls and Remembrance Sunday – help focus our thoughts on our destiny as citizens of Heaven.

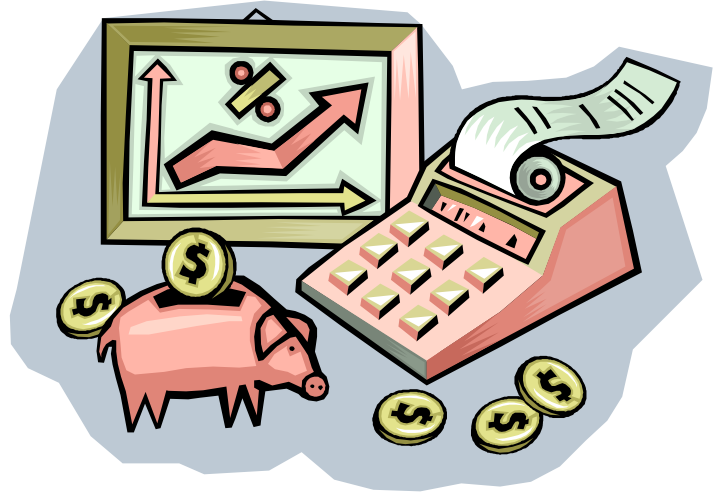
Mission and Missions

We start the new Church year on Advent Sunday, 28 November. What better way to start than by considering our mission to bring good news to the world. An important means of doing this is through the support we give to various missions and charities. On Advent Sunday we shall be celebrating and giving thanks for their work.

- PMP

Pledging

Year after year St Ursula's carries on its task of worshipping God, bringing people to Christ, guiding and supporting people in their Christian pilgrimage through life, teaching and preaching the Good News about Jesus Christ, reconciling the fallen, praying for the needs of the world, comforting the lonely, the uncertain, the sick, the bereaved. We are a part of God's holy people, no different in our mission from other Christians seeking to follow the same Lord in countless other places around the world.



Year after year we look back at the past and seek to plan for the future. In all that we do, we try to find the most effective way of serving our Lord. This is not simply a question of informal contact – there is a whole series of practical considerations. If people gather to worship, they need chairs to sit on, they need help in knowing what words to use, maybe help in hearing what is going on, maybe instruments to accompany them when they sing. If they gather for fellowship, they may need cups to drink from, kettles, dishwashers, refrigerators that work. If they need visiting, there are questions of transport. And leading and guiding the church is a full-time job, and deserves to be paid as one. All of this costs money – our budget runs to nearly three hundred thousand francs a year.

Year after year, we ask you to help in this task, by giving us money, or your talents, or (preferably) both. To enable us to plan, we are happiest if you can pledge an amount for the year ahead, in one, or twelve, or fifty-two instalments. Over two thirds of the Fr 300000 comes from you, in pledged giving, in donations, in the Sunday offering. We save money where we can, but in the end, we need your help. When the pledge appeal reaches you, read it carefully, and take action. Only with your help can St Ursula's carry on its task in the years to come.

- *The Treasurer*

Christmas Bazaar 2010



Where has 2010 disappeared to? We know how busy you all are but here we are again! We appreciate that many of you perform other tasks in our Church, as well holding down jobs, as indeed we do. But as our Christmas Bazaar is held in fond affection by many inside and outside of St Ursula's, we again hope that we can count on your support.

Help is needed. The success of the Christmas Bazaar is a real team effort of which we are all part and so once again we are putting calls out for all those things that will ensure a successful Bazaar. We need people to run stalls, specifically the bric-à-brac stall and a new stall selling small gifts. Help will be required in other ways too. If you have a creative streak we would love to hear from you as we plan to decorate the upper hall. More information is available from Maxine and Lynn. We will of course be using the beamer to keep you informed of what is needed.

Bottle Stall: any kind of bottle is welcome, and they can be brought to the Church any time now. There is a labelled box in the Upper Hall for your donations to this stall.

Bric à Brac: any unused gift or small item in very good condition, would be highly appreciated. You can bring your donation on Sundays to Church. Please, no furniture.

Helpers: Prior to the Bazaar, we need help with the icing of Christmas cakes. If you can help by icing one or more of the baked cakes please collect one from the Church after 20 October.

NOTE: the cakes should be iced in the traditional way with white icing. There will be guidelines placed on the Christmas Bazaar information stand. This is the blue stand by the kitchen. If you have access to the internet you can even watch a video clip demonstrating cake icing. Just look for English Christmas Cake Icing.

Christmas Bazaar Restaurant: If you can offer help either on Friday evening from 5pm or Saturday for a few hours, please contact Sharon on 078 885 4632 or sha1977@quicknet.ch.

We also need cakes, scones, mince pies etc to sell. These can be made in advance and frozen in the church freezer.



Manpower Without this the Bazaar can't happen, so if you could spare a little time and energy either before or after the Bazaar – there are many things to be done. Please put your name and contact number on the list which will be hung up in the Upper Hall from 31 October.

We rely on your support, help and generosity for a successful 2010 Christmas Bazaar. THANK YOU!!

- *Christmas Bazaar Co-ordinators Maxine and Lynn*

Preserves and Pickles!

The home-made jams, marmalades and pickles are some of the most-wanted items on the British Food Stall, so if you can spare a couple of jars (or more) of your home-made jams, pickles, chutneys and, most popular of all, marmalade for the food stall it would be most gratefully received. If you need jam jars just let me know and I'll get some to you.



With many thanks, Jana Kutesko 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567

Christmas Cake Baking – Wednesday 20 October 09.00



Please join us to help make this year's Christmas Cakes for the Bazaar. All the ingredients are provided but please bring a cake tin or two along.

If you can ice any of the cakes, please let Jana know in the Church Office – 031 352 8567

Nativity Service

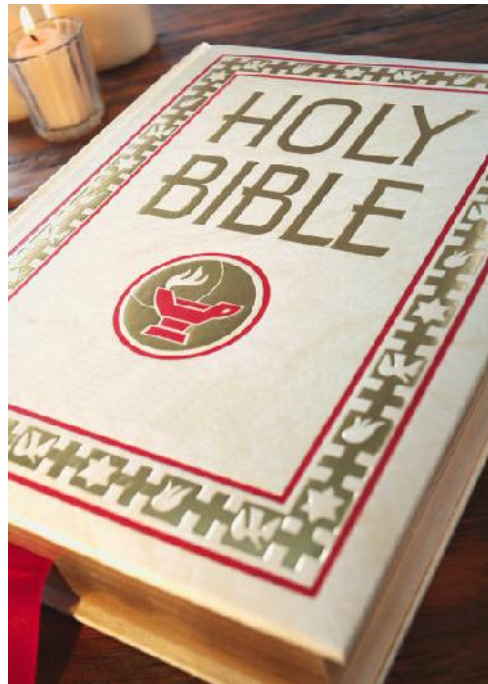
The annual Nativity Service will take place on Sunday 12 December at 10.00. It will be a celebration of the birth of Christ. We hope this year to do something a bit different from our traditional re-enactment of the Christmas story. More information in the next magazine, but note the date now.

- *Tricia Carrick*

Dash their Brains out?

Psalm 137 begins with a beautiful image. “By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.” It ends with one of the most disgusting images in the Bible, promising the Babylonians: “Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock.”

There are parts of the Bible which seem to have more to do with an al-Qaeda manual than with the God of love. In the Psalm, it is possible to plead that these are the thoughts of a nation that is suffering bitterly in exile, but the call to violence, even genocide, occurs again and again. Have a look at the last verse of Hosea 13, where the same and worse is in store for Samaria for “rebellious against God.” Think back to the exile, to the pursuing soldiers drowned in the Red Sea.



“Serve them right,” you may think. But surely this is not the way God works. The Gospel is about love and forgiveness, not about getting what we deserve – still less, about getting what we don't deserve. On their entry into Canaan, Moses' followers are told to destroy all those who follow other gods. Did they really deserve to die?

The Books of Deuteronomy and Joshua are full of stories of Canaanite cities being destroyed, the inhabitants without exception being put to the sword, even their animals being slaughtered and their goods burnt. Sometimes, when a few people are spared, God wreaks terrible punishment on those who have not carried out the slaughter completely.

“Serve them right” is no response. Still less so if we think of the first-born children of Egypt, slaughtered because of a Pharaoh's recalcitrance. Or Uzzah, in 2 Samuel 6:3, who was afraid the cart carrying the Ark of the Covenant was about to tip over, put out his hand to steady it, and was struck dead on the spot.

What are we to say about this? Firstly, that we can see something of where the ideas of al-Qaeda come from. And we can see something of where the extremer forms of Zionism come from too. Even within Christianity, there are groups which believe that God's purposes can be achieved by violence and aggression.

One way is to sweep it under the carpet. This is an easy way for us Christians to turn our back on the problem. This was the solution of the Anglican Alternative Service

Book of 1980 – if a verse of a psalm seems offensive, just miss it out. So Psalm 95, *Venite exultemus Domino*, “O come let us sing unto the Lord”, which had formed a regular introduction to Morning Prayer, suddenly stopped short at verse 7, because the rest of the Psalm recalled how the children of Israel had doubted God's power and would therefore “not enter into my rest.”

Another solution is to admit that there are passages in the Bible which to our eyes seem harsh or cruel, but to remember that in past times people were less cultivated, or had different standards. This is certainly true, and there is a lot in Paul's remark that the Old Testament law was a form of training for the true law, the law of love (Gal 3:24), just as the Old Testament prophets had looked forward to a time when God's law would be written not in books but on our hearts (Jer 31:33)

This is only half true, though. And it is open to the criticism that we have no yardstick to judge whether a particular statement should be discounted because it is “primitive”, or whether it is still “an eternal truth”. So, too, is a recent commentary, which has suggested that we should distinguish between the god of Deuteronomy (with a small “g”), and the God in whom we believe, an idea which goes back to the second century bishop Marcion, whose ideas were condemned as heretical, and who rejected the whole Old Testament because he felt it was incompatible with Jesus' teachings.

But Jesus himself accepted the Old Testament, and saw himself as its fulfilment. Here perhaps is the answer to our problem. Old Testament times were indeed cruel and savage at times. But even amidst the savagery, God was there. It was the writers of the Psalms, it was the prophets, it was the writer of Deuteronomy and of Joshua who had an imperfect vision of God's will. To their minds, the only way forward, the only way God's will could be done on earth, was by rooting out all opposition by force.

This is not God's way, but God was still there, listening and leading. And leading into the full revelation of God's very being in Jesus, the servant of others. In Jesus, the stone is reserved not for dashing children's brains out, but for tying round the neck of anyone who leads one of God's little ones astray. This is the Gospel of love.

- *Hector Davie*

FAQ: Why the funny clothes?

A Baptist minister I once knew mostly dressed in jeans and T-shirts during the week. But he always wore a dark suit to church on Sundays.

Dressing up for church is a way of showing that we are somewhere special, where what is happening is different from the rest of the week. We are in a sacred space on a holy day, taking part in holy things.

Clothes often serve a useful function in helping to identify people. When you are at a hospital, a white coat quickly tells you that the wearer will be able to help. If you are lost in a strange city, we are more likely to turn to someone in a police uniform or Post grey for directions than to just any passer-by. The distinctive clothes worn by the person leading worship similarly suggest that they speak with some professional expertise and that they know what is going on.



By giving a lead and a focus in this way, the person wearing the funny clothes is signalling that we are not simply separate individuals who happen to be in the same room but members of a body gathered for the same purpose.

The clothes worn by the president at the Eucharist in the Anglican tradition (known as "vestments") also signal that the body we are part of is not limited to the people who happen to be in the same building that particular morning. The vestments are in fact modelled on the "Sunday best" of an average inhabitant of first-century Palestine. They consist of the coat and cloak that Jesus referred to in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:40). The clothes tell us that what we are doing on any Sunday is what Christians have always done since New Testament times.

And, finally, because the clothes are not the latest fashion statement, the priest does not have to ask that troublesome question "What shall I wear?". Just like Luke 12:22-23 in fact.

- PMP

Sung Evensong at the Old Catholic Church in Berne

On the occasion of the *Nacht der Religionen*, St Ursula's Church will lead a traditional Sung Evensong at the Old Catholic Church in Berne on **6 November at 20.00.**

The choir will be singing the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, the Responses, a Psalm and an Anthem. Singers who wish to join the choir for this occasion, who are prepared to attend the choir practices leading up to this date and would like to sing at the Evensong are warmly welcome. Please get in touch with Elisabeth or Hans-Karl Pfyffer, or just turn up for the practices on Saturday mornings from 9.30 until 11.30 am.

- Elisabeth & Hans-Karl Pfyffer, 026 4920 326

Willibrord Day

The Swiss Willibrord Society exists to encourage good relations between the Anglican and Old Catholic (*Christkatholisch*) churches. Every year we plan talks, visits and find other ways of cooperating and fostering fellowship.

On 13 November, we want to introduce our Old Catholic friends to the idea of a Bazaar. Unfortunately not our bazaar, but Zurich's. The day will start at 9.15 with a guided tour of the Zurich Grossmünster (for which there is a small charge of Fr10 to cover our costs), and continue with a Eucharist in the Old Catholic Augustinerkirche, before ending up for lunch at Zürich Enge, where our friends at St Andrew's hold their bazaar. If the idea appeals to you, let Hector Davie know (hector@davie.ch).

Christmas Already? A reminder

Please remember to make a note of this year's Advent Course. It is called *Birth Announcements* and we shall be having a close look at the Christmas stories in the Gospels. If you think you have known the story since you first wrapped a tea-towel round your head and appeared as a shepherd – think again! There is a lot more to them (and yes, “them” - there is more than one).

There will be four sessions, on Friday 26 November, 3, 10 and 17 December.

They will be held at lunch time and repeated in the evenings.

Charity News November 2010

Have you seen the blue cards in the hall porch mapping the way to find help at the Home for Transients not far away from our church in Berne?

The Wohlen housegroup supports one of St Ursula's charities, the Home for Transients, *Passantenhilfe*, run on behalf of the Bernese churches by the Salvation Army, offering advice and support to people without fixed homes.



Mr Seev Levy, who has been leading this organization for over 20 years, has told us that this organization is a central social office formed by many churches in the city and region of Berne: the Reformed, Catholic, French-speaking, the Salvation Army as well as our own St Ursula's.

Between 10 and 25 persons in difficult situations come to their office each day seeking help. Gypsies, people with drug or alcohol addiction, mothers with children, the unemployed, former prisoners, beggars, the homeless, street musicians and many others come, seeking help and guidance.

This organization assists by providing fresh food, donated by shops, giving out small amounts of money and vouchers for train tickets or clothes from the second-hand shops, and even helps seek accommodation for short periods.

Confidence and cooperation built up through contacts with other institutions, social offices and even the *Fremdenpolizei* help lead to solutions.

Mr Levy points out that many also have a hunger and thirst for comfort, encouragement, appreciation and simple dignity. By acknowledging how precious another human being is, by spending time and listening, those who work at the *Passantenhilfe* hope to create some of what Jesus called "Kingdom of God on earth". Mr Levy would like us too to have opportunities to help others, with open eyes and hearts. To have compassion is our way to serve God, for Jesus said: "What you have done to the least of these my brethren, you have done to me!" (Matt. 25:40)

The *Kirchliche Passantenhilfe Bern* is located at Gartenstrasse 8, 3007 Bern Tel: 031 380 75 40.

Small blue postcard-size maps of how to find this Home for Transients are available in the porch in the Church Hall. So take some and explain them to the poor in need of compassion.

- *Shelagh Brawand*

Tear Fund

Many in St Ursula's congregation know something about the Tear Fund charity we support. Tear Fund originated in the UK but has, among others, a Swiss branch and is active in many southern hemisphere countries. Its goal is to provide Christian developmental and emergency help with the aim of helping release people from material and spiritual poverty. The three main areas in which Tear Fund aims to help strengthen disadvantaged people are education (helping provide basic schooling, educate teachers and train young adults in marketable skills), basic health (helping people obtain access to clean water) and generating an income (providing micro-credit).

Among others, Tear Fund has projects in Afghanistan, Malawi, Zambia, Sudan (see the Junior Church Charity article) and Uganda. St Ursulas supports Tear Fund by dedicating Junior Church collections and other specific collections to it. One can raise money for Tear Fund by organizing fund-raising activities. It is also possible to volunteer and work on various projects, as Eva Perrett did.

Another of our church members, Venessa Wenger, spent six months in south Sudan on a project with Across which is supported by Tear Fund. Vanessa worked in five different centres. Thanks to her profession as policewoman, she was able to help the locals, at their request, develop a security policy and train the staff to carry it out. She has also written a booklet containing that security information which is available for use in the five centres. The main themes of security are fire fighting, evacuation and defense. Following her stay in south Sudan, Vanessa helped in the Across office in Nairobi, Kenya.

Vanessa has been asked to present a report of her Across work to the Bernese police department and when her school and work schedule permit, she will give a talk to our congregation about her work in Sudan.

Junior Church Charity: Tear Fund Project in Sudan

The Charity and Missions team would like to draw attention to the work of TearFund Schweiz in Sudan as our monthly charity focus for October. Support for TearFund Schweiz is firmly anchored in the church both by the general congregation and by Junior Church in particular. For over 20 years, Junior Church have dedicated their weekly Sunday collection to support the work of Tear Fund as well as organising, on occasion, special fundraising activities in spring and autumn. This year's Bake Sale in April, with workshops for Activity Club members to make fudge, chocolates and

other goodies, as well as to learn more about Sudan and the Tear Fund project, raised around Fr.270 for the organisation. In October, Activity Club members will be helping a young family to harvest their apple trees as part of the Harvest Festival activities at St Ursula's Church.



Earlier this year, Junior Church found out that Switzerland fits into Sudan 60 times, that some of the oldest churches in the world can be found in Sudan (over 1500 years old), and that both Sudan and Switzerland have lots of cattle. We discussed how Switzerland turns the milk they get from the cows into cheese to sell it to other countries, and that Sudan in contrast exports meat. We found out that Sudan used to be a wealthy kingdom and still today has a lot of oil it can sell but because there has been war again and again in the region, the people of South Sudan are in need of help to rebuild schools and infrastructure again. We discussed how tax money is used in Switzerland to finance our schools and the training of our teachers and that Sudan doesn't have the same system. Still today the country is ruled by a political party that does not appear to have the wellbeing of ALL of its citizens at the core of its politics.

We found out that TearFund Schweiz is a Swiss organisation founded by the Evangelical Alliance of Switzerland in 1984. Its vision is to empower marginalised peoples through education, basic health care and professional training. It also encourages Christians in Switzerland to contribute towards breaking the spiral of poverty in other countries by actively supporting fair trade and paying attention to their own patterns of consumption. TearFund works in six major regions in the world and has been active in Sudan since it was founded. The money we collect for TearFund was used in the 1990s mostly to build schools in the Rumbek region in South Sudan but currently the project focuses on training teachers, getting suitable teaching material printed and supporting counsellors who visit families to encourage them to let their daughters go to school.

In 2011, South Sudan will be voting as to whether they cede from Sudan and create their own nation or stay affiliated to Sudan as a member state. Please pray in this period leading up to the voting that love and tolerance prevail. For special prayer requests of the project coordinators, please take a look at the Charity and Missions notice board in October.

- Donna Goepfert and Françoise Hänggi



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Congratulations
to our Junior Church Children
with Birthdays
in October and November**

Darcy Wildhaber 13 on 1 October

Leo Eigner 16 on 4 October

Denisha Sathiyaraj 10 on 6 October

Jannis Philipp 7 on 7 October

Matthew Batley 10 on 10 October

Gemma Masciadri 12 on 20 October

Flynn Hodler 3 on 25 October

Vishnu Sarode 12 on 30 October

Daniel King 9 on 2 November

Shaea Okoli 3 on 15 November

Naomi Kingori 9 on 28 November

Rotas

If you are looking for the rotas that you normally find in the magazine, then stop looking. They aren't here. As the magazine is now published only every two months, the rotas rapidly get out of date. As before, you can find the rotas on the web page (www.anglican.ch/berne). In addition, there is now also a list on the church notice board in the hall.

The various tasks needed each week depend on volunteers to do them. Currently several of the rota lists are short of people. If you think you could help in one area, please contact the responsible person for more information. There is a list of rota coordinators at the back of the magazine. Or for general information please speak to the chaplain.



The Twenty and the One



A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one-dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church..."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

- PMP

Calendar of Services

3 October	Trinity 18 10.00 Eucharist Lamentations 1:1-6; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
10 October	Creationtide Sunday 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 All-Age Service Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 12:22-34
17 October	Trinity 20 10.00 Eucharist Jeremiah 31:27-34; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
24 October	Harvest Thanksgiving 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 All-Age Informal Eucharist Deuteronomy 26:1-3, 8-11; Philippians 4:4-7; John 6:25-35
31 October	All Saints' Day 10.00 Eucharist Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Ephesians 1:11- end; Luke 6:20-31
7 November	Commemoration of All Souls 10.00 Eucharist Lamentations 3:17-26, 31-33; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 5:19-25
14 November	Remembrance Sunday 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 Morning Prayer Psalm 132; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Matthew 13:44-52
21 November	Christ the King Sunday next before Advent 10.00 Eucharist with Prayers for Healing Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
28 November	The First Sunday of Advent Mission Sunday 8.30 Said Communion 10.00 Eucharist Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Prayer Diary

October

1. Friday *St Thérèse of Lisieux* – give thanks for lives spent in God's service
2. Saturday interchurch and interfaith marriages
3. **Sunday** people providing voluntary services in our communities
4. Monday the Tearfund sponsored run
5. Tuesday tonight's Council meeting
6. Wednesday the integration of migrants in our community
7. Thursday this year's Pledge Appeal
8. Friday the Tearfund projects we support
9. Saturday our church library
10. **Sunday** **Creationtide Sunday**
11. Monday public transport in our area
12. Tuesday our Environment Officer
13. Wednesday good stewardship of our time, talents and money
14. Thursday the provision of safe water supplies
15. Friday making St Ursula's carbon-neutral
16. Saturday ethical trading of food and natural resources
17. **Sunday** start of the Week of Prayer for World Peace
18. Monday *St Luke* – health professionals
19. Tuesday the Anglican Healing Network
20. Wednesday the USPG's project at St Luke's hospital in Tanzania
21. Thursday local hospitals
22. Friday that St Ursula's has the resources for its mission
23. Saturday the farming community
24. **Sunday** **Harvest Thanksgiving**
25. Monday the Bible Reading Fellowship
26. Tuesday the Junior Church
27. Wednesday the Friends of the Diocese in Europe
28. Thursday all who suffer for their faith
29. Friday the Swiss Council of Churches (AGCK)
30. Saturday the work of the Glückskette
31. **Sunday** **All Saints' Sunday** – thanksgiving for all the holy people of God

November

1. Monday the Clergy Chapter meeting
2. Tuesday the bereaved
3. Wednesday Cecily's Fund soup lunch today
4. Thursday Ecumenical relations in Berne
5. Friday the Willibrord Society
6. Saturday the events for the Nacht der Religionen in Berne
7. **Sunday** **All Souls Sunday** - the faithful departed
8. Monday the work of the *Passantenhilfe* in Berne
9. Tuesday servers and chalice assistants
10. Wednesday embassies and their staffs in Berne
11. Thursday the Armistice Day service in Vevey
12. Friday areas of conflict in today's world
13. Saturday the United Nations
14. **Sunday** **Remembrance Sunday** - the victims of war
15. Monday the General Synod of the Church of England
16. Tuesday vocations to the ordained ministry
17. Wednesday Zentrum 5 project for immigrants in Bern
18. Thursday our outreach to the English-speaking community
19. Friday all who help with catering at church
20. Saturday the Church Bazaar
21. **Sunday** **Christ the King** - the ministry of healing in the Church
22. Monday the groups that use our hall
23. Tuesday the development of our prayer life
24. Wednesday Church choirs and musicians
25. Thursday our Buildings Committee
26. Friday this year's Advent course
27. Saturday the 14 mission and charity agencies we support
28. **Sunday** **Advent Sunday** - The church at Neuchâtel
29. Monday the Church's mission in society
30. Tuesday the Pastoral Group

Thank you

I should like to thank everyone for their kind words and prayers at the news of my illness and also after the death of my father in August. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Shareene

For Your Diary October & November 2010

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30 – 10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork - not on 19 November
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 20 November

Other Events

Tuesday 5 October	19.30	Church Council
Saturday 16 October	10.00 - 13.00	Junior Church 7 – 12 Activity Club
Wednesday 20 October	09.00 - 11.00	Christmas Cake Baking
Friday 22 October	19.00 - 21.00	Youth Group Meeting
Saturday 23 October	10.00 - 13.00	Second Hand Children's Toy and Equipment Sale
Sunday 25 October	11.30	Harvest & Pledge Sunday Auction of Harvest Offerings for Tear Fund
Tuesday 2 November	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 3 November	11.30-13.30	Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch
Saturday 6 November	20.00	Choral Evensong at St Peter & Paul's (<i>Nacht der Religionen</i>)
Tuesday 9 November	19.30	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Saturday 13 November	09.15-1400	Willibrord Day in Zurich
Sunday 14 November		COPY DATE
Thursday 18 November	18.00 – 20.00	Bazaar Set-up – Manpower needed.
Friday 19 November	09.00 – 16.00	Bazaar Set-up
	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 20 November	10.00 – 15.00	Christmas Bazaar
	17.30 – 19.30	Junior Church 7 – 12 Activity Club
Friday 26 November	12.00 – 14.00	Start of four-week Advent Study Course

Future Dates

Sunday 12 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Sunday 12 December	17.00	Performance of the Opera, <i>Carmen</i> in aid of Cecily's Fund in Neuchâtel
Tuesday 14 December	19.00	Biel Carol Service
Wednesday 15 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service
Thursday 16 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Sunday 19 December	17.00	Neuchâtel Carol Service

Thun Services

Services are on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 19.30 in the Pavillion Bostuden (Bläuerstrasse 5, off Bubenbergstrasse)

7 October
21 October
4 November
18 November

Contemplative Prayer

is the world in which God can do anything. . . It is to be open to the Infinite and hence to infinite possibilities.

'Open Mind open Heart' by Thomas Keating

Contemplative prayer meetings will be held at the Centre for Prayer in Liebefeld (Falkenstrasse 2) on 14 October, 28 October, 11 November and 25 November, 19.00 for 19.30.

- *Brian Morgan*

Ecumenical House Group Welcomes New Members

With the imminent departure of Manuel and Chris Sager to Washington, I have volunteered to lead the house group which they have led most competently for the last year or so. Although this has been a Vineyard-centred house group until now, I prefer to view it first and foremost as an ecumenical house group welcoming people from various church backgrounds.



The first meeting of the newly led group will be 20 October and will be held at my house (Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld). Meetings will be on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting at 19.00 and lasting for two hours plus. The programme will continue to follow the well-tested house group procedure; hymns and songs of praise, opening prayer, study and prayer requests for others and ourselves. We are currently studying Mark's Gospel and will continue with this. I am hoping that members will volunteer to prepare and lead the study part from time to time, should they feel so called.

Please inform me if you would like to join this house group or require more information: bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch (or 031 971 66 81). I look forward to welcoming many new members on 20 October.

Blessings from Brian Morgan

Time to Pray



A pastor asked a little girl if she said her prayers every night. "Yes, sir," the girl replied.

"And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor asked.

"No, sir," she replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime."



Lunch Invitation

We would like to invite you to our

Traditional Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund

At: St Ursula's, Jubiläumsplatz 2

Date: Wednesday 3th November

Time: from 12.00 to 13.30

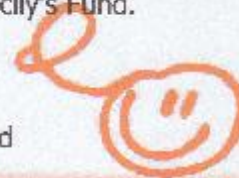
Please join us for an informal lunch of delicious homemade pumpkin, vegetable, gluten free soup and good company! We will provide soup, bread, tea and coffee. If you would like to bring some cake or cookies to share they would be most welcome.

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.

Many thanks to you for your kind attention and support for Cecily's Fund.

With Best Wishes,

This year's voluntary team of the Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund



**In aid of Cecily's Fund - educating
Zambian children orphaned by AIDS**

Charity No: 1071660

Cecily's Fund

www.cecilyfund.org

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(Tuesday to Friday 13h-18h | Saturday 10h-12h)
F : +41 (0)32 717 82 49
E : billetterie@theatredupassage.ch



Funds raised from this performance will go to **SWISS FRIENDS OF CECILY'S FUND**
to help pay for uniforms, school materials and fees for **Zambian children** who have lost their
parents to **AIDS-related illnesses**. Education gives them hope for a secure and healthy future.
For more information visit www.cecilyfund.org

Day Trip to the Christmas Market in Freiburg, Germany

You may recall that last December a group of us from St Ursula's travelled to Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, by train to visit the Christmas Market and to celebrate Maxine's special birthday. We all had a wonderful day together and promised that we would do it again. So, I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that we go again this year, as a group, on **Saturday 27 November**. I hope that you will consider joining us!



Here are our **tentative plans**: There is a direct train (the InterCity Express) departing from Bern on Platform 7 at 9.04 and arriving in Freiburg im Breisgau at 10.55 (no changes). Regarding the return journey, I suggest departing from Freiburg at 16.01. We would arrive in Basel at 16.47, depart at 17.01, and arrive in Bern at 17.56. Last year, with the purchase of a group ticket for 10 or more people, the cost was Fr. 35.- with GA and Fr. 64.20 with Halbtax, including seat reservation.

Last year, we walked from the train station together to the Christmas market, and then some of us wandered off alone, in pairs, or in small groups, to have a warm drink and to do some Christmas shopping in the market. We met again at the Rathaus at 12.00 and from there we walked together to Karstadt (a large German department store) just outside the market area where we had lunch together in the restaurant. We were lucky to find two large tables side by side, and with a good cafeteria style restaurant there was something for everyone at a reasonable price. After lunch, we split up again, wandered together in smaller groups and browsed in the shops and in the market a little bit more, before meeting back at the train station for the return journey. We will plan to do something similar this year, as it worked so well for everybody last year (thanks Andy!), although other ideas are very welcome!

We hope that both Isabel Jordan and Sue Higson will come down from Mainz and Frankfurt respectively to meet us in the middle, and that we will again have a lovely day of fellowship, adventure, and Christmas cheer. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Jennifer Hockley (031 832 10 62 or hockley@bluewin.ch).
- Jennifer Hockley

To Zambia with Cecily's Fund



If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, travel together (African proverb)

My visit to Zambia in July as part of a group of seven friends of Cecily's Fund, including its founders Basil and Alison Eastwood, was certainly to a country far away in the southern hemisphere. It also turned out to be a unique shared African experience, full of unforgettable images and encounters, and a journey which has charged me with the desire to raise consciousness about what I have seen and to move people to support the work of Cecily's Fund in one of Africa's poorest countries. So I have travelled 'far', in every sense of the word.

Our core programme lasted 6 hectic days, designed to give us first-hand experience of the multi-faceted work carried out by Cecily's Fund with its vision to educate Zambian children orphaned or vulnerable as a result of HIV and AIDS. Without education, children will remain on the margins; with education, its recipients are given hope, a sense of purpose and ultimately can both be self-sufficient and help their country.

Cecily's Fund currently raises over £500,000 per year to educate over 9,500 children. This includes a contribution to fees, exam charges, uniforms, shoes, exercise books and pencils. You may have heard this before, but it hits home that much more when one has seen children walk long distances to school barefoot or in flip-flops, observed how a tattered exercise book is treasured or learned how life-changing the chance to receive an education can be: whilst we were there, we heard of the success of one Cecily Fund sponsored pupil who came first in a nationwide science competition and has won a scholarship to take the IB at a college in Sussex, UK, commencing this school year.

Starting our up-country journey at 6 a.m from Lusaka bus station, we travelled 5 hours north to Kitwe in the country's Copperbelt where the work of Cecily's Fund is centred. Here our intensive programme took off: introductions and briefings by staff members of Hodi (the NGO on the ground who administer and monitor the Cecily's Fund aid), meetings with contact teachers (the all-important link between schools and supported children), home visits to Cecily's Fund children, lunch with Peer Health Educators (former CF-funded pupils who are then trained to run HIV awareness workshops in schools), visits to students at Kitwe College of Education who also receive funding from Cecily's Fund, plus a workshop with the Men from the Education Ministry, and a blast of facts and figures from CHEP, which runs the Peer Health Education programmes in the Copperbelt. Our local patron of Cecily's

Fund even arranged for us to be interviewed by a Zambian Broadcasting Company TV crew, but we were far too busy to actually watch the news programme where - reputedly - we featured!

Cecily Fund's Zambian patron is in fact a prime example of what happens in Zambian society at every level: he and his wife, a professional couple, have three or four of their own children but they now support five orphaned nephews and nieces. They may be able to afford it, but the extended family is Zambia's only social security system and this system is breaking down under the pressure of the HIV pandemic. Other families that are anyway desperately poor will not be able to afford to send yet more children to school. That is where Cecily's Fund comes in to help.

We were privileged to see this in action on home visits to children supported by Cecily's Fund. Along with their contact teacher, at the end of the school day we visited three pupils from Malela High School in their homes. They live in Mulanga Township on the outskirts of Kitwe, an overspill settlement not intended to last: it has no electricity, running water or plumbing – but an apparently indelible community has grown up, linked by a myriad of paths between mud brick houses. There are small displays of vegetables for sale or a few bags of charcoal before a house: this is how families eke out a living. Others might offer a valued skill such as hairdressing. There is an air of community bustle in the township, children in uniform returning from a school shift, others playing in groups with improvised toys, and everywhere food preparation over charcoal braziers.

Thanks to Cecily's Fund, Anthony (Grade 11) has returned to school after an absence following the death of his parents. He now lives with his grandmother and younger sister. They are fortunate to have a water source (tap and well) on a little patch in front of their two-roomed house and Anthony now



grows vegetables, as his deceased father taught him. Otherwise shy, he becomes animated as he shows us his crop which his teacher readily samples.

Friday is in Grade 10. Both his parents are dead. He lives with his 28-year-old sister, her husband (a tailor) and their three small children. The accommodation is very cramped and a makeshift sanitary area from plastic sheeting is evident at the side of the house. His sister fetches produce from the market, such as sweet potato leaves, to sell for a minuscule profit to township neighbours. Her husband might be able to make some uniforms for Cecily's Fund supported pupils and this is noted for Hodi. Thus the wider community where the children live can be helped. Every ripple makes a difference.



Jackson, aged 22, lives with his ten siblings, three of whom are also supported by Cecily's Fund. His father is very sick with TB and his mother helps the family finances through hairdressing. Jackson's younger sister is learning the same skill from her mother and their home becomes a gathering place as onlookers chat and watch them at their

trade. Jackson has recently won a competition at school sponsored by Barclays Bank. His enthusiasm and potential are palpable. He is the spokesman for the small group of three and it's gladdening to think that Cecily's Fund is helping him and his friends on their way by enabling them to attend High School.

After we had completed the Kitwe part of the programme, we returned to the capital, Lusaka. Here on the outskirts, Cecily's Fund works with a different model. Since 2002 it has supported Bwafwano Community School, part of a larger integrated community programme which provides health facilities, HIV testing and vocational workshops. In total the fund is involved in supporting some 2000 pupils there (around 755 at Bwafwano's own school and those who have moved on to government schools). It is an inspiring place, with six teachers working three sessions per day to accommodate the need. Uniquely, Cecily's Fund also pays for a hot lunch for the children at Bwafwano. On the day we visited, the Zambian staple *nshima* (maize porridge) and vegetables were on the menu. Three times a week the children receive an extra protein dish. It might well be the sole meal of the day for some.

I've overrun my allocated space and yet have barely begun! Please do approach me to find out more about my visit. Also bear in mind that this is an open-ended project. If a donation covers the cost of education for a vulnerable child this year, that child also desperately needs funding next year. Each year in school gives children more skills and confidence to improve the chances of earning a living and staying healthy and safe from HIV when they leave. A further step the charity is considering is the possibility of sponsoring young people through craft and training schemes to make them fit for the difficult job market in Zambia. If I can move people, just a few people, to buy an opera ticket (see the notice board in the Church Hall for details of the benefit performance of 'Carmen' in Neuchatel on 12 December), purchase Cecily Fund Christmas cards (from Yvonne Bomonti or me), attend a Cecily Fund soup lunch, contribute a fund raising idea, sponsor a child via the Cecily Fund website, then I'll feel I've made a start. From our society where education is a right, it is hard to imagine a situation where, on top of all other hardships, it is a privilege.



- Hilary Sharp

For Sale

Judy Gfeller has the following items for sale:

- Bernina "Bernette 55" sewing machine, purchased 2007 but never used Fr.200
- HP "Deskjet 5650" printer with two unused black print cartridges Fr.110
- Swisscom ISDN fixnet telephones "Top E604" / "Classic S126" suitable for an office Fr.120 for both.

For further information contact Judy on 031 961 52 22 (evenings)

Help Needed for Research on Bilingual Interaction

If you can speak Swiss German and English, help with my *PhD project about bilingualism* would be appreciated. I am currently conducting research on bilingual interaction in speakers of both Swiss German and English. My interest lies in the structural outcomes of such bilingual communication. To this end I would invite anybody living in Switzerland who speaks both languages and uses them in their everyday life to participate in an audio recording with a friend or relative, somebody who also speaks both languages. This would take no longer than 1½ hours of your time, after which you will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire. I am based in Bangor, North Wales but I will be staying in Switzerland in the first two weeks of November. I will be flexible and can travel to a location and at a date within that time period that would be convenient for you.

If you know anyone else who speaks Swiss German and English and who would be interested in participating could you please pass on this information and ask them to contact me or if you have any questions as to my research or would like to participate.

- Adrian Lüscher, Bangor University, North Wales
Tel: +44 1248 388580, E-mail: a.luescher@bangor.ac.uk

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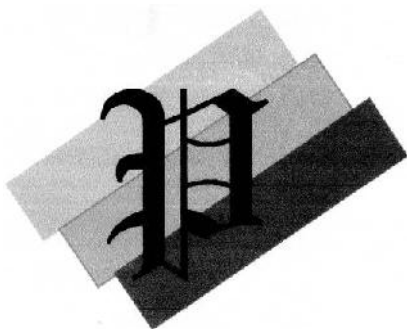
For further information please contact me at:

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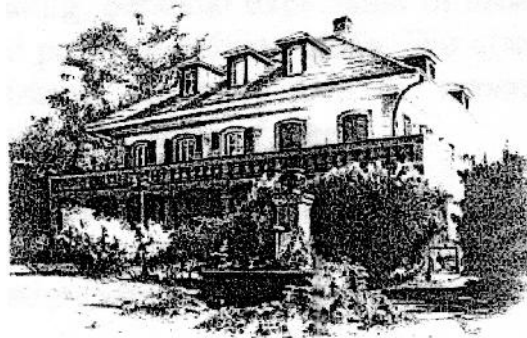
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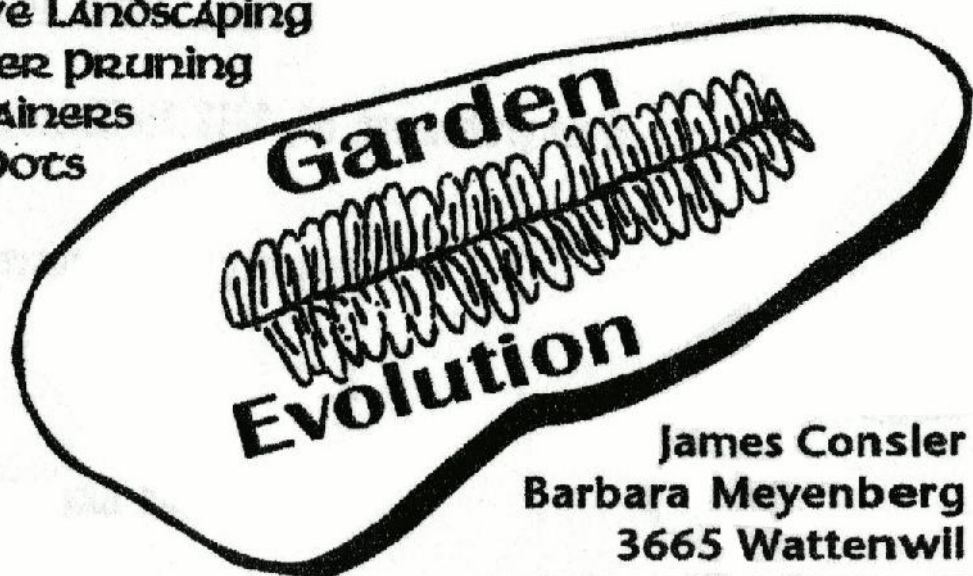
The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes 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!

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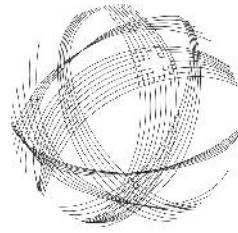
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God of grace
your love flows in abundance through your world.
You have come close,
touched our pain,
and fired our hearts with hope.
As we now give you thanks,
and celebrate your mission
to reconcile, heal and transform,
fill us with your irrepressible Spirit of love
made known among us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer at the 2010 Edinburgh World Mission Conference