

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



August - September 2011

St Ursula's Church Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Berne, Switzerland

Chaplain

Ven Peter Potter

031 351 03 43

077 449 37 70 (emergencies only)

Lay Reader

David Low

Honorary Assistant Chaplain

Revd Linda Bisig

031 931 63 86

Youth Coordinator

Mary McKinley

Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and counselling by arrangement with the Chaplain

Normal pattern of Sunday services:

8.30 Said Eucharist (2nd and 4th Sundays)

10.00 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church and Crèche

Our services follow the Church of England's Common Worship Order One (2000)

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, the 10.00 service is usually more informal.

See Calendar of Services inside for details of the next few weeks.

Services in Thun: see inside.

Services in Neuchâtel: at the Reformed Church at La Coudre (near the Chaumont funicular) See inside for service times.

Information: Mrs Jennifer Veenendaal, 032 841 64 32

ST URSULA'S BERNE

The church is one of the nine Swiss chaplaincies that have a resident chaplain (minister) and together form the Archdeaconry of Switzerland. This is part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe which stretches from the Canary Islands to Ankara, from Moscow to Morocco.

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land Co. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as a thank offering for the near miraculous recovery of her adopted daughter, who was treated at the clinic of the famous Professor Kocher.

The hall and the house were added in 1959. An English Missionary Society, the USPG, helped to support the church from its earliest days. Since 1977, however, the chaplaincy has been fully self-supporting, relying solely on its members and well-wishers for its financial support.

St Ursula's has a long tradition of ministry to all English-speaking people in the Canton of Berne and beyond. It also provides a home for Christians from many different denominations and cultural backgrounds. Regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names to the Electoral Roll and so play a full part in the life of the church. Details from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

See Calendar inside for details of this month's services
St Ursula's Church website: <http://www.anglican.ch/berne>
E-mail: berne@anglican.ch



St Ursula's Church Magazine

VOL 30/4

August—September 2011

Published & printed in Berne by St Ursula's Church/Hergestellt in Bern durch St Ursula's Church
Appears 6x a year/wird 6x jährlich herausgegeben

Annual Subscription Rates:
Fr20 including inland postage
Postfinance Account 30-4416-8 UBS Bern: IBAN CH41 0023 5235 9258 1510 0

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COPY DATE

for the October—
November magazine is

11 September 2011

Please send copy to
magazine@stursula.ch

Chaplain's Message

This year seems to be shooting past at a tremendous rate.

By the time you read this, most of you will have had your summer holidays. You will be back at work and the children about to go back to school. Our church activities are starting up again too.



On 28 August we have our Back to Church Sunday event. This means not only “back to church” after the holidays but it is also an invitation for people to come back to church after an even longer break.

People stop coming to church for all sorts of reasons, often unconnected with the state of their faith, the services or even the vicar. In fact I suspect the main reason is that something interrupts their churchgoing for a while and they get out of the habit. It could be moving to a new neighbourhood, children changing school or a different work pattern. Or any number of other reasons. The longer you leave it, the more difficult it is to go back.

The regular congregation then needs to create opportunities (or excuses?) for people to come back. Invitations to something special are the best way to do this. People will know that they have not been forgotten and that they are included too.

At this year's AGM I outlined my vision for St Ursula's under the title of “Casting the Net”. This builds on our proven capacity to be a welcoming church, so that we can also be an inviting church. We have put effort into mending the nets and I think we can have confidence that people coming back will see changes for the better.

The name “*Back to Church Sunday*” tells us that there are people out there, probably quite a lot, who already have a connection with the church in general and St Ursula's in particular. These are the people we should start with in our efforts to become an inviting church. This year, we shall be specifically inviting former members of our youth groups who are still in the area. But I hope you will invite not only them but others too.

The service that day, which includes a baptism, will have enough of the familiar, and some gentle reminders, so that people can feel comfortable at being back in church. We shall have our International Lunch (potluck/bring and share) so that we can renew acquaintances. And, an added attraction this year

for present and former members of our youth groups, an invitation to spend the afternoon relaxing beside the Hodlers' pool.

Please pray for Back to Church Sunday and do what you can to make it a success.

Peter

It's Not Cool

No. Even if it is 32° as I write, this is not about the weather! It is about people's ideas of church. Not just young people, but people whose contacts with church are few – the sort of people we'd like to see coming in on 28 August, when we in Berne are having our own “Back to Church Sunday”.



There are a lot of strange ideas floating around, about what Christians believe and what Christians do. Some people think we believe there are creatures dressed in white sitting on clouds playing harps, who miraculously avoid being knocked off by passing aircraft. Or an old man with a magic thunderbolt, ready to strike down anyone who hangs out their washing on a Sunday. The main object of religion is to stop people enjoying themselves. On Sundays, Christians do not go to the pub or the supermarket, like normal British people, but wear drab clothes and go to sit on hard seats in a draughty church, to listen to a dull sermon preached by a man in fancy dress, to pray for things that are never likely to happen, and to sing lifeless dirges.

An exaggeration, of course, but a lot of people think one part or another of this caricature fits us. And the problem is that we half realize this ourselves, and we half try to do something about it. We imagine “they” want trendy music or interactive audio-visual experiences instead of uninspiring hymns and undemanding sermons, but we still expect them to sit on hard seats and behave in unfamiliar ways. Have we projected the right image of ourselves?

In many ways, Jesus was “cool”. He questioned many of the ideas people had about religion. Did people think religion was about fasting and feeling glum? Jesus was “a glutton and drunkard” (Matt 11:19), and went around with posh people and socially unacceptable folk indiscriminately. Did people think

religion was about keeping the rules? Jesus broke the commandments whenever it seemed sensible to do so – and in particular, the way “the authorities” interpreted them. Did people think religion was about performing the right ceremonies? He interfered with the smooth running of the temple, he told the woman at the well that even the rituals practised in Jerusalem had been superseded – from now on, people would worship “in spirit and in truth.”

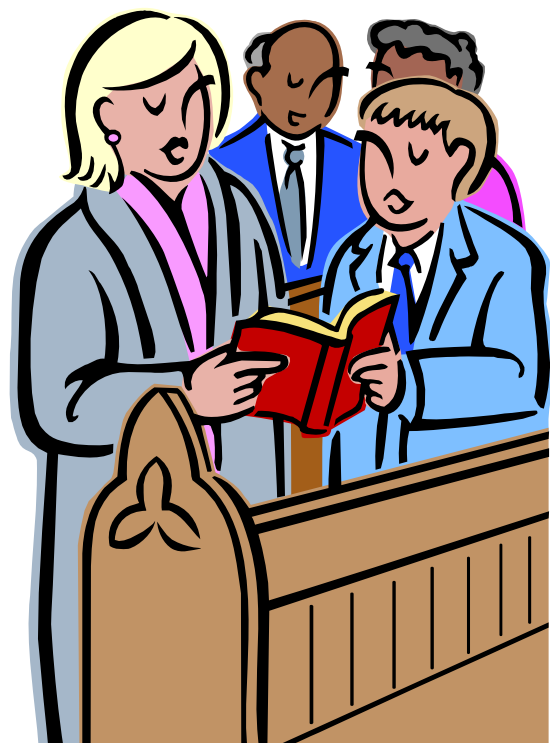
This did not mean changing everything. Jesus was no liturgical reformer. When he went to the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-22), he made no change in the order of service – it was his commentary on the text of the reading that amazed everyone present. When he sat down for the Passover on the eve of his death, he did not change the set forms of the celebration, but transformed their meaning completely by telling the disciples that the bread and the wine they were sharing were his body and his blood.

Jesus turned old standards upside down, but he did not try to give people everything they wanted. He gave them what they needed. So we find him telling the rich young man to sell his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor. When the disciples suggested things for him to do (blast away a village (Luke 9:56), stay on the mountain with Moses and Elijah (Mark 6:5), not go to Jerusalem and face certain death (Matt 16:22)), he could not be persuaded. He did not always go for the easy option.

For those who saw life as a struggle, though, Jesus offered rest. “My yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matt 11:30). The self-confident were to be disappointed, the humble were to be given the reassurance they needed, new strength and new delight. That was what was really cool in Jesus’ life and in his message.

Hard chairs and doleful hymns can prevent others from appreciating the coolness of the Gospel. But then so can soft chairs and the distractions of Heavy Metal. We need to concentrate first on what we are doing when we come to church, and only then on how we do it. For it is not the medium which needs to be cool, but the message it presents. Not what is on our lips, but what is in our hearts.

- *Hector Davie*



FAQ: Why do we baptise babies?

The Acts of the Apostles tell us that Peter baptised any who sincerely asked for it. It is likely that whole families were baptised and the baptism of children was therefore practised right from the start.



In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, “Let the children come to me” and in Hosea 11:1 we read, “When Israel was a child, I loved him”. From references like these, we can conclude that baptism does not

depend on a person's understanding or their faith to be valid. In fact, the reverse is probably true.

In many instances God deliberately chooses the weak and helpless (think of the Christmas narrative). It is God who acts in baptism, as in any sacrament. Similarly, the sacrament of Holy Communion does not rely on the worthiness of the priest or the belief of the person receiving. Indeed, if baptism required the candidate to believe or respond in a particular way before it would “work”, then what mattered would be a human action and not God's. In other words, it would signify salvation by works and not by faith.

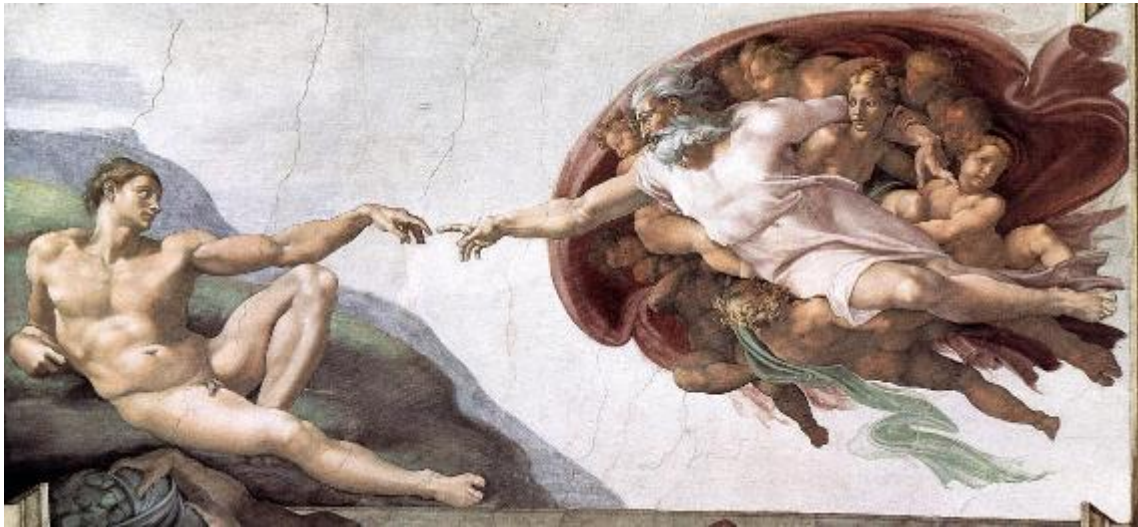
The very fact that babies *cannot* respond shows us that God's love always comes before anything we need to say or do. It is an unconditional love, a free gift. Their baptism is genuine and unrepeatable (like baptism at any age).

People sometimes worry that congregations are required to promise to uphold someone in their new life in Christ and to help them find their place within the life and worship of the Church. “How can we do this when we do not know them and might not see them again?” they ask. On the other hand, most Christians are comfortable praying for people in distant countries during the intercessions, which is not so different. Moreover, when we make these promises to uphold the child, we are acting as representatives of the Church as a whole and we are also reminded of our duty to do what we can to welcome and support those who come into our fellowship, even if it is only for one Sunday. Who knows what seeds we may be planting?

So much for the theology. There are other questions too, especially if the parents only view baptism as a quaint social occasion. More of that next time.

- PMP

A Word for the Month – Finger



Most people have ten of them, though pedants only have eight (and two thumbs). And most people would not associate them with religion. They are not part of our church jargon, not a word like sin or salvation, anthem or atonement, which we use among churchy folk – and all too often with others. They are perfectly normal, everyday parts of our body. They may be beautiful or sensitive, but most of the time they are fairly humdrum. We only think of them when we hit them with a hammer or paint their nails.

When the writer of Genesis 1:26 describes us as “made in God's image”, the idea is not to give us an anatomy lesson. The idea is not that God has teeth, tonsils or toenails, but that we share in God's ability to love, and that we can feel joy and sorrow when we are near or far from God. Because we understand concrete things, like our bodies, better than abstractions such as majesty or power, the writers of the Bible use parts of the body to describe God's interaction with the world. God's voice speaks a language we can understand; God's breath, God's Spirit, breathes life into us human beings.

So we have the picture of the old man on the throne, the young woman feeding her child, and above all, the person of Jesus. And we talk about God's arm, God's hand, and, yes, God's finger.

So things happen “by the hand of God” - a hand that guides, a hand that strikes down, a hand that raises up. God's hand is a concrete way of referring to God's power, a power shown in the working of the Holy Spirit – the hand of the Lord settles on someone and they receive the gift of prophecy. And in the church, too, when Jesus laid hands on the sick, when the apostles laid hands on Stephen, the idea is that God's spirit is at work, healing, conveying authority, conveying wisdom.

The hands focus the work of the body, and the fingers focus the work of the hand. Indeed, being able to use our fingers is arguably one of the skills that sets us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. So in Psalm 8:3, the writer describes the heavens as the work of God's fingers, and in other places, fingers are associated with intricate, careful and delicate work.

Searching for fingers in the Bible reveals five references which are memorable – three in the Old Testament and two in the New.

Most remarkable are the fingers which appeared at Belshazzar's feast (Daniel 5:5), and wrote on the wall. God's spirit is at work, prophesying that the king's rule is over, writing symbols for weights and measures, which Daniel interprets. His days are numbered. He has been weighed on the scales and found wanting. His kingdom will be divided up.

In Exodus 8, Moses is struggling with Pharaoh to give the Israelites their freedom. God strikes Egypt with plagues, but as fast as the plagues come, Pharaoh's magicians copy them to show that they are just as powerful. The plague of gnats defeats them - "they tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, but they could not," says the writer. "And the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God!'" It is God who is at work.

The same expression occurs in Luke's Gospel, where Jesus is accused of healing a dumb person "by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons". Impossible, says Jesus. It would be nonsensical if the devil were to cast out demons. "But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you." (Luke 11:20). Matthew's account reads "the Spirit of God" (12:28) – and this is a sign that God's finger is a sign of God's creative and life-giving power.

This creative and restoring finger is also a finger that communicates with us, that reaches out in relationship. In Deuteronomy 9:10 Moses affirms, "The Lord gave me the two stone tablets written with the finger of God" - and it is surely no coincidence that when the scribes and Pharisees, the experts in the law, bring the woman to Jesus who has been caught in adultery, and ask whether Jesus would have her stoned, as the law demanded, Jesus says nothing, but writes with his finger on the ground.

Jesus is God, and Jesus is reminding the lawyers that the law is not a set of rules. It is God communicating with us. Jesus does not condemn the woman, and God is ready to forgive her. If the lawyers want to invoke the rules, they must remember that the rules embody God's words to them too, and they are not faultless either. God's finger is pointing at them too.

May God's finger point the way for us!

-Hector Davie

The Bull Outside the Fence

Rodeo is a quite controversial "sport" in which a person tries to ride a bull for 8 seconds. I think many of us must have already seen scenes on TV of how the bull keeps bucking furiously, twisting, spinning, kicking in order to throw down the rider. The raw power of the animal and the willingness or even enthusiasm of the rider to take the risk really leaves us dumbstruck. Once the rider has fallen down (or dismounted the bull because the 8 seconds are over) he or she had better run to the fence or risk getting seriously injured.



Though the bull is an innocent animal which gets abused for the entertainment of human beings there lies a wonderful analogy to our spiritual lives in it.

The commandments and rules of God are the fence He has lovingly set around us. It keeps danger outside. Sadly in our human reasoning we often don't see the goodness of God who tries to protect us but instead accuse Him of limiting our freedom.

Well, most of us are pretty good people. We don't murder, we don't steal, we don't plan terror attacks and we even go to church! So, God must be very pleased with us, I suppose. But when we think it through we might remember some of the less grave sins we might have committed like the "white lie" we told our spouse or the movie we watched though we knew we wouldn't be able to get up the next day to go to church or what about the gossip we spread about a neighbour or when we felt jealous because a co-worker seems to always get everything right. But hold on a second - is there such a thing as a *less grave sin* in the eyes of our Lord? Are we not breaking God's rules and setting up our own set of guidelines? How come we know things better than God? Is it not our pride which makes us feel that we can shift the border of God's fence without getting hurt by the bull?

Unfortunately we are very good at deceiving ourselves. We start compromising, and convince ourselves that we are just "modernizing" God's rules. For example God has called us to keep the Sabbath holy and not to work

on that day. Do we make sure that everything in the house will have been bought and the housework will have been done beforehand so that Sunday can be kept holy indeed? Or do we remember that the Migros in the city is open for "emergency" shopping (and an emergency occurs at least twice a month!). Or maybe we never check whether we have enough fuel in the car to go to church on Sunday?

Actually we might not see a problem in adjusting the border line. But the fact is that God does. When we put our carnal desires above God's rules we often hurt other people and God. If we are honest we know that we are "born to be wild". It might be just that anger which flickers up in us and makes us think that we have the right to vent it on our loved ones after a stressful day at work. In a flash of a second we think "Yes, I have the right to be out of control sometimes!" Or maybe it is just our laziness and failure to set priorities which prevents us from having a really deep relationship with God. Or could it even be that we actually have never given a serious thought to it? Have we ever thought about what God actually wants us to do? What is His purpose for our life as individuals, as a family, as a church, as a community? The sad truth is that most of us are too preoccupied to have time to think about such questions. A very disappointing statistic says that only 30 % of church goers in the U.S. really pray and read the Bible on a daily basis. Let's hope that statistic is not true for our church.

I heard the other day from a member of our church that she turned off the radio because the lyrics were too inappropriate to be heard by her child. In today's time that is actually a very great thing to do. Isn't that faith put into practice? Many of us don't seem to realize what kind of a world especially the younger members (of our church and elsewhere) happen to live in. In every train in Berne you will find one of those free newspapers, e.g. *20 Minuten*, *Blick am Abend*, but when we think about some of the pictures and the language used in them we ought to give a second thought to whether they should be freely available to anyone - even to 9 and 10 year old boys and girls on the way to and from school?

God shouldn't be worshipped exclusively on Sundays or on special occasions. Worshipping God starts within us, in our daily life. Like we say after communion:

Through Him [Jesus Christ] we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

If we sacrifice our life for God we will think about Him in all aspects of our life. Do we keep ourselves holy? Do we offer our bodies and minds as a "temple"

or a dwelling place to the Holy Spirit? Do we think about God when we vote? Do we remember His word when we are angry about our boss? Do we ignore His will when we speed down the road? Do we remember Him when we are stressed out by the chaos in our "human made" plans? Do we seek Him when we are devastated by the arrows of frustration, despair and hopelessness which Satan keeps firing against us? Do we take up the responsibility to initiate family prayer in our homes? Do we feel His love when we feel overwhelmed by the events occurring in our lives? Each one of us should think and answer the questions for himself/herself: Is God present in every aspect of my life or have I shut Him out because of my sinfulness? Does my PlayStation cause me to change my attitude when it comes to sharing it? Do I start using unsuitable language when I drive down the street?

I seriously don't think that God is against the PlayStation. And I don't think God condemns us because we read *20 Minuten*, but He does ask us to stay focused on Him. Whatever distracts us should be banned from our lives. And yet we should have the wisdom to understand that what might be distracting for my friend might not necessarily be the same thing which tempts me. Hence, the key question when we consider doing something is in fact very simple: Does it distract me from the love of God? Am I outside the fence where the bull will hurt me?

Acts 17:24-31

*The God who made the world and everything in it, He who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor He made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and He allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, **so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for Him and find Him**—though indeed He is not far from each one of us. For “In Him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are His offspring.” Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed, and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.*

- Archana Chittazhathu

Restaurant Book and Food Sale Saturday 3 September

We know it's the middle of summer but we do need to think about upcoming events such as this. We need your support and this is how we can make it work.

First of all we need 2-3 volunteers to man the barbeque.

We also need 3 vegetable lasagnes, each for ten people.

Then, of course, your delicious cakes, scones and biscuits.

And, last but by no means least, all you wonderful helpers to set-up, serve and clean-up.

We would really appreciate it if you could let us know what you can do by either letting the Office know

or Tricia: pcarrick@hispeed.ch

or Lynn: lynn.robb@bluwin.ch

It would be truly magnificent to have your support.

Meantime enjoy the summer

Blessings

Lynn and Tricia



News from the Charity and Missions Committee

Our Mission focus for August and September is on the **Family Life Mission in Warsaw, Poland**. Family Life Mission is an international, interdenominational, not-for-profit organization dedicated to **family renewal** through the promotion and teaching of the **Biblical message** on single life, marriage and family. This is accomplished through **couple to couple, individual, and group retreats** and through books and other resources.



For many years our church has supported the leaders, Mariola and Piotr Wolowicz, in this ministry. With their team of dedicated co-workers – often including their grown sons and daughter – they are passionate about helping families, students and young people lead a Christian life.

Summer is a very busy time for them. During June and July their camper is stationed on the Hel peninsula where they lead family retreats and camps for young people. This means a lot of preparation as everything has to be brought along, including clothes, kitchen utensils, food, all kinds of books, CDs, cassettes, various materials etc. Through these times away from everyday life many participants have found a way to God – or back to God. Parents learn how to help their children grow in their faith or how to solve conflicts in the family in a non-violent way. It is a good opportunity to build relationships with other families for fellowship and support.

Mariola and Piotr’s hearts go out especially to young people. They are thankful for the young men and women who have become devoted to Jesus in the past year. Their prayer is that they can continue to learn and grow as Christians and have an influence on their generation as “multiplicators”. Often their work includes counselling teenagers and students and helping them to rebuild the relationship between them and their parents.

During the rest of the year Mariola and Piotr often speak in churches, at conferences and lead seminars. Whenever possible they use two-generation teams and have found that many are impressed and encouraged by this ap-

proach. Generations are reconciled and young people as well as their parents gain a new understanding of the image of God the Father. It is especially encouraging that some of the young people who have attended a camp or a conference themselves have the potential to become leaders. Through two of them small teams have formed in Lubin and Gdansk. A couple in Grodzisk organized a seminar on marriage all on their own. And so the work continues to grow.

One big concern is to have enough written material so people can study on their own or in groups. Both Mariola and Piotr have been instrumental in writing books and material for parents on Christian family life, for couples on marriage, for schools on sex education and various other topics. Often their life is too hectic to find quiet time for writing and it is only when they are able to get away for a week or two that they make progress. Currently they are working on three books:

- How to pass faith on to the younger generation
- How young people can gain an image of God that is not marred by an image of an earthly father
- The importance of mothers playing a major role in the education of their children.

They are also planning to write some children's books.

Prayer concerns for Piotr and Mariola:

Pray that people who attend the retreats, seminars and conferences of Family Life Mission will be blessed and come to know God.

Pray that Piotr and Mariola find time to write their books.

Pray for additional co-workers and leaders in Warsaw and other towns.

Pray that it becomes possible to hire student trainees.

Pray that young people with difficult family backgrounds will be reached.

Pray for good health for Mariola and Piotr and their family. Mariola had a previous operation on the foot for cancer and needs periodic check-ups. She and two of their children were fighting borreliosis for which it is difficult to get treatment in Poland.

Pray that enough funds will be available for all their projects.

Pray that the Churches in Poland will experience renewal.

- Esther Hutchison Funkhouser

on behalf of the Charity and Missions Committee

Chaplain's Notes

Ecumenical anniversary

The Anglican churches in Switzerland are members of the Swiss Ecumenical Council (better known by its German initials, AGCK or Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in der Schweiz). Other members include the two big churches (Roman Catholic and Reformed) and some smaller ones like the Old Catholics, Lutherans, Orthodox, Baptists and the Salvation Army.



The Council promotes ways in which the churches can witness together in the life of the nation. You can find out more on www.agck.ch.

This year the AGCK is 40 years old and will celebrate the anniversary with a thanksgiving service at the Matthäuskirche in Lucerne. The service is on 28 August at 18.00.

Another anniversary

Most people know the Gideons for the bibles they place in hotel rooms. But that is not all they do. This year Gideons CH are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary in Switzerland. They have offered us the chance of hearing more about their work and I hope a speaker will be with us one Sunday in September. Look out for more details in the weekly notice sheets.

Adult Confirmation Group

Bishop Geoffrey will be with us in June 2012 for a Confirmation Service. I shall be starting a preparation session in the autumn. Dates and times will be arranged once we know who is in the group, to fit in with everyone's schedules. The course will cover such topics as Christian teaching from an adult perspective, choices and lifestyle, worship and church organisation. It is also open to anyone looking for a refresher course. People who have grown up in another Christian tradition but have not been confirmed by a bishop are also welcome to join.

There will also be a confirmation course for teenagers (see page 28).

- PMP

Fun, Faith, and Fellowship
**Weekend Away,
Sept 9-11, 2011, Aeschi**



Logo from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/501/>

in Word, Music, and Worship

Be a part of the greening of St Ursula's

Friday: Arrive from 17h, Potluck Dinner, Session #1

Saturday: Morning Prayer, Breakfast, Sessions #2 & #3, Lunch, Free Time in the afternoon (with optional activities such as a group walk), Dinner, Quiz, Compline

Sunday: Breakfast, Creationtide Eucharist followed by Coffee

This year there will be lots of music (including Taizé music) in the 3 sessions and the Creationtide Eucharist, as well as fun and fellowship throughout the weekend. ✕ There will be a parallel children's program. ✕ People are invited to use the Chapel for times of prayer and reflection. ✕ The three chalets provide suitable accommodation for singles, couples, and families. ✕ There is a dorm for the older children, a large communal eating area, as well as indoor and outdoor play areas and quiet areas. ✕ The Jugend-und Ferienhaus Aeschi (www.jugendhaus-aeschi.ch) is accessible by public transport and is located in a beautiful area not far from the Thunersee, Spiez and The Niesen (www.aeschi-tourismus.ch).

Everyone is warmly invited to participate!

Look for registration forms on the website or in the Upper Hall or Porch and please sign up as soon as possible so that we may plan accordingly.

Calendar of Services

7 August Trinity VII

10.00 Sung Eucharist
1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

14 August Trinity VIII

08.30 Said Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Isaiah 56:1,6-8
Romans 11:1-2a,29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

21 August Trinity IX

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

28 August

Back to Church Sunday (Trinity X)

08.30 Said Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist with baptism
Exodus 3:1-6
Romans 12:9-18
Matthew 16:24-28

4 September Trinity XI

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Exekiel 33:7-11
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

11 September Creationtide (Trinity XII)

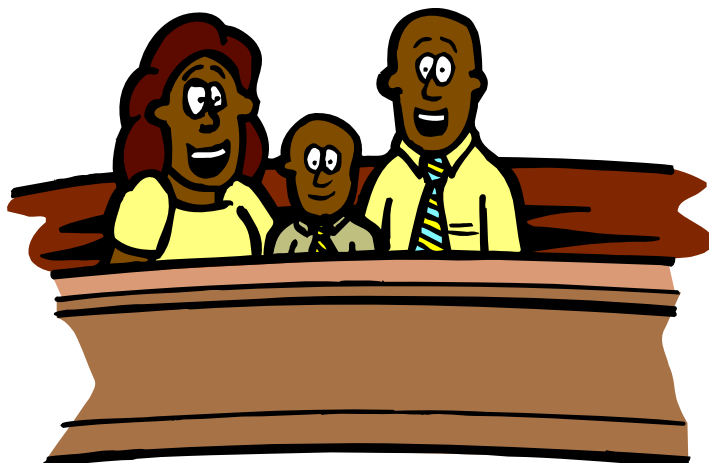
08.30 Said Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist at St Ursula's
Genesis 50:15-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35
at Aeschi, Creationtide Service – TBA

18 September Trinity XIII

10.00 Sung Eucharist
with Prayers for Healing
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

25 September Trinity XIV

08.30 Said Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32





You are warmly invited to

Back to Church Sunday

28 August 2011

10.00 Sunday Communion

and Baptism

followed by an

International Bring-and-Share

Lunch

**St Ursula's Church,
Jubiläumsplatz 2, Berne**

NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Minister in Charge: The Rev. Dianne Cox

We meet in the Swiss Reformed Church at **La Coudre**, Chemin du Crêt-du-Chêne, nearly opposite the funicular train station to Chaumont

Services are held twice monthly :

10 am on the FIRST Sunday of the month:

Communion service
Junior Church

5 pm on the THIRD Sunday of the month :

All-age Communion service

Contact: Mrs Jennifer Veenendaal (Church warden)
Telephone 032 841 6432

Read the monthly magazine on the website, or, to receive a paper copy, phone Rosemarie Zimmermann, 032 853 2986

www.neuchatel-church.ch

Thun

There is also a fortnightly service (normally a eucharist) at the Reformed Church Hall in Bubenbergrasse in **Thun**. This is held at 19.30 on the first and third Thursdays of the month, usually combined with a Bible study. (It's best to check with the office first!)

Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Ecumenical House Group Liebefeld

Wednesday 3 August; Thursday (exception) 18 August; Wednesday 31 August; Wednesday 14 September; Wednesday 28 September at 19.30.

Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld

Contemplative Prayer

Thursday 11 August; Thursday 25 August; Thursday 8 September; Thursday 22 September at 19.30 in Liebefeld.

- *Brian Morgan*

International Lunch

Back to Church Sunday falls this year on 28 August. We also like to make this a special time of celebration of all the various countries that are represented at St Ursula's. This is our chance to share something of our countries of origin with our congregation by bringing a food, a favourite recipe or a national dish, to the Bring and Share lunch following the Service. So do take this day to share a little of your own culture with all of us. It's always something to look forward to! See you there.

Blessings,
Lynn Morgan



Delicious food from all over the world...



Food and fellowship— catch up with old friends and get to know new friends



Including desserts!



The International Lunch is fun for all ages

For Your Diary August & September 2011

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30 – 10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 8 August

Other Events

Saturday 13 August	09.30 – 11.30	Children's Communion Course Introductory Session
Sunday 14 August	11.30	Christmas Bazaar Organisational Meeting
Friday 19 August	09.00 - 12.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 20 August	09.45 - 15.30	Church Council Away Day
Sunday 21 August	10.00	Children's Communion Course
Saturday 27 August	08.00 - 17.00	Junior Church Activity Club
Sunday 28 August	10.00	Children's Communion Course
	12.00	International Bring & Share Lunch
	14.00	Youth Group Pool Party
	18.00	Celebration of 40 years of the Swiss Council of Churches at Matthäuskirche, Lucerne
Tuesday 30 August	19.30	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Friday 2 September	09.00 - 13.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 3 September	10.00 - 14.00	Book and Food Sale
	15.00	Confirmation Course Introductory Meeting (Teenagers)
Sunday 4 September	10.00	Children's Communion Course
Tuesday 6 September	19.30	Church Council

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 September

Church Weekend Away in Aeschi

Sunday 11 September

COPY DATE

Saturday 17 September 10.00 – 16.00

Study Day for the 400th Anniversary of the Authorised King James Version of the Bible in Basel

Sunday 18 September 10.00

Children's Communion Course

Saturday 24 or Sunday 25 11.30 - 16.30
(date to be confirmed nearer the time)

Junior Church Activity Club

Sunday 25 10.00

Youth Group

Future Dates

Saturday 22 October All Day

Children's Communion Course

Sunday 23 October 10.00

Admission to Communion

Saturday 29 October 14.00 - 16.00

Pastoral Tea

Sunday 30 October

Harvest Thanksgiving

Friday 18 November 17.00 - 19.30

Christmas Bazaar

and Sat 19 November 10.00 - 15.00

Sunday 11 December 10.00

Nativity Service

Thursday 15 December 19.30

Heiliggeist Carol Service

Wednesday 21 December 19.00

Thun Carol Service

Sunday 24 June 2012 10.00

Confirmation Service



Prayer Diary

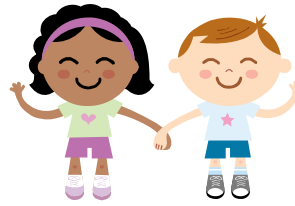
August

1	Monday	The people and government of Switzerland
2	Tuesday	Embassy and consular staff in Berne
3	Wednesday	People working in the tourist industry
4	Thursday	Refuge Egypt, our charity of the month
5	Friday	People travelling
6	Saturday	<i>The Transfiguration</i> , Christ's light in our lives
7	Sunday	<i>Dominic</i> , preachers of the Gospel
8	Monday	The staff of the Church Office
9	Tuesday	<i>Mary Sumner</i> , founder of the Mothers Union
10	Wednesday	The work of Spitex
11	Thursday	New arrivals in church and neighbourhood
12	Friday	Nurses
13	Saturday	The Children and Communion Course
14	Sunday	Volunteers in our church
15	Monday	Children returning to school
16	Tuesday	The chronically sick
17	Wednesday	Farmers
18	Thursday	The Thun Church Group
19	Friday	Raising the profile of our congregations
20	Saturday	The Council Awayday
21	Sunday	The Neuchâtel Church
22	Monday	Partner Sein
23	Tuesday	Relatives living far away
24	Wednesday	The Anglican Communion
25	Thursday	People preparing for marriage
26	Friday	A just distribution of the world's resources
27	Saturday	Worshipping and celebrating with confidence
28	Sunday	The Back to Church service at St Ursula's
29	Monday	Thanks for 40 years of AGCK
30	Tuesday	The Junior Church leaders' meeting
31	Wednesday	Thinking about Confirmation

September

1	Thursday	Environmental officers in the Diocese
2	Friday	The governments of the countries from which we come
3	Saturday	The Book Sale
4	Sunday	The Gideons
5	Monday	Employers' Organisations and Trades Unions
6	Tuesday	The Council meeting today
7	Wednesday	The congregation at Neuchâtel
8	Thursday	<i>The Blessed Virgin Mary</i> – our readiness to follow God's call
9	Friday	The Church Weekend Away
10	Saturday	The Taizé Community
11	Sunday	The tenth anniversary of 9/11
12	Monday	Understanding between neighbours of different races and faiths
13	Tuesday	The Charities Team
14	Wednesday	<i>Ninian, missionary</i> - The Churches of Scotland
15	Thursday	The Thun Church Group
16	Friday	Junior Church leaders
17	Saturday	The SACEP Study Day in Basel
18	Sunday	National Day of Prayer
19	Monday	Local schools
20	Tuesday	AKiB (Churches Together in Berne)
21	Wednesday	Medical services in our area
22	Thursday	All who lead music in our worship
23	Friday	The Swiss Archdeaconry
24	Saturday	People in the headlines this weekend
25	Sunday	University and student chaplains
26	Monday	Neighbours and people at work
27	Tuesday	<i>St Michael and All Angels</i> - Thanks for God's protection
28	Wednesday	Local shops and businesses
29	Thursday	English-speaking organisations in Berne
30	Friday	Our Youth Group

Junior Church News



Classes

Junior Church has three classes: Sparklers for those aged 3 to 7+, Trailblazers for those aged 7 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+.

Junior Church normally meets every Sunday - unless there is all-age worship. We start with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church, followed by a short time together in the hall before going to our own classes. However, the various classes do different things:

Sparklers return to church every Sunday at the Peace.

Trailblazers return to church at the Peace on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Otherwise their teaching continues until coffee time.

Pilots are like Trailblazers, except that they do not meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month – instead the young people are encouraged to take part in various aspects of the main worship with the aim of starting to integrate them in the life of the church.

Teaching

For this Season after Pentecost the focus scriptures urge us to delve into what it means to live as a community of God's people, a community that is continually in the making. We imagine new ways to journey together as partners in God's liberating justice, extravagant compassion, and limitless grace.



Green, the colour of growth and renewal, is the colour of the season. This is a season when we consider what it means to grow as a people of God, living Christ's love in the world.

Activity Clubs

The 7s – 11s Activity Club continues to meet approximately once a month for fun activities. The next meetings are:



Monday 8 August: tour of the bakery and food section of the Coop Verteilzentrale Bern-Brunnen.

Saturday 27 August: Schwarzwasser Gorge Outing

24 or 25 September: Apple Time

If you are aged 7 – 11 and would like to know more about this club, please contact Françoise Hänggi (031 802 10 05)

A new “activity club” for those aged 12 – 15 will start in September – see separate article.



Communion and Confirmation

New classes for preparation for admission to communion and for confirmation will start after the summer holidays. See separate articles.

Teachers

A few teachers have given up teaching after many years of faithful service – we thank them for all they have contributed to our Junior Church and wish them every blessing for their new step on the journey.

Of course, this means that we need new teachers, especially for the Trailblazers class (those aged 7 – 11). If you think you could help, or if you know someone we could ask, please talk to the chaplain.

Junior Church Birthdays

Congratulations to our Junior Church children celebrating birthdays in August and September

Finn Hofer 3 on 6 August

Jooris Philipp 6 on 20 August

Sean Gertsch 12 on 25 August

Benedikt Bisig 9 on 30 August

Shelley Wildhaber 12 on 3 September

Benjamin Bärtschi 4 on 19 September

Florie Masciadri 11 on 23 September

Edi Kingori 12 on 27 September



Children and Communion

There will be a new course starting in August for families who wish their children to be admitted to communion.

This course is intended for children aged 10 or older who are ready to take a first step themselves on their Christian journey and make a public commitment to belonging to the church family.



The planned dates are:

Saturday 13 August: an introductory session.

Sundays 21, 28 August, 4, 18 September, during the service.

Saturday 22 October: all-day event for children and parents.

Sunday 23 October: the admission service.

We have contacted those families who we think might be interested in this course, but if you have been missed out please contact us.

This is an important part in these children's growth in faith and as part of a Christian community. Their parents and the wider congregation will therefore be involved in their preparation through encouragement of the children and prayers for them. The intention is that the children's Christian journey in the Church will then continue to their profession of faith as a young adult at Confirmation and beyond. So please pray for the course, its leaders, its participants and their families.

-Tricia Carrick

Child Protection

Shareene Potter has agreed to be the new Safeguarding Officer (to use the current terminology). The Diocese will shortly be issuing guidance on requirements, after which it will be necessary for St Ursula's to revise its policy. If you have any issues relating to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, please contact Shareene (details on the back cover of this magazine or on the notice displayed in the hall).

- PMP

Youth Group News

New Social Club for Younger Teens

Starting this September, St Ursula's will offer a monthly activity club for the younger teens, aged 12 – 15. Currently there are Sunday classes available for all ages, however in terms of social activity groups there is a significant gap between the Activity Club, which stops at age 11, and Youth Group, which begins at 14, so St Ursula's has decided that it is time to offer a social programme specifically for them. The first meeting, for both the young teens and their parents, will take place at St Ursula's Weekend Away in September.

Our Youth Coordinator, Mary McKinley, will lead the new club in a variety of monthly activities off the church grounds, e.g. bowling, hiking, picnics, museums, etc., with the help of adult volunteers. This is a great opportunity to give back to the church and really get to know the up-coming generation of church members. If you are interested in your child participating in the new 12 -15 activity club but are not able to come to the Weekend Away, or if you are interested in volunteering occasionally for the excursions, please contact Mary right away (mary.mckinley@gmail.com).

Youth Group Web Page

St Ursula's Youth Group has taken their summer hiatus, but before they went their separate ways for the summer they managed to create a cool web page for teens who might be searching for fellowship and Bible Study via the modern means of the Internet. Thanks to Hector's computer know-how, you can also check out the page by going to St Ursula's website and clicking on the words Youth Group. If you know of a teen who might be interested, please tell them to "google" us, and let them know Youth Group starts up again in a big way on St Ursula's Back to Church Sunday, the 28th of August.



- Mary McKinley, Youth Coordinator

New Youth Confirmation Class

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



The 2010 Youth Confirmation Group

The class will run for about 10 months, with an opportunity for confirmation in June 2012. The meetings will be held on Sunday mornings, approximately twice a month, along with some evening / Saturday meetings at times to be arranged. There will also be a weekend event.



Youth Confirmation Group Weekend Away

To allow interested young people and their parents to find out more, there will be a meeting at 15.00 on Saturday 3 September. If you would like to attend this meeting, or if you would like to know more about the course, please contact the chaplain or Tricia Carrick.

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

Confirmation for Adults

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

- *Tricia Carrick*



Confirmation 2010

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2011 at St Ursula's Church, Berne

The traditional Archdeaconry Choir Festival of the Anglican Churches in Switzerland was held at the last weekend of May 2011 (28 and 29 May) at St Ursula's Church in Berne. Thirty-nine singers from the Anglican Chaplaincies of Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Zürich met for intensive practices on Friday evening and on Saturday morning and afternoon. On Saturday evening the joint choir sang a choral Evensong, and on Sunday morning a choral Communion Service (Eucharist with a Baptism).



At Evensong the music included an Introit, a Psalm, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis, the Preces and Responses and the Anthem 'Christ the Lord is risen again' by Sir David Willcocks. On Sunday the joint choir sang a special setting of the Communion Service, a Psalm, Motets during Communion, and finally a Post Communion Anthem. On Sunday afternoon the combined choirs led the congregation of St Ursula's in learning a variety of new hymns to enrich future worship.

Gordon Appleton from Ripon, Director of RSCM Voices (North), was Festival Director of Music, and Keith Dale from Holy Trinity Church in Geneva was Festival Organist. They both contributed significantly to achieving a high standard of singing choral music in worship. The Festivals also serve as an element of cohesion between the various Chaplaincies in Switzerland. They have been held annually since 1982 with the chaplaincies taking it in turn in hosting the festivals.

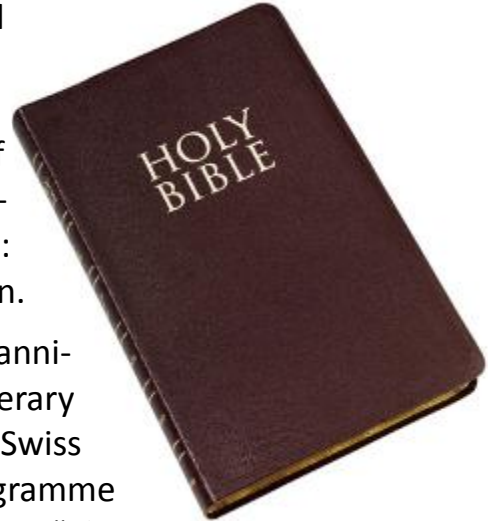
Many volunteers were called upon to help organise the Festival. They also assisted in catering, setting the stage, printing, making everyone welcome, and last but not least clearing everything up again. A big THANK YOU is extended to all who contributed to making the event a success and a memorable occasion.

– *Hans-Karl Pfyffer*

See also: <http://europe.anglican.org/homepage/smartweb/main/archive/post/76-choristers-converge-from-the-cantons/>

The Bible: opening a closed book for today

In 1607, King James of England commissioned a team of forty-seven men to create a new translation of the Bible. Four years later, the work was finished: eighty-one chapters of prose and poetry that were destined to become one of the most read works of all time: the King James Bible, or the Authorized Version.



This year the world is celebrating the 400th anniversary of the KJV as a holy book and as a literary masterpiece. On Saturday 17 September the Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme (SACEP) is organising a study day on the theme “The Bible: opening a closed book for today”, exploring the history of the translation and parallel issues for the use of the Bible in contemporary mission and ministry in Europe.

The day is in English and suitable for church members, students and anyone interested in this fascinating topic. It will be held at Theologisches Seminar St Chrischona in Bettingen, Basel. Bishop Geoffrey Rowell is speaking on the history of the KJV. Grace Davie, is Professor of Sociology at the University of Exeter (UK) and has researched and written extensively on the sociology of religion with a focus on trends in Europe. Her topic is “Hearing the Bible today: understanding the Western European context”. Prof Schlag of the University of Zürich will speak on opening the Bible for a new generation of children and young people. A round table discussion will consider the place of the Bible in public discourse, transmission of the Word in a visual society and using the Bible with confidence in the life of the local church. The day includes readings from the KJV and music and a small exhibition of facsimiles of historic Bibles. The day costs CHF 35 with lunch and runs from 10:00 to 16:00. Overnight accommodation is available. “The Bible: opening a closed book for today” is organised in partnership with Theologisches Seminar St. Chrischona and STH Basel.

For more details see www.anglicanbasel.ch. You can register on admin@anglicanbasel.ch or by ringing 061 321 74 77.

Who's Who



Revd Peter Potter
Chaplain



Shareene Potter
Safeguarding Officer



Jana Kutesko
Church Office



Archana Chittazhathu
Churchwarden



Sue Faillettaz
Vestry



Esther Hutchison Funkhouser
Ecumenical Contact



Françoise Hänggi
Junior Church



Lynn Morgan
Catering Coordinator

Christmas Bazaar

Yes, it's time to start already! To make the organisation easier this year we shall be matching the stalls to the people rather than the other way round. That is, you will be asked to say which stall you would like to organise or help at. We shall also be weeding out some stalls that have not proved so attractive in recent years.



There will be an organisational meeting after church on Sunday 14 August. Please make a point of being there, so that we can plan for another successful bazaar.

House Swap

Family of four are looking for a home swap for a 2 week holiday in August this year or next.

We have a four bedroomed terraced cottage that sleeps 6, overlooking the village green. It is situated in Leafield, Oxfordshire, in the heart of the Cotswolds, near to Oxford, Blenheim Palace, the Cotswolds villages and a good number of National Trust properties and gardens. Accessible to London, Bath and Stratford on Avon. For more information contact Deborah Triff (daughter of Barbara Bream, member of St. Ursula's 1976–1991) e-mail: dtriff@btinternet.com

Host Family

Wanted: an English-speaking host family, couple or individual for a Mongolian teacher of English placed for a 3-month internship at the International School of Berne in Gümligen. Personally interviewed and selected by the program director of the Swiss Program for Language Instruction and Teacher Training, this 52-year-old Mongolian man will come to Switzerland in early August 2011 and leave at the beginning of November, be fully integrated in the ISB, have health and liability insurance, pocket-money and a GA. He will often be travelling within Switzerland on weekends, but needs a warm welcome, a room, breakfast and supper during the week. Oyunbold, married and father of three, teaches English at the University of Khovd in western Mongolia. He started teaching only a few years ago but is a very active teacher, well liked by both students and colleagues. The aim of the internship is to help Oyunbold improve his English language ability and his teaching skills. For further information please contact Anita Fahrni, a.fahrni@clinch.ch



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Graham Tritt, President, tel. 031 829 34 79, email g.tritt@gmx.net

International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, [www: icberne.2ya.com](http://www.icberne.2ya.com)

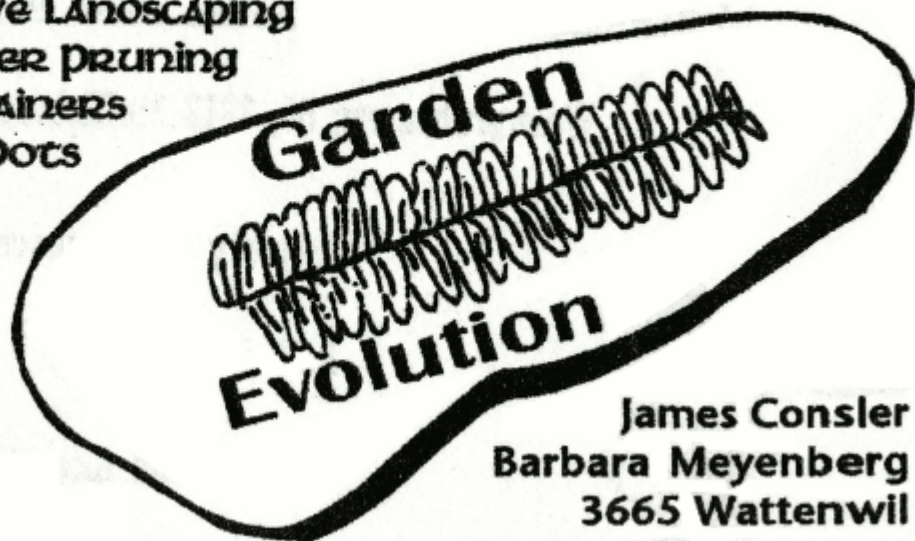
Annual membership: CHF 35 for singles, CHF 45 for families.

For membership enquiries, contact Werner Dettwiler,
tel. 033 438 35 45, email: wd@bluewin.ch

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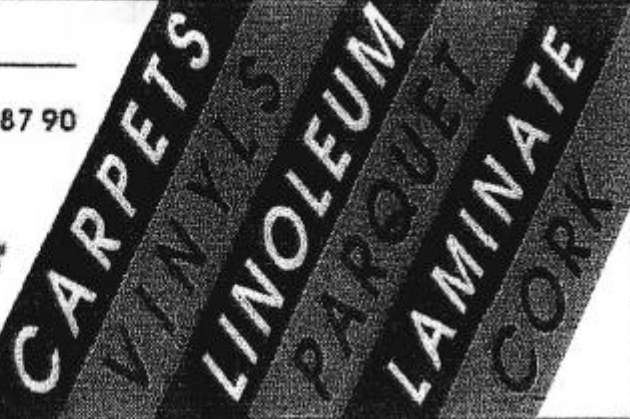
James Consler
Barbara Meyenberg
3665 Wattenwil
Tel./Fax 033 356 29 47

Andy Prior

Hinterdorf 72, 3647 Reutigen
Tel. 033/65714 93 Mobile: 079/204 87 90

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

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

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Rosalind Richards 026 401 14 21

CARETAKER

Rolf Klingler 031 302 48 59

CATERING COORDINATOR

Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Church Council

Lay Members:

John Eze 079 489 58 46

Querida Long 031 331 41 07

Mary McKinley (secretary) 078 921 15 50

Allison Masciadri 031 829 18 69

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

Edi Wildhaber 079 460 61 15

Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

Donna Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Janet Wenger 031 839 46 53

CHURCH OFFICE 031 352 85 67

Administration: Jana Kutesko

Normally staffed Monday-Thursday mornings

Church Hall 031 351 05 76

CHURCHWARDENS

Archana Chittazhathu 031 859 64 12

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

CRÈCHE

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

ECUMENICAL CONTACT

Esther Hutchison Funkhouser 031 351 73 47

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Patricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Walter Bisig 031 932 41 69

FLOWERS

Yojena Chittazhathu 031 859 64 12

JUNIOR CHURCH

Contact the Chaplain 031 351 03 43

Françoise Hänggi 031 802 10 05

LIBRARY

Roxanne Eicher 031 859 31 68

MAGAZINE COLLATION

Annemarie Walther 031 331 03 72

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Querida Long 031 331 41 07

MUSIC

Organist

Hans-Karl Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Choir

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Music Group

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

NEUCHÂTEL CONTACT

Jenny Veenendaal 032 841 64 32

PARENTS AND TOTS

Lori Hughes 078 629 92 98

Sarah Miescher 031 351 41 49

Lucie Milton 078 899 70 27

PASTORAL GROUP

Shareene Potter 031 351 03 43

PATCHWORK

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

ROTA COORDINATOR

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Chalice Bearers: R Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Intercessions: E Hutchison 031 351 73 47

Readers: A Masciadri 031 829 18 69

Servers: R Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Sidespersons: J Wenger 031 839 46 53

Audio and Video: T Carrick 031 535 53 28

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Shareene Potter 031 351 03 43

TEA AND COFFEE

Mary Mead 031 982 00 37

THUN CONTACT

Rachel Huguenin 033 336 29 54

TREASURER

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

VESTRY

Sue Faillettaz 031 832 42 45

WEBMASTER

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Mary McKinley mary.mckinley@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN

Ven Peter Potter 031 351 03 43

Chaplain's Day off: Normally Wednesday

HONORARY ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Revd Linda Bisig 031 931 63 86

NEUCHÂTEL

Revd Dianne Cox 077 488 46 25

LAY READER

David Low 032 677 30 29



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The Church remembers...Mary Sumner



Mary was born near Manchester, in 1828. What she valued most about her family home was its Christian atmosphere.

At the age of 20 she married George Sumner, a parish priest. They had three children.

Mary believed that women needed to understand that motherhood was a profession and they should be equipped for it.

Motherhood involves more than providing for the physical needs of children. The primary responsibility of mothers is to raise their children in the love of God. Mothers could only do this, she believed, if their lives were firmly rooted in prayer.

She had the idea of a new form of mothers' meeting, bringing together mothers from all walks of life. They met at her husband's rectory.

In 1885, Bishop Ernest Wilberforce of Newcastle called on Mary to speak at a women's meeting at a Church Congress. She told them that if women united in prayer and committed themselves to a Christian life the nation could be transformed.

She was given a rousing ovation. On this wave of public enthusiasm the Mothers' Union was founded. Today it has over 4 million members in 81 countries.

Mary died at the age of 92 in 1921.

She is commemorated in the Anglican calendar on 9 August.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families