

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



October - November 2011

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

Chaplain

Ven Peter Potter

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Lay Reader

David Low

Honorary Assistant Chaplain

Revd Linda Bisig

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Youth Coordinator

Mary McKinley

Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals 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

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COPY DATE

for the December—
January magazine is

13 November 2011

Please send copy to
magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE

24 November 2011

Chaplain's Message

In our June magazine I wrote:

“The last Sunday in October is our traditional day for Harvest Thanksgiving. This year I should like to make it a 'harvest of talents'. That is, a chance for you to offer something you have a gift for. As well as the usual fruit and veg (home grown?), you could bring a painting or a piece of craftwork.



Perhaps you could bring a homemade cake or bake a loaf for Communion. If you have never done it before, you could sign up to read, lead intercessions or play a piece of music.

Any food items or craft will be auctioned afterwards for charity in the usual way.

Who knows what hidden talents we may discover!”

Some people have also suggested that we could offer some of our time. Perhaps you could offer a couple of hours to help with housework or in the garden or some German/English/Italian conversation etc. Write it on a card and bring it to the altar with the other harvest gifts and we can auction it for charity after the service.

God has given us so many good things – including lots that you can't buy in Migros - and our Harvest Thanksgiving is a time to not only thank God for His goodness to us but also to pledge ourselves to share it with others. An important way to do this is by our giving to the Church. We all realise that St Ursula's has bills to pay and that we don't get any money from the Church Tax (not being one of the *Landeskirchen*).

Some people (I am told) are willing to give something back to God but don't see their giving to the Church as part of this. But if the Church is not there to do God's work, what is it there for at all? If we are to make our worship the best we can offer, we need resources of time, talent and money. If we are to witness to God's love in the world, this too costs something. What we spend on our church building is also part of our giving to God because a mission-minded congregation is likely to provide a worthy setting for worship that, in turn, will motivate them to feed the poor (see *FAQs* in the magazine for February 2011).

So – what will you offer at our Harvest and Pledge Service on 30 October? Look out for the list to sign up for taking part in our worship, plan to bring something you can offer...and don't forget your pledge envelope.

*Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.*

Peter

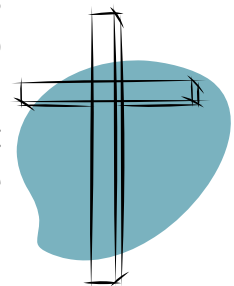
Doing One's Thing

All the world loves a scandal - except, perhaps, for the Authorities. It is hard for us today to realize how scandalous some of Jesus' sayings were, and how keen the Authorities must have been to sweep them under the carpet – to shut up this critic who was threatening their own authority.

Think of the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus takes one of the Old Testament's fundamental beliefs: the *shema*, Deuteronomy 6:4-5. "Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might." He sets it together with Leviticus 19:18: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." And then to illustrate it, he tells a story about two members of the Establishment, a priest and a Levite, being so self-centred, so wrapped up in their own piety, that they avoid a wounded man lying in the road, rather than going to help him.

And on top of this scathing criticism of the Authorities, the hero of Jesus' story is a man the Jewish SVP would regard as a black sheep – a Samaritan. And it is a reminder that we too, if we are to be true to Jesus, need to accept that outsiders are just as capable of good actions as members of the One True Faith.

Jesus' message was the message of the Cross. Just as the Cross has a vertical and a horizontal beam, so we have two intersecting relationships – a vertical one, to God, and a horizontal one, to our neighbours. Not just one neighbour, but to all of our neighbours, whether close friends, mere acquaintances, or people in distant corners of the globe who are only very distantly affected by our actions.



It is dangerously easy to think that we can be good Christians by reading our bibles, saying our prayers, coming to St Ursula's on a Sunday morning, and doing the occasional good deed. We can do all these things, and still remain basically self-centred – fixed on our own private world.

Our church weekend away in Aeschi was a chance to look at one aspect of loving our neighbour – in our attitudes to the land, to our environment. In our eagerness (or perhaps greed) for the good life, we are making the world a harder place for our neighbours to live in. Whereas some resources, like air and sunlight, are abundant, we are competing for scarce resources, unsustainable mineral supplies, premium building land, out-of-season vegetables, with little thought of our neighbours in the Third World with less chance of access to these resources, and with little thought of our neighbours in future generations, who will have to live in a world that has been turned to a barren desert by our own greed.

Love for one's neighbour can give a distinctive insight into other social problems as well. Jesus would have been called a liberal in its modern sense. He was on the side of the poor, the meek, the disadvantaged, the outsiders of society. But he would not have shared one modern liberal attitude – that people have a right to be selfish. And this is why a lot more questioning is needed on some of the burning issues of today. And also why there are distinctive Christian positions on such issues as abortion or assisted suicide, or divorce.

For we all have neighbours. The death of a terminally-ill person affects not only themselves, but others. A child in the womb is not merely a disposable part of its mother's body – it has a father and a future too. Breaking up or entering into partnerships can affect far more people than the partners themselves. A Christian attitude is not “I can do as I like” but “I am free to show my love for my neighbours.”

The pithiest summary of this view comes from St Augustine of Hippo, who in his commentary on 1 John 4:7, coined the Latin phrase *dilige, et quod vis fac* - love and do what you will. So let us give him the last word: “Whether you keep quiet, keep quiet with love; whether you cry out, cry out with love; whether you correct, correct with love; whether you spare, spare with love: let every action be rooted in love, for of this root can spring nothing except what is good.”

- *Hector Davie*

FAQ: Why do we baptise babies? (continued)

We saw last time that there are good theological and scriptural reasons for not making baptism dependent on the extent of a person's faith. Baptism is freely offered, as a sign of God's unconditional love.

When the baptised baby grows up, however, he or she will have to “claim” the baptism in some way. If you are given an electrical gadget, for example, it remains yours whether you plug it into the socket or not. But if you want it to work, you really do need to plug it in. In the case of the gift of baptism, it is the Holy Spirit who supplies the current. He may supply it directly or it may be through the example of someone else (ideally a parent or godparent).

In other words, baptism is not a social custom but something to be taken seriously. Even if it is asked for merely out of convention, it is still a genuine sacrament. Baptism does not *require* faith as a precondition but it is administered with the intention that it should *lead* to faith.

Similarly, confirmation is not a social convention. In Switzerland and some other countries it has lost a lot of its religious significance and become a child's entry into the adult world. The promise of a party, new clothes and presents is no doubt an added attraction. In our Anglican understanding, confirmation is the occasion when young people (and adults too) have the opportunity to

state publicly that they are ready to plug in the gift they were given at baptism. Confirmation completes (or strengthens - the original meaning of “confirm”) what was begun at baptism.

This public profession of faith is made before the Bishop. He is the representative of the wider Church, just as the congregation represented the wider Church at baptism and made the promises to help and uphold the candidates.

I am sometimes asked what is the point of Confirmation now, when we admit people to Communion



beforehand. The point is that Holy Communion is the family meal of Christians and we are made Christians by our baptism. Confirmation is the point when people publicly profess the faith for themselves and confirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism.

Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ should be a powerful help in getting them to this point – just as it should strengthen us all in our daily lives after Confirmation.

- PMP

A Word for the Month – Confirmation

With new courses starting for young people and adults, it seems a good idea to ask what confirmation is, and what part it plays in the life of the church.

You will look in vain for references to confirmation in your bible. The word itself appears (twice, in the NRSV, in case you ask) in its normal dictionary sense. You book a room at a hotel by phone – the hotel sends you a letter of confirmation so that you know the booking is secured. The weather forecast says it is going to rain tomorrow. The dark clouds and wet fields you see the next morning are a confirmation that this is correct.

With the hotel and the weather forecast, the confirmation does not actually add anything new to the original booking or the original prediction. Perhaps it is a part of the process. What it does is to make us more certain that we will find a room waiting for us, or that we should be taking our umbrella with us when we go out. And it is rather similar with confirmation in church.

For confirmation is related to baptism. Baptism is, as Paul says, a dying with Christ and a rising again in Christ (Rom. 6:3-5): it joins us with Christ and makes us part of his body. The New Testament mentions in many places “the seal of the Spirit”, which is bound up with baptism. So the Spirit comes to the believers in Acts 10, and Peter then baptizes them, or in Acts 8:17, a group of Samaritans who have been baptized receive the Holy Spirit when the apostles come and lay their hands on them. In 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Paul talks of God anointing the new Christians, and putting the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

In the earliest days of the church, then, baptism was the sign that joined new believers with Christ, and, as part of this new life that the believers had entered into, the Holy Spirit might come to them, either directly, or through

the prayer and mediation of other people – including the laying on of hands or anointing with oil.

In New Testament times, the washing away of sin, the dying and being raised to new life, which were the essence of baptism, and the laying-on of hands to convey the promise of the Holy Spirit, could all form a single ceremony, administered by a leader of the church –



perhaps one of the apostles themselves. By the fourth century, the two parts had become separate. The church had grown, and the church leaders, the bishops, were in charge of ever larger areas. It was impossible for them to lay hands on every new Christian, or to baptize them.

The solution to this varied from church to church. In all churches, the local congregation welcomed new Christians in baptism. In the east, the work of the bishop in laying hands on new believers and anointing them was reduced to blessing oil, which the local priest took and used to perform the actual ceremony of Confirmation, after which the new Christian also received Holy Communion. This remains the normal practice in the Eastern Orthodox churches.

In the west, bishops continued to maintain their personal contact with new Christians, and it became normal to put off Confirmation until there was an opportunity of presenting the candidates to the bishop in person. This practice continued in the Church of England, and after the Reformation, the opportunity was taken of adding a course of teaching (called a catechism, from the Greek for making people listen!) as a preparation of confirmation – and also of making confirmation a step towards receiving Holy Communion. (Though, because different churches have different practices, the Church of England also has weakened the link introduced in the 16th century between Confirmation and Communion.)

Theologians have differing views of the exact function of Confirmation. But certainly it is a source of strength for the candidates being confirmed. And it is certainly a positive step along the path of faith in our relationship with Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, a means whereby we can, in the words of the bishop's prayer, increase in God's Holy Spirit more and more, until we come into God's everlasting Kingdom.

-Hector Davie

Refuge Egypt

For many years St. Ursula's has supported Refuge Egypt, an organisation in Cairo working out of All Saints Cathedral. They were affected by the recent upheavals in Egypt and had to close their offices for ten days early this year, then reopened, gradually extending their working day so they were back to full operating capacity within three weeks.



There are hundreds of thousands of refugees residing in Egypt (many come from Sudan) and Refuge Egypt has seven general areas of assistance under which specific programs fall.

1) Refugees receive **Emergency Assistance** when needed. They are registered by Refuge Egypt allowing them access to food, clothing and housing services. However, the Emergency department also tries to assist destitute unregistered cases. The leader of this team said, "We have a team dedicated to loving the Lord and showing this love to the refugees we come in contact with by treating each...as if we are dealing with Jesus Christ Himself."

2) **Health Care** is vitally important. As well as primary care there are TB and HIV clinics plus mother and child clinics.

3) Refugees often need **Psychosocial Support** in the form of assistance and guidance in resolving personal, social or psychological problems.

4) Refuge Egypt offers **Education**, not only for children but also for adults. Often there are language barriers, sometimes illiteracy, and barriers for children in integrating in local schools.

5) There is a **Youth Program** which includes sports, music and conferences. Sometimes young people are tempted to form gangs so the Youth Program activities help them engage in meaningful and fun activities and also hear the good news about Jesus.

6) The **Self Reliance** program helps train individuals in domestic cleaning and then in finding work. There is also the Tukul Crafts self-reliance project that allows refugees to learn or use existing skills to produce a range of products for sale. See www.tukulcrafts.org

7) Finally, the **Advocacy** department deals with the rights of the refugees, in partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The Refuge Egypt annual report includes many personal stories such as that of a Sudanese lady whose husband and daughter were sick but who was helped to find work to provide for the family. A female Iraqi refugee found the needed psychosocial support to work through the impact of war on herself that was affecting the whole family.

The recent revolution means decreased police presence so decreased personal safety for the refugees, higher food and rental costs and reduced availability of domestic work.

Refuge Egypt welcomes visitors who want to see and hear about their work first hand, but also those with gifts and talents to share. Also, they more than ever need financial assistance for their work. You can find their website at www.refuge-egypt.org.

Please pray for continued protection and safety for the refugee community in an unsettled Egypt, for opportunities for work so rent can be paid, and for the new country of South Sudan that it will become a safe place for the refugees to return to. Also, pray that Refuge Egypt will be able to meet the increasing demand on their programs as more people register with them.

- Donna Goepfert

Stewardship – A Challenge

What we do with our money says a lot about our priorities. This is just as true for the Church as it is for our own spending. If St Ursula's found that the amount of money pledged for 2012 was double the amount for this year, our giving to mission and charities would automatically double.

But what should we do with the rest?

Send your answer to berne@anglican.ch



2011 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Friday 18 November 17.00 – 19.30
Saturday 19 November 10.00 – 15.00

This year, the Christmas Bazaar promises to be as good as ever. There will be the return of all our old favourite stalls plus a few new ones too. However, as ever, the Christmas Bazaar is a team effort and all help offered is gratefully received!

PRESERVES AND PICKLES



The home-made jams, marmalades and pickles are always very popular, so if you can spare a few jars of your home-made preserves, please leave them - clearly marked - in the **Church Kitchen.**

CAKE BAKING

Please join us to help make this year's Christmas Cakes. All the ingredients are provided but please bring along any small cake tins that you have. **Baking day is Wednesday 19 October from 09.00**

CAKE DECORATING



If you can help in decorating the Christmas cakes, please collect one (or more!) from the Church Kitchen **after Thursday 20 October.** Cakes should be iced in the traditional way with marzipan and white icing, if you need icing ingredients, please contact Jana Kutesko 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567.

TOMBOLA

The tombola is a wonderful “catch all” stall – we all receive gifts that just aren't right for us but could be perfect for someone else, or perhaps you've over

stocked on some food items or have some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate! Everything, as long as it's brand new, in perfect condition and not past its sell-by date, is welcome. Please deposit any suitable tombola prizes in the **Red Box in the Upper Hall.**

RAFFLE

The raffle is very popular and if we can get some good prizes, will be even more so. If **you** can think of any potential donors or if you can donate a prize yourself, please contact **Rose-Marie or Nigel Coombs: 026 677 2567** or just bring the prize along to church.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION WORKSHOP



Please come along to help make the lovely Christmas Wreaths and Decorations that we'll be selling during the bazaar. No special skills are needed, just come along on **Thursday 17 November at 09.00** for a fun-filled day of crafts. For more information, please contact Mary Wittwer: 031 889 0459.

BRIC À BRAC

Any small items in very good condition would be very appreciated. Please bring your donations into church on Sundays and give them to either **Shareene Potter or Rosalind Richards** – sorry, but we're not able to accept furniture.

BAZAAR RESTAURANT



If you're able to help with baking any cakes, scones, biscuits or mince pies please either bring them in on the day or arrange with **Lynn Morgan: 031 971 1336 or Tricia Carrick: 031 535 5328** to freeze them in advance.

NEW STALLS?

If you have a brilliant idea for a new stall and are willing to help run it, please contact **Jana Kutesko: 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567** – we'd love to hear from you!



HELP ON STALLS

If you can help on a stall during the bazaar, please either contact the stall holder directly or **write your name on the sign-up sheet** in the Upper Hall. A list of stall holders is available in the Upper Hall or ask the Church Office: berne@anglican.ch or 031 352 8567 for contact details.

SET UP

Calling anyone who can spare a couple of hours on **Thursday 17 November from 17.30** to help set up the stalls – either write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall or contact Peter Masciadri: 031 829 1869.

CLEAR UP

Please join our clear up team on **Saturday 18 December from 15.00** and help make the church and halls ready for Sunday. If you can help, either write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall or contact Walter Bisig: 031 932 4169.

FLYERS

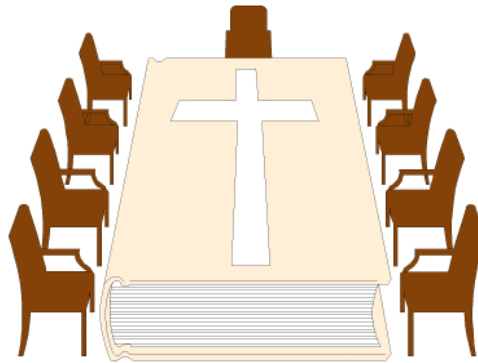
Please use the flyer with this magazine to help **advertise the bazaar**. If you'd like more flyers, please either pick them up from the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office: berne@anglican.ch or 031 352 8567. Flyers are also available in German.

We rely on **YOUR** support, goodwill and generosity for a successful Christmas Bazaar.

THANK YOU for any help that you can offer!

- *Jana Kutesko, Church Office*

*Welcome to the
Faith, Hope & Reality
House Group*



Gathering at St Ursula's

The Faith, Hope & Reality House Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening of every month, beginning at 7.30pm and ending around 9.30pm in the Church Hall.

Faith, Hope & Reality?

In an often troubled world, how do we build up real trust (which the word 'faith' means). Where are our sources and foundations of hope as people and communities? How do we face the harsher realities of the world without being dragged down into despair?

We would all be very happy to welcome you.

For details or any other enquiries about Faith, Hope & Reality House Group please contact Yvonne Bomonti 032 331 83 85, yvonne@bomonti.ch

Chaplain's Notes

Calling all pets



Please bring the humans who live with you to the 10.00 service at St Ursula's on 9 October. We shall be celebrating the Feast of St Francis and the service will include a blessing for all the animals present. This was a regular feature at my previous church and it was always appreciated (even by the humans!).

Guest preachers

On 16 October we welcome Fr Joseph Daniel from the Mar Thoma Church as our preacher. Fr Daniel is based at the university in Berne and also looks after the Mar Thoma community in Switzerland. Legend has it that this is the church founded by St Thomas the Apostle in India. It is in full communion with the Church of England.

On 20 November we shall be saying “welcome back” to Canon Prof Douglas Pratt. He is in Berne for an interfaith conference and has kindly agreed to come and join us again.

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Pledge Sunday is on 30 October this year. This Sunday is also the Feast of All Saints. We are inheritors of the contribution made by the saints in the past and others will inherit the contributions of our generation. With this in mind our service will be a “harvest of talents”, celebrating the gifts we can offer in God's service.

The flower arranging team will be doing marvellous things as usual but this year we would like to invite anyone to bring small arrangements for the window sills. You can bring them on Saturday or on Sunday before the service. It would also be a nice gesture to take these small bunches to the sick or housebound afterwards. Please let me know if there is anyone who would appreciate a gift of flowers.

For more details of our Harvest Service, see this month's leader (page 2).

All Souls

We shall be keeping the Commemoration of All Souls on 6 November. As in the past we shall remember by name those who have died in the past year and also praying for our departed loved ones. Please look out for the list to add names.

Happy Anniversary

On 6 November the church at La Côte is celebrating its 25th birthday. It started as a church plant from Holy Trinity Geneva and now is a self-supporting chaplaincy in its own right with two worship centres (Gingins and Divonne). We send prayers and congratulations to the Chaplain, the Revd Carolyn Cooke, and the congregation.

Nacht der Religionen, 12 November 2011

Once again we shall be taking part in this event, together with our Old Catholic and Lutheran friends. Events at St Peter and Paul include Rumanian Orthodox and Eritrean worship. Our contribution will be to help with hosting the evening and providing refreshments. If you can help, please let me know.

Eagle to retire?

The eagle lectern has become rather fragile and one of its wings was damaged recently. The Council has decided on a replacement lectern that will have a hanging in the colour of the season. The eagle will not disappear completely, however, as we hope to find it a new home in the porch.

Authorised Service

We shall be marking the 400th anniversary of the Authorised (King James) Version of the Bible in our 10.00 service on Advent Sunday (27 November). The Royal School of Church Music has produced some interesting material for the anniversary and we shall be making use of it on the day.



- PMP

Calendar of Services

2 October Trinity XV

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

6 November – All Souls

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Lamentations 3: 22-26, 31-33
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 5:19-25

9 October – St Francis Trinity XVI

08.30 Said Eucharist
10.00 Informal Eucharist with Blessing
of Animals
Isaiah 11: 1-3a, 6-9
Matthew 6: 25-34

13 November - Remembrance Sunday

08.30 Said Eucharist
10.00 Sung Eucharist
Zephanaiah 1:14-end
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

16 October – Trinity XVII

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Exodus 33:12-23
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

20 November – Christ the King

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

23 October – Trinity XVIII

08.30 Said Eucharist
10.00 Informal Eucharist
with Admission to Communion
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 6:51-58

27 November – Advent 1

(Anniversary of the Authorised Version
of the Bible)
08.30 Said Eucharist
10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

30 October – Harvest Sunday

10.00 All-Age Eucharist
Deuteronomy 8:7-10
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19





Lunch Invitation

We would like to invite you to our

Traditional Pumpkin Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund

At: St Ursula's, Jubiläumsplatz 2

Date: Wednesday 2nd 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,

The this year's voluntary Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund Team



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

Charity No 1071660

Cecily's Fund

www.cecilysfund.org

Pastoral Tea—New Dimensions?

There will be a new dimension to the Pastoral Tea on Saturday 29 October. The Pastoral Team will be assisted by members of the Junior Church 7—12 Activity Club – thus bringing together the generations.



The young people will be decorating the hall and tables, preparing and serving food and helping in the tidying up operations. They will also be providing us with a short “entertainment programme”. So we look forward to this new venture and hope you will come along to support us.

The Tea will be from 14.30 to 16.30 as usual.

- Shareene Potter

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 :

<u>10 am on the FIRST Sunday of the month:</u>	Communion service Junior Church
<u>5 pm on the THIRD Sunday of the month :</u>	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 Church

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

Back to Church and International Lunch

There was a good turnout for this year's Back to Church Sunday and the International Bring and Share Lunch that followed. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and helped Father Peter celebrate his birthday.



September Book and Food Sale

September 3 was a hot and sunny day, so many people stopped by St Ursula's to browse the books and grab a bite to eat before heading to the Aare for a swim. Thanks to everyone who helped make the book and food sale a success.



Prayer Diary

October

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1 | Saturday | People looking for work |
| 2 | Sunday | Thanks for God's loving wisdom |
| 3 | Monday | The people and government of Germany |
| 4 | Tuesday | The Council meeting this evening |
| 5 | Wednesday | The work of Refuge Egypt – our charity of the month |
| 6 | Thursday | Adults preparing for Confirmation |
| 7 | Friday | Our Church house groups |
| 8 | Saturday | St Ursula's Church Choir |
| 9 | Sunday | St Francis – our care of animals |
| 10 | Monday | Farmers |
| 11 | Tuesday | Care of our church building and grounds |
| 12 | Wednesday | The annual stewardship campaign |
| 13 | Thursday | Teens preparing for Confirmation |
| 14 | Friday | The peoples of the Arab world |
| 15 | Saturday | St Teresa of Avila – teachers of the faith |
| 16 | Sunday | The Mar Thoma Church |
| 17 | Monday | St Ignatius – our spiritual development |
| 18 | Tuesday | Our Junior Church members and teachers |
| 19 | Wednesday | The work of the Red Cross |
| 20 | Thursday | Family and marriage counsellors |
| 21 | Friday | Sudanese refugees in Egypt |
| 22 | Saturday | Alcoholics Anonymous |
| 23 | Sunday | Young people being admitted to Holy Communion |
| 24 | Monday | The Bishop's Staff meeting this week |
| 25 | Tuesday | Renewing our pledges of time |
| 26 | Wednesday | The people and government of Austria |
| 27 | Thursday | Renewing our pledges of talents |
| 28 | Friday | Renewing our pledges of money |
| 29 | Saturday | The Pastoral Tea |
| 30 | Sunday | Harvest Thanksgiving |
| 31 | Monday | The Charities and Missions Committee |

November

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--|
| 1 | Tuesday | All Saints Day – our calling to holiness |
| 2 | Wednesday | All Souls – the faithful departed |
| 3 | Thursday | The Thun Church Group |
| 4 | Friday | The work of Cecily's Fund – charity of the month |
| 5 | Saturday | Cooperation among the Churches |
| 6 | Sunday | The chaplaincy of La Côte |
| 7 | Monday | People serving in local government |
| 8 | Tuesday | The work of the United Nations |
| 9 | Wednesday | People serving on peace-keeping missions |
| 10 | Thursday | Local emergency services |
| 11 | Friday | Victims of war |
| 12 | Saturday | The <i>Nacht der Religionen</i> in Berne |
| 13 | Sunday | Remembrance Sunday |
| 14 | Monday | The Earl Haig Fund |
| 15 | Tuesday | The Old Catholic Church in Switzerland |
| 16 | Wednesday | The Theology Faculty at Berne |
| 17 | Thursday | Tear Fund's education projects in South Sudan |
| 18 | Friday | Our magazine team |
| 19 | Saturday | Our Church Bazaar |
| 20 | Sunday | Christ the King – that he may reign in our hearts |
| 21 | Monday | Our forthcoming Advent course |
| 22 | Tuesday | Interfaith relations |
| 23 | Wednesday | The Church at Neuchâtel |
| 24 | Thursday | Thanksgiving Day (USA) – that we may show our gratitude to God |
| 25 | Friday | Our chaplaincy and diocesan environmental officers |
| 26 | Saturday | Bible translators |
| 27 | Sunday | Advent Sunday – our keeping of the season |
| 28 | Monday | Our Churchwardens |
| 29 | Tuesday | Organisations using our Church Hall |
| 30 | Wednesday | St Andrew - the people and government of Scotland |

For Your Diary October & November 2011

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30 – 10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork - not on 18 November
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 19 November

Other Events

Monday 3 October	10.00 - 11.00	Pastoral Care Team Meeting
Tuesday 4 October	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 5 October	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Sunday 16 October	10.00	Youth Group Meeting
Tuesday 18 October	19.30	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Wednesday 19 October	09.00 - 11.00 19.30	Christmas Cake Baking Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Saturday 22 October	09.00 – 16.00	Children's Communion Course
Sunday 23 October	10.00	Youth Group Meeting
Saturday 29 October	10.00 - 17.00 14.30 - 16.30	JC 7 – 12 Activity Club Pastoral Tea
Sunday 30 October	10.00 11.30	Harvest & Pledge Sunday Youth Group Meeting Auction of Harvest Offerings & Talents for the Tear Fund
Tuesday 1 November	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 2 November	11.30-13.30	Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch

Wednesday 2 November	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Saturday 5 November	10.00 - 12.30	Second Hand Children's Toy and Equipment Sale
Sunday 6 November	10.00	Confirmation Class
Saturday 12 November	17.00	Night of Religions, Youth Group Meeting
Sunday 13 November		COPY DATE
Wednesday 16 November	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Thursday 17 November	09.00 18.00 – 20.00	Christmas Decoration Workshop Bazaar Set-up
Friday 18 November	09.00 – 16.00 17.00 – 19.30	Bazaar Set-up Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 19 November	10.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 17.00 17.30 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar Bazaar Clear Up Junior Church 7 – 12 Social Group Activity
Thursday 24 November	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating
Sunday 27 November	10.00 10.00 12.00 – 16.00	Youth Group Confirmation Class Nativity Service Rehearsals

Future Dates

Sunday 18 December	17.00	Performance in Neuchâtel of <i>La Fille du Régiment</i> in aid of Cecily's Fund
Thursday 15 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Tuesday 20 December	19.00	Biel Carol Service
Wednesday 21 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service

Junior Church News

Exciting Year Ahead for 12-15 year olds!

The new club for 12-15's met for the first time at St Ursula's Weekend Away. Of course, not all the members could be there, but we had a fun time, taking each other on a blind hike, and coming up with crazy ideas for activities we could do. One involved reading on horseback, and another was belly dancing like Shakira with Justin Bieber. Somehow I don't think he'll be able to make it. Nevertheless, lots of great ideas were proposed, and so throughout the year you might be able to find us high in the trees of Dählhölzli, in our sleeping bags watching movies, or floating down a river in rubber boats. The preliminary dates have been set to coincide largely with the Confirmation course and Youth Group. They can always change, but at the moment they are:

October 16, November 20, December 10, January 15, February 12, March 18, April 22, May 13, June 3

Meanwhile, we are still in need of a name for the group! Suggestions thus far included Sunshine club, Gipfel, and others that infringed on copyrights. There will be a prize to the youth who comes up with the winning idea, so get those ideas rolling!

- Mary McKinley



The 12-15's and their parents went "blind hiking" at the Weekend Away in Aeschi.



New Youth Confirmation Course

A new class for confirmation preparation for young people will start on Sunday 6 November. As Christians, we are all on a journey and we would like to invite young people (aged 13 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. There are already four young people planning to join the course, but we have room for a few more. So if you are interested, please get in touch with the chaplain.

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 Friday evening meetings at times to be arranged. There will also be a weekend event.

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.

Children and Communion

By the time you read this, five meetings of the preparation course for the children who wish to be admitted to communion will have already taken place. The main theme is "Belonging" and we have looked at various aspects relating to this. As always, those leading the course have enjoyed the time spent with these children and learned more too.

There are six children participating in this course and they have all been reliable in attendance and in completing their homework.

The final session will be held on Saturday 22 October and this will be a full day session for the children and their parents. It will be followed by a special service on Sunday 23 October that includes the admission of these children to communion.

This course is an important part in these children's growth in faith and as part of the Christian community. Please continue to pray for them by name: Matthew Batley, Edi Kingori, Naomi Kingori, Samuel Klein, Florie Masciadri, Raphael Hänggi. And come and support them on 23 October.

If you have questions, or want more information, please contact Father Peter, Tricia Carrick or Mary McKinley.

- *Tricia Carrick*





Youth at “Nacht der Religionen”

This year we would like to invite all young people aged 12 and above to get together and visit the annual “Nacht der Religionen” in Berne on Saturday 12 November. We will organise one or two groups, depending on the number of people interested, to visit some of the events planned for that evening.

Once the official information is available, we will set up a meeting with the young people to decide which events to visit. But please reserve this date now and tell Mary or Tricia if you are interested in participating.

- *Tricia Carrick*

Junior Church Birthdays

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in October and November

Darcy Wildhaber 14 on 1 October

Alex Webster 12 on 5 October

Jannis Philipp 8 on 7 October

Matthew Batley 11 on 10 October

Gemma Masciadri 13 on 20 October

Flynn Hodler 4 on 25 October

Daniel King 10 on 2 November

Shaea Okoli 4 on 15 November

Gabriela Cintron 3 on 19 November

Lorelei Dörig 3 on 26 November

Karl Gertsch 4 on 26 November

Naomi Kingori 10 on 28 November





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Anglican/Episcopalian Church,
Jubiläumsplatz 2, Berne**

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or 7 Dir. Ostring
Stop: Luisenstrasse
Bus: 19 Dir. Elfenau
Stop: Tierpark

**Sale of second hand
children's clothes, toys
& equipment**

Saturday

10.00 - 12.30

November 5th

Refreshments available throughout the sale

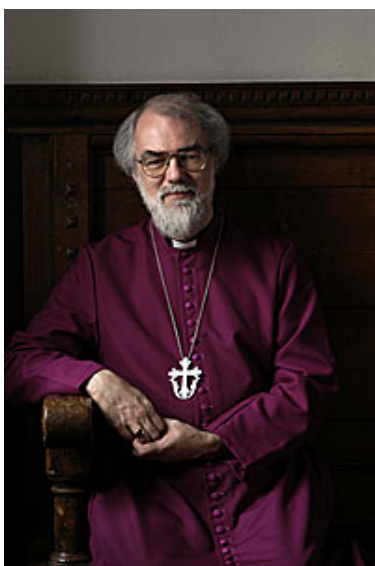
For more information please contact church office 031 352 8567

Quotable Quotes

We are fortunate at St. Ursula's to have a number of interesting articles in our magazine and we thought of extending this by having a new column under the heading "Quotable Quotes". We sometimes read things that we find interesting, helpful and thought-provoking and which we'd like to share with others, so we invite you to send in your quotes to the editor.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, was once asked what were the characteristics he would regard as marks of maturity, or having grown up as a human being.

His reply is worth quoting:



The Archbishop of Canterbury

"A human adult is someone who believes that change is possible in their own lives and the lives of those around them. A human adult is someone who knows they are not right about everything, and that they won't live for ever. An adult is someone sensitive to the cost of the choices they make for themselves and the people around them. An adult is someone who is not afraid of difference...who is aware of being answerable to something more than a cultural consensus....someone whose values and priorities are shaped by other than majority votes; which is why I add (but you would expect me to) that an awareness of the Holy is an important aspect of being an adult."

- Dorothy Beriger

Just for Laughs



Weekend Away 2011

This year we returned to the delightful church youth and holiday centre at Aeschi from 9 to 11 September. The surroundings were inspiring, and there were activities for all ages. The adults discussed Christian attitudes to the environment, while the younger participants took part in practical activities as well, making their own paper, and baking a delicious cake in a solar oven. There was a busy program of other activities, too, from walking to worship, from relaxing in the sun to sharpening our brains on the Saturday-evening quiz!

It was a lot of fun for everyone, but also a lot of hard work. A big thank you to everyone who pitched in to make the Weekend Away enjoyable.



The children prepared the cake batter inside and cooked it outside in a solar-powered oven. Fortunately, the weather was perfect for cooking in the sun, studying the Bible in the sun, or simply relaxing in the sun and enjoying God's creation.



The children made paper, the adults made dinner and everyone learned more about Christian attitudes toward the resources God provides for us. A good time was had by all!



DAY AWAY Seminars for Women

Celebrating 20 years Day Away and 5 years Day Away Bern!

"Compare, Compete or be Content"

This is the topic presented by Sally Johnston, who founded the Day Away Association for Women in Zurich in 1991, and who will be the speaker at this fall's Day Away Seminar in Bern.



Date: Saturday October 22, 2011 at 9:00-12:00 a.m.

Place: Hotel Bern, Zeughausgasse 9, Bern

Cost (includes breakfast buffet)

Pre-registered: CHF 40 Same day registration: CHF 45

More information and registration: www.dayaway.org under Cities: Bern
English books and gifts available.

Wanted - Is This You?

"Knowing Christ and making him known" has been St Ursula's motto. Where, when and how do we make him known? The Council is looking for someone to be our Publicity Officer. The tasks involved are to:

- undertake an analysis of target groups
- how to reach them
- list what we currently do and how effective it is
- research possible contacts with local media
- make recommendations based on the above research

We are looking for someone who would commit to do the job for a year in the first instance and would report back to Council three or four times during that period.

In the meantime, we have taken up earlier suggestions:

- we are compiling a list of national days to be used in Sunday intercessions and the monthly prayer diary in the magazine
- notices on the beamer and those given out by the wardens before the service are now better coordinated
- we shall be displaying the photographs of Council members and others in the hall.

If this is you, please contact the Chaplain or Mary McKinley (Council Secretary).



LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT

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Sunday 18 December, 5 pm, Théâtre du Passage, Neuchâtel

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For more information visit www.divaopera.com

Thanks to sponsorship by the Elysium Foundation, money raised from your ticket will go to **SWISS FRIENDS OF CECILY'S FUND** to educate Zambian children who have lost their parents as a result of AIDS. Each ticket will enable one such child to go to primary school for a year. For more information in English, French or German, visit www.cecilysfund.org ('About us and Cecily' / 'Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund')

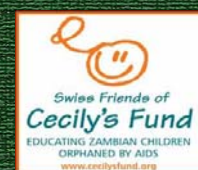
Tickets CHF 60 on sale exclusively to those who mention Cecily's Fund when booking before end October. These tickets include drinks with the cast after the show.

Billetterie du Théâtre du Passage, 4, passage, Maximilien-de-Meuron CP 3172, 2001 Neuchâtel

T : +41 (0)32 717 79 07 (Tues to Fri 13h-18h | Sat 10h-12h)

F : +41 (0) 32 717 82 49

E: billetterie@theatredupassage.ch



Announcement of a Murder

In November, Miss Marple will arrive in Bern.



Agatha Christie's book, *A Murder Is Announced*, adapted for the stage by Leslie Darbon, will be performed by **UPSTAGE** at the Theater am Käfigturm, at 19.30 on 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 November and at 17.00 on 19 November.

Come along to find out 'whodunnit'.

Tickets may be bought at the box office of the theatre or ordered by phone tel: 031 311 61 00.

www.theater-am-kaefigturm.ch

Calling All Teens and Tweens!

The stage at St Ursula's needs you!

This year, Mary McKinley is organizing the Nativity Play, and hopes that the 12's and up can really shine and shed their own unique light on Christmas time.

In 1 Corinthians 12, the Bible says that God gave us each specific and unique gifts and talents, and that these should be used to make the church better and stronger. One of those rare gifts is drama. I use the word "rare", because most people are terrified to get up in front of an audience. Yet drama can make such a



powerful impact on others. Through theater the spiritual message can really hit home and nourish the soul. And so this year, Mary would like to help any teen who wants to give it a try, share their gift of drama with the church.

To help the actors prepare, there will be a drama workshop for the new 12-15 activity club, and members of Youth Group are warmly invited. Then rehearsals will be held after church on the two Sundays running up to the performance on December 11th. There will also be musical performances by the under-11's, led by the Junior Church teachers, and assistance with this is always appreciated. If you are interested in helping in any part of the Nativity Play, please contact Mary (mary.mckinley@gmail.com).



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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)

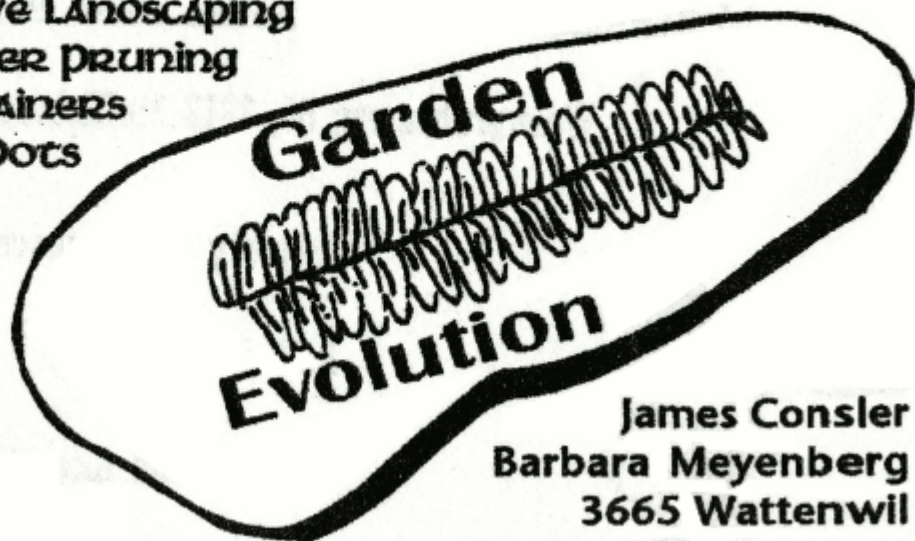
Annual membership: CHF 35 for singles, CHF 45 for families.

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

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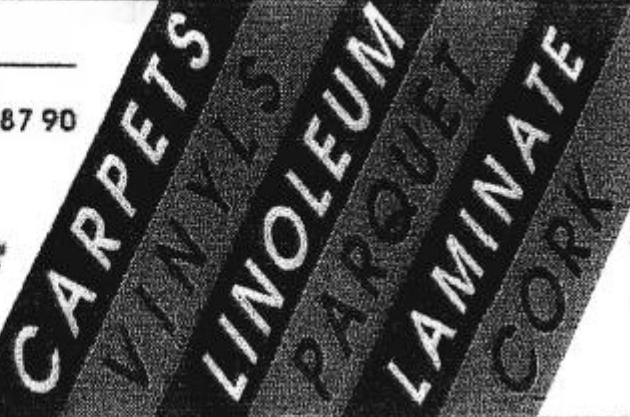
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The Swiss-British society, Berne organizes and supports cultural and social events throughout the year, such as guided tours of museums, archives, collections, lectures, concerts and drama performances in and around Berne. All these have some strong 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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Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

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Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

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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

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Françoise Hänggi 031 802 10 05

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Roxanne Eicher 031 859 31 68

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Annemarie Walthert 031 331 03 72

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Querida Long 031 331 41 07

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Organist

Hans-Karl Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Choir

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Music Group

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

NEUCHATEL 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:

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Intercessions:

Esther Hutchison Funkhouser 031 351 73 47

Readers:

Allison Masciadri 031 829 18 69

Servers:

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Sidespersons:

Janet Wenger 031 839 46 53

Audio and Video:

Tricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

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Mary Mead 031 982 00 37

THUN CONTACT

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Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

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YOUTH COORDINATOR

Mary McKinley mary.mckinley@gmail.com



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CASTING THE NET, PULLING IN THE CATCH

A vision for St Ursula's

(presented at this year's AGM)

- ◇ mending the nets
- ◇ "belonging before believing"
- ◇ companions – people we break bread with
- ◇ St Ursula's – a gathering of companions who know the peace of Christ among themselves and, in that peace, welcome others
- ◇ "Welcome does not just stop at the door. It begins there"
- ◇ healthy ways to celebrate diversity
- ◇ a confident outlook - a good boat to fish from

St Ursula's

- ◇ a community at peace with itself
- ◇ an inviting church
- ◇ a welcoming church
- ◇ a place where people feel the peace and love of Christ

