

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



December 2011 - January 2012

G. Arnold 1/12

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 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

VOL 30/6

December 2011—January 2012

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

Table of Contents

Chaplain's Message	2
The Ox and the Ass	3
FAQ	5
Not Weak Enough Yet?	6
A Word for the Month – Worship	8
The Dreams of the Three Trees	10
Pledge Matters	13
Chaplain's Notes	14
Remembrance Sunday Visitor	15
Calendar of Services	16
Faith, Hope & Reality Housegroup	17
For Your Diary	18
Advance Notice: Missions Sunday	19
Prayer Diary	20
Junior Church News	22
Junior Church Birthdays	23
Youth Confirmation Class	24
Youth at "Nacht der Religionen"	24
An Advent Appeal	25
Quotable Quotes	25
Traditional Pumpkin Soup Lunch	26
Charity of the Month: Cecily's Fund	28
Christmas Bazaar 211	31
British Food Stall	31
Here to Help You	40

COPY DATE

for the
February—March
magazine is

15 January 2012

Please send copy to
magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE

26 January 2012

Chaplain's Message

Historians will look back at 2011 as a landmark year, on a par with 1989 when regimes in Eastern Europe fell and the Berlin Wall came down.

This year, though, it is not just that oppressive regimes were swept away. The world's financial systems are being shaken to the core. The year is ending in uncertainty and fear, unlike the elation of 1989. At such times people look for certainties and reassurance. In the economy we see a return to gold (an even safer haven than the Swiss franc) and the newly liberated peoples of North Africa seem to be turning to stricter, more intolerant, forms of Islam.

Is it right to put our faith in such bolt-holes? Christianity gives us a different answer. It is no accident that we celebrate Christmas at the darkest time of the year. And what was the light that shone in this darkness? Not a gold-plated answer to all our worries. Not a spectacular event for all the world to see. But the birth of a baby.

A birth is a wonderful thing – but it's hardly out of the ordinary. Nor is it reassuring. The world now has one more person who must face up to all the risks and uncertainties of life. But of course this baby is not just “another person”. In this birth God is showing us that he is willing to make himself vulnerable to all the dangers, uncertainties and unfairness of human life. He knows what it feels like at first hand, because he has been there too.

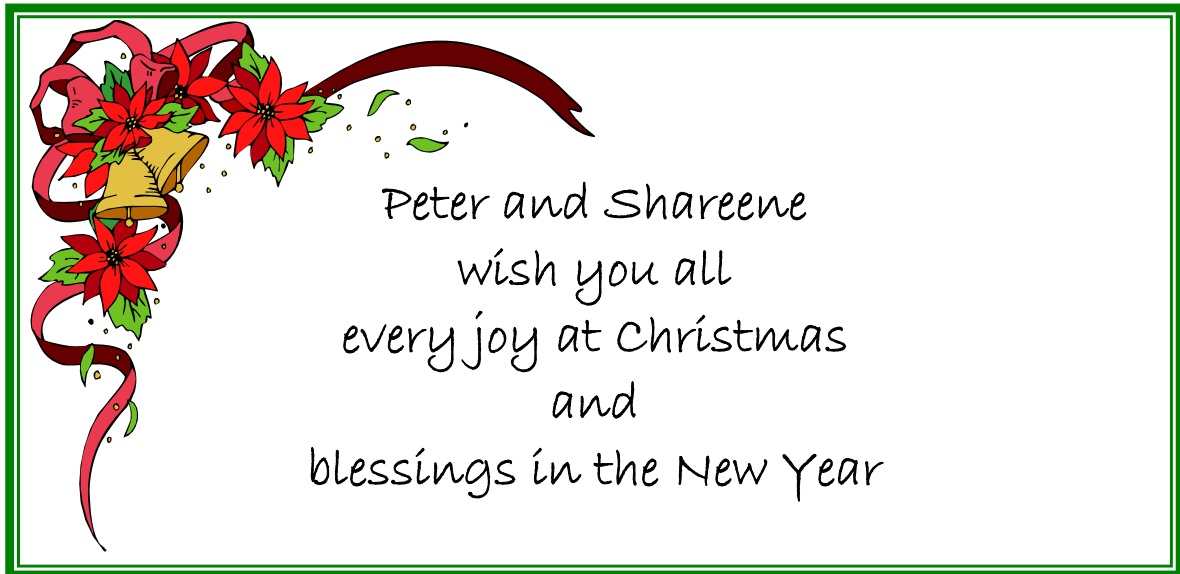
The birth of Jesus shows us that what God offers is not simplistic answers. The solutions to the world's problems do not lie in the certainties of fundamentalist faith, be they of religion, politics or economics.

Herod trembled when he heard of the birth of Jesus. What this baby represents challenges the rule of tyrants. We have seen again this year that their thrones rest on unsteady foundations. And those who claimed they knew how the economy worked have also been found wanting. Where, then, can we put our trust?

A helpless baby in a borrowed crib seems an unlikely candidate. But he is with us in our uncertainty.



Peter



The Ox and the Ass

There was, we are told, a device called a sunstone. The Vikings used it on their long and perilous voyages on the open sea, and it enabled them to locate the sun, even in thick cloud. The sun's rays were hidden, but the sunstone could reveal them.

Mediæval sagas compare the sunstone to the Virgin Mary, who in obedience to God's call, focussed the rays of God's power, letting them shine through in the events at Bethlehem, events which brought angels to sing in joy, those hearing what the shepherds had seen to be amazed, and guardians of the wisdom of the east to fall down in adoration at the Word who had been made flesh.

There is something magical about Christmas. Not in the sense of conjuring tricks, casting spells or any of that rubbish, but in the sense of an experience that cannot be put into words that are “scientific” or “objective”. It can only be put into the language of poetry and wonder.

Jesus himself knew this, and when he taught, he used parables – illustrations which convey their meaning indirectly. The Vikings knew nothing about the polarization of light, about the scientific basis for the powers of this miraculous crystal – all they needed to know was that it worked. And so it is with Christmas.

We know the theology behind it. “The Word was made flesh, and lived among us. (John 1:14) “He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave” (Phil 2:7). But we feel and experience it in the Christmas story we know so well – the baby



and the cattle stall, the ox and the ass, the three kings and the angels in the starry sky.

We know the story so well, in fact, that apart from the baby, none of it is recorded in the Bible. Those Nativity scenes, of Joseph and Mary on the donkey, of the three Magi on their camels, of the ox and

the ass, of the shepherds watching angels singing in the sky, are all creations of our imagination. Matthew and Luke described the events in their own words. We have painted in the detail to suit our own ideas of “how it must have been”.

There is no donkey. Luke describes a journey, and we assume that a heavily pregnant girl could not have walked the 120 km from Nazareth unaided – but there were carts, there were camels, and Luke does not even tell us when the journey took place.

The ox and the ass have wandered in from Isaiah 1:3 and illustrate the Christmas story well (“Israel does not know its master, but the ox and the ass know theirs”), but Luke does not mention them. He mentions a manger, but the manger is probably inside the house where they are staying – the word translated “inn” merely means a guest-room in someone's house.

Even the angels and the shepherds on our Christmas cards are not as Luke describes them. “And angel of the Lord stood before them,” he says. Not floated, not flew, but stood, with feet on the ground. Only in verse 15 do the angels leave the shepherds and go into heaven.

Of course it doesn't matter. Matthew and Luke are not giving a moment-by-moment account of events – they are trying to bring out their significance. We too with our kings on camels, our reverent oxen, our awestruck shepherds are doing the same. It is immaterial whether or not “earth stood hard as iron”, “snow was falling, snow on snow”. What matters is that we share in the wonder, in awe that in Jesus, God shared our humanity, so that that which we have we can give him – give our heart. O come, let us adore him.

- *Hector Davie*

FAQ: Why is the Church so attached to tradition?

Yes, there's a lot of it about, especially at this time of the year and people would be upset if we ignored it.

This is especially true of people who only come to Church on occasions like Christmas. They feel cheated if we don't sing the traditional carols. These familiar features can provide a way back for many people whose churchgoing has lapsed.

In recent years there has been something of a rediscovery of the value of tradition. Some commentators said, for example, that last summer's riots in England were partly the result of a rootless society, with no moral anchor.

This year's 400th anniversary of the King James Bible has led some in the Church to realise the importance of dignified language and of our ties with previous generations.

“Tradition” comes from the Latin for “to hand over”. It is the process by which the faith of the Church is handed down. The Scriptures are part of the tradition, as are the creeds. The latter set out what the Church believes about God. These beliefs are fully in accord with Scripture but are not worked out in detail in Scripture itself.

We sometimes speak of ‘traditions’ to describe customs that have grown up to express aspects of Christian faith and life (e.g. the use of rings in marriage). They can vary from one church to another, just as they do from one country to another (look at the different ways the English and the Swiss celebrate Christmas!).

Like Tradition with a T, these local traditions are there for a reason and have something important to teach us. When we stand or bow, for instance, it conveys something about the importance of what is going on at that moment. If it seems as if they are just there for their own sake, then there is



probably something you have not understood. The solution is to ask. Occasionally, though, your question may challenge others to consider whether the tradition is still doing its job.

Tradition is not static but a dynamic process. That is, the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, seeks constantly to grow in understanding of what has been handed down so as to proclaim it afresh to new generations.

To be attached to tradition, then, does not mean to be stuck in the mud (or the past) but to be faithful to our inheritance, to derive sustenance from it and to offer it joyfully to those who come after us.

- PMP

Not Weak Enough Yet?

What does it mean to be strong in today's world? Actually strength is an important factor, be it physical strength or mental strength when life throws tormenting situations at us. Otherwise how would we be able to survive a disease or a disappointment?

And after all, almost each one of us will have some secret thoughts of being accepted and respected by everyone. The last thing we would want to do is to show the world that we are vulnerable or weak. We generally keep our sadness, fears and weakness in our hearts and force on our strength.

We are so strong nowadays that there seems to be no more room to be weak. We don't want to share our feelings with anyone or shed a tear when someone has hurt us badly. As a consequence we become like a turtle which withdraws itself into its shell.



Or there are times when we work so hard though we have reached our limits. We forget about home, about relaxing or even worshipping God. We get so caught up behind the piles of work that we hardly see that we are following a dangerous route.

There is nothing wrong of course to expect respect and

recognition. It just gets bad when we go to any extent to make people say that they like, respect and admire us.

But I wonder whether anyone in life ever strived to be weak. And if so, did he / she see any advantage in it? Well, seen with worldly eyes there is no advantage in being weak. But the Bible is full of examples about people God used in an amazing way. And most of the time they were not at all qualified for the task at hand.

Let's take the twelve disciples for instance. They were arguing with each other about being first in God's new kingdom. But after being filled with the Holy Spirit they turned the world upside down. Moses was 80 years old and verbally not gifted, when he went to liberate the Israelites out of Egypt. No one on earth would have chosen him. Or after coming to know about his plans many would have rather recommended him a good old-age home instead of wandering through the desert for several years. But God knew better and encouraged him to fulfil HIS task. David was a shepherd boy with no experience about war or how to fight an enemy. Yet he was chosen by the Lord Almighty to kill Goliath and to become the king of Israel.

Thinking about all those examples we should not underestimate what God can do in our lives and how greatly He can use us. The only qualification we need for this job is lots of weakness. With pride and strength we focus and rely on ourselves and block God's loving work in our lives.

The clay is made wet and soft by the potter before it is moulded. During that phase it is very easy to tear it apart. But the wetness is needed so that the clay can be formed into a new being.

Isaiah 64:8

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.



- A. Chittazhathu

A Word for the Month – Worship

You see a church notice board or an advertisement in the press. “10.00 – Worship Service”, it says. What sort of picture forms in your mind? Something with young people playing drums and guitars? Something with songs and lots of action? Probably not an hour of quiet meditation!

When the Magi called on Herod, they told him about the star they had seen, and about their intention to worship the new-born king. As far as we know, they had not brought their guitars with them, and whatever form their worship took, they did it kneeling down, Matthew tells us (2:11). And after worshipping Jesus, they opened their boxes and gave him gifts. What do these two depictions of worship have to do with one another?

Before answering this, let us get some guidance from the words of Jesus himself, reported in John 4. Jesus is at Sychar, in Samaria, and engages a local woman in a wide-ranging conversation. The topic turns to worship, and to the fact that the Samaritans worship on nearby Mount Gerizim, and the Jews worship in Jerusalem.

Both wrong, says Jesus. Both the Samaritans and the Jews have been overtaken by events. Now is the time “when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.” (John 4:23)

Worship, then, is not sacrificing cows. Nor is it plucking at stringed instruments, whether psalteries or guitars. Nor is it giving gifts. It is not something we do – not an action, but an attitude. Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman bring this out. The woman talks about worshipping on the local mountain, or worshipping in Jerusalem. Jesus changes the grammar – it is not where you worship or what form your worship takes, it is whom you worship that is important.



The English word “worship” conveys this idea of a relationship between us and God. It means “worth-ship”, our acknowledging God's worth, God's value. (In non-religious English, it survives only in our respectful way of addressing magistrates as “your worship”, and in the quaintly-worded promise in the old marriage service, “With my body I thee worship.”)

Modern translations of the Bible describe Magi as “doing homage”, and this is a good image, for here are the Magi, experts in their own field, experts in divination and star-gazing, paying their respects to a baby whom they recognize as way beyond them in worth! It is not that the Magi are “unworthy” or “worthless” - but they are indeed worth less than the Son of God.

The French and German expressions, *adorer* and *anbeten*, from the Latin *adorare*, convey another aspect of the Greek word used in the Bible. They originally meant to pray to someone out loud – not something easily done “in spirit and in truth”! But it also carries a sense of respect, within a loving relationship.

The Greek word itself, *proskuneo*, goes back to pagan worship. It perhaps originally meant blowing a kiss towards a holy image, but in the Greek Old Testament, it was used when a servant prostrated himself, touching his face on the ground, before a ruler or a master – or before God. The beautiful image of the two Marys who “took hold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him” (Matthew 28:9) after his resurrection convey this picture of worship perfectly.

We can pay homage when we gather in church, in hymns and songs of praise or of penitence, but also through prayers and through listening to others telling of God's greatness. We can pay homage wherever we meet Jesus – in silent prayer, or in the neighbours we meet in the street – for what we do to them, we do to him. The sacraments too allow us to actively share in the worship of heaven. For it is in heaven that the angels proclaim “Glory to God in the highest”, and where God's holy people indeed worship their creator and redeemer “in spirit and in truth”.

-Hector Davie

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO PARENTS

It is good to see the numbers of children who attend our Junior Church and also that they obviously enjoy their time together before and after the service. Please note, however, that the Junior Church helpers are only with the children during the Junior Church time. Parents are responsible for supervising their children before and after services, especially during the "coffee time".

- Shareene Potter, Safeguarding Officer

The Dreams of the Three Trees



Once upon a time there were many trees living in the same forest. Most of the trees were ordinary. But there were three trees in the forest which were very special. One of them was an oak tree. It was a very proud tree because everyone would look at it and say "Oh wow, this must be the tallest tree in this forest!" Hearing this the oak tree would stretch itself even more to show its full might. The oak tree had a friend who was not as tall as him. It was a cedar tree. The cedar tree was also not as tall as its elder brother who was standing somewhere

nearby in the forest. But that was only because its elder brother was getting more sunlight. "After all I grew this tall even though I get almost no sunlight", the cedar tree would say proudly. "And moreover my brother is very old and sick so that no one even looks at it." And that was true. Everyone going by would only give attention to the younger cedar tree. The oak tree and the cedar tree had another friend. It was the fig tree. He was not tall at all. But he was standing near the spring which would water him even when it is not raining. As a result the fig tree had the most beautiful leaves in the whole forest. The colours were so amazing... Passers by would always take a drink from the spring and lie down in the shade of the fig tree and admire its beauty. No one doubted that those three trees were the most special trees in the whole forest. And all three trees were really thick friends. They would spend all their time together and tell each other very honestly how proud they could be about themselves.

One day the oak tree asked its friends, "What do you think how our future will be?" The cedar tree had to think a while before answering the question, "Well, when I analyze the situation I am sure I will be used to keep treasures. After all I am so precious and it would be a shame to use me for any other purpose." The oak tree nodded and said, "Yes, I think you are right about yourself. But as I am so mighty and strong I will be used by kings. I think they will make a royal ship out of me."

The fig tree agreed with its friends and said, "And obviously, I am also predestined to be used by a king. I think people will make a king's statue out of

me. After all I am so beautiful and precious. The people will remember the mighty king even after his death just because they see me."

The trees were so happy when thinking about their future and couldn't wait to be used in that way.

Many days later all the three trees were cut down and were brought to a carpenter's workshop. All of them were very excited and couldn't wait for their dream to come true.

Only some days after they had been brought to their new home an interested buyer came to the carpenter's shop. He said, "Hi, I am new in the city and have an inn some miles from here. I have some cattle too. I need a manger for my cows." The carpenter said: "Well I'm afraid I don't have a suitable tree for that." The buyer said, "I am ready to pay a bit more if you like as I need it very urgently." The carpenter now turned around and looked at the three trees, "I think I can make it out of that cedar, but that will cost you some extra coins." The cedar tree couldn't believe its ears! But the carpenter and the buyer agreed on the deal and there was nothing the cedar tree could do to change that. A few weeks later the cedar tree was now a manger. The buyer came and took it to a new place away from its friends. The cedar tree thought, "I can't believe stinking cows are licking a precious cedar tree like me!"

Some days after the cedar tree had been worked into a manger a fisherman came to the carpenter. He said, "I need a boat to go fishing". The carpenter looked at his wood and said, "I can make you a boat out of an oak tree". And before the oak tree could say anything the fisherman and the carpenter agreed on the business. The oak tree was very sad. And its friend the fig tree was also feeling sad for the oak tree. It couldn't believe that the carpenter was so dull! It would have never thought that both its friends would be used so badly. But there was no use in complaining and some weeks later the oak tree became a fishing boat. Only dirty people would use it. It felt sad that it didn't become big in life.

The fig tree was feeling very lonely in the carpenter's shop. And after the cedar tree and the oak tree had gone the carpenter brought new trees into the shop. He used them for different purposes but the fig tree was never used because nobody wanted to buy a fig tree. As it was cut down it had also lost its beautiful leaves so that people wouldn't find anything nice about the fig tree. It felt sad about its faith. One day the carpenter said to his helper, "That fig tree is standing there and nobody wants to buy it. It is just taking up so much space. Cut it into pieces and keep it in one of the store rooms." So the fig tree was cut

into pieces and thrown in a dark room. Spiders would crawl over it and dust gathered on its body. It felt very sad and cried.

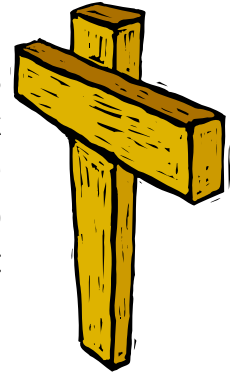
The three trees lived their lives according to their fate. As each tree had a different purpose, the three trees didn't see each other during the rest of their lives. For many years they served the humans. One day the humans decided to dispose of them. The three trees were thrown into the same forest they had been brought from. The trees were so happy to get some rest. And finally they could see each other again. Now the oak tree said to the cedar tree, "My dear friend, I was so sad the day the carpenter decided to make a manger out of you! I really hope you didn't have to suffer a lot." The cedar tree said, "Oh that is so kind of you, my old chap! Well, I had to suffer. You know my owner had lots of cows and sheep who would always come and lick me. I didn't like it at all and felt so sad about my fate." The fig tree interrupted the cedar tree and said, "Oh you poor one! I really feel sad you couldn't achieve your dream to become a treasure chest."

The cedar tree disagreed, "Well let me finish my friend. I felt sad about my fate, that's true. Until one day.... It was already night and very cold outside. Actually I had slowly started to get along with my fate but then suddenly someone put hay in my body and lay a baby inside me. It was a very cute baby and its face was shining. And do you know an amazing thing? Three kings came soon after that and bowed down to the baby and brought precious gifts for it. I am sure the baby was very precious and it was lying inside me."

Both the fig tree and the oak tree were stunned when they heard this and felt so happy for the cedar tree. Then the oak tree said, "Well my friends, you know that the fisherman wanted me to become his fishing boat. I had to be in the sea from early morning to deep night. I got almost no rest and spent my days thinking about you and about my crushed dreams." The cedar tree and the fig tree said, "Oh we know you wanted to become a royal ship. It was so sad to see the carpenter make an ordinary boat out of you." The oak tree smiled, "Oh my friends, I was more than an ordinary boat. One night as I was swimming in the sea carrying my fisherman another man approached us. He was walking on the water! He came into the boat and told the fisherman about many amazing things. He even commanded the sea when it roared and the winds. I am sure the man was of royal blood when even nature obeyed him." "Oh wow!" the fig tree said. "You both were so lucky! I am so happy your dreams came true."

Then the cedar tree and the oak tree said, "Yes, we had a splendid life and our dreams came true. What about you? You don't look like a temple. So your dream didn't come true, did it?" The fig tree was so happy to share, "My

friends you are wrong. My dream came true. I didn't become a temple. Nobody wanted to buy me and I was cut into pieces because I was taking up space. But one day the carpenter took me out of the room and blew the dust away. He worked on me and gave it to an officer. The officer commanded someone to bring me up to a mountain. They nailed a man on me and let me stand on the mountain. He was the king of the Jews and people worship him even today. And everyone remembers him when they see me."



The three trees were so happy that Jesus Christ came into their life. Because when He came, their ordinary lives were transformed into something special.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

- *A. Chittazhathu*

Pledge Matters

Thank you all for your generous response to our pledge appeal. It is your generous giving which enables St Ursula's to work effectively, and your generosity with your time and your skills which keeps us running smoothly, witnessing to the world through our behaviour, our welcome and our commitment.

This year the church's finances promise to be on a sound basis, but in the longer term, there are projects which will need us to dig deep into our pockets. The church heating system will need renewal soon, and we hope with your help to do this efficiently, and at the same time to show respect for God's creation by finding an environmentally friendly solution. The house and hall will soon be celebrating sixty years of service to our church family, and, like all sixty-year-olds, are starting to show a few signs of age – and it will soon be twenty years since the hall was extended and improved. With your continued help, we will be able to serve our people for many years to come.

- *The Treasurer*

Chaplain's Notes

Advent Meditations

Fridays - 2, 9, 16 December

soup lunch at 12.00 followed by meditations in the church

Watching and Waiting

"Lord, when did we see you?"

The Great O of Advent

A time to be still and stand aside from the Christmas rush

All welcome



Christmas Services

Details of the services are on page 18 and on the flyer with the magazine.

We are aiming to be more user-friendly with our timings this year.

On **Christmas Eve**, the "Midnight Mass" will be at 22.00, to help people travelling by public transport. In Biblical times the day was reckoned to start at 18.00, so we can still sing "Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning".

We are adding an earlier service on Christmas Eve, at 16.00, when we shall be preparing the Christmas Crib. It will be ideal for families with children.

On **Christmas Day**, there will be a said celebration of Holy Communion at 9.15 for everyone who did not make their Christmas Communion at the night-time service. This will be followed by a Carol Service at 10.00, which proved popular last year.

Not everyone can be with friends and family at Christmas, so there will be mince pies and fellowship in the hall after the Carol Service.

There are also the usual Carol Services at Biel, Göttingen, the Heiliggeistkirche and Neuchâtel. See page 18 for times.

Congratulations

to Matthew Wildhaber and Jonathan Carrick, who celebrate their 18th birthdays in January.



Can you help?

We would like to hear from anyone interested in being our Publicity Officer. Council agreed that it would be helpful for someone to investigate who our potential “target group(s)” are and what would be the best ways of reaching them. If you can help, please speak to me or to Mary McKinley, the Council Secretary.

Parliamentary Service

The National Council of Churches (AGCK) will be holding an ecumenical service for the new Parliament on Monday 5 December. Please pray that the service will remind politicians of their duty before God. Further details in the weekly notices.

- PMP

Remembrance Sunday Visitor

It was a surprise and a joy to welcome Lord Bates to our service on Remembrance Sunday. He is a member of the British House of Lords and was 2011 miles into his walk from Olympia in Greece to London when he arrived in Berne. The aim of the walk is to promote the Olympic Truce, a United Nations initiative to foster peace in the world. You can read more about it on www.walkfortrue.org



For pictures and videos of Lord Bates' walk, see www.walkfortrue.org.

Calendar of Services

4 December – Advent 2

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

11 December – Advent 3

8.30 Holy Communion
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28
10.00 Nativity Service

18 December – Advent 4

10.00 Sung Eucharist
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

24 December—Christmas Eve

16.00 Crib Service for Children
22.00 First Mass of Christmas
Isaiah 52:7-10
John 1:1-14

25 December—Christmas Day

9.15 Holy Communion (said)
Isaiah 62:6-12
Luke 2: 8-20
10.00 Carol Service

1 January – The Naming of Jesus

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

8 January – The Epiphany

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Isaiah 16:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

15 January – Epiphany 2

Ecumenical service at the Münster
(no service at St Ursula's)

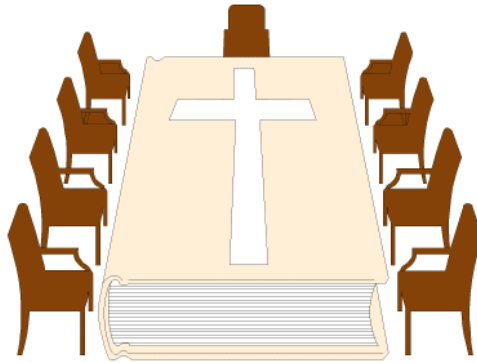
22 January – Epiphany 3

10.00 Sung Eucharist with
Prayers for Healing
Genesis 14:17-20
Revelation 19:6-10
John 2:1-11

29 January – Presentation of Christ (Missions Sunday)

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

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?

After a very pleasant time with a great many interested parties we are continuing our study. We would all be very happy to welcome you.

18 January 2012
6 - Pursuing Moral Purity
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

For Your Diary

December 2011 & January 2012

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30 – 10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots – not on 28 December
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork—not on 23 and 30 December
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 24 & 31 December

Other Events

Friday 2 December	12.00 – 13.30	Advent Meditations Study Course
	19.30 – 21.00	Adult Confirmation Course
Sunday 4 December	10.00	Confirmation Class
	12.15 – 14.30	Nativity Service Rehearsals
Tuesday 6 December	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 7 December	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Friday 9 December	12.00 – 13.30	Advent Meditations Study Course
Sunday 11 December	10.00	Nativity Service followed by Apéro
Thursday 15 December	19.30	Carol Service at Heiliggeist Church
Friday 16 December	12.00 – 13.30	Advent Meditations Study Course
	19.30 – 20.30	Confirmation Class
Sunday 18 December	10.00	Youth Group
	17.00	Neuchâtel Carol Service
Tuesday 20 December	19.00	Biel Carol Service
Wednesday 21 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service at Göttibach
Saturday 24 December	16.00	Children's Service at St Ursula's
	17.00	Christingle Service in Neuchâtel
	22.00	First Mass of Christmas

Sunday 8 January	10.00	Youth Group
Tuesday 10 January	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 15 January	10.00	Ecumenical Service at the Münster Confirmation Class
		COPY DATE
Wednesday 18 January	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Sunday 22 January	10.00	Youth Group
Tuesday 24 January	19.30	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Thursday 26 January	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating
Friday 27 January	19.30 – 20.30	Confirmation Class
Saturday 28 January	09.00	Archdeaconry Synod
Sunday 29 January	10.00	Confirmation Class
	12.00	Pot Luck Lunch

Future Dates

Saturday 3 March	10.00	Book and Food Sale
------------------	-------	--------------------

Advance Notice: Missions Sunday 29 January 2012

The Charity and Missions team will invite all the missions & charities we support at St Ursula's to have representatives to attend this service with the theme "Mission."

There will be some information stands in the church hall during coffee time. After coffee time we have planned to have a **Pot Luck Meal (12.00—13.30)** in the church hall and warmly invite all our church family to join us and our guests from the various charities & missions we support.

Please do take this opportunity to meet our guests and learn more about our charities so that we can all better support and pray for them.

There will be more details to follow in the Sunday notices in January.

- *Cecily Klingler*

Prayer Diary

December

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| 1 | Thursday | AIDS sufferers |
| 2 | Friday | Our Advent Meditations |
| 3 | Saturday | <i>St Francis Xavier</i> , Christians in China |
| 4 | Sunday | The prophetic voice of the Church |
| 5 | Monday | The newly-elected Parliament |
| 6 | Tuesday | <i>St Nicholas</i> , children at risk |
| 7 | Wednesday | The Bishop's Advent Appeal (Friends of the Holy Land) |
| 8 | Thursday | <i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |
| 9 | Friday | Recognising Jesus in the faces of the needy |
| 10 | Saturday | UN Human Rights Day |
| 11 | Sunday | Today's Nativity Play |
| 12 | Monday | The European Union |
| 13 | Tuesday | <i>St Lucy</i> , our sister Churches in Scandinavia |
| 14 | Wednesday | The work of Alcoholics Anonymous |
| 15 | Thursday | USPG (Anglicans in World Mission) |
| 16 | Friday | Times of quiet at this busy time |
| 17 | Saturday | English-speaking organisations in Berne |
| 18 | Sunday | Seasonal chaplains in holiday resorts |
| 19 | Monday | People travelling |
| 20 | Tuesday | Shop workers |
| 21 | Wednesday | People with financial problems |
| 22 | Thursday | Christians in the Holy Land |
| 23 | Friday | People alone at Christmas |
| 24 | Saturday | Our Christmas services and all who attend |
| 25 | Sunday | Christmas Day |
| 26 | Monday | <i>St Stephen</i> , families far away |
| 27 | Tuesday | <i>St John the Evangelist</i> , People at work in the holiday period |
| 28 | Wednesday | <i>The Holy Innocents</i> , Peace in the world's troublespots |
| 29 | Thursday | People spending Christmas and New Year in hospital |
| 30 | Friday | People in prison |
| 31 | Saturday | Thanks for God's blessings in the year coming to a close |

January

- | | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1 | Sunday | God's blessing on the year ahead |
| 2 | Monday | People looking for work |
| 3 | Tuesday | Places and people in the news this week |
| 4 | Wednesday | The Adult Confirmation Group |
| 5 | Thursday | Those who clear the roads and transport services running |
| 6 | Friday | Epiphany – offering our gifts and talents in Christ's service |
| 7 | Saturday | The work of REGA |
| 8 | Sunday | God's protection on our homes |
| 9 | Monday | St Ursula's Pastoral Team |
| 10 | Tuesday | The Archbishop of Canterbury |
| 11 | Wednesday | The housebound |
| 12 | Thursday | Keeping our New Year's resolutions |
| 13 | Friday | The Society of Friends (Quakers) |
| 14 | Saturday | Safety on the ski slopes |
| 15 | Sunday | The Ecumenical Service at the Münster |
| 16 | Monday | The Diocesan Communications Group |
| 17 | Tuesday | Christians in Egypt |
| 18 | Wednesday | The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity |
| 19 | Thursday | The Swiss Reformed Church |
| 20 | Friday | The Roman Catholic Church in Switzerland |
| 21 | Saturday | The Old Catholic Church in Switzerland |
| 22 | Sunday | AKiB (Churches Together in Berne) |
| 23 | Monday | The Lutheran and Mar Thoma Churches |
| 24 | Tuesday | The Free Churches |
| 25 | Wednesday | AGCK (the Swiss National Council of Churches) |
| 26 | Thursday | <i>Conversion of St Paul</i> |
| 27 | Friday | The Teens' Confirmation Group |
| 28 | Saturday | The work of Cecily's Fund |
| 29 | Sunday | The missions and charities we support |
| 30 | Monday | Our Youth Groups |
| 31 | Tuesday | People with chronic illnesses |

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 usually 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 into the life of the church.



Nativity Service

This year's Nativity Service takes place on 11 December. It will be a bit unusual – but including the traditional story of the Nativity with angels, shepherds etc. Come and join us in celebration.



We will use the Junior Church time on the Sundays beforehand to practise songs and prepare parts. There will also be rehearsals after church on Sundays 27 November and 4 December – all Junior Church families should have received a letter. If anyone needs more information please contact Jana in the church office.

Bake Sale

On Sunday 29 January (Mission Sunday – see separate article), the Junior Church will hold a bake sale to raise money for Tear Fund.



Activity Clubs

The 7s – 11s Activity Club continues to meet approximately once a month for fun activities and the new club (for those aged 12 – 15) has started well. Contact Mary or Françoise for information – or look on the notice board in the church hall for details of the next meetings.

Teachers

We are still short of 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.



- Tricia Carrick

Junior Church Birthdays

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in December and January

Giogio Pagano 4 on 10 December

Sandy Colla 10 on 21 January

David Eze 3 on 12 December

Jonathan Hebeisen 13 on 28 January

Annabel Hebeisen 10 on 12 December

Erin Cotter 12 on 13 December

Samuel Klein 11 on 17 December



Youth Confirmation Class

The new class for confirmation preparation for young people has started well. There are five members of the group.

The final meeting of the first Sunday block, where we are talking about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, is on Sunday 4 December. In January, the focus of the Sunday meetings is the Trinity and the creeds.

There will be an opportunity for confirmation in June 2012. Please pray for all those involved in this group: the young people, their families and the leaders.

- Tricia Carrick

Youth at “<Feu Sacré> Nacht der Religionen”

On 12 November, seven young people and four adults met at 17.30 at the station. We made our way over to the gibb-campus in Lorraine to take part in the opening ceremony of the annual Berne “Nacht der Religionen”. This year it was hosted by the Alevi community. Unfortunately, there were so many people there that we only got to watch it on TV. However, we did see the fires lit by representatives of the various religious communities:



We then went on to the Murugen-Tempel Verein which is home to the biggest Hindu community in Berne. It was fascinating to see how they have transformed a warehouse into something beautiful. Once we were inside, it felt like we were no longer in Switzerland. Their style of worship seemed really strange to us – partly because we couldn't understand a word said.

We could have gone on to more places, but the young people were too tired so we stopped at this stage. It was a good experience for all involved, so hopefully we can repeat it next year – perhaps visiting different religious groups.

- Tricia Carrick

An Advent Appeal

Twice a year, in Lent and Advent, Bishop Geoffrey selects a charity which is particularly appropriate to this diocese, and our charity committee usually respond appropriately. Often the charity is for work among the poor, or refugees, or children, within the diocese or in one of our linked dioceses in Africa or Asia. This Advent, the Appeal is for the Friends of the Holy Land, an interdenominational charity supporting Arab Christians in that country of contrasts, of wealth and poverty.

Christians in the Arab world are often isolated and passed over in the current political awakening, and the Friends provide a non-political framework for supporting them. So while most of the money from the appeal will go to renewing slum housing, and paying for blankets, heaters and vouchers for food and clothes this Christmas, and supporting St Martha's House, Bethlehem's first Day Care Centre for elderly ladies, part of the money will be laid aside to build up new small businesses to provide employment opportunities, in particular for youth. Read about it on the Diocesan website, and pray for Christians in Palestine – and for the peace of Jerusalem.

- *Hector Davie*

Quotable Quotes

Our lives, our tears, as water,
Are poured upon the ground;
God giveth man no quarter,
Yet God a means hath found;
Though faith and hope have vanished,
And even love grows dim,
A means whereby His banished
Be not expelled from Him !

Rudyard Kipling

- *Contributed by Dorothy Beriger*



Traditional Pumpkin Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund

Thank you very much indeed for supporting the soup Lunch in November.



We had a marvellous opportunity once again to achieve this great amount, in fellowship with some friends from the Old Catholic Church. We enjoyed good company over an informal lunch of delicious homemade soup, cakes, tea and coffee.

Also a big thank you to the helping crew: Corinne Bomonti, Adorée Weibel and Shelagh Brawand, to Family Thomann who kindly donated the Pumpkin and to all those who regularly support our activities in aid of Cecily's Fund.

Our thanks go to:

- the Students and the staff from the school at Unterseen near Thun who performed *Sleeping Beauty* at their school at the beginning of the year.
- the American International Women's club of Lausanne organised an "Out of Africa" evening in Vevey.
- The International School of Lausanne organised a "Battle of the Bands" and a sponsored Run.
- the children of the Junior Church in Neuchâtel who organised a cake sale after a service on the theme "Feed the children."

- PARTNER SEIN and St Ursula's for their regular support.
- And to all the great many other individual supporters who intercede with us for the welfare of the children supported by Cecily's Fund.

Be assured every donation is greatly appreciated by us and the children you are helping.

Reminder about the performance of LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT

Sunday 18 December, 5 pm, Théâtre du Passage, Neuchâtel. We would be delighted to see you then.

Christmas & Gift cards for friends and family

Now on sale! Please contact Yvonne Bomonti either at church on Sunday or at yvonne@bomonti.ch

- *Yvonne Bomonti*

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

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

Charity of the Month: Cecily's Fund

Educating Zambian Children orphaned by AIDS

2011 Change is afoot!

Zambia has a new government

After an eventful election President Michael Sata was voted in on 23 September, ousting the previous government which had been in power for 20 years. It was a shining example of a peaceful transition of power on the African continent. Straightaway the new government cut down on the number of its ministers and seems to be committed to implementing a more enlightened policy.

Cecily's Fund has a new director

Molly Brech worked in Zambia from 2009 until her recent appointment as director of Cecily's Fund. She is experienced and up to date on Zambian affairs and perfectly placed to lead on the Cecily's Fund mission, its organisation and fundraising. Molly says, 'I am ready for the challenge and am really excited about taking the charity forward over the coming years'.

Statistics

On the UN's Human Development Index Zambia remains one of the least-developed countries in the world. 64% of all Zambians and 78% of rural Zambians live below the poverty line.

BUT Zambia is blessed with the fifth youngest population in the world. The country's young people constitute a huge, talented, ambitious but currently overlooked resource which can play a key role in the country's development.



30th Anniversary of the Discovery of AIDS

The war on AIDS is going better than anyone dared hope. A decade ago, half the people in some southern African countries were expected to die of AIDS. Now the death rate is dropping. Lives are being saved by increased education and drug treatment. The rate of new infections is down by 25% from its peak. Nevertheless more people are being infected each year than can be started on anti-retroviral therapy. The cumulative number of orphans as a result of those who are infected will continue to grow for the foreseeable future and they are vulnerable and impoverished.

Support in Switzerland for Cecily's Fund

Supporters in Switzerland have been loyal and inventive in their fund-raising ever since Basil and Alison's diplomatic posting here, shortly after the death of their daughter Cecily which was the impetus to found Cecily's Fund. St. Ursula's Church donates 1600 CHF per year to Cecily's Fund and the proceeds from Yvonne and Andreas Bomonti's two famous annual soup lunches held in the church hall raised 1336 CHF, enough to educate up to 30 Zambian orphans in primary school this year. Supporters in Lausanne, Vevey, Zurich and Neuchatel, at school, church or in smaller circles, lend their time and effort to raise money for Zambian orphans. The fund-raising highlight of 2011 will again be a performance by London's Diva Opera company on 18th December in Neuchatel. Thanks to a very generous anonymous donation ALL income from ticket sales goes direct to the charity. Come to 'La Fille du Regiment' and afterwards hear more about the work of Cecily's Fund with members of the cast and fellow supporters.

Christianity and HIV in Zambia

Christianity has had a long history in Zambia ever since it was introduced by British explorer and missionary David Livingstone. An estimated 87% of Zambians are Christian and Christianity is still growing at a rate of nearly 4% per year. It exerts a profound influence on all aspects of Zambian life, especially on the lives of the bereaved and often traumatised young people Cecily's Fund helps to educate. Churches and other faith groups can play a vital role in addressing HIV and AIDS, with a long tradition of playing a social welfare role. There are growing examples of Cecily's Fund Peer Health Educators using their skills not just in schools, as they are trained to do, but in their local churches too, raising awareness of HIV and AIDS.

Cecily's Fund makes a genuine difference to the young people it supports

'Endless Appreciations': A Thank You to Cecily's Fund supporters from **Maron Kombe**, a former supported pupil

'I hope you are all in good health. As for me and my family we are fine. Just a short message to say that I still look back to where I am coming from and continue to appreciate you for the role you have played in my life and in the lives of many Zambian children. I am happy today and confident that I will achieve my goals in life because of the foundation that you have laid for me. You are unforgettable. May God continue to bless the works of your hands as you keep on lifting many out of their miserable situations as you did for me. Wishing you God's blessings as you continue to answer the call for help from Zambian youths and children.'

In the spirit of the giving season, everywhere you look there is a chance to give. Do you and your colleagues exchange perfunctory presents at Christmas? Consider donating that money to Cecily's Fund instead.

Are you wracking your brains trying to figure out what to get someone who has, literally, everything? Buy them the priceless gift of education for an orphan with a Cecily's Fund gift card.

Do you spend, say, 8 CHF a day on milky coffee full of so-called 'empty calories'? Go without for 5 days and make a 40 CHF donation to Cecily's Fund.

Did you find a 10 CHF note in your coat pocket or handbag that you've just unearthed for winter? Send it to Cecily's Fund.

Did you think of placing a jar labelled 'Cecily's Fund' on the table at refreshment time during your next coffee morning, house group, choir rehearsal, yoga session or book group? Send the contents to Cecily's Fund.

And remember that donations to Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund are tax deductible!

Visit by Basil Eastwood, co-founder of Cecily's Fund: Morning Service 18 December 10:00

Cecily's Fund gift cards and Christmas cards will be on sale then; at other times they can be purchased from Yvonne Bomonti (yvonne@bomonti.ch)

Please pray for the work of Cecily's Fund as it continues its long-term commitment to lift Zambian orphans, through education, from a life of poverty to one of self-reliance, health and prosperity. Pray for us to recognise the current struggle to stop rich countries like ours from giving less in a time of economic difficulty.

Yvonne Bomonti & Hilary Sharp, Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund

(See www.cecilyfund.org for more information if you are hearing about Cecily's Fund for the first time, or speak to Hilary or Yvonne .)

STOP PRESS: Cecily's Fund has an amazing opportunity to **double** donations made through the UK's Big Give: <http://new.thebiggive.org.uk/project/cecily>. Please join us any MORNING from 10am (UK time) on **5th-9th December** using a credit or debit card and the Big Give will match it! (Matched funds are on a 'first come first served' basis, so please set your alarm clocks early!!). Donations must be in sterling but can be made from credit and debit cards registered abroad.

Christmas Bazaar 2011

WOW! A record Christmas Bazaar with takings of over Fr 24,000! And, of course, to be able to achieve this wonderful result, many, many people had to dedicate hours of their time and skills along with a very generous amount of their good will thrown in too!



The church entrance looked inviting with all the wonderful wreaths and Christmas arrangements and this welcome continued throughout the bazaar for all ages. We had a new stall with crafts for children which was so popular that we actually sold out of crafts on Friday night and a new craft had to be thought up and created overnight for Saturday. We also had all our usual and “old favourite” stalls and once again the British Cheese Centre was a very welcome visitor.



The Patchwork stall looked as beautiful as always, we had a good selection of cards and small gifts, a huge amount of bric à brac and it was lovely to see the children enjoying their activities in the church too.

Our cake stall in the Upper Hall almost sold out on Friday night. We were also treated to delicious raclette on Friday night and a truly wonderful turkey lunch with all the trimmings on Saturday – a tremendous amount of work for the restaurant team. The raffle had some wonderful prizes and was a popular attraction.

Downstairs, we had a superb selection of books along with toys, children's' games, our best ever tombola and a very popular *Glühwein* and mince pies bar.

I would like to thank each and every one of you who helped to make this our most successful bazaar, Terry who designed the poster, those who attended the cake and wreath workshops, the setting up and taking



down teams, the fantastic stall holders and all your hard working staff, to Father Christmas for taking the time to visit us, Hector for taking care of a hundred & one things, to Maxine and Sonia who took over from me as Bazaar Coordinators during the bazaar and to all those that I haven't mentioned by name, please know that it's only because I've got the worst memory in the world and I'm sure to miss at least one of you - I do, however, truly value all your hard work and effort - **THANK YOU!**

I hope everyone who helped and attended the bazaar had a wonderful and joyous start to the Christmas period.

- *Jana Kutesko, Bazaar Coordinator*

British Food Stall

Another phenomenal year for the food stall – our best ever! And, as ever I owe **A BIG THANK YOU** to all those who help me with this stall – to the shoppers who ensure that I get food to sell on such a regular basis, to those who make all the delicious jams, marmalades and pickles, to those who help move the boxes & boxes of food from and back to the attic at every sale, to all my family both here and in the UK for their tolerance and patience as well as their shopping and storage facilities, and of course to all my friends who continue to come and “play shop” with me. I appreciate every single one of you and without you ALL the food stall just wouldn't be possible.

And, of course, not forgetting all our loyal customers who patronise the stall and support St Ursula's by doing so - **THANK YOU!**

I wish you all an excellent Christmas and 2012 and I look forward to seeing you at our next sale on Saturday, 3 March 2012.

- *Jana Kutesko*





PRESCHOOL – in German and English

- > children between 3–6
- > playful development of speech, art and music
- > nurturing of each child's individual development
- > dynamic team of young international women
- > entry possible at any time

Details: www.feusi.ch or contact us to organise a meeting at the school.

Feusi Bildungszentrum | Preschool
Elfenuweg 73 | 3006 Berne | Phone 031 537 33 50
preschool@feusi.ch | www.feusi.ch

Preschool ;feusi

English Speaking Club of Bern

Official Invitation

Since 1978, we have been Bern's one and only English Speaking Club. We offer you a reasonably priced bar, free billiards and a free round of darts. Visit us and get in touch with our English speaking members from all over the world. Just present this invitation at the bar. If you enjoy the experience, you can become a member - Basic Membership is free!

We are looking forward to meeting you

Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | www.englishclub.ch

deutsch aktiv

PRIVATE GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Barbara M. Winter-Huggler, German Language Teacher

German Language Courses

Beginners + Level A, B, C + Goethe Language Certificate Courses +

Business German + Conversation + Grammar

- Individual Courses
 - Mini groups
 - Individual and group lessons for firms
-

For further information please contact me at:

Ensingerstrasse 9, 3006 Bern

Tel. 031 352 04 75 Mobile 079 79 459 55

or visit the website: www.deutsch-aktiv.ch

or write an e-mail: info@deutsch-aktiv.ch



Maler Prince

Malen, Gipsen, Tapezieren

Painting, Plastering, Wallpapering

Mark E. Prince

Gutenbergstrasse 48, 3011 Bern

Telefon 031 381 33 28

Mobile 079 408 38 45

E-Mail: m.prince@bluewin.ch



Zysset + Partner AG Gartenbau + Hausservice

Gardening work and landscaping

Schlossmattstrasse 1, 3600 Thun

Tel 033 222 05 05, Fax 033 223 50 25

Landscape gardening, lawn mowing,
hedge cutting, seasonal work etc. etc.

Agentur für *i&f* GmbH
insurance & finance

Toni Bachmann
Postfach 89
CH-3800 Interlaken
Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)33 336 9394
Mob: +41 (0)79 652 6619
e-mail: t.bachmann@agif.ch

Your local contact for International and Swiss:

- **Health- & Life-Insurance**
- **Car-& General-Insurance**
- **Pensions (private and employer)**
- **Savings, Investments**
- **Financial planning**
- **Retirement planning**
- **Tax advice, Tax-declarations**
- **Assistance property purchase**
- **Mortgage arrangements**

Many years experience advising international clients, firms & individuals

English Speaking Playgroup/School



Enjoying English from 3 to 18

The English Speaking Playgroup/School offers a stimulating learning environment aimed at developing English language skills.

There are 4 types of classes:

- o Playgroup
- o Reading and Writing
- o English as a Foreign Language
- o Examination Classes

Our small and friendly classes are held in the Breitenrain quarter of Berne.



Beundenfeldstrasse 21 CH - 3013 Bern
www.esp-bern.ch

Tel: 031 332 9292
info@esp-bern.ch

Coiffure Dieter

Phone 031 941 42 22

**LADIES - AND
MENS HAIRDRESSING-SALON**

Your Hairdresser in the Wittigkofen Centre

Adress:
Jupiterstrasse 15
3015 Bern

Mon. 14.00 – 18.30 Uhr
Tues.–Fri. 08.00 – 18.30 Uhr
Sat. 08.00 – 16.00 Uhr

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

The British School, Bern

www.britishschool.ch

Hintere Dorfgasse 20
3073 Gümligen, Switzerland

Tel: +41 31 952 7557

Fax: +41 31 952 7557

E-mail: britishschool@bluewin.ch

- Established in 1988 for pupils aged three to eleven years
- 80 pupils of all nationalities
- Members of the Swiss Group of International Schools, affiliated with the European Community of International Schools and registered with the Bern Education Authority.
- Staff trained in Schools Attuned/All Kinds of Minds program



Early registration is recommended!

- Small class size with flexibility to meet the unique needs of individual students
- British and International curriculums taught in English, including classes in German as a second language, skiing, ice-skating and swimming
- Qualified teachers and learning support teachers
- English as a Second Language Groups
- Friendly, family-like atmosphere

WEIGHT ROOM

step machine - stationary bicycles - special back strengthening program

AEROBICS

beginners to advanced - step aerobics - morning, noon and evening classes

BABY SITTING

monday-friday 9.00-11.45 - sfr 4.- per child - english and german spoken

SOLARIUM

GYMLINE

FITNESS FOR WOMEN
SCHWARZTORSTR. 87
3007 BERN
TEL. 031 382 23 24

Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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

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

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

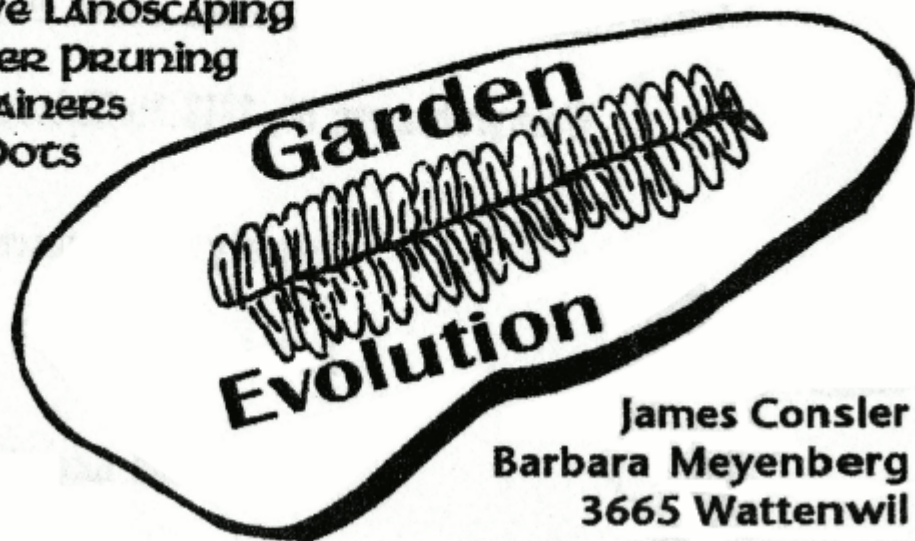
Annual membership: CHF 35 for singles, CHF 45 for families.

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

Biological Garden Care

Soft Garden Renovations

perennial planting design
Native Landscaping
Winter pruning
Containers
and pots



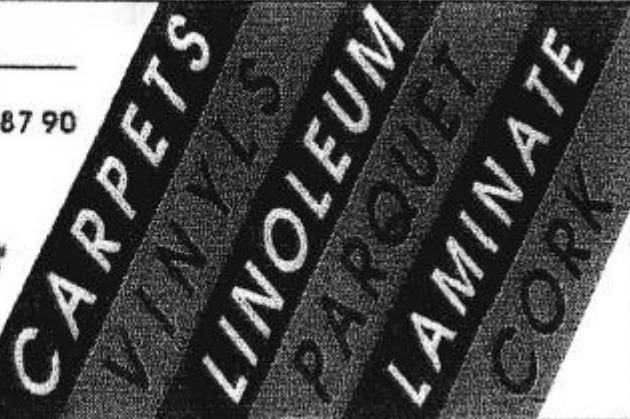
James Consler
Barbara Meyenberg
3665 Wattenwil
Tel./Fax 033 356 29 47

Andy Prior

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

**For All Your
Flooring Requirements**

**Quality Products at
Competitive Prices**



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

Ken Hawkes Carpenter and Joiner

- ◆ *Property Maintenance*
- ◆ *Built-in-Cupboards*
- ◆ *Kitchens and Alterations*

Weiergrabenweg 50 *033 437 65 48*
3612 Steffisburg BE *079 365 97 63*
hawkes.schreinerei@bluewin.ch



Here to help you

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Claire Morgenthaler 031 351 57 29

BOOK TABLE

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 open Tuesdays & Thursdays

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 Walthert 031 331 03 72

MUSIC

Organist

Hans-Karl Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Choir

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Music Group

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Querida Long 031 331 41 07

NEUCHÂTEL CONTACT

Jenny Veenendaal 032 841 64 32

PARENTS AND TOTS

Lori Hughes 078 629 92 98

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

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



International
School
of Berne

Education for life in the heart of Switzerland

The International School of Berne has been providing an international education in English since 1961 and offers the International Baccalaureate curriculum for all age groups.

- **IB Primary Years Programme, ages 3 - 11**
A warm, child-centered environment fostering each student's curiosity and enquiry skills
- **IB Middle Years Programme, ages 11 - 16**
Encouraging a student-centered, inter-disciplinary approach to learning, focusing on intercultural awareness
- **IB Diploma Programme, ages 16 - 19**
A rigorous academic programme offering students access to the best universities worldwide. Our students regularly attain exam results above the world average.

ISBerne students benefit from small class sizes, a highly-qualified faculty and French and German programmes across the age-range.

The IB programmes, taught in more than 3,000 schools worldwide, ensure a smooth and easy transfer for ISBerne's students to and from schools anywhere in the world.

For further information or a visit please contact us at:
ISBerne, Mattenstrasse 3, 3073 Gümliigen, Switzerland
Phone +41 (0)31 951 23 58, office@isberne.ch, www.isberne.ch



Accredited by the Council of International Schools and
the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Expectations of Church members

for members of the Christian community who gather around the Lord's Table

*"I commit myself to live this year
as a disciple of Jesus Christ
guided by the Holy Spirit,
to the glory of God the Father;*

I promise to

- ◇ pray every day*
- ◇ read the Bible regularly*
- ◇ attend the Eucharist faithfully*
- ◇ commend the Christian faith,
fashioning my life according to the example of Christ*
- ◇ give generously, as God has given to me."*

