

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



February - March 2012

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

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

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COPY DATE

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Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE

22 March 2012

Chaplain's Message

"*Kein Mensch muss müssen*," says one of Lessing's characters (if my memory of German literature lectures at University serves me correctly). The idea that no-one should be obliged to do anything sounds admirably liberal and tolerant. It also sits well with the value we place today on doing our own thing and making our own decisions about right and wrong.

A moment's thought tells us, however, this is unsustainable. There are things we are obliged to do. Sometimes it is for the safety of ourselves and others, such as stopping at a red traffic light. In these situations we are compelled to observe the law's requirements, not make our own judgements.

In other situations we voluntarily take obligations on ourselves. The marriage vows are an obvious example (and we shall be coming back to that topic in our service on 12 February). Emmanuel Kant, another 18th century German writer, coined the term "categorical imperative" to refer to courses of action we feel obliged to take from such motives as loyalty or duty. In our day, the green option or a decision to buy fairly-traded goods might come under this heading.

And what about being a Christian? That surely is the most important decision in life. And, because God has given us free will, we take this decision voluntarily. Once taken, we voluntarily accept the obligations it lays on us. For instance, we are not compelled to come to church most Sundays. Nor is it enough to say we come because we get something out of it – it makes us feel good, we meet our friends etc. This may be true (and we hope it is!) but it is a secondary motive.

Our primary reason for coming to church must be that we feel obliged to join with other Christians to worship God. The same applies to our life-style choices, to praying, to reading the Bible and other spiritual writers, and to the way we behave towards our fellow men and women. We do these things because we have voluntarily taken on the obligations that are essential to being a Christian. Our faith is our categorical imperative.

Lent will soon be upon us. Let us use it to remember the obligations we have taken upon us.

Peter

Trolleyology

Trolleyology? What's that? If that is your response, you are in good company. Until a few months ago, the word meant nothing to me either, and explaining it in detail would take more space than I have available. So here is an example.



Five tracklayers are working on a railway track, and one person on another. A runaway railway trolley is approaching, and the five workers are certain to be killed – unless you switch the points to the track where the one worker is: in which case he will die, but the other five will be safe. What do you do? Do you do nothing, and let nature run its course, with the loss of five lives, or do you change the points, and deliberately kill the other worker?

If you put this question to a group of people, they will give different answers. And if the problem is restated, with you on a bridge and the only chance of stopping the trolley a fat man next to you, whom you can push into the path of the trolley and derail it, then the answers will be different again.

What has this got to do with the Christian faith? Well, firstly it points to ideas of right and wrong which are not linked to material, utilitarian values. An atheist who believes that our ethics have evolved out of self-interest would point out that the death of one person is less of a risk to the human species than the death of five. The utilitarian answer is to switch the points, to push the fat man off the bridge. But for most people, the trolley problem is a real ethical challenge, with no easy answer.

People on the fringe of religion tend to see theology as a branch of astronomy – too concerned with what is “up there” and with pleasing an old man in the sky. But from the beginning, religion has been about what is “down here”, starting with the story of Adam and Eve, who were brought up short by God “walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze”.

God became flesh and blood in Jesus to share in our experiences of life with all its ethical challenges. “By sending God's own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,

and to deal with sin, God condemned sin in the flesh,” Paul wrote to the church in Rome (8:3). If God were only “our father in heaven”, what earthly use would that be? In Jesus, God shared our problems, and through God's grace, we can share in Jesus' perfect life. Sharing in “the true bread, that came down from heaven” enables us to “perform the works of God” (John 6:28). Evolution may well have raised us above the law of the jungle. Jesus raises us to live by the law of heaven.

The second lesson the problem of the trolley teaches us is that behaviour is not a purely materialistic science. Religion can and does give us insights into what is right and what is wrong. Morality cannot be boiled down to what brings the maximum benefit to the maximum number of people.

In the Middle Ages, theologians like Thomas Aquinas struggled to define if there could be such a thing as a just war. In present-day Britain, successive Archbishops of Canterbury have criticized the “Gotcha” triumphalism of the Falklands War, or the disregard for human hardship in formulating some of the policies for “the Big Society”. They in their turn have been criticized for sticking their nose into politics. But the command to love our neighbours is also a command to live ethically. Faith is not a private matter – it affects our dealings with the rest of society, and because of this, it affects our politics too.

- *Hector Davie*

The Bishop's Lent Appeal

Not all the congregations in the Diocese in Europe are English-speaking and with a majority of people of European origin. In the north of Finland there is a Sudanese community, who sought refuge there during the civil war in their home country. It is difficult to imagine a greater contrast in climate. To visit his flock their priest, the Rev'd Amos Manga, needs a reliable car, which neither he nor the church can afford as few of the congregation have regular employment. Half of this year's Lent Appeal will go to helping Fr Amos buy and run a cheap second-hand car.

The other half will go to support the Anglican Diocese of Peru. The Archdeaconry of Gibraltar (that is, the Anglican chaplaincies in Spain and Portugal) have had a link with Peru for about five years and have actively helped the church to grow in numbers and in its work for the disadvantaged. The church is running on very limited resources, however, and will be able to make good use of some extra funds from us.

Please look out for more information in church.

FAQ: Why don't Anglicans do Confession?

Actually, they do. In spite of what is generally thought, it is not just a “Catholic” thing.

In the Communion Service of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the priest is to exhort the congregation and say “if there be any of you, who ... cannot quiet his own conscience herein, but requireth further comfort or counsel, let him come to me ... and open his grief; that by the ministry of God's holy Word he may receive the benefit of absolution, together with ghostly [spiritual] counsel and advice”.



The service for the Visitation of the Sick in the same book says that the priest should move the sick person “to make a special Confession of his sins... After which Confession, the Priest shall absolve him”.

In all our services we say prayers of penitence together and the priest pronounces God's forgiveness. This forgiveness is real and we continue our worship as forgiven sinners. There are occasions, however, when a person feels the need to hear the words of forgiveness said by someone else to them individually. It may be because something is troubling them so much that they need that extra reassurance. It is not so far removed from the perfectly natural desire of people to come and have prayers said over them personally when they are ill or in distress.

Prayers with the sick and the assurance of God's forgiveness are both forms of healing. To make a confession can be painful but to hear the words of absolution can heal the past. Anything said in confession can never be revealed and, in giving the absolution, the priest's part is done. He should forget what he has heard for God has dealt with it.

People may wish to make a confession at key moments in their lives, to tie up loose ends. Some people prefer to do so at a solemn time like Lent, as a sort of regular check-up. Anglicans differ from Roman Catholics in not making confession a requirement. “All may; none must; some should” is how we view it.

If it helps, you only have to ask.

-PMP

A Word for the Month – Hymn



Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph.5:18-20)

Wine or hymns? We do not often think of one as a substitute for the other. But it was good to remind the church in Ephesus that singing could produce inebriation – one that was healthy, a sign of their new life in Christ.

We all know what a hymn is, though we might disagree about the borderline between a hymn and a “spiritual song”. How would we define it, though? “Something we sing in church” is not enough. Indeed, such hymns as “Let all the world in every corner sing my God and King” were written for private devotion rather than public worship. We can sing hymns anywhere, “in our hearts”, and as for singing in church, besides hymns, there is a whole galaxy of ecclesiastical musical terms – proses, antiphons, doxologies, chorales, tropes, sequences, and so on. Some of these are:

- ◇ psalms: songs from the Old Testament, originally sung by one person or many, to the sound of a psalter (a harp-like instrument);
- ◇ canticles: similar songs from scripture, such as Mary's *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55);
- ◇ anthems: words sung usually by a choir – they were originally sung as a series of responses (antiphons, from which the name comes) (national anthems are a special use of the word!);
- ◇ chants: words sung originally to make them more audible in large churches, but nowadays more often short and simple verses used in the worship of monastic communities such as Taizé or Iona;
- ◇ choruses: easily-sung, short, often repetitious, bursts of prayer or praise, usually sung by the whole congregation.

Hymns are mostly longer songs, giving praise to God. They can be very personal (“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.”, “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise”, “Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see”) or completely impersonal (“Praise to the Holiest in the height”) - the common element is wonder at God's goodness and grace.

There is no fixed dividing line that says “this is a hymn and that is something else.” “Good King Wenceslas” is a carol, but do the two lines at the end which assert that Christian men possessing wealth or rank who “now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing”, or the fact that it was written by J.M. Neale, who wrote many hymns, turn it into a hymn? “Abba, Father, let me be yours and yours alone” is a song, but is it only its short length that stops us from calling it a hymn?

We know from the New Testament that hymns formed a part of Christian worship from the earliest times. Bible scholars have suggested that some of the earliest hymns are quoted in the New Testament itself – for example, in Ephesians 5:14, we find:

*Therefore it says,
‘Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.*

This obviously quotes some other work – a hymn-book, an order of service, what is “it”? (Other examples are 1 Tim. 3:16 and Rev 5:13.)

Christians in every century have composed and sung hymns. Some early hymns – the *Gloria* and the *Te Deum*, which we do not usually think of as hymns – have passed into our liturgy. Others are in our hymn books (“Hail, gladdening light” in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* dates from the third or fourth century). In England, the Reformation temporarily reduced the range of hymns available in church (the Church of England cultivated the singing of the psalms and canticles in prose, other traditions created metrical versions of these with varying degrees of success (“The Lord’s my shepherd” and “All people that on earth do dwell” were the most successful). The *Book of Common Prayer* contained only one hymn (Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire).)

Hymns came into their own in the eighteenth century, when writers like Isaac Watts and John and Charles Wesley used them effectively in public worship. The Church of England lost its reluctance to sing hymns only at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but since then, they have grown to have a major place in worship.

One of the more attractive aspects of today’s hymns is their compelling tunes, which express the joy and dignity of worship. A hymn tune can bring us nearer to God, quite independently of the words. But the words are also a vehicle for bringing us into God’s presence, and we do well to read them with care (one sometimes wishes the writers had shown equal care!). Through them, we can sing God’s praises and indeed be filled not with wine but with the Holy Spirit.

- *Hector Davie*

Quotable Quotes

Shortly before she died, Jackie Hediger sent out the following email and we quote it here in memory of her.

A Beautiful Parable

A woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognise them. She said, "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat."

"Is the man of the house home?" they asked.

"No," she replied, "he's out."

"Then we cannot come in," they replied.

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened.

"Go, tell them I am home and invite them in."

The woman went out and invited the men in.

"We do not go into a house together," they said.

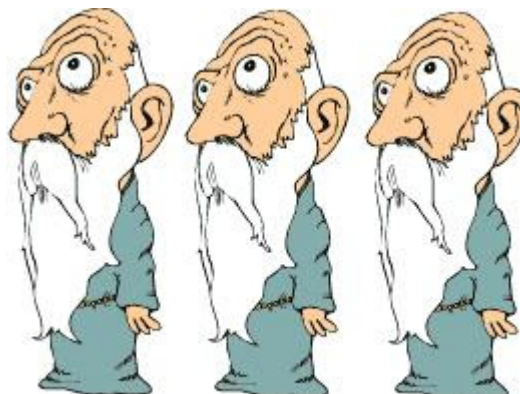
"Why is that?", she asked.

One of the men explained: "His name is Wealth," he said, pointing to one of his friends, and pointing to another one, "He is Success, and I am Love." Then he added, "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. "How nice!" he said. "Since this is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!"

His wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success?"

Their daughter-in-law was listening in the corner. She jumped in with her own suggestion. "Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love."



"Let us heed our daughter-in-law's advice," said the husband. "Go out and invite Love to be our guest."

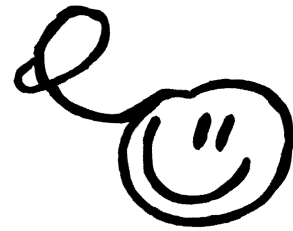
The wife went out and asked the three old men, "Which of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest."

Love got up and started walking towards the house and the other two got up and followed him. Surprised, the woman asked Wealth and Success, "Why are you coming in? I only invited Love."

The old men replied together, "If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would have stayed outside. But since you invited Love, wherever he goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success."

- Dorothy Beriger

Cecily's Fund – a chance to see for yourself



Basil Eastwood will be leading a group of supporters of Cecily's Fund for a week's visit to its programmes in Zambia from 29 June to 7 July 2012. This is an opportunity to see first-hand the impact of the Fund's support for orphans and vulnerable children, and to gain a greater understanding of its plans for continued support of the communities with which they work.

The basic trip is likely to cost some £2000 per person (including direct return BA flights, insurance, visas, transport in Zambia, accommodation, food and drinks – Cecily's Fund asks that everyone takes financial responsibility for their part).

Having come so far, you may want to add on a few days in Livingstone to see Victoria Falls and, perhaps, do a day safari.

If you are interested in joining Basil's group or would like to discuss further, please drop Basil a line directly (by email stableyard@aol.com or telephone 01869 345792). Clearly this is something that you may want time to think about before committing yourself definitely, but Cecily's Fund needs to make bookings soon.

Chaplain's Notes

Counting Christmas

Our numbers at Christmas showed a healthy increase in 2011. Altogether over 300 people attended our services in St Ursula's and Thun (Göttibach).

The decision to hold "Midnight" Mass earlier had a positive effect and the Carol Service on Christmas morning, which proved popular when we tried it in 2010, attracted even more people this time. A new venture was the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and, here again, attendance was encouraging.

Giving was also generous and, as a result we raised Fr5702.20 for Tear Fund. The Heiliggeist carol service raised Fr2950.70, split between Cecily's Fund and the *Passantenhilfe*. The Thun carol service raised Fr540 for Cecily's Fund.

Extra services mean more people on duty (or some people doing extra duties). I should like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our Christmas celebrations such a success.

Guest Preacher

Fr Peter Feenstra has visited St Ursula's on a number of occasions. He has a part-time post at the Old Catholic Church in Burgdorf but has recently been given permission by the Bishop to officiate in our diocese too. I have invited him to preach on Sunday 5 February and we look forward to welcoming him.

Synod Matters

The General Synod of the Church of England is meeting in London from 6 to 10 February. It will be an important meeting. Not only is Synod debating the final drafting of the legislation to consecrate women as bishops, it will also be asked to approve amendments to the Diocese in Europe Measure. This provides the legal basis for our diocese to function and the new measure will authorise the Church Commissioners to make payments to the diocese from central funds. This money is to be used for mission, in particular to enable the diocese to create four posts for full-time archdeacons. Please keep Bishop Geoffrey and our other representatives in your prayers.

Celebrating Commitment

The Sunday nearest St Valentine's Day is part of Marriage Week. We shall be making this the theme of our 10.00 service again this year on 12 February. It is



an occasion to give thanks for the institution of marriage and for marriages that are important to you (your own, that of parents, friends etc). Last year some of the ladies wore their hats to church. Now is your chance to do it again. For more information about Marriage Week, see <http://www.marriageweek.ch>

Forward to Lent

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, on 22 February. There will be a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes in St Ursula's at 18.30. The ash is made from last year's palm crosses, so please bring yours back to church from 5 February onwards.



Our **Lent Course** will explore the problem of evil – a topic that crops up again and again as an objection to belief. The course booklet is written by Prof Mike Higton of Exeter University and it gives us plenty of material to answer anyone who challenges us on the subject.

There will be two parallel sessions, one on Friday lunchtime starting on 2 March and one at 19.30 on Fridays starting on 24 February. Both will consist of five units. Dates under For Your Diary.

Lent is a time to be mindful of our obligations, so I trust we will have a good turnout at these events.

Next to Godliness?

Yes, it is cleanliness but I think tidiness must run it a close second. Unfortunately our premises have not been looking as tidy as they could lately. Our halls are heavily used, so the fault is not all down to St Ursula's folk. But when our weekly news sheets, service sheets, Junior Church material etc are left lying about then some of the blame must be ours.

Please set a good example and keep your St Ursula's tidy.

Interfaith Exploration

Canon Douglas Pratt is well known to us now as a visiting preacher. He is also a leading authority on interfaith dialogue and has kindly agreed to give a lecture for us next time he is in Berne. Every week there is something in the news that touches on the importance of this issue.

Douglas will be speaking in the afternoon of Saturday 24 March in St Ursula's Hall. Please make a note of the date and look out for further details.

Electoral Roll Revision

Each year our Electoral Roll is revised just before the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM we elect representatives to the church council and also the churchwardens.

In order to vote at these elections, you **must** be on the Electoral Roll. You must also be on the Electoral Roll if you would like to stand for election yourself.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, may I encourage you to consider joining. You can find an application form in the church hall or on our website (<http://www.stursula.ch/Forms/ERApp.pdf>) or you can contact the church office to get one. Please fill in this form and return it to me. The **closing date** for the receipt of applications is **Monday 5 March**.

If you are not sure whether you are already on the Electoral Roll, please look at the list on the church noticeboard in the hall or ask me.

If you have questions about the Electoral Roll or are unsure whether to join please speak to me or a member of council.

- *Tricia Carrick (Electoral Roll Officer)*

Youth Coordinator Announcement



Some happy and some sad news: our Youth Coordinator Mary McKinley is pregnant! She and her husband are expecting a little one in late June, and this of course means we need to find a new Youth Coordinator. In the last year, the youth programme has picked up a lot of momentum. It's very important to keep the programme active and engaging for the teens, as well as for there to be a smooth transition between coordinators. So, if you are interested, or know someone that might be right for the job, please contact the church, or speak directly to Father Peter or Mary to find out more about the position.

- *Mary McKinley*

Shrove Tuesday = Pancakes

It is a tradition in the UK to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday – the day before Lent begins.

You are invited to drop in at the church hall from **19.00 on Tuesday 21 February** and participate in this tradition. Pancakes and drinks will be provided. Savoury pancakes with chilli con carne, cheese or cheese and ham will be available. As will sweet pancakes with the traditional sugar and lemon juice. If you would like any other topping please bring it with you.



We would like to welcome everyone, of all ages, to join us. But just to make sure that we have enough food for everyone, please sign up on the list in the hall.

- *Tricia Carrick*

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 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

St Ursula's Charity and Missions Team

For many years St Ursula's Church has set aside 10% of our income from pledges, donations and collections for charitable and missionary work.

The task of the Charity and Mission team is fourfold:

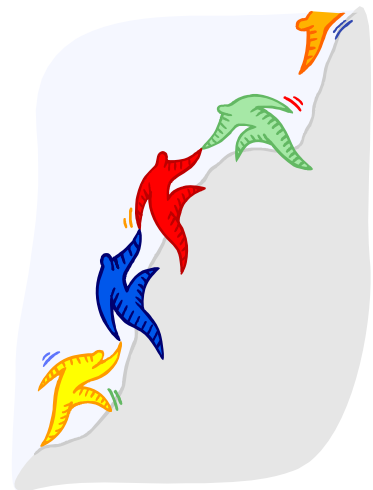
- ◇ *To draw up a proposal towards the end of each year for council as to how to allocate these funds*
- ◇ *To keep in contact with the organisations we are supporting*
- ◇ *To pass on news to our church family about the organisations through articles in the church magazine, displays in the church hall or by direct contact*
- ◇ *To help our church family pray faithfully for the people we support with our gifts*

Our aim is to update you about one of our missions through our bi-monthly magazine articles as well as displays on the hall notice board. We very much encourage and appreciate the prayer support of our church family. We also encourage groups or individuals in our church congregation to specifically support one of our church charities or organisations. For example, we have an active Friends of Cecily's Fund team here at St Ursula's, which organises events such as the Pumpkin Lunch for additional fund raising and information.

For the last three years we have helped plan a Sunday worship service with a focus on our Missions, which we invite our charities and organisations to attend. By the time this magazine comes out, we will just have had our Missions Sunday and Pot Luck meal on 29 January.

Weekly prayer focuses to help you pray specifically are sometimes included in our magazine articles. If you look on the Charity and Missions notice board in the church hall in March, you can see some of the letters of thanks received from many of our charities and organisations we support.

If you would like more information about any of our charities or missions please do contact one of the Charity and Mission team members (Peter Potter, Esther Funkhouser-Hutchison, Donna Goepfert, Cecily Klingler, Hector Davie and Pieter Perrett).



Local Charity or Mission Organisations supported by St Ursula's

- ◇ Partners (Partner Sein, Old Catholic Relief Organisation), with whom we work together closely
- ◇ AKIB Passantenhilfe, Heilsarmee (Seev Levi) is run on behalf of the Bernese churches by the Salvation Army, offering advice and support to people locally without fixed homes
- ◇ Zentrum 5
- ◇ Discretionary (to be used locally by Chaplain)

Regional Charity or Mission Organisations

- ◇ Family Life Mission: Piotr and Mariola Wołochowicz and their team train men and women in Christian family life in Warsaw, Poland
- ◇ Train a Priest Fund

International Charity or Mission Organisations

- ◇ Church Mission Society
- ◇ United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, whose projects cover everything from wells for villagers to bicycles and books for evangelists
- ◇ Refuge Egypt: All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt, the Anglican community in Cairo and their "Helping Program", now called Refuge Egypt, work with the refugees there who have fled from persecution in Sudan and elsewhere
- ◇ Children's Convalescent Home founded by Professor da Silva in Talagolla, Ragama in Sri Lanka
- ◇ Street Children's Mission, Thailand, founded by Erwin Gröbli, OMF
- ◇ HLID, Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan
- ◇ Cecily's Fund, Zambia supports and educates Zambian children who have been orphaned by AIDS;
- ◇ Life Skills Project (Sakh'ulutsha), run by Scripture Union, South Africa;
- ◇ TearFund Schweiz (Junior church project)
- ◇ NEW!! Anglican Health Network

Weekly Charity and Mission prayer focuses for February/ March are:

- ◇ Prayer for the local charities or missions we support around Bern
- ◇ Prayer for the regional charities or missions we support in the UK and Poland
- ◇ Prayer for the various international charities and projects we support in Cairo, Jordan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Zambia or globally
- ◇ Pray that our church family may provide generous financial support as well as active and regular prayer support



- Cecily Klingler on behalf of the Charity and Missions Team

Prayer and the Pastoral Team

It has always been in the Pastoral Team's remit to pray for the concerns of the parish and for any individuals. Please feel encouraged to ask for prayer, either for yourself or for someone whom you know.

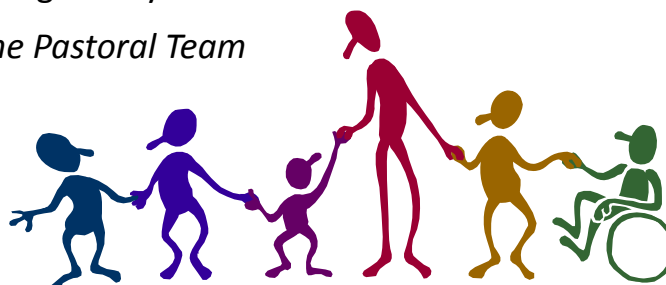
Such prayer might be for strength in difficulties or healing, or in thanksgiving for the safe arrival of a baby, the success of an operation, fears allayed etc. Detail is not necessary. All requests are handled in confidence by the team if you request it.

Please put any requests to me – whichever way suits you and I will make sure the team knows of them.

We shall also be arranging a few evening meetings for prayer, the first of which will be towards the end of March. It will focus on intercessions. Please watch the weekly notices for the date and we hope you will join us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

- Shareene Potter and the Pastoral Team



Choral Evensong at St Ursula's: 17 March

A choral Evensong at St Ursula's Church is planned for 17 March 2012, likely at 5.30 pm (the exact time still needs to be confirmed). It will follow the traditional order of service for such an occasion. The choir will be singing settings of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, the Responses and an Anthem. There will also be three hymns for everyone to join in the singing.

Any interested singers who wish to join the choir for this occasion will be very welcome; they should however attend the regular choir practices on Saturdays at 9.30 am in the church.

There will be a main choir rehearsal on 17 March before the Evensong, in the afternoon from 2.00 until 4.30 pm.

For further information please contact Hans-Karl or Elisabeth Pfyffer .

-Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2012: Basel 28 & 29 April 2012



The traditional annual Archdeaconry Choir Festival will take place in Basel over the weekend 28 / 29 April 2012. A first practice for all singers will be held in the evening of Friday 27 April. There will be an all-day practice on Saturday. A choral Evensong (from about 5.30 – 6.15 pm) will be supported by the joint choirs. On Sunday morning a Communion Service will be held, shared with the Old Catholic Community.

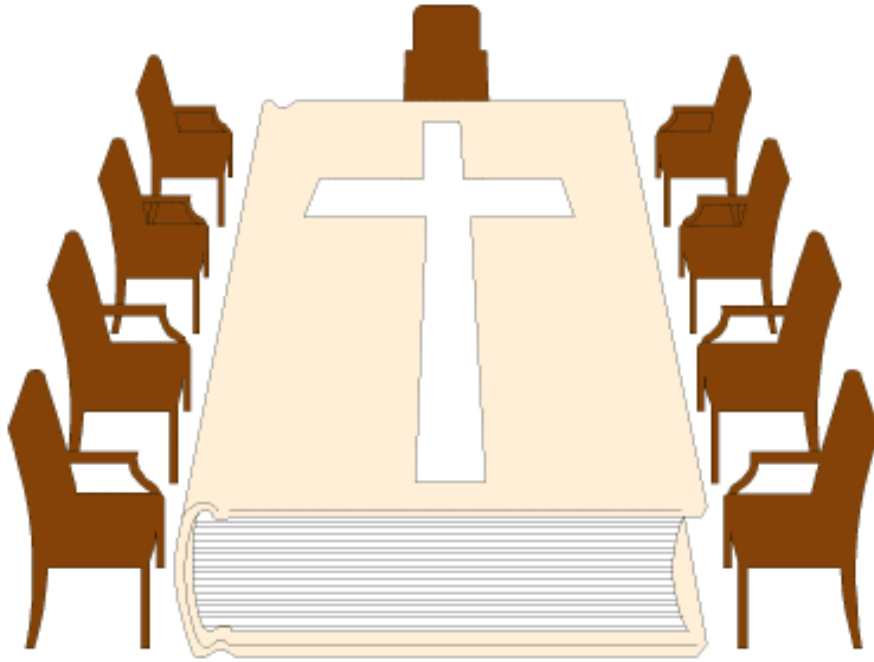
The venue in Basel will be the 'Prediger Kirche' of the Old Catholic Church in Basel. The Festival Music Director will be Mark Duley, who has led two of our Festivals in past years.

St Ursula's Choir will be preparing and practising the music for the Choir Festival at our regular choir practices. Any singers who wish to join the choir for this occasion are very welcome; please let us know as soon as possible. They should attend our choir practices leading up to the Festival (Saturdays 9.30am at the church).

For any further information please contact Hans-Karl or Elisabeth Pfyffer.

-Hans-Karl Pfyffer

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.

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

Calendar of Services

5 February— Third Sunday before Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

12 February – Second Sunday before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist for
Marriage Week
Proverbs 8:1, 22-31
Colossians 1:15-20
John 1:1-14

19 February—Sunday before Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

22 February —Ash Wednesday

18.30 Holy Communion
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

26 February—Lent 1

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Genesis 9:8-17
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

4 March – Lent 2

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Genesis 17:1-7, 15,16
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

11 March – Lent 3

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

18 March – Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)

10.00 Sung Eucharist
1 Samuel 1:20-28
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
John 19:25b-27

25 March – Lent 5

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



Prayer Diary

February 2012

- 1 **Brigid, abbess** members of religious communities
- 2 **The Feast of the Presentation** women who have recently had a baby
- 3 **Anskar, archbishop** chaplaincies in northern Germany and Scandinavia
- 4 Saturday the missions we support
- 5 **Sunday** our links with the Old Catholic Church in Switzerland
- 6 Monday Christians in Japan
- 7 Tuesday the General Synod meeting this week
- 8 Wednesday transport workers
- 9 Thursday places in the news this week
- 10 Friday colleagues and neighbours
- 11 Saturday safety on the ski slopes
- 12 **Sunday** National Marriage Week
- 13 Monday people who have lost a spouse
- 14 **Valentine, martyr** couples preparing for marriage
- 15 Wednesday people facing difficulty in their marriage
- 16 Thursday The Mothers Union
- 17 Friday people caring for a spouse at home
- 18 Saturday marriage guidance counsellors
- 19 **Sunday** for a sense of awe and wonder at God's ways
- 20 Monday the emergency services
- 21 ShroveTuesday our need for forgiveness
- 22 **Ash Wednesday** a faithful keeping of Lent
- 23 **Polycarp, martyr** victims of religious hatred
- 24 Friday our Lent course
- 25 Saturday seasonal chaplaincies in ski resorts
- 26 **Sunday** acceptance of our obligations as Christians
- 27 **George Herbert** hymn writers and composers
- 28 Tuesday the Train a Priest (TAP) Fund
- 29 Wednesday new members of our congregation

March 2012

- 1 **David, bishop** the people and churches of Wales
- 2 Friday local services for the World Day of Prayer
- 3 Saturday St Ursula's book and food sale
- 4 **Sunday** getting our priorities right with God
- 5 Monday those who have hurt us
- 6 Tuesday the Bishop's Lent Appeal (Finland)
- 7 Wednesday local schools and colleges
- 8 Thursday people in the news this week
- 9 Friday the housebound
- 10 Saturday the Neuchâtel church
- 11 **Sunday** today's Lenten lunch
- 12 Monday AGCK (the national ecumenical council)
- 13 Tuesday young people doing military service
- 14 Wednesday peoples of the Arab nations
- 15 Thursday the unemployed
- 16 Friday local hospitals and doctors' practices
- 17 **Patrick, bishop** the people and churches of Ireland
- 18 **Sunday** the Church family
- 19 **Joseph** adoptive parents
- 20 Tuesday the United Nations and its agencies
- 21 **Thomas Cranmer, archbishop** the Church's common prayer
- 22 Thursday the Bishop's Lent Appeal (Peru)
- 23 Friday the Old Catholic Theology Department in Berne
- 24 Saturday interfaith relations
- 25 **Sunday** today's AGM
- 26 **The Annunciation** that we too may "magnify the Lord"
- 27 Tuesday the city and cantonal governments
- 28 Wednesday churches in our neighbourhood
- 29 Thursday medical researchers
- 30 Friday a just sharing of the earth's resources
- 31 Saturday groups who use our church hall

For Your Diary February & March 2012



Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30 - 10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice

Other Events

Wednesday 1 February	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Thursday 2 February	19.30	Contemplative Prayer at Liebefeld
Tuesday 7 February	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 8 February	19.30	Ecumenical House Group (Liebefeld)
Wednesday 15 February	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Sunday 12 February	10.00	Confirmation Class
	12.00	TAC (Teens' Activity Club) Event
Thursday 16 February	19.30	Contemplative Prayer at Liebefeld
Sunday 19 February	10.00	Youth Group
Tuesday 21 February	19.00	Pancake Evening
Friday 24 February	19.30	Lent Group
Sunday 26 February	10.00	Youth Group
Thursday 1 March	19.30	Contemplative Prayer at Liebefeld
Friday 2 March	12.00	Lent Group
Saturday 3 March	10.00 – 14.00	Book & Food Sale
Sunday 4 March	10.00	Confirmation Class
Tuesday 6 March	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 7 March	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Wednesday 7 March	19.30	Ecumenical House Group (Liebefeld)
Friday 9 March	12.00	Lent Group

Friday 9 March	19.30	Lent Group
Sunday 11 March		COPY DATE
	10.00	Youth Group
	12.00	Lenten Soup Lunch
Thursday 15 March	19.30	Contemplative Prayer at Liebefeld
Friday 16 March	12.00	Lent Group
	19.30	Lent Group
Saturday 17 March	17.30	Choral Evensong
Sunday 18 March		Mothering Sunday
	10.00	Confirmation Class
	12.00	TAC (Teens' Activity Club) Event
Wednesday 21 March	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Wednesday 21 March	19.30	Ecumenical House Group (Liebefeld)
Thursday 22 March	09.00 - 11.00	Collating
Friday 23 March	12.00	Lent Group
	19.30	Lent Group
Saturday 24 March	10.00	Children's Toy & Equipment Sale
	14.30	Lecture by Canon Douglas Pratt
Sunday 25 March	10.00	Confirmation Class
	10.00	Youth Group
	12.00	St Ursula's AGM
Friday 30 March	12.00	Lent Group
	19.30	Lent Group

Future Dates

Monday 16 April	Pastoral Prayer Evening
Sunday 22 April	TAC (Teens' Activity Club) Event
Saturday 28 April - Sunday 29 April	Archdeaconry Choir Festival in Basle
Sunday 13 May	TAC (Teens' Activity Club) Event
Saturday 16 June	Summer Fête

Youth Confirmation Class

The class for confirmation preparation for young people is going well. The young people are committed and seem to enjoy the course.

The Sunday sessions finished with a highlight in December when we held a mock trial with a special visitor – an envoy from Rome who came to Jerusalem to find out about this new cult of “Christians”. The young people took the parts of early Christians. They prepared their parts well and spoke convincingly. It was a fun and instructive way to end the year.

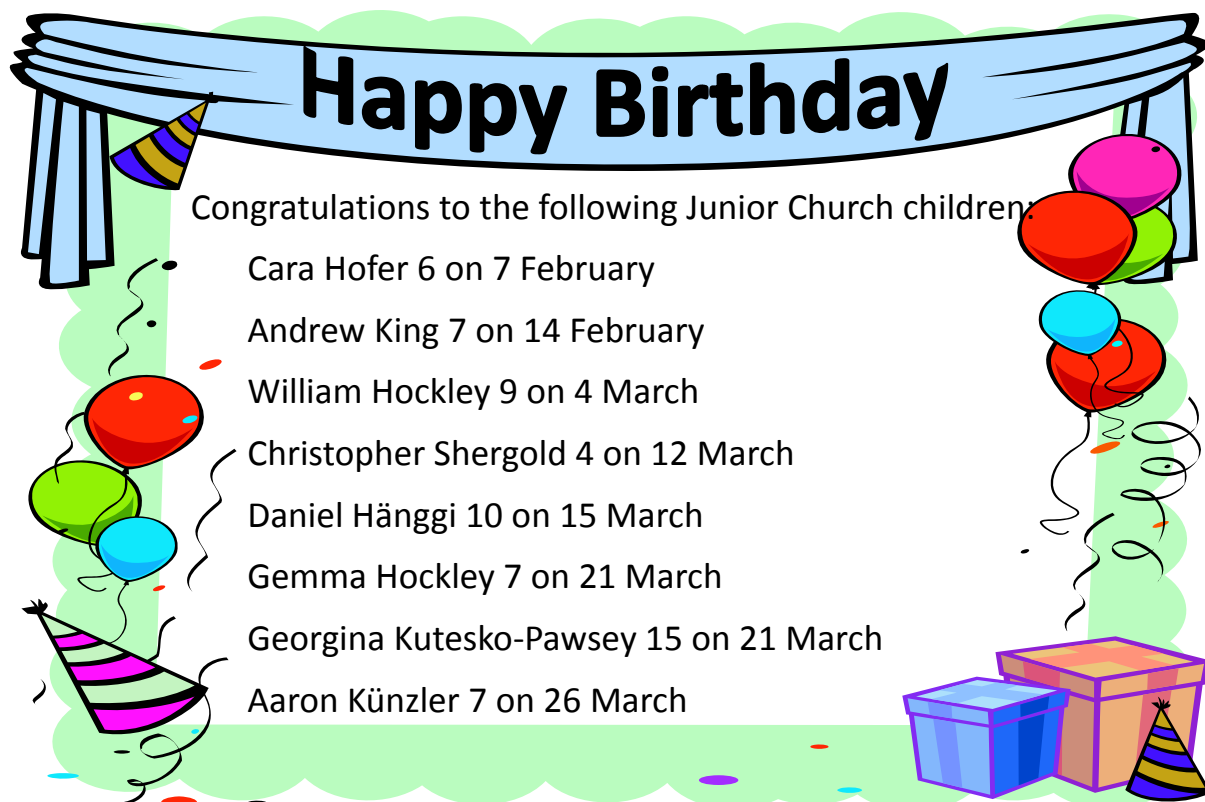
Several members of the group took part in the Nativity Service on 11 December – playing instruments or acting in the play. We were all delighted to have them involved.

In January, the focus was on “The Trinity”, firstly discussing what we understand about “The Trinity” and secondly looking at some of the creeds which express our Trinitarian faith. This ends the first Sunday block, where we were talking about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit,

In February and March, the Sunday sessions focus on prayer.

Please continue to pray for all those involved in this group: the young people, their families and the leaders.

- Tricia Carrick



Congratulations to the following Junior Church children:

- Cara Hofer 6 on 7 February
- Andrew King 7 on 14 February
- William Hockley 9 on 4 March
- Christopher Shergold 4 on 12 March
- Daniel Hänggi 10 on 15 March
- Gemma Hockley 7 on 21 March
- Georgina Kutesko-Pawsey 15 on 21 March
- Aaron Künzler 7 on 26 March

Book & Food Sale: Saturday 3 March

10.00 - 14.00



Please join us on 3 March for our super selection of British foods including fine British Cheeses from



“The Cheeseman” and a huge range of second hand books and DVDs in English. A restaurant will be open throughout the sale serving delicious snacks and lunches. Please use the flyer that came with this magazine to advertise this event amongst your friends and colleagues.

See you on 3 March!

- *Jana Kutesko*

Your Magazine Bill

There is a payment slip enclosed with this issue of the magazine. The subscription is **Fr 20** including postage within Switzerland (Fr 30 for other countries) for the whole of 2012. You can help us by

- ◇ paying as soon as possible. This simplifies our accounting.
- ◇ paying directly from your bank or post office account. This saves the cost of paying in over the counter (you don't pay this – we have to!)
- ◇ paying a little more. The Fr 20 covers the basic cost of the magazine, but some of the resources used to produce it are part of our infrastructure, and we are always glad to receive contributions to our basic costs. Or course, if you regularly pick up your magazine from the church on the last Sunday of the month, you save us Fr 4.25 in postage, so you may “pay a little less”.

If you receive a complimentary copy, or think you are entitled to one, please ignore this request!

If you wish to pay for someone else, please tell the Treasurer (Hector Davie (031 971 2771)) so that he can keep our records straight.

Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld



Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld

Dates: 8 February, 22 February, 7 March, 21 March
(Wednesdays)

Starting at 19.30

Please contact Brian and Lynn Morgan for details.

Contemplative Prayer in Liebefeld

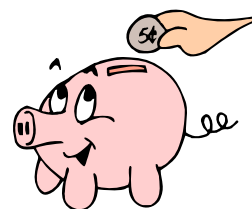
Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld

Dates: 2 February, 16 February, 1 March, 15 March, 29 March (Thursdays)

Starting at 19.30

Please contact Brian and Lynn Morgan for details.

Our Finances – Your Finances



This is the time of year when I take stock of what has happened during 2011. First estimates show that the year has been successful, but we have dug deeply into our reserves in carrying out necessary refurbishment in the hall and in church house. The hall, in particular, was rebuilt some 20 years ago, and is showing signs of its age. 2012 will see some essential maintenance, which will eat further into our reserves, and, if these are not enough, will have to be met by an appeal to you all.

In the meantime, I am preparing acknowledgements of your donations, not just to express the church's thanks, but also for tax purposes. If they arrive late, or have errors, let me know! Remember, the charitable association which looks after our buildings, our giving to outside charities and our pastoral work is a *gemeinnütziger Verein*, and donations to it are tax-deductible. The church itself is not (though the news may not have reached your local *Steuerverwaltung!*).

- *The Treasurer*



Lunch Invitation in Lent



We would like to invite you to our

Traditional Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund

At: St Ursula's, Jubiläumsplatz 2

Date: Sunday, 11 March 2012

Time: from 12.00 to 13.30

Please join us for an informal lunch of delicious homemade 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.

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

www.cecilysfund.org

Cecily's Fund is registered charity no. 1071660

Junior Church News

Nativity Service

The highlight of December was the Nativity Service. Members of the Youth Group acted in the “Great Manger Mystery” where the animals find a baby in their manger in their barn. This was a great introduction to the traditional telling of how the baby got to be there. Many of our Junior Church children took part – acting, reading, singing or playing an instrument. It was a great celebration of the birth of Jesus.



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, starting with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church before going to its own classes. However, the various classes do different things:

Sparklers return to church every Sunday at the Peace.

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

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

Teaching

In January, we looked at the story of the magi's visit to the Christ child which leads us into the green growing time of the Season after the Epiphany. Words guide us on the path of this season – words of affirmation, call and response, spirit-filled words spoken with authority, and the words and work of Jesus proclaimed throughout Galilee.

22 February is Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent. In this season we hear some well-known stories of God's promises from the Hebrew Scriptures: Noah, Abram and Sarai. And we think about God's deep, steadfast love. The colour purple is the symbolic colour for this season, but the colours of the rainbow are also included as a powerful reminder of God's promises.

Activity Club

The Junior Church Activity Club continues to meet approximately once a month for fun activities, some of which are also aimed to serve others. Please contact Françoise Hänggi (031 802 10 05) for more information.

TAC (Teen Activity Club)

This is the new name for the 12 – 15 youth group. The group started in 2011 and is going well. In January the outing to the Communications Museum was a lot of fun, especially trying out different ways of communicating and making stamps.

The next after-church outing is ice-skating on 12 February.

Further dates and more information from Mary McKinley.

- *Tricia Carrick*



Baptism dates in 2012

We offer four Sundays a year for baptisms at St Ursula's, to help with the planning of services. This year the Sundays are :

12 February

27 May

26 August

25 November

There would also be an opportunity for baptisms at the Confirmation Service on 24 June.

We also try to be flexible and can have a baptism on another Sunday, given plenty of notice, if there are special reasons, e.g. family travelling from abroad.

To arrange a baptism, please contact the Church Office (031 352 85 67) or click on the Site Map on the church website.



Children's Second Hand Toy and Equipment Sale

It's back! Our very popular sale will be on Saturday, 24 March from 10.00 – 12.30. There'll be heaps of stalls selling all the equipment, clothes & toys that every parent (or expectant parent!) needs or dreams about at fantastic prices. There's even a café with drinks and snacks – dads and children especially welcome!

For more details please contact the church office.

- Jana Kutesko



Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Calling all church goers! This year's AGM is to be held on **Sunday 25 March at 12.00.** The invitation with the agenda has been included with this magazine. We hope you will be able to make it to this important church meeting!



The meeting will be held in the church, starting at 12.00, and should finish by 14.00 at the latest. Cold drinks will be provided during any break needed to count votes. Please bring a snack if you think you might get hungry. Note that no child care will be provided during the meeting, so parents will have to arrange for this themselves.

Important things happen at the AGM. Besides a full budget update, we elect church wardens and church council members. If you would like to be able to vote at these elections (or perhaps stand for election yourself) you need to be a member of the Electoral Roll. There is more information about the Electoral Roll on page 28 of this magazine.

The nomination sheet will be available in the church hall come March. Please follow the instructions carefully if you wish to nominate someone for election (remember: not everyone who is interested in being on the council is willing to nominate themselves).

If you would like to know more about the various positions (e.g. council member), please speak to one of those currently doing the task – list at the back of this magazine – or come to one of the council meetings as an observer!

If you have other questions please contact me or the chaplain.

- Mary McKinley (Council Secretary)

Jam Jars Needed!

It's marmalade time, so we need jam jars with metal screw top lids – these should be clean inside and out and should have ALL the labels removed. Please, no yogurt pots or jars bigger than 454g in size. The jars can be left in the kitchen.

Many, many thanks!

- *Jana Kutesko*



A Mongolian Guest?

The Swiss Program for Language Instruction and Teacher Training is an educational exchange program working with Mongolian schools and universities. Through this program Mongolian teachers of English are invited for a three-month internship at an International School in Switzerland, after being personally interviewed and selected in Mongolia by the program coordinator. Two interns will be at the International School of Berne this coming fall.

We are now looking for two English-speaking host families willing each to house one younger Mongolian teacher of English during his or her approved 3-month internship at the ISB. The internship will take place from the second week of August to the beginning of November 2012. The interns will be fully integrated in the school and are provided with all necessary insurances, pocket money and a GA pass for all public transportation. The intern will explore the local area and Switzerland independently over weekends and holidays. If you are able to offer one of these interns the opportunity to stay in your home this fall please contact Anita Fahrni at 052 375 1985 or a.fahrni@clinch.ch.



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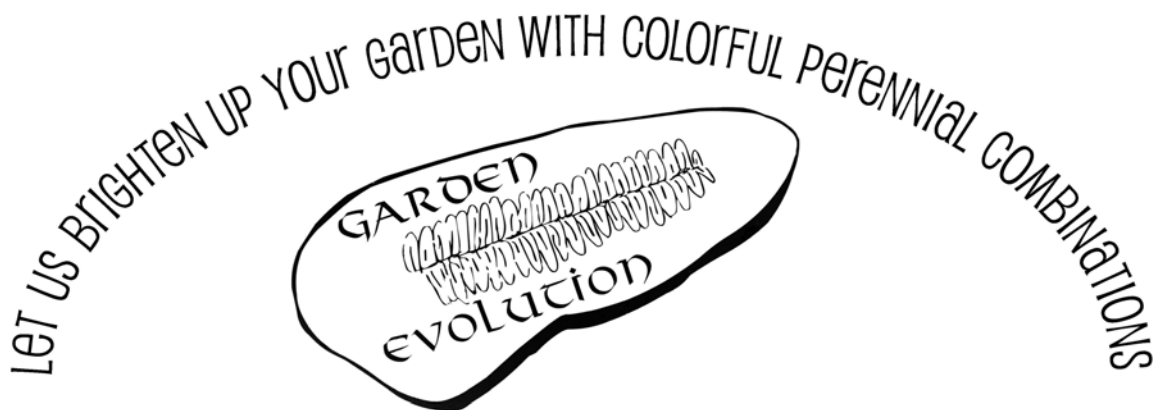
The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes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

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

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Rolf Klingler 031 302 48 59

CATERING COORDINATOR

Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

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Love

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here";
Love said, "You shall be he."
"I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee."
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame
Go where it doth deserve."

"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."

"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."
So I did sit and eat.



By George Herbert (1593-1633), priest and poet. Some of his poems, e.g. *Teach me, my God and King* and *Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing* have become well-loved hymns.

The Church remembers George Herbert on 27 February.

