

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



June - July 2012

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

Chaplain

Ven Peter Potter

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Lay Reader

David Low

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 Sunday of the month, 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



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Table of Contents

Chaplain's Message	2
God's Facebook	3
Quotable Quote	4
Some thoughts on the Holy Spirit and the church	5
St Ursula's Queen's Jubilee Fête	12
FAQ: What is the Church's mission?	13
A Word for the Month- Mystery	14
A Daytime House Group?	15
St Ursula's Day Away	16
Thun Church	16
Prayers for Carers from the Pastoral Team	17
Neuchâtel Church	17
Chaplain's Notes	18
From the Safeguarding Officer	19
Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2012 in Basel	20
Calendar of Services	21
Prayer Diary	22
For Your Diary	24
Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld	25
Junior Church News	26
Youth Confirmation Class	28
Happy Birthday	28
Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund	29
Charity of the Month- USPG	30
Cheers!	32
Photos from Ascension Day Pilgrimage	33
Eine Schweizer Kirche mitten in London	34
Faith, Hope & Reality House Group	35
Our Youth Coordinator's Bittersweet Goodbye	36
Here to Help You	44

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September
magazine is

15 JULY 2012

Please send copy to
magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE

26 JULY 2012

Chaplain's Message

Towards the end of June we shall be welcoming nine people into full membership of the Church through the rite of Confirmation. The Bishop will lay hands on each candidate and pray that the Holy Spirit will *con-firm* (that is, strengthen) each of them with the gifts needed for Christian living.

The work of the Holy Spirit, then, is to form the Church, as he has done ever since that first day of Pentecost. It follows that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not given as personal possessions but are to enable the Church to grow and to further her mission. St Paul makes this abundantly clear in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and elsewhere. It follows equally that the Bible is not primarily a book of instructions for individual behaviour. The Old Testament writers were concerned with the life of the whole nation and the New Testament is similarly concerned with the life of the Church, the new Israel.

Some Christian traditions are suspicious of the Church as an institution. They are wrong. Except in very rare circumstances – or unless you are incredibly saintly – you cannot survive as a Christian outside the Church. In fact, it would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that the Church is a factory for making Christians. The assembly line is a very long one, though, and it takes a lifetime (perhaps longer) before the finished product is ready. In the Gospels, Jesus gave us the blueprint for the process: “Take, eat...Drink this, all of you...Do this in remembrance of me”. This is how God's holy people are made. It's that simple but it takes a lifetime to complete.

Just as getting your *Matura* is not the end of a process but rather a signal that you are ready to go on to a new stage, so Confirmation is a sign that the candidates are ready to take their places in the Church as mature members. The question after Confirmation is not: “What's on offer?” but: “What is my place in the Church?”

This has to be looked at from two sides. For the newly-confirmed member – what are the needs of the Church and what can I offer? For others – how can we encourage these new members to find their place in the Church and accept the gifts they have to offer?

To answer these questions, we all need to pray to receive the gift of discernment from the Holy Spirit.

Peter

God's Facebook

*Where is the life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?*

From *The Rock* by T.S. Eliot



Mark Zuckerberg's contribution to human happiness is neither a face nor a book. In fact to many of us of an older generation, it is not entirely clear what it is. God too is neither a face nor a book, even if Moses was warned that nobody who saw God's face could live, and, it is said, set a pattern for recording our experiences of God in writing.

Facebook is one of several “social media”. A medium is the way something is communicated. In a Christian context, the Bible is a medium by which we learn of God's redemption, the bread and wine of the eucharist are media that bring God's saving grace to us in a real way, prayer is the medium by which we and God talk together.

A lot of people seem happy to devote time to Facebook – a lot of time – and generally more time than they are prepared to devote to reading their bibles, joining with others in worship, or listening to God in prayer. The ability to connect with other people in a virtual world, to read the diary of someone one has never met, living in a country to which one has never been, and to interact in cyberspace, immediately and publicly, seems to grab people far more than fostering their relationship with a redeeming and loving God.

There are things to learn from this. A central feature of Facebook is that one has “friends”, and things that one “likes” (and it is good that disliking is not an option!). The Gospel too is about friends, about Jesus, the friend of sinners, who “laid down his life for his friends”, whose disciples are “no longer servants but friends” (John 15:13-15). But it is also about neighbours – the people we come into contact with in our everyday life.

But contact with our neighbours is actual contact, not just electronic contact. Friendship in a Christian context is about real commitment, not simply a virtual acquaintance on the World Wide Web. Is this the key to Facebook's success – that subscribers can keep themselves at a distance: the sort of distance that cyberspace allows? Many of the postings on Facebook, like the tweets on Twit-

ter, are so trivial they would never have been communicated in pre-internet days. Is this what people want?

Quite possibly it is, and people really do prize information more than knowledge, knowledge more than wisdom (to hark back to T.S. Eliot's lines at the head of this article). But that is no reason to agree with Eliot's conclusion: "The cycles of Heaven in twenty(-one!) centuries / Bring us farther from God and nearer to the Dust." Even if people prefer to see the detail rather than the larger picture, the trees rather than the wood, virtual relationships rather than actual ones, the larger picture still exists, and may even be enriched by the lack of inhibition in the virtual friendships people can form on the Web.

Facebook is only a medium – just as prayer or the Bible are media. It is not only Facebook that can beguile us into living in a virtual world rather than a real one. Modern technology provides a host of ways we can shut ourselves off from reality and live in a dream world of fantasy – though even prayer or the Bible, if misused, can lead people into a dangerous virtual world and separate them from the reality of loving God, their neighbours and themselves (think of the weirder prophecies that people have come up with through misreading the Book of Revelation!)

God and Facebook are not completely separate, but there is a chasm between the real world where God works and the virtual world where the social media become an end in themselves. Our task as Christians is to bridge that chasm by using these media wisely, to turn virtual information into real wisdom, and in the process, to create real relationships, with God (than whom nothing can be more real) and with our neighbours.

- *Hector Davie*

Quotable Quote



Die Ros ist ohn Warum

There is no why about a rose; it blooms because it blooms; is not aware of itself and does not ask if anybody sees it.

Angelus Silesius

- *Dorothy Beriger*

Some thoughts on the Holy Spirit and the Church

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:15-17, 14:26 NIV)

David Warren was a young boy of 9 years when he lost his Dad in the Bass Strait air crash in 1934. It was one of the first air crashes in the history of Australia and caused David Warren to grow up without having his father as a role model. We don't know how deeply this life-changing incident might have influenced him to become a scientist and work at the Aeronautical Research Laboratory in Melbourne.

In the 1950's a number of Comet jet-powered airliners had crashed and a cause for the disasters could not be found. David Warren, who was holding a doctor title by now, was given the task to investigate the cause for the disaster. During his investigation Dr. Warren came to the conclusion that it would have been much easier to find the cause for the crash with the help of a machine which would record the voices and instrument readings in the cockpit of an airplane. His idea didn't get much attention from anyone. Nevertheless Dr. Warren kept working on that simple idea. Some years later he was able to produce a prototype of the device. Still, nobody noticed the importance of his invention. But history has proven that the invention was indeed important to human kind. Today, every airline in the world has a flight recorder (so called "Black Box") fitted to their aircraft. These recording devices cost between \$10'000 - \$15'000 each and reveal details of the events immediately preceding an accident.

The Holy Spirit is a vital part of our life

Likewise we also have the Holy Spirit in us, which could be compared to a flight recorder. The Holy Spirit lives in us and records our voice, our "flight parameters" (e.g. thoughts, actions, words, plans, dreams) as well as the influences from the surrounding environment (e.g. interaction with friends, tragedies which directly affect or influence us, temptations). The Holy Spirit knows everything about us and can tell us which flight parameter is not set right and will cause us trouble.

The Holy Spirit recycles the garbage in our life

Just as a Black Box can reveal the cause of an airplane crash, the Holy Spirit reveals to us the cause of a "crashed" life. He convicts us of sin as the Bible says in John 16:8. This might sound uncomfortable in the first place but is an important function. Without being convicted of being guilty we would never be able to repent or attempt to overcome our weaknesses. At the same time overcoming weakness would remain a mere human attempt which is condemned to fail - were it not for the help of the Holy Spirit. We need the same power of the Holy Spirit which created life on earth to create a pure heart in us. This refreshing process is something which will never end. As long as we live in this sinful world we will be in desperate need of His renewing power.

The Holy Spirit existed long before Pentecost

In the creation story in Genesis we read that the Spirit of God was moving on the surface of the formless earth. This indicates that the Holy Spirit didn't just appear on the day of Pentecost (out of nowhere). In the bible we have several passages before the day of Pentecost where certain people are mentioned who have had the Holy Spirit upon them.

About Gideon (Judges 6:34) and Samson (Judges 13:25, Judges 14:6) it is stated in the bible that they both had the Spirit of the Lord upon them at least at some point in their life. Also King Saul and David experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life:

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him [David] in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. 1 Samuel 16:13-14.

The Holy Spirit helps to make ready a people prepared for the Lord

John the Baptist had the Holy Spirit resting upon him even before his birth. We also see why he had the Holy Spirit resting upon him - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. (Luke 1:13-17)

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray:

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26 NIV)

The Holy Spirit puts the commandments in our hearts and writes them on our minds

The Holy Spirit testifies to us, that Jesus' sacrifice was what we needed to be cleansed. Satan can't claim us to be his people anymore.

This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. (Hebrews 10:16-18 NIV)

The Holy Spirit helps us to speak the truth in boldness:

Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. (Mark 13:11 NIV)

We see the boldness of the Apostle Peter in Acts 2:4-39 where he addresses a very devout (difficult) crowd of God-fearing Jews in Jerusalem. All of us know, that devout people firmly believing in something are hard to convince. Peter being merely a fisherman is still able to speak to them and convince them with the help of the Holy Spirit— and 3000 new believers were added to their number! In Acts 3:6 Peter heals a man in the name of Jesus Christ. Annas the high priest and the other men of the high priest's family question Peter concerning this act to which he answered them boldly. Acts 4:13 says, that when they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, Annas and his companions were astonished. How was this possible after all if not by the power of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit can be grieved.

The Holy Spirit is a powerful and priceless gift indeed. God wants us to be good stewards of His gifts to us. We should consider what happens if we carelessly ignore or deliberately grieve the Holy Spirit.

Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. (Matthew 12:32 NIV)

We see a striking example in Acts 5: 1-11. We are told in the previous chapter, that all the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. There was a certain couple though who sold a piece of property. They knowingly kept back part of the money for themselves but lied that this was the full price they had received. We see that Peter made the point that there was no obligation to share the full money but with their lie they had sinned against the Holy Spirit:

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing

such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God. When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. [...] About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died.

The Holy Spirit is a guarantee / seal

Above all the Holy Spirit is like a guarantee.

Without Him we would be an easy prey to Satan as he would be able to corrupt us beyond measure. If you have an electronic device and it goes "wrong" within the warranty period the manufacturer will replace it. The same way the Holy Spirit is the guarantee - a promise left to us that He is there to guard us against corruption:

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (2 Timothy 1:14 NIV)

Kings used to use their unique seal to issue decrees. God uses his seal - the Holy Spirit - to mark us as God's people. He deposited his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, as he wants to assure and guarantee to us what the future holds for us.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NIV)

The future doesn't hold good things for us, if we should lack the seal of God.

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (Book of Revelation 9:1-4 NIV)

Hence having the Holy Spirit on us is a real joy and a promise of God's saving power.

The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

At Pentecost we celebrate that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples and a group of believers. But why is that important? Throughout the bible we see

many examples of people who have received the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless it seems to be no reason for us to celebrate today. Then why is Pentecost so important for us?

Pentecost is believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, the story of Pentecost dates back to the first century A.D. Pentecost coincided with the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover. According to Jewish tradition the feast was a time to honour the Lord for blessing them with a rich harvest. During that time they would bring him a voluntary offering in proportion to the blessings they had received. Since this Jewish holiday took place at the same time as Pentecost, many devout Jews happened to be in Jerusalem at that time. As 120 worshippers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. As written above Peter was only able to address this difficult crowd of devout Jews with the help and the power of the Holy Spirit.

According to Acts, with this event the church came into being on the day of Pentecost. From the crowd of Jews and converts, 3'000 people realized the truth of Peter's words and became followers of Jesus.

How was life in the first church?

In Acts 2:44-47 we read that all the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold their possessions and goods and shared with anyone who was in need. It is also remarkable that they continued to meet together in the temple courts every day - and not just Sundays! They had fellowship and communion together and it is explicitly stated that they ate together with glad and sincere hearts. That suggests that there was no jealousy or gossiping in that community. There was not the question about who was greater. They were glad and sincere, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. What a joy that must have been! We read of a community which was one in heart and soul. And the best thing is that God added to their number daily those who were being saved - so they were a growing community. But of course they also had some disagreements about whether or not they should accept certain groups of people who were not Jewish. The Apostle Peter comes to this conclusion after conferring with the other Apostles and elders:

God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and

them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are. (Act 15:8-11 NIV)

It's remarkable that the Apostle Peter confers with the other Apostles and the elders. After all the disciples of Jesus used to always argue about who is holding the greatest position amongst them (Luke 9:46-48). But finally we see that Jesus' death and resurrection had a life-changing impact on the disciples. They have become one unit which concentrates on following Jesus. On the other hand it was actually very vital that they would reach that state. Otherwise the church might have split groups of people away until no one would be remaining.

So we see the earliest church leaders as well as the church itself experienced a strong unity.

How is life in the church today?

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12 the Apostle Paul writes about the different kinds of spiritual gifts which had been poured out on the church of Corinth. He states that all these different kinds of gifts or service come from the same Spirit. It's also remarkable to see that these gifts are given for the common good and not to hurt other people. If someone makes coffee and does that really well they are doing a great service to God and the church. But if they use the same coffee to pour it over people they don't like there is no common good in that. I believe that the church council members have the gift of administration as they need to organise such work. But suppose the council just uses the administration to make people's lives harder and invent new rules. I think we all would agree that the council wouldn't be serving the common good then. Paul also makes the point, that the Holy Spirit decides which spiritual gift and to which extent He wants to pour out His gift on someone. As many people would agree not everyone is gifted with singing. But the Apostle Paul gives valuable advice to the church in Corinth which directly applies to us too:

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he (God) wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has

combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:18-27 NIV)

In fact in the next chapter the Apostle Paul warns us, that having a gift but lacking love (and respect) for others is useless. (1 Corinthians 13:1-10)

I think we all agree that there are many topics which cause controversies in the wider church. Things like whether or not women bishops should be allowed, if blessing homosexual relationships is alright etc. But in the end, as we all know, there is only one foolproof way of keeping the church true to Jesus' teaching:

Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. (Isaiah 8:20 NIV)

But above that we should also check if there are issues in our church - particularly in our congregation - which cause trouble for the unity and oneness of God's church.

Do we really appreciate each and every one who does a service around the church or do we belittle them? Do we uplift the person who cleans the church, who rings the bell, who lights the candle, who prepares the coffee, who maintains the garden and who safeguards the interest of the children?

Are we sharing our possession e.g. gift of selecting the right kind of music, creating slides for the beamer, making coffee, offering prayers, teaching etc. with everyone? Do we like to share and get others involved? Do we care whether the congregation is enjoying what we are doing or is our gift just a means to satisfy ourselves?

Are we happy to see the congregation? Do we keep the congregation in our prayers every day or only on Sundays? Do we gossip about members whom we don't like that much? Do we intentionally not help people because our time and energy and money are "too valuable"? Do we have glad and sincere hearts when we take communion together or are we gleaning over to the next person and thinking how bad and unworthy they are actually?

During this feast of Pentecost as we remember the Church's birthday, let us therefore firmly resolve to be united in love for Jesus Christ with all our brothers and sisters in our congregation as well as in the world. May the Holy Spirit guard us and protect us from falling short from this resolution.

- A. Chittazhathu



St Ursula's
Queen's Jubilee Fête
16 June 10.00 – 15.00

This year's super summer fête is just days away! We'll be celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne with a special display about her life and reign as well as all our usual traditional summer fête fun.

This will be an event for ALL with lots of adults' and children's activities and games, a plant stall, bric à brac, tombola, our fabulous "Pimms on the Lawn" and of course, a bar and barbecue outside - whilst not forgetting our usual sales of second hand books and British food including an extra special selection of fine British Cheeses for sale.

We still need lots of new and in perfect condition (please check the sell-by date on any food!) tombola items – just leave them in the red box in the Upper Hall, plants for the Plant Stall and of course we'd appreciate cakes for the restaurant.

If you'd like to sell your own bric à brac or crafts, please contact the Church office to book a space.

Most importantly of all, though, we need this event to be advertised, please use the flyer that came with this magazine to publicise the Jubilee fête and if you need more flyers, just contact the Church Office (031 352 8567) or email berne@anglican.ch or simply pick them up from the Upper Hall.

THANKS!

- *Jana Kutesko*



FAQ: What is the Church's mission?

The word "mission" comes from the Latin verb meaning "to send". At the end of every Eucharist we are sent out with the words "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord". The congregation replies "In the name of Christ. Amen". The mission is given and accepted.

What does mission consist of? In brief, it is to tell people about Jesus. We do this through our worship, for our liturgy expresses what we believe about Jesus, what he has done and how we can meet him today. If anyone asks "What do Christians believe?" invite them to experience a Eucharist. The important word here is *experience*, for that is what they are being invited to do, not to listen to a lecture or be given facts or rules.

Some people – by no means all – have the gift of being able to talk to others directly about Jesus. That too is part of the Church's mission. Giving a credible account of Christian teaching is important if we are to help those attracted by the Gospel to become believers. Mind you, we have probably all heard cringe-making efforts from self-appointed "evangelists" who are more likely to put people off!

Telling, by liturgy, preaching or witnessing, is one strand of mission. The other is being and doing. A person whose faith motivates them to be compassionate, generous – or to show any other of the fruits of the Spirit – is also doing the Church's mission. Someone who serves coffee after the service, making others feel welcome and valued, could even be doing a greater work of mission than the preacher! Similarly, anyone who volunteers their time to help in organisations outside the Church could be carrying out the Church's mission too. This happens when others come to realise *why* they are doing this.

Just as telling includes things done collectively (liturgy) and individually (witnessing), so doing also includes both individual deeds as well as what is done by the Church as an organisation. The Church has always been in the forefront of charity work and campaigns for justice and peace. Many charitable organisations today are church-run or were founded by the Church as part of its mission.

Archbishop Rowan Williams has called mission "seeing what God is doing and joining in". It is something we are all sent out to do this, using whatever gifts we have been given.

-PMP

A Word for the Month – Mystery

Lovers of Agatha Christie will have no difficulty with the word mystery. In the pages of a detective whodunnit, it is something hidden from the uninitiated, but obvious once an Hercule Poirot or a Miss Marple has explained the clues. Once the mystery has been explained, it is a mystery no more – it is the only way things could have happened.



The word originated in ancient Greece. Many religions had secret ceremonies, whose form and meaning were only revealed to the initiated. This secret knowledge was hidden from the uninitiated: it was often carefully guarded to make sure that only insiders had access to it. The word for an initiate, an insider, was *mystes*, someone who has been told the secret.

In this sense, the Gospel is a mystery - “the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations, but has now been revealed to God's saints” (Col 1:26). Again there is the idea that the mystery is not obvious until it is revealed – an idea that recurs throughout the New Testament. Jesus speaks in parables, so that anyone who “has ears to hear” can understand them, but if listeners do not have ears to hear, they can listen and listen until they drop, but will miss the point – miss the vital clue.

This is why the New Testament insists again and again on the need for explanation. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 can read and read his Old Testament, but without Philip to explain it to him, it is a closed book. The disciples walking to Emmaus in Luke 24 can discuss and discuss, but without Jesus to show what it is all about, they cannot understand.

The big difference between the Gospel and the secret cults of the ancient world is that “the mystery” is not a set of hidden facts, not the tricks of the trade, not the magic handshake or the meaning of the magic talisman, but the truth about God's inner being, “revealed by God through the Spirit” (Paul makes this point in 1 Cor 2). It is a mystery that is no longer secret, but has been “revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.” (1 Tim 3:16).

The Greek church uses the word mystery to describe the sacraments – and the Book of Common Prayer refers to the Eucharist as “these holy mysteries” - a usage stretching back to Ephesians 5:32, where the union of Christ and his church is revealed in the union of partners in human love. Marriage “shows forth” this union, just as the bread and wine of the Eucharist “show forth”

Christ's atoning death, and immersion in baptism "shows forth" our death to sin and our new life in the risen Christ.

Of course, in this world, we see God's reality "through a glass, darkly". When Paul writes to the Corinthians: "Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed", their eyes may well have been opened, but the full meaning of the immortality and the imperishability he portrays will have remained a mystery, to be experienced, like all other holy mysteries, only when we meet God face to face at the great feast in Heaven.

- *Hector Davie*

A Daytime House Group?

For some time the Holy Spirit has been prompting me to start making enquiries whether there would be an interest in a daytime house group.

A daytime group may be more convenient for some people, especially during the dark winter months, if your evenings are reserved for your family or simply because transport is more frequent or convenient during the day.

As this is a tentative enquiry everything is still open. I would offer my service to lead the group but even this is not a prerequisite. Questions such as where, what day, what time, how often etc. are very much open but we would naturally try to find a solution that would suit everybody.

The house group would start meeting after the summer holidays, say in September. A meeting would last roughly 1½ hours. The emphasis of the meeting would be fellowship in Christ, starting with refreshments and would include a time of worship, prayer, bible based teaching and sharing experiences of God in our lives. I have several ideas for the teaching part but the group can certainly make the final choice. It is important to mention that another important function of the group is caring for each other beyond the actual meetings.

Basically the group would welcome everybody. This would include established churchgoers and also anyone who is in the process of getting to know Christ. In fact, this may be a good opportunity to invite friends and acquaintances from the edge of our church community into a small, welcoming group.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact me during the next three months by phone on 031 9711336 or by email at bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch

Blessings to you all

- *Brian Morgan*

St Ursula's Day Away

Sunday, September 9, 2012

Fun, Faith, and Fellowship



This year, St Ursula's is planning a Day Away, instead of a Weekend Away, in the hopes that more people will be able to participate.

There will be no service at St Ursula's on this day.

Location: Neuchâtel

Arrival: from 09.30

Lunch: 12.00-14.00

Worship: 16.30

Departure: from 18.00

Please reserve the date in your calendar.

Bring your own picnic lunch in Chaumont (weather permitting).

If you would like to help plan the Day Away, please contact Father Peter.

CREATIVE CHURCH

Ideas, activities, something for everyone.

How to register? See flyers and posters coming out soon.

Thun Church

There is a fortnightly service (normally a eucharist) at the Reformed Church Hall in Bubenbergstrasse 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!) There will be no meetings during July. Services will recommence on 2 August.

Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Prayers for Carers from the Pastoral Team



The evening for pastoral prayer in April proved to be a valuable occasion and the Pastoral Team will be repeating it soon.

There are quite a number of people at St Ursula's who have concerns about frail parents, family members with financial worries or children looking for jobs. Our concerns are multiplied when the people we care for are living far away and it is difficult to look on from a distance. This is when prayer is so important.

The theme of the next Pastoral Prayer Evening will therefore be “caring for others – near and far”. Please join us at the church on 18 June. We shall begin at 19.00 with a cup of tea or coffee (and biscuits) together and then begin our prayers at 19.30.

Whilst on the subject of refreshments, the Pastoral Team will also be holding a Coffee Morning in the hall on Thursday 16 August from 10.30 to 12 noon. This is a variation on the Afternoon Teas that we have held so far, and we hope that you will be able to drop in and get to know members of the congregation that you may not have had a chance to chat to before.

- Shareene Potter

NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Minister in Charge: The Rev. Dianne Cox

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

Services are held twice monthly:

**10 am on the FIRST Sunday of the month: Communion service
Junior Church**

5 pm on the THIRD Sunday of the month: All-age Communion service

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

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

www.neuchatel-church.ch

Chaplain's Notes

Are you sitting comfortably?

With the magazine you have been sent some information about our new chairs project and a payment slip. As well as straightforward donations, we hope people will get into the spirit and come up with imaginative ideas to raise the money.

We do not need to place the order until we have most of the money. This means there is time for you to be involved in making the choice. You can look at a variety of styles, say whether you would like a space for books and leaflets, what colour or what sort of covering you prefer etc. Look out for details of when we shall be doing this.

So – there are things to do now and then we can sit back and enjoy!

Youth – a new face

I am very pleased to tell you that the Rev'd Paul Holley has agreed to act as our Youth Coordinator until December. Fr Paul was until recently Chaplain at La Côte and has many years' experience of working with young people. This will give us continuity after Mary McKinley leaves to have her baby, and I am sure Paul will bring a wealth of ideas.

It will also give us space to assess our work with children and young people and come up with longer-term solutions.

Time to be thinking about Christmas?

No, this hasn't appeared in the wrong issue of the magazine. Our Jubilee Fête is almost upon us and then the next big thing will be the Christmas Bazaar. Last year, we held a meeting in the summer so that people could say what stall they would be interested in running. The stallholders then recruited their own helpers. The system worked well, so we want to do it again this year. There will be a meeting after church on Sunday 1 July to start the thing off. Please come along with your ideas about how to make the Bazaar another success.

Healing Service

Our next service with prayers for healing will be on Sunday 22 July. This is the Feast of St Mary Magdalene. She is traditionally one of the people

miraculously healed by Jesus and so it is an appropriate day for our prayers too.

Note these dates

The Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme (SACEP) has organised two training days that will be of interest to all.

'How to be a good member of Chaplaincy Council' - led by Keith Lamdin. Venue and date to be confirmed, but probably Berne in October. Canon Keith Lamdin is on the staff of the Southern Theological Educational and Training Scheme in Salisbury. The day will be vital for all Council and Synod members but will also be very useful for anyone wanting an insight into how the church works.

Saturday 22 September: 'A Day with the Psalms'. This will be led by Clare Amos (WCC Theologian, and former tutor at Westcott House) and Chris Thomas (Director of Music at Holy Trinity). It will encompass theological insight and practical ways of using the psalms in worship. The venue will be Holy Trinity, Geneva, since Chris will use the HTC choir to illustrate what he means.

Charity Giving

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2012: for the 'San Andres Mission' (Diocese of Peru) and the 'White Nile Congregation' (Finland) has so far raised £5,331.22. St Ursula's allocates £1,400 for the Lent and Advent appeals each year, so £700 is shared between these two good causes which have links with our Diocese.

- PMP

From the Safeguarding Officer

Changes to the law mean that our Child Protection policy has to be changed. It now also covers vulnerable adults and the name has been changed to Safeguarding. We are required to adopt the Diocese's policy *en bloc*. You can read the policy online at www.europe.anglican.org (look under Resources).

We shall start to implement the policy on 1 July and it will apply to all **new** volunteers appointed after that date.

The Diocese has an insurance against any legal costs arising in this area but it is valid only if virtually all chaplaincies are observing the terms of the Safeguarding policy.

- Shareene Potter

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2012 in Basel



The traditional Archdeaconry Choir Festival of the Anglican Churches in Switzerland was held on the last weekend of April 2012 (28 / 29 April) and was hosted by the Anglican Chaplaincy St. Nicolas in Basel. Choirs and singers from Anglican Chaplaincies in Switzerland met for intensive practices and singing at two choral services. A total of 45 singers came to Basel on Saturday and about 40 on Sunday, including a good number from St. Ursula's Church. The Services were held at the Predigerkirche of the Old Catholic Community in Basel. On Sunday the Communion Service was held jointly by the Anglican and Old Catholic Communities in Basel.

At Evensong on Saturday the music included 'O sing joyfully' by Batten as an Introit, Psalm 27 sung in Plainsong, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from the Short Evening Service by Tallis, the Preces and Responses by Ayleward and the Anthem 'Surrexit Christus Hodie' by Scheidt. On Sunday the joint choir sang the choral elements of the Liturgy, especially including the Gloria (Sacrae Symphonia) and a Sanctus by Gabrieli, 'Surrexit Christus Hodie' as an Anthem, and the 'O sing joyfully' by Batten as a Communion Motet.

Mark Duley from Galway (Ireland) was the Festival Music Director. He is working as a freelance organist and choir conductor. David Blunden (Basel) was Festival Organist. They both contributed significantly to achieving a high standard of singing choral music in worship. Four young soloists singing parts of the Surrexit by Scheidt, and one of the three choral parts of the Gloria and Sanctus by Gabrieli, added some extra musical flavour to the services.

The members of the Chaplaincy in Basel did a great job hosting the event, a big THANK YOU is extended to all who organised and supported the Festival in many ways. Thanks also go to the members of St. Ursula's choir who have at-

tended many practices on Saturdays learning some quite challenging pieces of music.

These Festivals also serve as an element of cohesion between the various Chaplaincies in Switzerland. They have been held annually since 1982 with the chaplaincies taking it in turn to host the festivals.

-Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Calendar of Services

June 3 - Trinity Sunday

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

June 10 - Trinity 1

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
1 Samuel 8:4-11,16-20
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

June 17 - Trinity 2

10.00 Sung Eucharist
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 24 - Birth of John the Baptist

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Confirmation with Bishop Geoffrey
Isaiah 40:1-11
Acts 13:14b-26
Luke 1:57-66,80



July 1 - Trinity 4

10.00 Sung Eucharist
2 Samuel 1:1,17-27
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 8 - Trinity 5

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 15 - Trinity 6

10.00 Sung Eucharist
2 Samuel 6:1-5,12b-19
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 22 - Mary Magdalene

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist with
prayers for healing
Song of Solomon 3:1-4
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
John 20:1-2.11-18

July 29 - Trinity 8

10.00 Sung Eucharist
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

Prayer Diary

June 2012

- 1 Friday Our appeal for new chairs
- 2 Saturday Children taking exams
- 3 **Sunday** Trinity Sunday
- 4 Monday Children and young people in the Church
- 5 Tuesday The Church Council
- 6 Wednesday New arrivals in Berne, Neuchâtel and Thun
- 7 Thursday Thanksgiving for Holy Communion
- 8 Friday The Old Catholic Church in Switzerland
- 9 Saturday The confirmation weekend away
- 10 **Sunday** Christians in sport
- 11 Monday The Diocesan Synod meeting this week
- 12 Tuesday USPG, our charity for the month
- 13 Wednesday The countries of the Middle East
- 14 Thursday The leaders of the nations from which we come
- 15 Friday Local medical practices
- 16 Saturday Today's Jubilee Fête
- 17 **Sunday** Neuchâtel Church
- 18 Monday The Bishop's Staff Meeting
- 19 Tuesday Fair trade practices in the world
- 20 Wednesday Ecumenical relations in Berne
- 21 Thursday Young people leaving school
- 22 Friday People on holiday
- 23 Saturday Today's Archdeaconry Synod
- 24 **Sunday** Those being confirmed today at St Ursula's
- 25 Monday Ethical dealings in the financial world
- 26 Tuesday USPG's annual conference this week
- 27 Wednesday Seasonal chaplains at holiday resorts
- 28 Thursday People with frail relatives far away
- 29 Friday *Peter and Paul*, those being ordained priest or deacon
- 30 Saturday People dealing with financial insecurity

July 2012

- 1 **Sunday** All who volunteer their help at church
- 2 Monday The charity and mission agencies we support
- 3 Tuesday Environmentally-friendly travel
- 4 Wednesday The people and government of the USA
- 5 Thursday The protection of children and vulnerable adults in the Church
- 6 Friday Local hospitals
- 7 Saturday Merchant seafarers
- 8 **Sunday** General Synod meeting 6-10 July
- 9 Monday Christians facing discrimination
- 10 Tuesday Marriage counsellors
- 11 Wednesday People looking for holiday jobs
- 12 Thursday The people of Northern Ireland
- 13 Friday Just practices in world trade
- 14 Saturday The Millennium Goals for world development
- 15 **Sunday** Holiness in our daily lives
- 16 Monday Visitors to our churches
- 17 Tuesday The United Nations
- 18 Wednesday Religious communities
- 19 Thursday Placement opportunities with USPG
- 20 Friday Local businesses
- 21 Saturday Diplomatic representatives in Berne
- 22 **Sunday** *Mary Magdalene*, ministry to people with mental-health problems
- 23 Monday Christians in the media
- 24 Tuesday *James*, following in the steps of the apostles
- 25 Wednesday *Anne*, our ministry to the elderly
- 26 Thursday United Nations agencies in Switzerland
- 27 Friday All involved in the Olympic Games
- 28 Saturday All who contribute to the Magazine
- 29 **Sunday** People serving on peace-keeping missions
- 30 Monday Transport workers
- 31 Tuesday *Ignatius of Loyola*, Christian retreats

For Your Diary

June & July 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 – not on 30 June or in July

Other Events

Friday 1 June	09.00	Book Sorting
Sunday 3 June	10.00	Confirmation Class
	11.30	TAC Event
Monday 4 June	20.00	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Tuesday 5 June	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 6 June	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Friday 8 June to Sunday 10 June	17.00	Confirmation Class Weekend Away
Friday 15 June	09.00 – 18.00	Fête Setup
Saturday 16 June	10.00 – 15.00	St Ursula's Queen's Jubilee Fête
Sunday 17 June	10.00	Youth Group
Wednesday 20 June	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Friday 22 June	19.30	Confirmation Rehearsal
Sunday 24 June	10.00	Confirmation Service followed by Apéro
Sunday 1 July	11.30	Christmas Bazaar Planning Meeting
Tuesday 3 July	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 15 July		COPY DATE
Thursday 26 July	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating

Future Dates

Friday 24 August - Saturday 25 August		Junior Church Sleepover
Sunday 26 August	10.00	Back to Church Sunday
Saturday 1 September	10.00 – 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 9 September		Church Away Day
Friday 16 November	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 17 November	10.00 – 15.00	

Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld

“Are we hungry for the right things? In the words of the fourth Beatitude, do we hunger and thirst for righteousness or are we filling ourselves with so much junk that it’s taken the edge off our appetite for God?”

Florence MacKenzie; *Living the kingdom lifestyle*

The Ecumenical House Group meets on the following dates:

13 June and 27 June

11 July and 25 July

We continue our study of the Beatitudes. Please contact Brian or Lynn Morgan (031 9711336, 079 415 26 19 or bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch) for more information.

Share your burden.....

If something in your life is disturbing you and think you need some support, you may like to make confidential contact with me at bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch. Alternatively you can ring me on 031 971 13 36 or

079 415 26 19

Brian C Morgan, Dipl. Pastoral Counsellor

*Falkenstrasse 2
3097 Liebefeld*



Junior Church News

Junior Church usually meets every Sunday in the Upper Hall after they have worshipped with their families and congregation in church. After an opening prayer with all the children they go to their groups for teaching.

The different groups are:

Sparklers (3-7) which are in the Lower Hall

Trailblazers (7-11) and

Pilots (11-14) which are in two different parts in the Upper Hall

More Junior Church Teachers are Needed!

No experience is necessary for this rewarding and vital role in our church. If you'd like to contribute to our children's Christian education, please talk to Peter or any of the Junior Church teachers.

Youth Confirmation Class

This group has been meeting on various Sunday mornings and Friday evenings in order to prepare for confirmation. There will be a weekend away from 8 – 10 June, when the focus will be "the Bible" with various discussions and activities. The confirmation service will be held on 24 June. Please continue to pray for all those involved in this group: the young people, their families and the leaders.

Junior Church Sleepover 24 -25 August



The Junior Church sleepover will take place from 24–25 August. This is always a fun time for all and will involve a BBQ, a camp fire in the woods, a sleepover in the church hall and various activities. The theme for the sleepover will be "Servants of God". If you would like to help out with the sleepover in any way, please contact Sharon Batley (031 711 41 48). Further details

will be sent out in due course.

Activity Club (ages 7 - 11)

The Junior Church Activity Club continues to meet for fun activities, some of which are also aimed at serving others. So far this year we have enjoyed getting to know each other better and making new friends through a variety of activities such as a bake sale in aid of Tear Fund, ice skating and most recently a fun afternoon of football and mini golf.

Activity Club Dates for your Diary:

3 June	gold washing and grill
24/25 August	Junior Church sleepover
22 September	family cycling day
October	service project (to be confirmed)
17 November	supper and bowling following the Christmas Bazaar
9 December	musical nativity performance

Please contact Françoise Hänggi (031 802 10 05) for more information.

Teen Activity Club TAC (ages 12-15)

This is the new name for the 12 – 15 youth group. Outings this year have included trips to the Communications Museum, Papiliorama and ten pin bowling.

For June we have a very exciting event planned – river rafting from Thun to Bern! Philip and Agatha Klinger have very kindly volunteered to take the teens on this big adventure.



Further information is available from Mary McKinley.

Youth Group Meetings

The next Youth Group meetings are on 17 & 24 June (no meeting on the 24th, just attend the service). Further information is available from Mary McKinley.

As many of you will have noticed, our Youth Group and TAC Leader Mary is expecting a baby in the near future. After June, Reverend Paul will take over as Youth Coordinator until December, and will fix the dates for Youth Group and TAC when he starts. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary very much for all the excellent work that she has done with the young people in the church and wish her all the best with her new adventure!

- Sharon Batley

Youth Confirmation Class

The Sunday morning class for confirmation preparation for young people enjoyed a long, holiday break in April. We met twice in May and continued our discussions and experience of prayer. The last meeting on 3 June will be on the topic of stewardship.

We are all looking forward to the weekend away at the start of June: 8th to 10th. We are going to Sargans. It will be a fun weekend with lots of different activities, including a walk following some of the “Stations of the Cross” to a beautiful chapel in the woods. There will also be various study and discussion sessions when the focus will be “the Bible”. This will also be the theme for games and other activities. We are especially grateful to Edi and Maxine Wildhaber for making this weekend possible and to Father Peter who will be joining us for most of the Saturday and leading various events.

Of course, the highlight is the actual confirmation service on Sunday 24 June. Please pray for all the young people who have completed the course and are now deciding whether to be confirmed: Emily Batley, Georgina Kutesko-Pawsey, Gemma Masciadri, Sabrina Sovilla, Darcy Wildhaber.

The confirmation service at 10.00 on Sunday 24 June will be led by our diocesan bishop, Geoffrey. The service will be followed by an apéro for the whole congregation and by a lunch for those being confirmed and their guests. Please pray for all those being confirmed and those involved in all the arrangements for the celebrations during the service and afterwards.

- *Tricia Carrick*

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to the Junior Church Children with birthdays in June and July:

Aaron Campbell 2 on 5 June

Zornitsa Neda Holden 3 on 8 June

Charlotte Gertsch 7 on 10 June

Brenda Sacks 11 on 11 June

Shaun Künzler 9 on 12 June

Ben Piper 13 on 16 June

Ariel Hutchison 5 on 18 June

Paul Quesnot 10 on 22 June

Rachel Eze 6 on 3 July

Emma Quesnot 6 on 6 July

Emily Batley 14 on 15 July

Michael Hänggi 7 on 21 July

Sabrina Sovilla 16 on 22 July



Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund



Thank you very much indeed to everyone who participated in the Lenten Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund. Your generous support enabling 15 orphaned children to attend Primary school for a whole year. A **heartfelt thank you** to Corinne Bomonti & Elfriede Bürgi for your great help and to all those who spoilt us with a yummy dessert.



A **big thank you** go to all children who brought a beautiful drawing along to the event. I will take the drawings to Zambia in June and hand them over to the local school children at Bwafwano Community school in Lusaka.

MORE DRAWINGS ARE NEEDED!

Please go on, it's for a really good cause! If you would like to join in, take along your drawings as many as you like until the middle of June to church.

If you have kids and would like to take part. It's pretty simple

If you have kids and would like to take part, find out more at www.kidsdrawforeastafrica.org. It's pretty simple: please send a photo of their drawing to kidsdraw5050@gmail.com, with their first name, age and the title of the drawing and we'll put it up on the gallery. We'll let you know when you can point grannies and aunts to the auction.



- Yvonne Bomonti, Berne Representativ, Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund

Charity of the Month – USPG

Once a year, St Ursula's receives a bill from the city, addressed to "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts". This rather quaint name conceals a very active charity, carrying out the church's mission on all five continents.



The SPG was founded in 1701, two years after another society, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The aim of the SPCK was educational – to build schools and colleges and to distribute bibles and tracts. The SPG's aim was mission: firstly by providing ministry for English-speaking people abroad, and secondly by evangelizing non-Christian areas of the world.

As part of this first aim, the SPG supported many small and struggling congregations in continental Europe and the colonies - including St Ursula's. As well as being the registered owner of our plot of land (hence the bill), they continued to support us into the 1950s, by when we could stand on our own feet – as could most other congregations in Europe.

But far more important now is the society's missionary work in the Third World. This grew in importance during the 19th century. After merging with the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (founded in 1857 after an appeal by David Livingstone), the SPG is now the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, subtitling themselves "Anglicans in World Mission".

Mission is at the centre of their work, growing the church's capacity for mission, particularly through leadership development and health work. The keynote of their approach is partnership – not following a "we know what is best for you" model, but collaborating with Anglican Churches in over fifty countries, funding programmes in twelve provinces of Africa and Asia, and relating to many others including churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. To quote them:

In all of our work, we don't dictate what priorities our partner churches must follow. Instead, we encourage shared decision-making among equal partners. Furthermore, where grants are provided, they are given on a long-term basis so that churches have a secure financial base from which to plan for the future.

This approach means that USPG is involved in a large number of local projects in the fields of health care, education and community development throughout the developing world. Many of these projects are quite small, often less than Fr10000, which means they can be supervised effectively by the local church. To take a few examples at random:

- the Bollobhpur Nursing School, run by the Church of Bangladesh, trains nurses and midwives to combat malnutrition, sickness and mortality in a country where 60% of the people have no access to health care: Fr6500
- Nicholas Wheeler, a parish priest from London, is supporting the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil by working in Cidade de Deus (City of God), one of the most disadvantaged communities in Rio de Janeiro, built in the 1960s to provide a new start for the city's poor, which became a notorious haven for drug trafficking and gun crime: Fr19000
- The Kwa Mkono Polio Hostel, run by the Church in Tanzania, takes in children with physical disabilities and arranges for corrective surgery and ongoing therapy at a church-run hospital: Fr7000
- Again in Bangladesh, the Anglican church has set up women's community groups to enable women to claim justice and gain new skills that will help them to generate an income: Fr16000
- In the Diocese of Fianarantsoa, Madagascar, USPG is sponsoring an education programme and a tree-planting initiative, aimed at restoring the fragile environment: Fr 5000

This idea of “bottom-up” development is fundamental to USPG's approach. (“Give a man a fish, he will have food for a day. Teach him to fish, he will have food for a lifetime.”) So a typical project runs like this:

The church brings the community together for a self-evaluation or ‘discovery’ process in which they identify local problems and local resources.

The people are encouraged to ‘dream dreams’ – imagining the changes they would like to see.

Bible studies looking at passages such as ‘you are salt and light’ and the raising of Lazarus are the key to motivating the church and community. For many, the spiritual message is revolutionary and inspirational.

Working together, communities apply the biblical principles of caring and sharing to local problems, making use of local resources.

St Ursula's historical links with USPG encourage us to give generously to them, but we should also remember them in our prayers:

- that the “bottom-up” approach should bear fruit in the many small projects that start up locally in the developing world
- that people become more aware of the needs of the various countries where USPG is working

- that in difficult economic circumstances, funds will keep flowing in to support USPG's work
- that cooperation continues to run smoothly between the local churches and the international mission agencies

What is going on is exciting, and you can read more about it on the website, www.uspg.org.uk – in particular, look at the summer issue of their magazine *Transmission*, which contains news of many of their projects. But even more important, keep praying!

- *Hector Davie*

Cheers!

The response to last winter's pledge appeal has been very cheering, with several fresh names added to the list. We still rely heavily on your generous giving through the pledge scheme, though, and if you are not yet a pledger, pick up a leaflet about it in the church hall, or just start making a regular commitment to pay a monthly sum to the church – people give anything from Fr10 to Fr800, and our needs would be satisfied if every one of our members gave just Fr50 a month. (They don't, of course, which is why we rely on active members to give an average of Fr120 a month!)

But what would cheer the Treasurer's heart would be an amount that, every month, meant I could pay our bills without wondering whether we are overspending. As a church, we live very frugally and carefully – and I and the Council rely on you to tell us if you think we are not. Please check your memory, your bank statements, your financial commitments, and see if you cannot find a little more for us. If you can't, no matter, but if you can, now is the time we would like to set the rest of the year's finances on an even keel.

And cheers, of course, lead on to chairs. From time to time a large expense looms up. Very often it pays for itself over time, like the LED lighting in the hall, or like our planned improvements to the heating system. Sometimes it is necessary for other reasons, like re-roofing the church a few years ago. We have reserves, and we can use a recent legacy towards improving our infrastructure, but in the end, it is our faithful members on whom we rely for support. Our present stock of chairs is not worthy of you, our congregation: some are unstable, many are uncomfortable, the blue ones which were a gift are not the best solution, and we will do well by giving them to a church in Africa which really needs them. We are looking for Fr10000, in round figures, to buy new and appropriate seating for the body of the church.

We plan to draw up a commemorative roll of donors, and, if it is the case, of people in whose memory chairs have been given. The simplest way is to use the payment slip in this magazine to sponsor a chair (if you have mislaid it, a simple transfer to the church's Postfinance account, 30-4416-8, will serve just as well). Thank you for your support!

- *The Treasurer*

(By the way, buying chairs probably falls outside the range of activities the Charitable Association can undertake, but an additional gift to the Association would benefit the chair fund indirectly nevertheless. And if you are a UK taxpayer, the Gift Aid scheme allow us to claw back some of that tax to spend on chairs – ask me for details. (It is even possible, at least in theory (but with some difficulty), for me to get tax out of the US Internal Revenue Service.))

STOP PRESS: By copy date (14 May) we had already received donations to pay for 78 chairs. Thank you all for your amazing generosity.



Photos from Ascension Day Pilgrimage



Eine Schweizer Kirche mitten in London

SWISS CHURCH/ Auswanderer haben sie gegründet in kriegerischen Zeiten, mitten in Soho. Und sie lebt weiter: als Kirchenheimat vom 20 000 Londonern mit Schweizer Wurzeln.

Sonntagmorgen im Londoner Stadtteil Soho: Das weltbekannte Theaterviertel schläft hinter heruntergelassenen Rollläden, die Shoppingmeile hinter der Coventgarden Opera ist noch fast menschenleer. Unterwegs sind nur ein paar Frühaufsteher. Unter ihnen rund sechzig Menschen, die an der Endellstreet 79, einer Nebenstrasse, in einem denkmalgeschützten Bau aus dem 19. Jahrhundert verschwinden.

BUNTE GEMEINDE. «Eglise suisse» steht in Goldlettern über dem Eingang. Und wer eintritt in diesen klassizistischen Bau betritt ein Stück Schweizer Kirchenwelt mitten in der City of London. Und staunt zuerst einmal. Hinter der schweren Holztür öffnet sich nämlich ein eleganter sakraler Raum, hell und hoch, modern und funktional – mit einem hell lasierten Parketboden, Designstühlen und einer scheinbar schwebenden verglasten Orgel. Eine architektonische Augenweide, realisiert 2010 von den Basler Stararchitekten Christ & Gantenbein.

Noch mehr staunen aber Uneingeweihte über die Gemeinde, die hier zusammenkommt: Buntgemischt ist sie, zwischen zwei- und 92-jährig, Botschaftsangestellte, Hausfrauen, ehemalige Aupaigirls, Banker. Sie werden im Vorräum schweizerdeutsch, englisch und französisch begrüsst von einer jungen Frau im Talar. Nathalie Dürmüller, 32, St. Gallerin, sie ist seit drei Jahren die erste Frau auf diesem Posten.

AUSSERGEWÖHNLICHES AMT. Es sei ihr absoluter Traumjob, schwärmt die Pfarrerin später – nach dem Gottesdienst und dem anschließenden Fondue-Essen mit der ganzen Gemeinde. Wir sitzen in ihrem Büro, das sie mit der Sekretärin, der SDM und der Kirchgemeindepäsidentin teilt. Ja, es sei ein bisschen

eng, entschuldigt sie sich lachend, aber während der Umbauphase sei es noch viel enger gewesen. Dass sie nun – nach der dreijährigen Renovation – in diesem Jahr mit den 250-Jahr-Feierlichkeiten wieder ein sehr turbulentes Jahr erlebt, scheint sie überhaupt nicht zu stressen. Sie organisiert gerne, sagt sie, und freue sich, dass «ihre Kirche» zunehmend als Kultur- und Begegnungsraum genutzt werde. Besonders gefalle ihr, dass zunehmend jungen Musiker die ausgezeichnete Akustik entdeckten. Der Organist, ein 24-jähriger international renommierter Musiker, ist daran nicht unschuldig. Er schwärmt unter Kollegen gerne von seinem wunderbaren Instrument.

LANGE GESCHICHTE. Die Räume der Swiss Church sind aber nicht nur bei Musikern und Hören beliebt. Auch eine Tanz-, eine Meditations- und sogar eine Weight Watcher Gruppe sind regelmässige zu Gast. Und wenn jemand von ihnen erfahren möchte, wie es kommt, dass die Schweiz in London eine eigene Kirche besitzt, dann kann die historisch interessierte Pfarrerin auch diese Geschichte erzählen: sie beginnt im 17. Jahrhundert, als Frankreich die Protestanten verfolgte und vertrieb. Viele von ihnen – Uhrmacher, Seidenhändler, Kaufleute – kamen über Genf nach London und liessen sich rund um den heutigen Leicester Square nieder. Den Engländern waren sie hochwillkommen – als Berufsleute, aber auch als Feinde des verhassten Frankreich. Aus einer «Société des Genevois» wurde über die Jahre eine «Société des Suisses». Und diese Schweizer Kolonie war 1762 so gross, dass sie eine eigenen Kirche bauen liessen. Heute leben im Grossraum London 20 000 Schweizer. Für viele ist die Swiss Church nach wie vor ein Stück Heimat. **BITAJOST**

250 Jahre Swiss Church

Die Jubiläumfeierlichkeiten für die 250-jährige Swiss Church in London haben bereits im Februar mit einer Konzertreihe begonnen. Der offizielle Festakt mit Empfang und einem Festgottesdienst ist am 20. Mai um 11.00 geplant. Gastpfarrer ist SEK-Präsident Gottfried Locher, der selber fünf Jahre lang Pfarrer an der Londoner Schweizer Kirche war. Während den Olympischen Sommerspielen ist die Swiss Church im House of Switzerland präsent.

Die Swiss Church London ist die einzige noch autonom existierende Schweizer Kirche im Ausland. Sie wird finanziert über den SEK sowie durch Spenden und Sponsoring.

INFOS: www.swiss-churchlondon.org.uk



Hinter einer klassizistischen Fassade im Londoner Soho...



...verbirgt sich eine architektonische Augenweide...



...mit einer bei Musikern hochgeschätzten Akustik

DAS MITGLIED

MARGRIT RANMAN (66) ist seit vielen Jahren aktives Gemeindeglied



«Ich lebe seit 1971 in London. Ich bin eigentlich katholisch aufgewachsen, habe dann einen Muslim geheiratet und fühle mich in der reformierten Swiss Church bestens aufgehoben. Ich bin aktives Mitglied der Mütter-Gruppe. Unsere Kinder sind zwar alle längst erwachsen, aber die Gruppe besteht halt weiter unter diesem Namen. Wir organisieren Ausflüge, Filmvorführungen – kürzlich zeigten wir beispielsweise die Herbstzeitlosen – und Ausflüge. Mir bedeutet die Swiss Church sehr viel. Hier trifft man sich».

DER DIPLOMAT

URS SCHMID (62) ist stellvertretender Botschafter in London



«Die Schweizer Botschaft pflegt seit jeher enge Beziehungen zur Swiss Church. Ich bin als Botschaftsvertreter mit beratender Stimme im Consistoire (Kirchgemeinderat). Man darf nicht vergessen: die Swiss Church war sozusagen unsere Vorgängerin. Bevor es in London eine Schweizer Botschaft gab, amtierte der Pfarrer der Swiss Church als Konsul für die Ausgewanderten. Er stellte Pässe aus und war Anlaufstelle für allerlei Anliegen. Vieles, was heute über die Botschaft läuft, lief damals über die Swiss Church».

DIE ÄLTESTE

ELINA BERTIN (92) ist das älteste Mitglied der Gemeinde.



«Ich ging schon in die Swiss Church zur Sonntagsschule. Meine Mutter war zwar nicht Schweizerin, sondern Italienerin, aber weil ihr der damalige Pfarrer einmal sagte, an meiner Kirche braucht man keinen Pass, gingen wir fortan zu den Schweizerinnen in die Kirche. Später war ich auch Sonntagsschullehrerin und Jugendgruppenleiterin. Mein Bruder Albert war später gar der erste Nicht-Schweizer im Kirchgemeinderat. Wir kommen beide heute noch wann immer möglich zum Gottesdienst».

DER ORGANIST

PETER VARDLEY-JONES (24) ist seit 2010 Organist in der Swiss Church



«Ich bin in London geboren und habe in Glasgow Orgelstudium studiert. Nach Abschluss der Studien wollte ich unbedingt zurück nach London, weil ich nebenbei noch als Werber bei Youtube arbeite. Dass es mit der Organistenstelle an der Swiss Church geklappt hat, war für mich ein absoluter Glücksfall! Die neue Orgel der Firma «Späth» aus Rapperswil ist für mich das technisch beste Instrument, das es gibt. Ich bin sehr glücklich, dass ich hier üben und zweimal pro Monat im Gottesdienst spielen darf».

DIE PFARRERIN

NATHALIE DÜRMÜLLER (32) ist seit 2008 Pfarrerin an der Swiss Church



«Meine Gemeinde ist sehr bunt. Theoretisch bin ich da für die 20 000 Schweizerinnen und Schweizer, die im Grossraum London wohnen. Aber natürlich kommt nur ein Bruchteil von ihnen zu uns in den Gottesdienst. Viele sind ja auch nur kurz hier oder kennen uns nicht. Obwohl: wir verschicken allen Neuzuzüger aus der Schweiz unsere Unterlagen und laden sie ein zu den Veranstaltungen – Konzerte, Ausstellungen – und den Gottesdiensten. Diese halte ich abwechselnd auf Englisch und Deutsch».

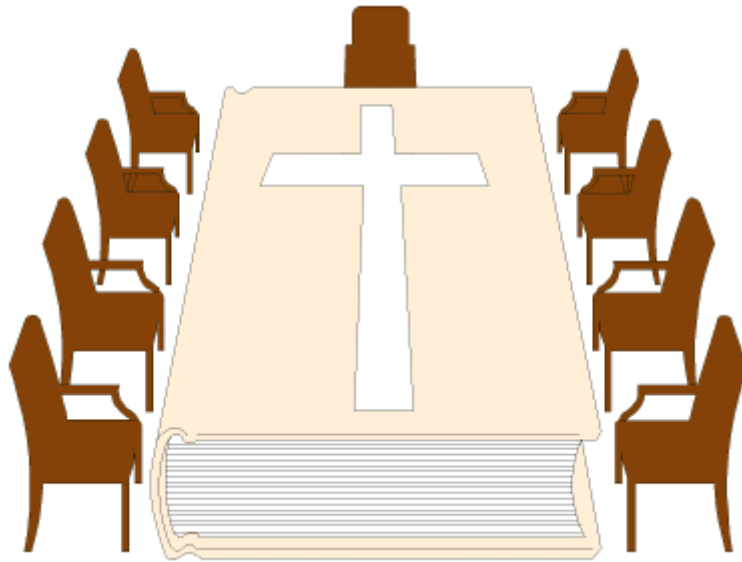
DIE PRÄSIDENTIN

URSULA JOST (62) ist die Präsidentin des Kirchgemeinderats (Consistoire)



«Ich lebe seit 1985 in London und arbeitete hier als selbständige Organisationsberaterin. Heute bin ich pensioniert und engagiere mich seit 2000 als Kirchgemeindepäsidentin. Warum braucht die Swiss Church? Ich finde, die Schweiz muss hier auch mit einem spirituellen Element vertreten sein. Wir freuen uns über alle, die bei uns mitmachen oder ab und zu einen Gottesdienst besuchen. Es gibt übrigens auch immer wieder Paare, die sich hier trauen lassen. Und pro Jahr haben wir dreissig bis vier Taufen».

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.

The Faith Hope & Reality House Group consists of friends, mostly from St Ursula's. There are usually 10-12 people present at our gatherings.

We would all be very happy to welcome you. Our next evenings are:

6 & 20 June

4 & 18 July

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

Our Youth Coordinator's Bittersweet Goodbye

When I started at St Ursula's as the new Youth Coordinator back in October 2010, I didn't know what to expect. Every church is different, but here I found a warm welcome and a really connected group of people. And, as you probably know, every teen is different. I've worked with teens in San Diego and in Bath, and I've learnt that this period of life is a time of extremes, challenges and hard decisions. So when working with teens, you can be sure that you never know what you're going to get. In our teens, I found caring, intelligent and funny individuals. As a group, this makes for a dynamic and interesting Youth Group!



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with these teens, and feel honoured to have been part of their development in our church. Through our Bible study, games, and many outings (from Starbucks to museums to picnics to bowling), I feel I've gotten to know the youths as they are becoming the young adults who will make up St Ursula's future. I look forward to seeing them continue on their paths, and remaining a part of their, and St Ursula's, life.

So now it's time to say goodbye. I am very happy to have been able to share my own life with the church and the teens during this very special time for me as I prepare for motherhood. In just a few short weeks, we will welcome a new little person into the world, and I can't wait for everyone to meet him!

- Mary McKinley





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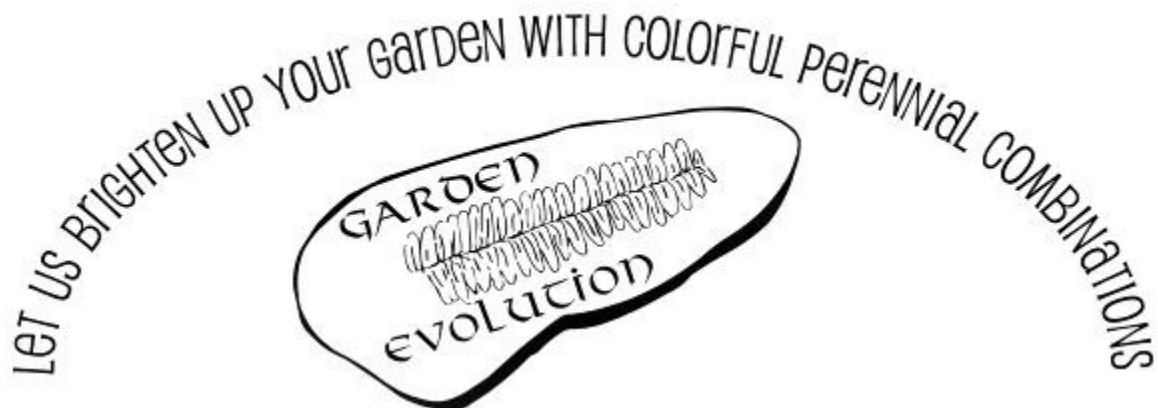
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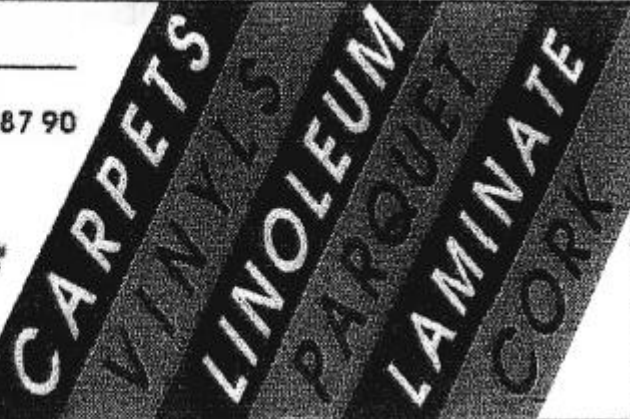
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Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, refresh me
Water from the side of Christ, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Never let me be separated from Thee.
From the evil one defend me
In the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That with thy Saints I may praise Thee
Forever and ever
Amen

This mediaeval prayer dates from the 14th century. It was much used by St Ignatius Loyola (feast day 31 July). It also appears in the form of a Communion hymn ("Soul of my Saviour"), and is appropriate for the Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (*Corpus Christi* or *Fronleichnam*), which falls on 7 June this year.