

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



October - November 2012

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

Chaplain

Ven Peter Potter

031 351 03 43

077 449 37 70 (emergencies only)

Honorary Assistant Chaplain **Youth Coordinator**

Linda Bisig

Paul Holley

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 less formal.

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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for the December—
January
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11 NOVEMBER 2012

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magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE

22 NOVEMBER 2012

Chaplain's Message

How relevant is our worship?

This question has been asked many times and in many church communities.

Some people assume that guitars plus choruses equals relevant whereas organ plus plainsong equals irrelevant. Yet, if you look at the "Spirituality" section of a music catalogue the chances are it will consist mainly of choirs singing plainsong, Russian monks chanting or young people singing at Taizé gatherings. Not a Graham Kendrick song in sight.

Or does being relevant mean copying the soap operas, or becoming some sort of life coaching session? Some preachers adopt a technique that is like a marketing strategy - create a need, by fostering a sense of inadequacy, and then present the solution. Not the latest consumer must-have, but Jesus. This is a bit of a caricature, but you get the idea.

Of course, worship that set out to be irrelevant would not be a good thing. Contemporary worship, with imaginative and skilled use of audio-visual media, lighting and sound effects etc can be uplifting and moving. It could also be totally irrelevant and have only a shallow, short-lived effect on the worshippers.

Relevance has nothing to do with style, nor with the number of references to contemporary problems. To be relevant, worship must give us a glimpse of the mystery and majesty of God. The curtain of the Temple must be moved aside a little, as it were. If it does this, then worship has touched our relationship with God, brought us into his story and him into ours. In other words, our lives are given a greater relevance since we now see them as part of something greater. Each Sunday's worship is (to use the soap opera theme again) the latest episode in this unfolding drama.

This is not easy to achieve and, I would be the first to admit, we don't always succeed. Yet, many a time when I have felt a service did not go particularly well, someone has come up and said how much it spoke to them. You never know where the Holy Spirit is moving.

For worship to be relevant requires effort and willingness on the part of the whole congregation. We need to mean it when we pray "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit..." Not to see the service as "same old thing again" but to approach it with confidence that God will be present and with the expectation that somewhere in the liturgy he will speak to our situation now.

Sense and Nonsense



Eta Hitza haragui eguin içan da. How would you react if someone told you this? *ULizwi waba yinyama? I whakakikokikoa te Kupu?* Would it take your breath away? Or would you think it was meaningless gibberish?

Well, you would say, it probably means something, but it's in a foreign language. And yes, if you have a knowledge of Basque, or Swahili, or Maori, you would recognize it as the opening words of John 1:14. So let us put it into English.

“The Word was made flesh.” That's clear enough, isn't it? At least it contains words we

know and recognize. But if you said this to a group of non-Christians (and possibly to many Christians as well!), it would scarcely blow their minds. Even to us today, talking about the Word, about being made flesh, does not come naturally.

The first hearers of John's Gospel would have had less difficulty in understanding it. They would have known about the Word, the *logos*, the principle of Divine order, the only way we mortals can understand God, the revelation of God's self, by God's self. They would have known that at the beginning of creation, God called the world into being: “And God spoke”. They would have recalled that God had spoken to Abraham, to Moses and to the prophets – who had proclaimed “the word of the Lord.”

They would have known that the scholars of their time were thinking about just what this Word was – what was its relation to the God who “spoke” it, and to the prophets who heard it (and who translated, so to speak, the Word into words) – the connection between the words of scripture and the Word of God. And they would have been deeply divided by the assertion that this Word could “become flesh”. Because words are words, and flesh is blood and bones and things.

Reading the Bible today, we often have to think ourselves back into the times and circumstances that its writers were living in. Sometimes it is easy – most of us can understand the life of fishermen, the nature of storms, and, with a bit of imagination, we can see the importance of bread, of water, of wine, of milk and honey, in the arid Middle East.

Sometimes it is less easy, and part of our introduction to the Christian message often involves learning something of the history of God's people, of the nature of sin and the paths of God's forgiveness. For all this, we need words, and without realizing it, we fall into a sort of jargon which an outsider just cannot understand.

The other day, I came across the sentence: "We await the blessed hope of our calling." Semantically, this is shorthand for a very complex idea. You cannot await a hope. And God does not call us to hope, but to trust and to serve. But we know what it means, and so did the hearers of Titus 2:13, which underlies this quotation. Do other people, to whom the Christian faith nowadays is something a bit exotic, know what it means as well?

If we realize how obscure some of our Christian jargon is, it may help us in meeting the needs of the many who may well feel a need for God's love, but fail to see it in the church of today. A recent article reported the experiences of a young lady in Britain who went to church for the first time in her life. The welcome was warm, but she later commented: "You are asking me to change the way I speak, the sort of music I enjoy, the length of time I usually listen to a speaker, the type of people I mix with, the type of chair I sit on, the type of clothes I am used to seeing people wear, my sense of humour. You expect me to know when to stand, sit and kneel and the answer to prayers I have never heard. I am prepared to change, but there was nowhere I could connect any part of my life with that service."

There is one obvious way of spreading the Gospel that does not run into this problem. We can – all of us – preach through our actions, and not only through our words. "See how these Christians love one another," as people are supposed to have said, to misquote the second-century writer, Tertullian (or "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another", to correctly quote John 13:35). "Be doers of the word, not merely hearers" (James 1:22). Warmth, love, cheerfulness, hospitality, these send out God's message to a dark world much more clearly than any jargon. Let's get down to doing it!

- *Hector Davie*



FAQ: Why is the Church always asking for money?

Because the Church has to pay bills like everyone else – repairs, insurance, wages, electricity etc.

The question arises because of misconceptions about how the Church is financed. Some people think it is paid for out of taxes, like schools or health care. Others imagine that, because many churches are historic monuments, they are maintained by a national heritage fund.

Sadly, none of this is true – at least as far as St Ursula's is concerned.

We are not a state church in Switzerland. They are supported from the church tax but none of that money comes our way, even though some Anglicans do pay the tax. Incidentally, the Church of England is a national church but its running costs are not paid by the state either.

“The Church has plenty of money already” is another common assertion. Aside from the old joke that most of its money stays in people's pockets, this statement overlooks several hard facts. Yes, the Church of England owns land and investments, as do other churches. This income is used to subsidise mission. For instance, the General Synod (the Church's parliament) has just agreed to pay our Diocese about half a million pounds to fund new work in Europe.

But for the Church to sell these assets and not ask for money is rather like saying Tesco, Wal-mart or Migros should sell their premises and not charge their customers for their groceries.

Apart from the economic arguments, common sense tells us that selling off the property is totally impractical. Who would buy a mediaeval cathedral that costs millions to maintain?

Then again, people object: why are you *asking* for money? Shouldn't you be praying for it? Yes, of course we should (and we do). But that doesn't mean it will simply fall out of the sky. Our prayer is that people will give generously out of gratitude for God's gracious gifts to us.

We pray that God will equip his Church for the work he is calling us to do. As so often happens, he is calling us to be the answer to our prayers.

-PMP

A Word for the Month – Fish

A fish is any member of a paraphyletic group of organisms that consist of all gill-bearing aquatic craniate animals that lack limbs with digits. So Wikipedia tells me, and I am prepared to believe it. Peter and Andrew, James and John would have been able to tell a fish from a frog without Wikipedia's help.

Fish play a small and at first sight insignificant part in the Bible. In the Old Testament, we all remember how Jonah was swallowed by a very big one – probably related to Leviathan, the sea-monster and symbol of chaos that the book of Job and the Psalms mention – but they otherwise have no special place, except as a form of food and as creatures that live in water.

Apart from a passing reference in one of the letters to the Corinthians, all the fish in the New Testament are in the Gospels. To start with, consider the disciples. When Jesus calls them, we know that one is a tax collector. Four of them are fishermen. We know next to nothing about the livelihood of the other seven. Clearly Bethsaida and Capernaum, where Jesus began his ministry, are fishing villages, and in the stories in the gospel narratives, the Sea of Galilee, with its fishing, is never far from the scene.

It is attractive to think that Jesus, the carpenter, had worked as a ship's carpenter in a lakeside village, and had come to know Simon Peter and his brother Andrew before their eyes were opened by John the Baptist's preaching (John 1:35-42) and by Jesus' call: "Follow me and I will make you fish for people" (Matt 4:18). However it happened, the two brothers "immediately" left their nets and followed Jesus. The same happened with James and John, who left their father Zebedee in their boat and went to share in the Good News Jesus was bringing.



The image of fishing only partly fits the rôle of the apostles – once they have fished for people, they need to feed them, as a shepherd feeds a flock. But the image of the Church as a fishing boat, a place of safety from the dangers of the sea, with its sudden winds and tempestuous waves, is one that we still use when we talk of the body of the church building as a nave, a *Kirchenschiff* – though the people inside it are not caught in a net, but are a congregation, a flock.

These two rôles, of fishing and of shepherding, sum up the work of the church today. First there is the task of bringing people to Jesus, and then the task of feeding and looking after them. God, in Jesus, is the model shepherd. God is no catcher of fish – it is we who have to do that. But as the gospel stories remind us, we need Jesus to help us. If he is not there in the boat with us, we end up engulfed by storms and going nowhere. And we need his guidance to pull in the catch.

The incident that illustrates this, at the end of John's gospel, mentions the number of fish in the catch – one hundred and fifty-three. The number suggests completeness (either because there were believed to be 153 different species of fish in the world, or because the number has an arithmetical link to the numbers ten and seven, each of which signifying perfection) – and the church is called to fish for people until the catch is complete: not just to catch a few and leave the rest untouched!

Fish also feature in the feeding of the five thousand. But that's an article in itself (why do we share bread and wine in the eucharist, and not fish?). So is the way the fish symbol came to be the mark of the Christian (for *ichthys*, the Greek for fish, was an acronym for *Iesus Christos Theou hUios Soter* – Jesus Christ, son of God, saviour). But that is part of the joy of our faith – there is always something new in the incredible richness of Christian experience.



- Hector Davie

Quotable Quote

"What we believe is more important than what we know"

Martin Walser

- Dorothy Beriger





CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2012

Friday 16 November 17.00 – 19.30

Saturday 17 November 10.00 – 15.00

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

PRESERVES AND PICKLES



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

CAKE BAKING

Please join us to help make this year's Christmas Cakes. All the ingredients are provided but please bring along any small cake tins that you have. **Baking day is Wednesday 17 October from 09.00**

CAKE DECORATING



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

TOMBOLA

The tombola is a wonderful "catch all" stall - we all receive gifts that just aren't right for us but could be perfect for someone else, or perhaps you've over stocked on some food items or have some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate! Everything, as long as it's brand new, in perfect condition and not past its sell by date, is welcome. Please deposit any suitable tombola prizes in the **Red Box in the Upper Hall**.

RAFFLE

The raffle is very popular and if we can get some good prizes, will be even more so. If **you** can think of any potential donors or can donate a prize yourself, please contact **Brian Morgan: 031 971 1336** or just bring the prize along to church.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION WORKSHOP



Please come along on **Thursday 15 November at 09.00** to help make the lovely Christmas Wreaths and Decorations that we'll be selling during the bazaar. No special skills are needed to take part in this fun-filled day of crafts. Lunch will be provided - just let Chloé know you'll be there - for more information, please contact **Chloé Hodler: 031 951 4057**.

BRIC À BRAC

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

BAZAAR RESTAURANT



Help is needed throughout the whole of Friday and during the bazaar itself. We'll need plenty of cakes, scones, biscuits or mincepies baking too! All help, even if it's just for an hour or two, will be gratefully received - please contact **Sharon Bachmann: 078 885 4632 or sha1977@quicknet.ch**

TOY STALL

New or second hand toys in excellent condition are wanted for the Toy Stall - please bring your donations into church on Sundays and put them in the red Tombola box. For more information, please contact

Corinne Quesnot: 078 899 86 57

NEW STALLS?

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



HELP ON STALLS

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

SET UP

Calling anyone who can spare a couple of hours on **Thursday 15 November from 17.30** to help set up the stalls – either write your name on the sign up sheet in the Upper Hall or contact **Peter Masciadri: 031 829 1869**.

CLEAR UP

Please join our clear up team on **Saturday 17 December from 15.00** and help make the church and halls ready for Sunday. If you can help, either write your name on the sign up sheet in the Upper Hall or contact

Walter Bisig: 031 932 4169.

FLYERS

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



We rely on **YOUR** support, goodwill and generosity for a successful Christmas Bazaar.
THANK YOU for any help that you can offer!



- *Jana Kutesko, Church Office*

Thank you

Very many thanks to Peter Potter and Peter Hawker for the lovely Thanksgiving Service for Georges on August 31st. Thanks, too, to Hans-Karl Pfyffer for playing the organ and to my grandson, Tobias, who composed a song and sang it so beautifully. Thank you also to the ladies from St. Ursula's who helped with the refreshments afterwards, and, of course, grateful thanks to the many friends and relatives, who filled the church. They all brought comfort and sympathy with them on a very cold and rainy day. Georges would have appreciated it and I certainly did.

- *Pamela Arnaud*

Our Pledge Appeal

The last Sunday of October is Pledge Sunday – the day we ask you to commit yourselves to the church's support during 2013. We need some Fr700 a day to sustain our ministry, and we receive no outside help in this – it all has to come from our members and friends. God is generous to us. We can acknowledge this by being generous in return – for generosity is one of the marks of a Christian.

With the appeal letter is an explanation of how the pledge scheme works – tax implications, bank details and so on. It helps us to plan if we can rely on your pledge – but of course, there's nothing wrong with giving “as the Spirit moves”, too!

Please ask me or any council member if you'd like more information.

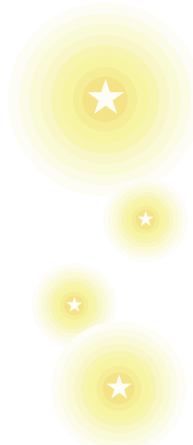
- *The Treasurer*



Chaplain's Notes

Joint events in Thun

The churches in Thun will be holding a "*Sternmarsch*" in the evening of 27 October. We shall be taking part, together with the Old Catholics and Lutherans, at the St Beatus (Göttibach) church, where there will be a joint service and also a round-table discussion. Swiss, German and British refreshments (Wurst, scones?) will be served. All are welcome. The event kicks off at 16.00.



Nacht der Religionen

Once again we shall be joining with the Old Catholics and the Lutherans for an evening of worship, discussion and fellowship at the St Peter and Paul Church. The theme this year is "*bewusster beten*". There will be an exhibition of prayer books, liturgical clothing and other items, as well as the usual "*Kirchenkaffee*" serving hot drinks, cakes etc.

At 22.00 the evening will be rounded off by a three-way service of Night Prayer.

Volunteers to help with the "*Kirchenkaffee*" and to provide cakes will be most welcome.

The *Nacht der Religionen* takes place on Saturday 10 November. Please look out for posters and flyers.

Sermon Topics



As I said in last month's magazine, the sermons on the first Sunday of the month are intended to be an in-depth look at aspects of Christian doctrine. (This is not so far removed from the "praying consciously/mindfully" theme of the *Nacht der Religionen*.) On 7 October, thinking of St Francis, harvest etc, the topic will be "creation". The topic on 4 November will be "heaven", as we shall be in the season of All

Saintstide.

Healing Service

Before a service with prayer for healing, we do not know how many people will come forward and what they will ask prayer for. It is a remarkable fact that, at the end, we always know precisely why it was important to have the prayers in the service that day. The next time will be on Sunday 21 October, which is the Sunday nearest to the feast of St Luke, the blessed physician.

New Adviser appointed

The Bishop has appointed the Rev'd Hilary Jones to be the Adviser for Women's Ministry, as the successor to the Rev'd Adèle Kelham. Like Adèle, Hilary lives in Switzerland, having moved here with her husband, who works in Basel. I shall be licensing her as Assistant Chaplain in Basel on 28 October.

Keep Sunday Special

There are moves to relax the Sunday shopping laws in Switzerland. This was done over 20 years ago in the UK and it changed Sunday for the worse. A Swiss *Sonntagsallianz* has been formed, with supporters from trades unions and churches. For more information, see www.europeansundayalliance.eu

Advent Feast

This year we will continue our tradition of a lunchtime study group on Fridays. The meetings will take place on 23 and 30 November, 7 and 14 December, starting with a soup lunch together at 12 noon.

Having fed the body, we shall go on to a feast for the soul by looking at four poets – George Herbert, T.S.Eliot, R.S.Thomas and John Betjeman. The four, though very different, were all practising Christians and the selection of their poems will provide a rich feast of Anglican spirituality.





Lunch Invitation



We would like to invite you to our

Traditional Pumpkin Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund
and show you some photos from this year's trip to Zambia

At: St Ursula's, Jubiläumsplatz 2

Date: Wednesday 7th November

Time: from 12.00 to 13.30

Please join us for an informal lunch of delicious homemade pumpkin, vegetable, gluten free soup and good company! We will provide soup, bread, tea and coffee. If you would like to bring some cake or cookies to share they would be most welcome.

There will be a basket for voluntary donations which will go to Cecily's Fund to support their work providing education for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia.

Many thanks to you for your kind attention and support for Cecily's Fund.

With best wishes,

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



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

Charity No 1071660

Cecily's Fund

www.cecilysfund.org

Junior Church News

Sleepover

The summer event was the Junior Church Sleepover on the weekend of 24 – 25 August. As always, it was a fun time for all including barbecued burgers, camp fire in the woods, pancake breakfast and lots of different activities. The theme was “Servants of God”.

One teaching activity included reading part of the letter to the Ephesians – we thought about the different parts of armour mentioned in chapter 6, verses 14 -17 and prepared a living illustration for the whole congregation in the Sunday service.

Classes

Junior Church has two classes: All-Stars for those aged 3 to 9+ and Pilots for those aged 10 to 14+.

Meeting Times

Junior Church normally meets every Sunday, starting with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church before going to its own classes. After a short opening prayer, the All-Stars meet downstairs and the Pilots in the Upper Hall. On the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, the children return to church at the Peace. On the other Sundays, their teaching continues until coffee time.

On the second Sunday of each month, the members of the Pilots class take part in various aspects of the main worship and so remain in church for the whole service.

Teaching

We are continuing to use the “Seasons” teaching material – you can find out more about this on their website: www.seasonsonline.ca.

The Season after Pentecost continues during the months of October and November and we return to the colour green, representing a time of growing in faith. In this season of “ordinary time” our young people will explore a number of Jesus’ teachings about discipleship from the gospel of Mark.

Activity Club

The Junior Church Activity Club (ages 7 – 11) 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.

- *Tricia Carrick*

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to the Junior Church Children with birthdays in October and November:

Darcy Wildhaber 15 on 1 October

Alex Webster 13 on 5 October

Jannis Philipp 9 on 7 October

Matthew Batley 12 on 10 October

Gemma Masciadri 14 on 20 October

Flynn Hodler 5 on 25 October

Daniel King 11 on 2 November

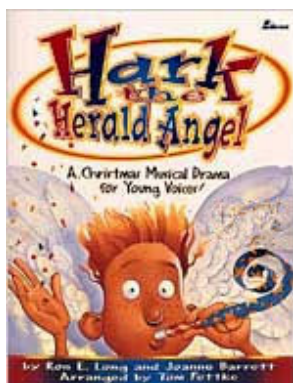
Gabriela Cintron 4 on 19 November

Karl Gertsch 5 on 26 November

Naomi Kingori 11 on 28 November



Hark the Herald Angel



is the title of this year's Nativity Play. Note the date now: Sunday 9 December.

An inquisitive young angel called Hark. Archangels preparing for something important. The choir of angels being trained for a special performance. Something must be happening. You can be a part.

We already have a heavenly choir of over 35 adults, teenagers and children. If you would like to join us, please contact the church office or Tricia Carrick.

Up-to-date information is available on our web-site:

<http://www.stursula.ch/Junior/hark.html>

- Tricia Carrick

Calendar of Services

7 October - Trinity 18

10.00 - Eucharist
Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

14 October - Harvest Thanksgiving

08.30 - Said Eucharist
10.00 - Informal Eucharist
Joel 2:21-22, 26-27
1 Timothy 6:6-10
Matthew 6:25-33

21 October - Trinity 20 and St Luke

10.00 - Sung Eucharist
with Prayers for Healing
Isaiah 35:3-6
Acts 16:6-12a
Luke 10:1-9

28 October - St Simon and St Jude (Pledge Sunday)

08.30 - Said Eucharist
10.00 - Informal Eucharist
Isaiah 28:14-16
Ephesians 2:19-22
John 15:17-27

4 November - All Souls

10.00 - Eucharist
Wisdom 3:1-9
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

11 November - Remembrance Sunday

8.30 - Said Eucharist
10.00 - Eucharist and
Act of Remembrance
Isaiah 57:14-19
James 3:13-18
John 14:23-27

18 November - 2 before Advent

10.00 - Eucharist
Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

25 November - Christ the King

08.30 - Said Eucharist
10.00 - Informal Eucharist
with Holy Baptism
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37



Prayer Diary

October 2012

- 1 Monday a good response to this year's stewardship (pledge) appeal
- 2 Tuesday Christians in the Middle East and North Africa
- 3 Wednesday the people of Germany
- 4 Thursday *St Francis of Assisi*, Franciscan communities
- 5 Friday animal welfare
- 6 Saturday people working in the tourist industry
- 7 Sunday people providing voluntary services in our communities
- 8 Monday the people of Canada (Thanksgiving)
- 9 Tuesday Christians working in the media
- 10 Wednesday honorary and assistant chaplains in the diocese
- 11 Thursday The United Nations
- 12 Friday all who suffer for their faith
- 13 Saturday wise stewardship of our resources
- 14 Sunday Our Harvest Thanksgiving service today
- 15 Monday the farming community
- 16 Tuesday Partner Sein and its projects
- 17 Wednesday The Friends of the Diocese in Europe
- 18 Thursday *St Luke*, local hospitals
- 19 Friday public transport in our area
- 20 Saturday the provision of safe water supplies
- 21 Sunday the ministry of healing
- 22 Monday mediators and mediation services
- 23 Tuesday today's Council meeting
- 24 Wednesday the Iona Community
- 25 Thursday The Council of Churches in Berne (AKiB)
- 26 Friday old people's homes in the area
- 27 Saturday The "Sternemarsch" in Thun
- 28 Sunday our Pledge Sunday service today
- 29 Monday people working with mission agencies
- 30 Tuesday the other chaplaincies in the Archdeaconry
- 31 Wednesday the Lutheran Church in Berne

November 2012

- 1 Thursday *All Saints*, thanksgiving for the holy people of God
- 2 Friday *All Souls*, the faithful departed
- 3 Saturday The hospice movement
- 4 Sunday Our departed loved ones
- 5 Monday Junior Church at St Ursula's
- 6 Tuesday The US Presidential Election
- 7 Wednesday Cecily's Fund pumpkin lunch
- 8 Thursday Ecumenical relations in Berne
- 9 Friday People serving on peacekeeping missions
- 10 Saturday The events of the Nacht der Religionen in Berne
- 11 Sunday Remembrance Sunday, the Earl Haig Fund
- 12 Monday The Willibrord Society
- 13 Tuesday The clergy chapter meeting
- 14 Wednesday Schools in our area
- 15 Thursday The church at Neuchâtel
- 16 Friday All who help with catering at church
- 17 Saturday Our Christmas Bazaar
- 18 Sunday Keeping Sunday special (the *Sonntagsallianz*)
- 19 Monday The General Synod meeting
- 20 Tuesday The development of our prayer life
- 21 Wednesday Family members far away
- 22 Thursday *St Cecilia*, Church musicians and choirs
- 23 Friday Our chaplaincy study course
- 24 Saturday The government of the city and canton
- 25 Sunday Today's baptism candidates and their families
- 26 Monday The housebound
- 27 Tuesday People anxious about the coming of winter
- 28 Wednesday Candidates for ordained and licensed ministry
- 29 Thursday Thanksgiving for the missionary work of the Church
- 30 Friday *St Andrew*, the people of Scotland

For Your Diary

October & November 2012

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30 – 10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork - not on 16 November
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 17 November

Other Events

Wednesday 3 October	19.30	Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Sunday 14 October	10.00 10.00 11.30	Harvest Festival (All-Age Service) Youth Group Meeting Auction of Harvest Offerings for Tear Fund
Wednesday 17 October	09.00 - 11.00 19.30	Christmas Cake Baking Faith, Hope & Reality House Group
Sunday 21 October	11.30 – 12.15	Nativity Play Rehearsal
Tuesday 23 October	19.30	Church Council
Saturday 27 October	16.00	<i>Sternmarsch</i>
Sunday 28 October	11.30 – 12.15	Pledge Sunday Nativity Play Rehearsal
Friday 2 November	09.00 – 13.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 3 November	10.00 - 12.30	Second Hand Children’s Toy and Equipment Sale
Sunday 4 November	10.00 11.30 – 12.15	Youth Group Nativity Play Rehearsal
Monday 5 November	20.00	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Wednesday 7 November	11.30-13.30	Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch
Saturday 10 November	17.00	Night of Religions

Sunday 11 November	11.30 – 12.15	COPY DATE Nativity Play Rehearsal
Thursday 15 November	10.00-16.00 18.00 – 20.00	Christmas Decoration Workshop Bazaar Set-up
Friday 16 November	09.00 – 16.00 17.00 – 19.30	Bazaar Set-up Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 17 November	10.00 – 15.00 15.00 – 17.00 TBA	Christmas Bazaar Bazaar Clear Up Junior Church 7 – 12 Social Group Activity
Sunday 18 November	10.00 11.30 – 12.15	Youth Group Nativity Play Rehearsal
Wednesday 21 November	TBA	Charity Concert for Parkinson's Schweiz
Thursday 22 November	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating
Friday 23 November	12.00	Advent Study Group
Sunday 25 November	11.30 - 14.30	Nativity Service Rehearsal
Friday 30 November	12.00	Advent Study Group

Future Dates

Saturday 1 December	TBA	Parish Christmas Party
Sunday 9 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Thursday 13 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Tuesday 18 December	19.00	Biel Carol Service
Thursday 20 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service



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
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



Charity of the Month – AKiB

Arbeitsgemeinschaft christlicher Kirchen Region Bern

Association of Christian Churches in Bern and surrounding area

Thirty years ago Christian churches in Bern got together and founded an Association which is known as AKiB (for short). The aim was to respond to social needs within the city such as drug addiction, homelessness or migration. It was felt that - together - the churches were better able to respond to these needs and help people who often are outcasts in society. Up until 2007 11 churches from various backgrounds belonged to AKiB, among them St Ursula's. In 2008 19 evangelical-reformed churches from the region joined in, among others the churches from Zollikofen, Stettlen and Belp. Out of this cooperation seven projects emerged over the years.

It is my privilege to be St Ursula's representative and to attend the biannual AKiB meetings. The last one was held on 30 May in the rooms of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Belp. During each meeting reports are given by the leaders of each project.

At St Ursula's we are acquainted with the first two projects since we support them financially and have had representatives come and talk about their work. Here is a brief overview of all the AKiB projects and the latest developments.

Kirchliche Passantenhilfe und Sozialberatung der Heilsarmee – Church supported aid and social counselling to transients by the Salvation Army.

Seev Levy with his co-worker Manfred Jegerlehner and volunteers give aid and counselling to people who have financial and/or social needs, are homeless, without a job or are seeking asylum. They are able to give short-term aid and provide information and contacts to other institutions. Most of all, they have an open ear and heart for people in need. The aim is to help clients become more self-reliant. With some this goal cannot be reached (e.g. people with addiction or mental problems, Romas or asylum seekers who have been turned down).

It is satisfying when help is possible as in the case of a woman - with two boys - who suffered from depression. Over a period of time it was possible to help her become more self-reliant and her attitude of hate slowly turned to forgiveness. Much patience and wisdom is needed in this work.

St Ursula's started supporting the Passantenhilfe from our regular budget in 2004, currently with CHF 1000 per year. In addition half of the Heiliggeist Carol service collections have gone to it for over 25 years.

Zentrum5 – Integrationszentrum für MigrantInnen –

Centre for the Integration of Migrants

The centre works towards solidarity, respect and peace between migrants and Swiss citizens. It offers information and counselling, language courses, runs an intercultural library, and many other activities.

In the past year, an intercultural theatre workshop was held. Several performances of the play were held at the Centre and at several churches.

Fundraising is always a concern although some of the income is generated through letting groups use the facilities at the centre. For this reason the team invests time and effort in making the centre known through their website, a newsletter and advertising.

St Ursula's started supporting Zentrum5 in 2009, currently with CHF 1000 per year.

Spiritual Counselling and Social Work at the Regional Prisons in Bern and Burgdorf

A pastor offers inmates the opportunity to talk regularly about their situations. It can help them look at themselves and make them aware of their own needs and resources. Rituals and services open up new possibilities even within the prison walls and give new hope. The services are always well attended and are ecumenical. They are frequented not only by Protestants and Catholics but also by members of other religions and persons without religious faith.

Social workers offer counselling and information concerning various situations. They are there when a person is able to leave the prison, and help find a place to live, work, etc. They are also able to provide some financial aid where needed and are thankful that this is possible through special financial gifts.

BWD Albatros – Betreutes Wohnen für Drogenkonsumierende

Care and Living Quarters for Persons Consuming Drugs

BWD Albatros offers rooms to 11 homeless persons. The aim is to stabilize their situations, improve their health and help them towards more independence.

This summer BWD Albatros was able to move to new quarters at Weissensteinstrasse 8 in Bern. In the past year one person was able to move into his own living quarters, another decided to join a withdrawal program.

Aufenthaltsraum Postgasse 35 – Common Room at Postgasse 35

Here, people who are out of work, homeless or lonely and others neglected by society find security, care and understanding. Visitors have a chance to read the newspaper, get some advice and receive breakfast or a warm soup. In winter the place offers a few hours of warmth. 50 to 80 people a day spend time at the Postgasse. Many volunteers help the leader create an atmosphere where people can feel welcomed and respected. Last year the project received a social prize from the Burgergemeinde Bern. Inquiries from other cities indicate that this is a project worthy to be imitated as it is truly at the heart of Christian service.

Telebible Basel-Bern

For 24 hours every day telephone number 031 372 03 03 offers a contemplative text to callers. The authors and speakers of the texts are recruited from AKiB member churches.

***Nacht der Religionen Bern* – Bern Night of Religions**

The organization of the Night of Religions came to be under the AKiB umbrella only recently. The Night of Religions is a night of open doors of churches, mosques, temples and synagogues. It offers hospitality and a chance to meet members of other faiths and encourages peace and understanding among the various faiths.

This year the event will take place on 10 November 2012. The theme will be "*bewusst(er)leben*".

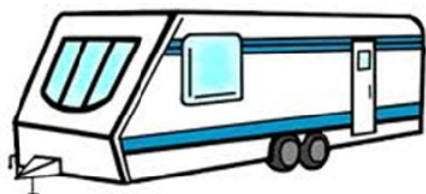
Closing words

It is evident that AKiB enables the area churches to reach out with a helping hand to those who have fallen on hard times. The teams of the various projects deserve our thanks and support. Let us keep them in our prayers for their work that is often not very easy.

AKiB will celebrate its 30 year Jubilee on 25 October 2012 with a program at the Rathaus. A talk will be given by Edith Olibet, member of the municipal council, on "AKiB – A Christian organization in a multi-cultural society". A discussion will follow the talk. At 8 pm an ecumenical service at St Peter and Paul Church – open to the public – will end the Jubilee.

- *Esther Hutchison Funkhouser for the Charity and Missions Team*

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Please Give Migros a Loving Home!



Due to their relocation, Wolfgang and Joy Bruelhart are searching for a loving home for their cat Migros, who currently lives in Dubai but will be relocating at Wolfgang & Joy's expense to wherever he finds a home.

Migros is 3 years old and has been castrated. He's an extremely intelligent, beautiful, loving and sensitive cat. He thrives in an atmosphere where he is the only cat and loves attention – he's a real personality!

We very much hope that Migros can be united with someone or a family who will take him in and give him the love and attention he deserves - we are confident that they will be glad that they took the decision to let him into their lives. We are happy to support his food and any medical costs for the first year - he has been given excellent medical attention from our German vet in Dubai - all his shots are up to date, and he is very healthy.

Should you be interested, please send an email or telephone Joy or Wolfgang. Either of us will be happy to give you more details. We very much hope that this story will have a happy ending.

Joy: +41 79 66 222 75

Wolfgang: +41 79 875 3597

Email: joyifor@hotmail.com

NEW DAYTIME



HOUSE GROUP

An ecumenical daytime house group had its first meeting in Stettlen in September 2012, led by Brian Morgan and hosted by Rev Linda Bisig.

From October 2012 the daytime house group will meet on a Tuesday from 13.30 to 15.30 every 14 days. Please see the separate notice in the church magazine for the dates in October and November. The meetings will include fellowship with worship, bible based study and prayer. There is also a possibility of organizing transport to and from house group if at all practical.

For further details, please contact Linda (031 931 6386) or Brian (031 971 1336) - especially regarding transport. Linda's address: Flurweg 15, 3066 Stettlen

All are Welcome!

Other Events

Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld

“True biblical purity is a liberating experience rather than a confining one. It is not a set of hurdles to overcome but freedom to be embraced.”

Gary L Thomas, *Living the Kingdom Lifestyle*

The ecumenical House Group meets on the following Wednesdays at 19.30:

3, 17 and 31 October **14 and 28 November**

We continue our study of the Beatitudes. For further information, please contact Brian or Lynn Morgan (031 971 1336, 079 415 2619 or bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch).

Daytime House Group in Stettlen

“When we truly begin to grasp that our fellow disciples, no matter what their earthly circumstances may be, are our brothers and sisters in Christ, it will begin to move our hearts with God-like compassion as it challenges us to give and forgive, to share and to care for those around us.”

John Belham, *Lord, teach us to pray*

The Daytime House Group will meet on the following Tuesdays at 13.30

2, 16 and 30 October **13 and 27 November**

We will continue with a study of the Lord’s Prayer. For further information, please contact Brian Morgan (Leader)(031 971 1336) or Linda Bisig (Host) (031 931 6386).

Share your burden.....

If something in your life is disturbing you and you would like some independent advice, 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 4152619. My service is gratuitous.

Brian C Morgan, Clinical & Pastoral Counsellor

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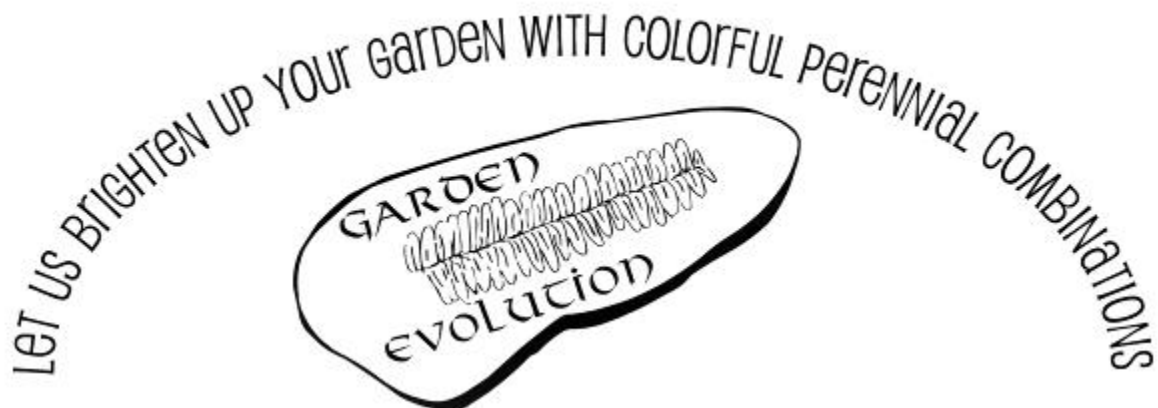
The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes 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)

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For membership enquiries, contact Werner Dettwiler,
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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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Rosalind Richards 026 401 14 21

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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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Lay Members:

Jonathan Carrick 031 535 53 28
 John Eze 079 489 58 46
 Donna Goepfert (*secretary*) 031 931 27 42
 James Holden 026 422 13 55
 Tony Read 033 243 34 32
 Edi Wildhaber 079 460 61 15
Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:
 Hector Davie 031 971 27 71
 Donna Goepfert 031 931 27 42
 Janet Wenger 031 839 46 53

CHURCH OFFICE 031 352 85 67

Administration: Jana Kutesko

Normally open Tuesdays & Thursdays

Church Hall 031 351 05 76

CHURCHWARDENS

Archana Chittazhathu 031 859 64 12

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

CRÈCHE

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

ECUMENICAL CONTACT

Esther Hutchison Funkhouser 031 351 73 47

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Patricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

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Walter Bisig 031 932 41 69

FLOWERS

Yojena Chittazhathu 031 859 64 12

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