

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



August - September 2013

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

**Chaplain**

Ven Peter Potter

031 351 03 43

079 922 71 30 (emergencies only)

**Honorary Assistant Chaplain**      **Youth Coordinator**

Linda Bisig

Mary McKinley

**Church Office:** 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

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**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:** 19.30 on the first and third Thursdays of the month: Eucharist and Bible study. Contact: church office 031 352 8567

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**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](mailto:berne@anglican.ch)**



# St Ursula's Church Magazine

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### **COPY DATE**

for the October—November magazine is

**15 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Please send copy to [magazine@stursula.ch](mailto:magazine@stursula.ch)

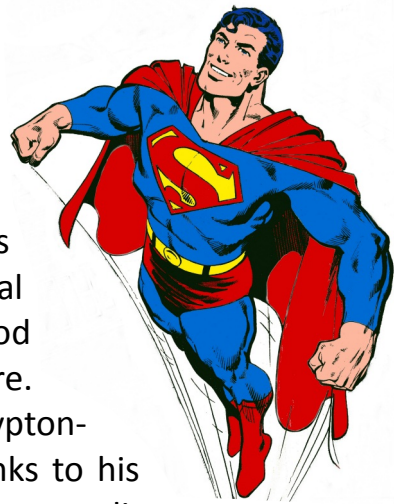
### **COLLATING DATE**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2013**

# Chaplain's Message

This summer's blockbuster is *Man of Steel*, a new Superman film.

The hero has similarities with Jesus. His father sends him to planet Earth to save its people from General Zod. Once a leading figure on the planet Krypton, Zod has rebelled and, like Satan, is a fallen-angel figure. Clark Kent (aka Superman) is both human and Krypton-being and is brought up with a human family. Thanks to his superhuman powers he overcomes the evil Zod and, according to the publicity, "becomes a symbol of hope for all mankind".



Perhaps this is an attempt to make a big profit in the US Bible Belt but the idea is shallow and unconvincing. For a start, did nobody think about the title? "Man of Steel" is in Russian *Stalin*, the pseudonym adopted by a dictator with more resemblance to General Zod than to Clark Kent. The film spends some time recounting the young Clark's discovery that he has special powers, in the manner of non-scriptural works like *The Gospel of Thomas*. In other words, the parallels are sub-Christian not orthodox.

The film has lots of computer effects and scenes of violence and destruction. Here it parts company from the Gospels completely. Jesus does not save us by violence. The reason the people rejected him was that he did not advocate a nationalistic policy and armed struggle against the Romans. He knew that would lead to greater destruction, as it did in AD 70, when the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed. It is a pattern that has been repeated many times, for we find it so difficult to learn from Jesus' message.

It is tempting to wish Jesus or his Father were more like Superman, Batman or the other superheroes. Then they could just turn up, use their powers and all our problems would be solved. Sadly, many people – including some who call themselves Christians – still have this idea of God. Then when one day he does not do as they wish, their faith vanishes in an instant. Dietrich Bonhöffer said that is the image of God which is killed on Good Friday, an infantile projection which we must get rid of if we are to have a mature faith prepared to struggle with suffering, with our own responsibility and with hope that is not mere wishful thinking.

By all means, see the film if you wish – but take a large bucket of salt with you.

Peter

# A little Wine

“Guinness is good for you” is one of the best remembered slogans dreamed up by the novelist and Christian apologist Dorothy Sayers during her career in advertising. The poet Brendan Behan, asked by the same company for a slogan, came up with “Guinness – it makes you drunk.”



In lands around the Mediterranean, grapes, not barley, provide the basis for the local drink. In modern times, with pasteurization, clean water and an abundance of exotic fruits, there are alternatives to wine from grapes, but in Jesus' day, it would have been the principal drink for everyone, rich or poor, young or old. And the same two slogans applied.

“Take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments” (1 Tim 5:23) reminds us that where the quality of the water is suspect, even very lightly fermented drinks are likely to be free of germs. But “good for you” is more positive than this. Wine gives pleasure. To quote Psalm 104:14-15: “(You) bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.” Deuteronomy 14 reminds the Israelites to bring a tenth of any wine they produced and drink it in the temple - “and rejoice.”

In the Old Testament, wine is a source of joy, and for Jesus too, wine was a major source of enjoyment – the first sign recorded in John's Gospel is the water turned into wine at the wedding in Cana, and Jesus himself made fun of the Pharisees' expectations that a truly religious person would lead an ascetic life and only consort with similar “religious” people – here was he, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!”

But while wine in moderation is good, wine in excess leads beyond exhilaration, and into inebriation and intoxication. “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” (Prov 20:21). Like so many things good in themselves, it can be abused, and as with fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, thieves, the greedy, revilers and robbers, Paul reminds the Corinthians that drunkards cannot expect to inherit the kingdom of God! (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Some sects have gone to the length of banning it completely, just as most Muslims regard it as forbidden (even if the Qu'ran promises the faithful in Paradise rivers flowing with the stuff!)

For us Christians, though, wine is part of the heavenly banquet, the great feast at the end of time, foretold in Isaiah 25: “the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear... He will swallow up death for ever.” This is what Jesus was referring to at the Last Supper, when he declared “I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (Matt 26:29). And we share in that banquet when we share in that supper at the Eucharist, proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord. For our God is no distant concept, but one who shared our life, and lives today, revealed in bread and wine.

- *Hector Davie*

## Quotable Quote

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other?"

Dorothea, in "Middlemarch" by George Eliot

- *Dorothy Beriger*



# FAQ: What does the Bishop do?

Bishop Geoffrey retires in November and there will be several months of consultations to find out what sort of person the next bishop should be.

For most people in the pews a bishop is the man in a funny hat who turns up for confirmations and other special occasions. There are certain things that can only be done by a bishop, in particular confirmation, ordinations and the blessing of the oils for baptism and



for anointing the sick. The bishop is a focus of unity in the diocese and with the wider Church. Parishes and chaplaincies are all in communion with their bishop, which means that if you go to another Anglican church on your holidays you can be sure that the sacraments are being validly celebrated there.

The word “bishop” comes from a Greek word (*episkopos* – hence “episcopalian”) which means an overseer. A bishop is responsible for making sure that things are being done properly in the churches in his diocese. This involves meeting clergy, churchwardens and other parishioners, as well as the inevitable meetings of committees and synods. This takes up a lot of time and, in the Diocese in Europe, a lot of travel. The bishop has the power to discipline clergy and he, together with the archdeacon, has to deal with complaints or problems in parishes.

The bishop is “the pastor to the pastors”, offering prayer, advice and other support to clergy and their families when needed. He also has a teaching rôle, exercised in addresses to the archdeaconry and diocesan synods, the Christmas and Easter letters etc. Bishop Geoffrey is an authority on 19<sup>th</sup> century church history and many bishops write books on theology, prayer, mission etc.

Bishops also have an outward rôle. In England some sit in the House of Lords and they are involved in the life of their diocese, for instance Bishop Jones of Liverpool chaired the enquiry into the disaster at the Hillsborough football stadium and the Bishop of Southwark was on the streets of Woolwich after the recent shooting there. In the Diocese in Europe the bishop frequently meets leaders from other churches as well as ambassadors and others in public life.

All in all, then, there's more to the job than the hat!

-PMP

# A Word for the Month – Paradise

*Traduttore traditore*, runs the Italian saying – translators are traitors. And we can all think of examples where translation has failed to render thoughts in one language into the equivalent in another. The Bible has a number of words whose meaning we can only guess at – some trivial (should the lover of Song of Songs 2:17 be like a gazelle on the cleft mountains or on the Mountains of Bether?), some frustrating (what exactly does the word Selah mean in the middle of several of the Psalms? What exactly did a cherub look like? And why should devout Pharisees wash themselves “with a fist”, as the Greek of Mark 7:3 seems to imply?), some puzzling (why should anyone want to cast their bread on the waters (Ecclesiastes 11:1)?)

The word Paradise seems clear enough. Surely it is a place where men and women live innocently, a place of delight, a place where God is present and where the lion lies down with the lamb? Some of us may even recall the Muslim vision of green carpets, attentive damsels and rivers flowing with honey and wine. Is this





what Jesus had in mind when he said to the repentant thief “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43)?

Yes and no. The word itself is from old Persian. Its original meaning is “something constructed round something else”, an enclosure, and specifically a park or royal estate. And wherever there were royal estates in the middle east, this word was used to describe them. The Greeks borrowed the word to describe a zoo, a *Tierpark*, and in Hebrew, the loan-word *pardes* meant an orchard – with a hint of luxury and repose (Ecclesiastes 2:5, Song of Songs 4:13).

When the Old Testament came to be translated into Greek, some three or four centuries before Christ, the word *paradeisos* was used not only for these orchards, but also to translate the Hebrew word for garden, *gan*, and particularly, the garden planted by God in the creation story – the Garden of Eden.

In the cosmopolitan world of the last centuries before Christ, Jewish scholars developed the idea of Paradise as a Garden of Eden restored. It might be a place of material comforts (rather like the Jehovah's Witnesses' ideas of the afterlife, or that depicted in the Qur'an), or of spiritual fulfilment – Ecclesiasticus 24:25-30 pictures the wisdom of God overflowing its irrigation channels and filling the whole of Paradise.

Jesus' words to the thief are one of three occasions where the New Testament mentions Paradise. The others are 2 Corinthians 12:4, where Paul talks of a person who was “caught up into Paradise (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know)” and “heard things that no mortal is permitted to repeat”, and Revelation 2:7, where the promise to the church in Ephesus is “permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.”

Clearly Paradise is heavenly, just as the heavenly Jerusalem is one aspect of life in God's kingdom. Christian writers through the ages have argued over the shape and form of heaven. Where is this third heaven Paul mentions to the Corinthians? Is Paradise a sort of second-class heaven, as Irenaeus thought in the second century? When Jesus said “today” to the thief on the cross, what does this tell us about the time between the crucifixion and the resurrection (some texts of Luke's Gospel move the comma to after “today” to try and resolve that difficulty!). The New Testament writers encourage us not to ask too closely – even the Revelation ends with a warning not to read more into John's vision than he recorded. Paradise is being together with God, and being together with God is Paradise. Amen.

- *Hector Davie*

# Chaplain's Notes

## Confirmation

You can read all about our new Confirmation course for young people on page 23. Please pray for all involved, that the course will help the young people concerned to develop a mature faith, strong enough to withstand the peer pressures that try to lead them away from the Church.

There will be a course for adults too, starting at a later date. Please look out for details.

## Help needed



Junior Church and the crèche are becoming victims of their own success. The Safeguarding (child protection) regulations require that there are two adults present with each group. On some Sundays this is proving difficult to achieve and it could mean that groups have to be cancelled.

One possibility would be to have a pool of volunteers who would be willing to be "extra bodies". They would not be required to teach but simply to be on hand to sit in a group if needed. Please let the Chaplain or the Church Office know if you are willing to help.

## Back to Church

Our Back to Church Sunday is 1 September this year. We keep this Sunday as a day when we are back from holidays, back to work and when Church activities get going again after the break. As in previous years, we shall have prayers of thanksgiving and dedication for the Council members and everyone else who plays a part in the ministry of the whole church.

We also have our International Lunch, when we can bring and share food from the various countries from which we come. There will be an international atmosphere in the worship too, following on from the Junior Church sleepover the day before, whose theme is "the Church – God's worldwide family".

## ***Grande célébration***

Also on 1 September, at 18.00, there will be a special ecumenical service in Lausanne Cathedral. During the service, ecumenical labels (awards) will be presented for projects jointly organised by different churches, and the Swiss delegates to the world assembly of the World Council of Churches in Korea will be commissioned. All are invited.

## **National Day of Prayer**

This year, the national council of churches (AGCK) is holding an outdoor event in preparation for the National Day of Prayer. It will be held at the Grosse Schanze in Berne, on Saturday 14 September, starting at 10.15. Please look out for flyers nearer the time.

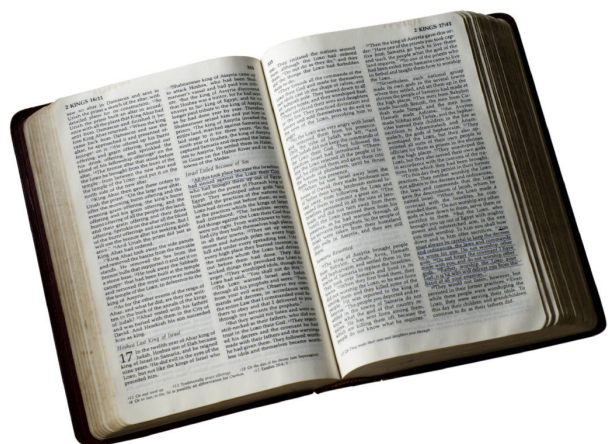


## **Come on Pilgrimage**

The Willibrord Society, which promotes closer relations between the Anglican and Old Catholic churches, is holding a pilgrimage to the chapel of Niklaus von Flüe (Bruder Klaus) on Saturday 28 September. The day starts with a Eucharist in the chapel at 11.15, after which you can have a picnic lunch and discover some of the other sites associated with Bruder Klaus. The 9 o'clock train to Lucerne will get you there. For more details, please see information in the hall.

## **Bible notes**

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF, not to be confused with BSF, the Bible Study Fellowship) produces excellent notes on the Bible. Written by leading mainstream Christian scholars and preachers, they give a balanced and informative background to the passages discussed. There are free samples on the display case in the hall and you can get a subscription through Claire Morgenthaler (see inside back page of this magazine).



# Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2013

The annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Montreux at the Church of St John the Evangelist. It was attended by 45 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Zürich. The choir of St Ursula's was represented with 14 singers. The Festival Director of Music was Peter Fairgrieve, Choir Master at St John's, Montreux, supported by Richard Townend as Festival Organist. A choral Evensong on Saturday and a choral Communion Service on Sunday Morning were the highlights of the occasion. The choral music included works by Byrd, Durufle, Händel, Rawsthorne, Rutter, Stanford, Tallis and Wood.



Thanks are extended to the Chaplaincy of St John's Montreux for having hosted this Festival, and to all who have supported and contributed in many ways to making it a great event.

As usual this Festival has been one of the few occasions where members from the different chaplaincies are meeting and are joining forces in a common cause: enriching worship with meaningful music.

- Hans-Karl Pfyffer



# Super Summer Fête 2013

The weather wasn't especially summery on 25 May, but that didn't stop people from enjoying St Ursula's Super Summer Fête. With books, food and games, there was something for everyone. The event took in over Fr7500. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the summer fête!





offenekirche 

Sunday 13 October 2013, 6 pm

# Benefit Concert

**Synagogue Music  
of the Romantic period**

and Works by

J.S. Bach, H. Purcell,  
F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy  
Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(The 100th Psalm)



Admission free, collection to  
enable Zambian AIDS orphans  
to go to school

  
Swiss Friends of  
*Cecily's Fund*

Sunday 13 October 2013, 6 pm  
Heiliggeistkirche Bern

# Benefit Concert

## Synagogue Music of the Romantic period

and Works by  
J.S. Bach, H. Purcell,  
F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy and  
Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(The 100th Psalm)

with:

- The Louis Lewandowski Chamber Orchestra  
Conductor François Lilienfeld
- The Vocal Ensemble Suppléments Musicaux  
Conductor Moritz Achermann
- Naomi Sánchez, Piano
- Marc Fitze, Organ

Admission free, collection to enable  
Zambian AIDS orphans to go to school



offene kirche – in der Heiliggeistkirche, Postfach 1040, 3000 Bern 23  
T 031 370 71 14, F 031 370 71 91, info@offene-kirche.ch, www.offene-kirche.ch  
Öffnungszeiten: Di, Mi 11 – 18.30 Uhr, Do 11 – 20.30 Uhr, Fr 11 – 16.30 Uhr

# The Price has gone up



A hundred years ago, St Ursula's had been standing for seven years. The church had cost a little less than 25000 francs to build – under £1000 at the then exchange rate of 25 francs to the pound. The chaplain's stipend was a generous Fr375 a month, or £15. But then a kilo loaf of bread cost 37 rappen, and a kilo of beef an average of Fr1.80. And a working man's average hourly wage was 61 rappen (35 rappen for women!).

The Federal Office for Statistics tells us that prices have risen tenfold over the last hundred years. Wages have risen fortyfold. They also tell us that prices at the end of June 2013 were lower than they were at the end of April 2008.

Statistics never lie, but average figures are misleading. A return ticket to Zurich indeed cost Fr10.05 a hundred years ago, and Fr98 now. Yet the journey today is far faster, cleaner and more comfortable (and only Fr49 if we have a half-fare card). On the other hand, the same ticket cost Fr50 in 1990 (or Fr25, even!), and the journey was just as clean and nearly as fast. A lot of prices have increased disproportionately over the past 20 years – oil and electricity spring to mind, while others have shrunk – think electronics.

St Ursula's is not like an average household. A large part of our expenditure, 55%, goes on stipends, wages and staff costs, which rise relentlessly. We spend another 6% or more on heating and electricity, two areas where prices have climbed steeply. This has spurred us to economize – a new lighting concept, a new telephone and internet concept are in place, and a new energy concept is on its way. But nevertheless, the church needs your support as much as ever. We receive no outside help, apart from a small contribution from the other Swiss Anglican churches to cover our expenditure when Peter is away on arch-deaconry business, and we are forced to use our own resources. So we thank you for all your gifts, of time, of talents, of money. Without you, we would be less well placed to serve the needs of Christ's family at St Ursula's. Keep our needs in mind.

- *The Treasurer*





St Ursula's  
Anglican/Episcopalian Church  
Berne

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

10.00 – 14.00

Sale of

Second Hand Books

British Food Products

Usborne Children's Books

Restaurant for  
Refreshments and Lunch

St Ursula's Church, Jubiläumplatz, 3005 Berne, Tel: 031 352 85 67

From Berne railway station: Tram: No. 8 direction Saali or No. 7 direction Ostring, stop: Luisenstrasse

Bus: No. 19 direction Elfenau, stop: Tierpark

# Thank You From Dorothy Beriger

I should like to thank all those from St Ursula's church family who, after the sudden death of my dear husband Hanno, gave me support and comfort by thought, word or deed and/or by attending the service in the Münster. I was moved by such a demonstration of solidarity and compassion and I thank you each and every one. God bless you.

Dorothy

# Goodbye and Welcome at the Münster

Pfarrer Jürg Welter retires from the staff of the Münster on 25 August. Some of us will know Jürg from the annual service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. There will be a choral service at the Münster that day to mark his departure. His replacement is to be Pfarrer Beat Allemand, who will be installed on 1 September.

We wish them both well and send our prayers for the new stages in their ministry.

- PMP

## 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!)

Church Office: 031 352 85 67

## Neuchâtel Church

**Minister in Charge: The Rev. Dianne Cox**

The Neuchâtel Church is now linked with Christ Church Lausanne.

For information contact Mrs Jenny Veenendaal (tel 032 841 64 32) or see the website [www.neuchatel-church.ch](http://www.neuchatel-church.ch)

# Calendar of Services

## **4 August Trinity 10**

10.00 Sung Eucharist and Baptism  
Hosea 11:1-11  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

## **11 August Trinity 11**

8.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Informal Eucharist  
Isaiah 1:1,10-20  
Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16  
Luke 12:32-40

## **18 August Trinity 12**

10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

## **25 August Trinity 13**

8.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Informal Eucharist  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17



## **1 September Trinity 14**

**Back to Church Sunday**  
10.00 All-Age Eucharist  
Readings TBA

## **8 September The Blessed Virgin Mary**

8.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Informal Eucharist  
Isaiah 61:10-11  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 1:46-55

## **15 September Trinity 16**

10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

## **22 September Trinity 17**

8.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Informal Eucharist  
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

## **29 September St Michael and All Angels**

10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Genesis 28:10-17  
Revelation 12:7-12  
John 1:47-51

# Prayer Diary

August 2013

- 1 Thursday Swiss National Day
- 2 Friday the national and local governments
- 3 Saturday couples getting married
- 4 **Sunday** citizens of heaven
- 5 Monday limiting the spread of nuclear weapons
- 6 Tuesday *Transfiguration*
- 7 Wednesday allergy sufferers
- 8 Thursday those who preach
- 9 Friday Christian family values
- 10 Saturday holiday chaplains in Kandersteg and Zermatt
- 11 **Sunday** Junior Church leaders and helpers
- 12 Monday young people returning to school
- 13 Tuesday nurses
- 14 Wednesday the Thun church group
- 15 Thursday *the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 16 Friday our neighbours
- 17 Saturday workers in hotels and restaurants
- 18 **Sunday** today's meeting about Confirmation
- 19 Monday the work of Refuge Egypt, our charity of the month
- 20 Tuesday the Salvation Army
- 21 Wednesday farmers
- 22 Thursday quiet times
- 23 Friday the Patchwork Group
- 24 Saturday people travelling
- 25 **Sunday** holiday chaplains in Wengen and Interlaken
- 26 Monday social workers
- 27 Tuesday people with psychiatric problems
- 28 Wednesday reducing St Ursula's carbon footprint
- 29 Thursday people who are housebound
- 30 Friday the Junior Church sleepover
- 31 Saturday missionaries

## September 2013

- 1 **Sunday** God's worldwide family
- 2 Monday the Ecumenical Labels project
- 3 Tuesday opportunities for outreach
- 4 Wednesday churches in Thun
- 5 Thursday the financial needs of our chaplaincy
- 6 Friday today's Council meeting
- 7 Saturday the Book and Food Sale
- 8 **Sunday** *the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 9 Monday care for the environment
- 10 Tuesday chaplaincies in a vacancy
- 11 Wednesday care homes in the Berne area
- 12 Thursday the financial needs of our chaplaincy
- 13 Friday Christian stewardship
- 14 Saturday *Holy Cross Day*
- 15 **Sunday** the National Day of Prayer
- 16 Monday Syrian refugees in Egypt
- 17 Tuesday The English Speaking Playgroup
- 18 Wednesday people providing essential services in our locality
- 19 Thursday the British School of Berne
- 20 Friday current troublespots in the world
- 21 Saturday *St Matthew the Apostle*
- 22 **Sunday** all who volunteer time and talents in church
- 23 Monday family members living far away
- 24 Tuesday business leaders
- 25 Wednesday this year's Pledge Giving Appeal
- 26 Thursday protecting endangered plant and animal species
- 27 Friday the Bible Reading Fellowship
- 28 Saturday clean water and sanitation projects
- 29 **Sunday** *St Michael and All Angels*
- 30 Monday God's gifts and ours

# For Your Diary

## August & September 2013

### Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots, not on 7 & 14 August
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork, not on 21 & 28 June
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice, not on 3 August

### Other Events

Sunday 4 August	10.00	Youth Group
Tuesday 6 August	09.00 – 19.30	JC 7 – 11 Activity Club Event
Sunday 18 August	10.00	Youth Group
	11.30	Youth Confirmation Information Meeting
Friday 23 August	09.00 - 13.00	Book Sorting
Friday 30 August	17.00	Junior Church Sleepover until 11.00 on Saturday morning
Sunday 1 September		Back to Church Sunday with
	10.00	Youth Group
	12.00	Bring & Share International Lunch
Friday 6 September	19.30	Church Council
Friday 6 September	09.00 - 13.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 7 September	10-00 - 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Saturday 14 September	17.00-20.30	JC 7 – 11 Activity Club Event
Sunday 15 September		COPY DATE
	10.00	Youth Group
Thursday 26 September	09.00	Magazine Collating
Sunday 29 September	10.00	Youth Group

## Future Dates

Friday 22 November	17.00 - 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 23 November	10.00 - 15.00	
Sunday 8 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Thursday 12 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Thursday 19 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service

## Junior Church News

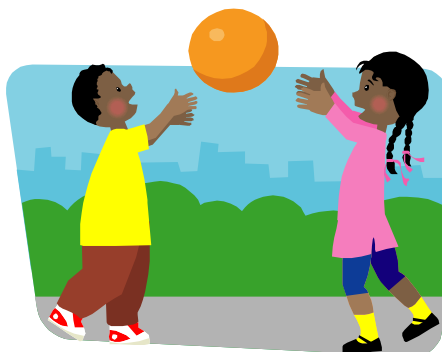
### Meeting Times

Junior Church normally meets every Sunday in the year, unless there is a special All-Age service. It begins with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church. After this, all the children and teachers meet together in the hall for a brief introduction, prayer and to collect our gifts for Tear Fund. We currently run three classes for children aged between 3-14 years. Teenies have a separate meeting schedule. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday the groups return to church at the Peace for a blessing.



### Lessons

In this Season after Pentecost, also known as Ordinary Time, we explore stories about the lives and works of the prophets Elisha and Elijah, read a parable from Luke, hear about the work of the early Christian communities in Hebrews and of Jesus' compassion. We deal with topics such as challenging injustice, feeling God's presence in moments of exhaustion, disappointment and loneliness, neighbourly love and practices of compassion, contemplation and prayer.



## Junior Church Sleepover

This year's sleepover is on the last Friday of August. Registration latest by Sunday, 25 August. The sleepover at church begins at 18.00 on Friday evening and finishes at 11.00 on Saturday morning. The theme for this year's sleepover is "The Church – God's Worldwide Family". As well as many fun activities, we will also be preparing some contributions (including songs) for worship on the Sunday morning, which will be followed by the International Lunch. This will be an all-age service and we encourage you to come with your children.



## Social Activities for 7-12 year olds: past and coming up

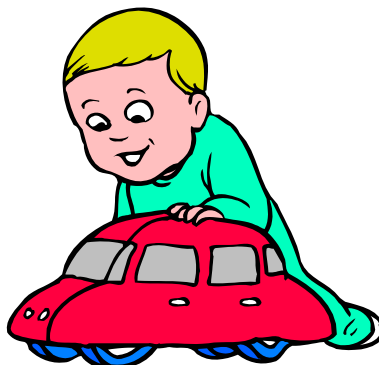


Because of rain, we had to cancel our gold-washing event but we did have a great time with our family picnic with football and softball down at the Aare in June. Our next Activity Club event is at the end of the Summer holidays (second week of August) with a day-hike planned down the Schwarzwasser-schlucht. If you are interested in joining Activity Club and would like to receive our mails, please contact Sharon Batley (079 482 29 72) or Françoise Hänggi ([fhaenggi@swissonline.ch](mailto:fhaenggi@swissonline.ch)).

## Nursery

All children under 3 are welcome in the nursery (crèche). A reminder to parents: please collect your child immediately after the service; you may also fetch your child before communion, if you would like him/her to receive a blessing.

- Françoise Hänggi





# Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to the Junior Church Children with birthdays in August and September:

William Hargrave 4 on 5 August

Finn Hofer 5 on 6 August

Sean Gertsch 14 on 25 August

Benedikt Bisig 11 on 30 August

Shelley Wildhaber 14 on 3 September

Lele Yan 6 on 6 September

Florie Masciadri 13 on 23 September

Edi Kingori 14 on 27 September



## New Youth Confirmation Class

A new class for confirmation preparation for young people will start after the autumn holidays. As Christians, we are all on a journey and we would like to invite young people (aged 13 upwards) to meet with us and with one another to travel a few steps together, learning more about God and aspects of the Christian faith on the way.

The class will run for about 18 months, with hopefully an opportunity for confirmation in June 2015. The meetings will be held on Sunday mornings, normally on the first and third Sunday of each month. There will also be a weekend away, probably in May / June 2015.

To allow interested young people and their parents to find out more, there will be a meeting after church on Sunday 18 August. If you would like to attend this meeting, or if you would like to know more about the course, please contact the chaplain or Tricia Carrick.

This new venture needs the prayer and support of the whole church family. Please pray for all those involved in starting this new group: the young people, their families and the leaders.

- *Tricia Carrick*

# Charity of the Month: Refuge Egypt

As we prepare for our summer holidays, there are many people in other parts of the world who have significant hardship. One such country is Egypt. Our Charity focus for this issue comes from Refuge Egypt in Cairo, where there are growing concerns about the safety of the country's Christians.

How can Refuge Egypt continue to provide humanitarian assistance, medicine and job placement services to all African refugees as well as medical services to Syrian and Iraqi refugees with such an uncertain and tense political situation going on in their own country?

This article explains how, despite the political turmoil and tensions within the country, Refuge Egypt is still continuing with its mission and aims of supporting the most vulnerable people in the community.

Besides the Refuge Egypt documentation, this article draws on a short personal interview given by Refuge Egypt's Deputy Director, Amira Makram, on 13 July 2013. It also refers to the recent visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to Egypt.

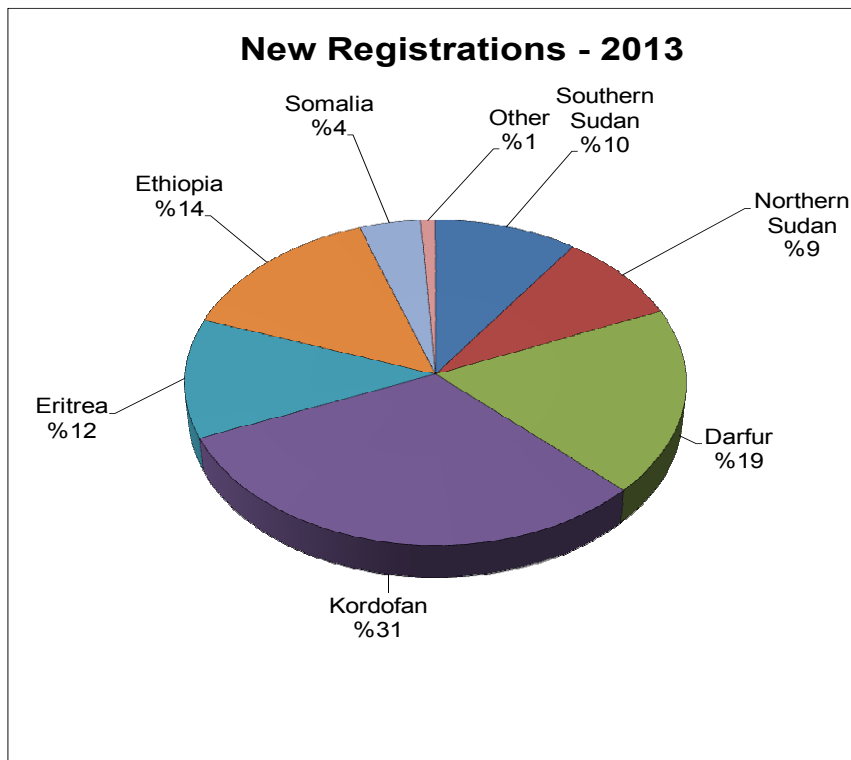
St Ursula's church supports Refuge Egypt, which serves people from Sudan and other African countries living in Egypt, who have fled their original country of nationality due to war or disaster, and who have well founded fears of return due to persecution or loss of rights.

Refuge Egypt continues to provide humanitarian assistance and development programs for refugees by helping newly-arrived asylum seekers in Cairo with material needs, whilst they are waiting for the UNHCR to determine their refugee status.

## **Refuge Egypt: Situation Update**

The post-revolution economic and socio-political climate in Egypt is currently unstable. In the past year, tourism and foreign investment declined, inflation rose to 9%, economic growth dropped by 2%, and foreign reserves were halved. This has led to economic uncertainty for both Egyptians and refugees, leaving the poor vulnerable to food insecurity. This is especially true for African refugees who are not permitted to work and are often forced to work in the informal sector.

## New Registrations in 2013



**Figure 1:** Refuge Egypt - New Registrations in 2013

Refuge Egypt is particularly challenged with a large influx of refugees from its border regions.

In the first half of 2013, 1,220 individuals registered with the charity, with an average of 203 individuals per month. This is almost double the number of new registrations in the first half of 2012 (Jan-June 2012: 779 refugees).

The distribution of refugees who registered with Refuge Egypt in 2013 is shown in Figure 1.

### Areas of Motivation

Despite the challenging situation, there are successes to report. Refuge Egypt's youth department stays in contact with the youth who have come to know the Lord Jesus. They are encouraged by the transformation that they see in the young people's lives.

These are a few of the noticeable changes:

- Active involvement in churches
- A new outlook on life and the future
- Eagerness to work and study
- Three post-gang members decided to learn guitar in the guitar class

A man, who used to be a gang leader, opened his apartment to host Bible studies under intense criticism from his old gang friends.

### **Main Focus in a Dynamic Situation**

Amira Makram, Refuge Egypt's Deputy Director spoke with us on the telephone and reflects on the charity's main focus:

"With our services we want to reach out to the most needy and vulnerable people in the community through humanitarian assistance and medical assistance when they come to Refuge Egypt."



**Figure 2:** Amira Makram, Refuge Egypt's Deputy

So at the moment the charity provide activities through three departments:

1. Family Support
2. Medical care
3. Capacity and Livelihoods.

Amira explains how Refuge Egypt can still continue with operations despite the recent turmoil. However, there are difficulties.

"The thing that challenges us most is the reaction of the Egyptian community towards strangers, especially the people from Syria and Ethiopia. Also, during the recent period of unrest, some refugees lost their jobs because they were afraid to go to work: this puts pressure on us to provide more food assistance to these people."

Another challenge is that the Syrian community is so large, and Amira doesn't know how they can support these people even with the help of the UNHCR. The UNHCR and other partners do not have the capacity to care for all of these people.

"Sometimes, I feel like we forget about the African refugees because we are too worried about Syrians at the moment. Plus, here in Egypt, in order to operate in this time, it's a little bit hard to work in such an atmosphere. Sometimes, I feel burdened from all sides: burdened for refugees and burdened for the political situation and all the things that are happening in Egypt."

Egypt was also recently visited by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, because he is particularly aware of the significance of the region.

### **You are Not Forgotten**

Archbishop Welby visited Egypt in June 2013 and met with Pope Tawadros II, of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed el-Tayeb. Archbishop Justin assured Christians and Muslims

in Egypt that all who strive for peace and reconciliation in the region “are not forgotten”.

Indeed, more recently in July 2013, following fresh turmoil in Egypt, both the Archbishops of Canterbury and York sent a message of 'committed solidarity' to Pope Tawadros II and Bishop Mouneer in Cairo. The Archbishops joined in the call to pray for Egypt for unity and reconciliation and the ending to all violence, praying that all parties may be able to work together for a common future.



Figure 3: Morning

Prayer with

Archbishop Justin at the Anglican Cathedral in Cairo- Source: Lambeth Palace

### Prayer at the Centre

So, what can we at St Ursula’s do to help Refuge Egypt?

Amira is thankful that St Ursula’s has included Refuge Egypt as one of its charities:

“Please pray for us and for peace in Egypt because this affects both the staff and the refugees here. Also, pray for the resources of Refuge Egypt: inflation is a big problem right now: it is becoming difficult to provide food and clothes for the new refugees that come to us. Another problem for refugees is security. Please pray for refugees themselves to find a way to earn their living here in Egypt.”

- Pieter Perrett for the Charity and Mission Team

# Bioterra Gardening Classes

Bioterra is now offering gardening classes in English. The next topic is "Gardening in Switzerland: what vegetables and herbs can you grow successfully north of the Alps?" and is September 7th from 2 to 5 p.m. in the private garden of the instructor, Renato Bonetti, in Winznau near Olten. Cost: 10 Francs. If you are interested in participating in this class or in being on the mailing list to receive information about future classes, please contact Judy Steinemann at [judith.steinemann@hispeed.ch](mailto:judith.steinemann@hispeed.ch) or via Buchholzstrasse 45, 3066 Stettlen.



- Judy Steinemann

## Harry Potter editions in British and American English for PhD research

A number of differences particularly in terms of lexis exist between the British edition and American edition of the famous Harry Potter books. Most of these differences were made by the US editors to clarify the text for American readers. For example, the UK version uses the term "skip" while the US edition uses the term "dumpster." While some would contend that there is no reason why American readers couldn't work out what a British term means, those kinds of changes do have some logic to them. However, some differences are a bit less easy to explain, such as the change which removed the number of Sirius's Gringotts vault in the US version.

As my PhD research also deals with lexical differences between British and American English, I would like to very briefly compare British editions to American editions. Therefore, I would need approximately 3 or 4 British editions with their equivalents in American English. You just need to lend them to me for a few weeks. You might bring them to church and I would pick them up from there. Thank you very much for your precious help!

Best regards and God bless you!

- Andy Mering



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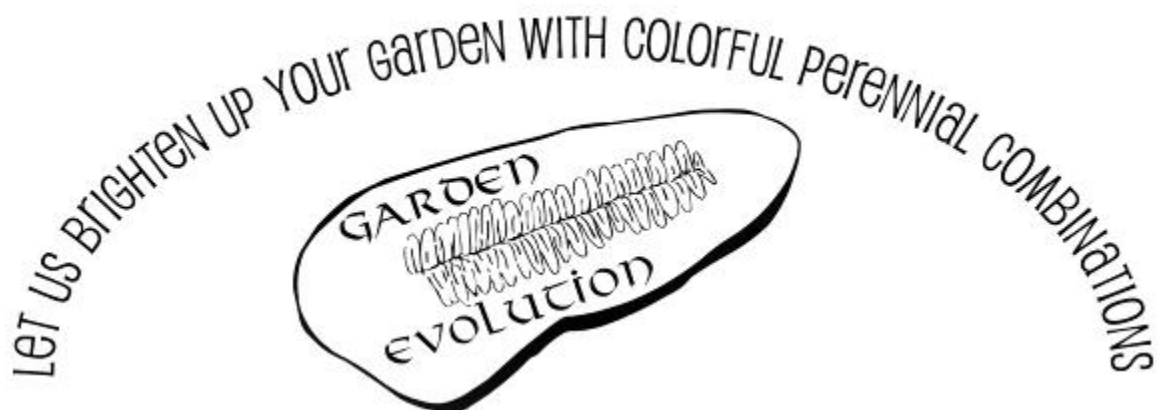
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# A Last Beatitude

And blessed are the ones we overlook;  
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,  
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book  
But keep the books and tally up the quota,  
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',  
The quiet ones who organise the fete,  
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,  
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.  
God knows the depths that often go unspoken  
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,  
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken  
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.  
Invisible on earth, without a voice,  
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

- *Malcolm Guite*

