

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



June - July 2014

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 **Associate Priest** **Youth Coordinator**

Linda Bisig

Revd Mark Pogson

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 all-age.

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

ST URSULA'S BERNE

The church is one of the nine Swiss chaplaincies that have a resident chaplain (minister) and together form the Archdeaconry of Switzerland. This is part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe which stretches from the Canary Islands to Ankara, from Moscow to Morocco.

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land Co. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as a thank offering for the near miraculous recovery of her adopted daughter, who was treated at the clinic of the famous Professor Kocher.

The hall and the house were added in 1959. An English Missionary Society, the USPG, helped to support the church from its earliest days. Since 1977, however, the chaplaincy has been fully self-supporting, relying solely on its members and well-wishers for its financial support.

St Ursula's has a long tradition of ministry to all English-speaking people in the Canton of Berne and beyond. It also provides a home for Christians from many different denominations and cultural backgrounds. Regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names to the Electoral Roll and so play a full part in the life of the church. Details from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

See Calendar inside for details of this month's services
St Ursula's Church website: <http://www.anglican.ch/berne>
E-mail: berne@anglican.ch



St Ursula's Church Magazine

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COPY DATE

for the August—September magazine is

13 July 2014

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: 24 July 2014

Chaplain's Message

Everyone at the 10 o'clock Eucharist on the day of the AGM was asked to fill in a questionnaire about belief. A couple of weeks before that the Council also filled in a similar questionnaire. Both consisted of ten short statements about what Christians believe and people were asked to indicate to what extent they agreed with these on a scale of one to five.

The questions covered such things as attitudes to evolution, whether only Christians could be saved, the authority of the Bible and the Church's concern for social issues. Broadly speaking, a score close to fifty would be characterised as a conservative or even fundamentalist stance whereas lower scores indicate liberal attitudes. In our case the scores were remarkably consistent for both the Council and the congregation in general. They were overwhelmingly clustered between 15 and 25, which means that we are mainly in the somewhat liberal to moderate bracket. Typically Anglican! And, I suspect, fairly typical of most mainstream churches.

The results are useful in helping us identify our vision and values, something the Council has been working on for some time. What do these results tell us about St Ursula's? Rather than use words like "liberal" or "fundamentalist", which can be unhelpful labels at times, it would be better to say that St Ursula's is inclusive in the sense of not being dogmatic. Unlike some churches, we do not require people to subscribe to a tightly-defined statement of faith. We adhere to the Creed, of course, and repeat it together every Sunday but we do not narrow its meaning to a single interpretation. We do not say categorically who is in or out but give people space to explore and deepen their understanding of what being a Christian means. In short, we invite them to come on a journey with us.

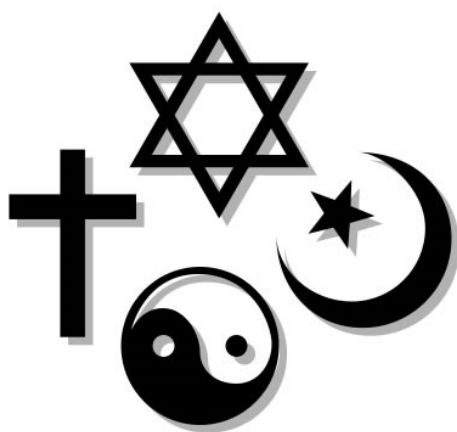
We recognise that Christianity teaches truth but we do not claim that we are personally in possession of the whole truth. Tradition and reason have their part to play along with the Bible in enabling us to get to that truth. Similarly we do not see a watertight divide between science and religion or between the sacred and the secular. We can see God at work where we are and in the lives of others, even among people who claim that they have no faith.

As the sociologists of religion say, we are a church where belonging comes before believing rather than requiring believing before we will allow belonging. Or, we might say, rather than being like a chocolate with a hard centre inside a hard coating, we are more like a walnut toffee with a soft outer layer and a hard centre.

This might run the risk of being not clear-cut enough for some people and a bit messy but remember, in Jesus, God entered into the messiness of birth, life and death.

Peter

Anglican or Religious?



According to a recent study, there are 5,734 "*Religionsgemeinschaften*" in Switzerland – that's including the Zen Sôtô Centre in Lugano, the village church in Oberdiessbach, the Deltagemeinde in Berne. And some 690,000 people in Switzerland attend a religious service at the weekend. 264,000 of these worship with the Roman Catholics, 99,000 go to a Reformed service, 189,000 attend free churches. 76,000 visit the mosque.

The Roman Catholic Church officially has 2.5 million members, the Reformed Church 1.8 million. The Free Churches officially have 170,000. There are some 440,000 Muslims living in Switzerland. And I could easily fill this page with more and more numbers.

The nineteenth-century British prime minister Disraeli is (probably wrongly) credited with coining the remark that there are three kinds of falsehood – lies, damned lies and statistics. And it is true that numbers can be interpreted in different ways – there is plenty of scope for what the political world calls spin. Yet most large numbers need interpretation, because our minds cannot grasp figures beyond our range of personal experience. So what can we do with the figures above, apart from adding commas to make them easier to compare? Many things, but here are a few ideas.

If 690,000 people attend a religious service, this means 7,440,000 do not attend a religious service. Does this mean that over 90% of people in Switzerland have no religion? Can we call this a Christian country if so few

people take part in Christian worship? How does this compare with other countries? Are people here atheists, or just apathetic? And if they are apathetic, are they likely to get the same treatment from God as the Laodiceans in the Book of Revelation (3:14-22): “Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth”?

This phenomenon is certainly not confined to Switzerland. A British sociologist, Professor Grace Davie, has drawn a distinction between “believing” and “belonging” to explain why so many English people describe themselves as “Church of England” and yet do not normally attend Sunday worship. They marry in church (if they marry at all, but that's another question), they have their children baptized (though increasingly seldom), they call on the local clergy to lead their funeral services, they think it right that civic and national events, from council meetings to diamond jubilee celebrations, include acts of prayer, of thanksgiving to God, of worship.

We believe that God gives us strength, comfort and other gifts if we ask for them. But we cannot look into God's mind, or say that God looks with disfavour on people who are not enthusiastic about religion. We only know that sin is wrong, that sin leads to more sin, and that those who sin need to seek God's forgiveness.

The figures raise other questions too. Clearly every congregation does not number 120½ people. Some will be larger, some smaller. What factors determine this, and does it matter? It seems that 10½% of Roman Catholics attend church, but only 5½% of Reformed Swiss. Why is this? And how do free churches attract congregations that total over 111% of their membership? Can we caricature Muslims as extremists when over 82% of them do not attend Friday prayers?

By asking ourselves these questions, we can make our own faith clearer and firmer, and can start to find ways to encourage others to share our own experiences of God's powerful love. Clearly there are many types of religious experience, and another question we should be asking is whether this diversity should be encouraged. But in the end, there is only one God, and it is only when all people experience the warmth of God's goodness that earth will be brought up to heaven.

- *Hector Davie*

FAQ: What do we mean by the “Catholic Church” in the Creed?

Here in Switzerland, where we have close links with the Old Catholic Church, we know that you can be Catholic without being *Roman* Catholic. Anglicans regard themselves as both Catholic and Reformed, a middle way between Rome and Geneva.

At his Ascension, Jesus told his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations”. This is what being a catholic Church means – one which reaches out to all peoples everywhere and in every age. The Church is therefore not a local club with its own rules and customs. Its members are part of something larger and which goes back to the time of the Apostles (which is why we also refer to the “apostolic” Church in the creeds).

We are catholic because we speak the “whole truth to the whole person” (Archbishop Rowan Williams). This includes

- God is Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- Jesus is the Son of God

- Jesus was born, died and rose again

- God is revealed through Scripture but also through tradition and reason

- The Church exists to celebrate the sacraments

Essentially, these are the statements contained in the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds (known, not surprisingly, as the “Catholic Creeds”).

Anglicans, along with Roman and Old Catholics as well as Orthodox Christians, have the three orders of ordained ministry (bishops, priests and deacons) which have existed since the time of the Apostles. This is another way in which we are catholic (or universal) as well as apostolic. Similarly, our lectionary (the set readings for each Sunday) and our heritage of prayers, forms of service and hymns link us not only to the Church of past generations but also to congregations in other parts of the world. So, for instance, if you want to go to church on holiday somewhere you can be sure to find a service where the sacraments are validly celebrated and conducted, in a manner with which you will be familiar, by a priest who would be recognised as such by your own church at home.

Sadly, the divisions in the Church mean that it does not always work like this in practice but the principle holds true nonetheless. We therefore continue to proclaim our faith in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and pray that one day this will be reality.

-PMP

Annual Report for 1893

Since the turn of the century, we have saved time at the AGM by putting reports on the previous year's activities in a booklet. But this is not a new idea! Even before 1906, when St Ursula's was built, there was a very active Anglican congregation in Berne. In the 1890s, they held their services in the hall of the Lerberschule (which changed its name in 1892 to the Freies Gymnasium) – at that time it was on the corner of Nägeligasse and Predigergasse. An English missionary society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (now called Us), provided the chaplain and provided a grant towards his stipend (a situation which continued up to the 1970s!).

In 1893, the chaplain was William Henry Boyne Bunting. A young man in his late twenties, he had been born in Queensland, studied at Durham, and served in the English Midlands before coming to Berne. He did not stay in Berne for very long, but returned to be vicar of Porlock in Somerset, before serving for many years in Sydenham, now in south London. He died in tragic circumstances in 1936.

We can build up quite a good picture of church life at the time. The chaplain lodged at Münzgraben 13, probably at the expense of the old Bellevue Hotel. The hotels of the time were very eager to attract English visitors, and for tourists at the time, it was important to visit places where one could worship on a Sunday in one's own language. Many Swiss hotels invited English clergy to hold services in their rooms, and even built chapels, as at Göttibach in Thun, for their English guests. Both of the grand hotels in Berne at the time were generous supporters of the “English and American Church”, and the Bernerhof and the Bellevue each contributed Fr50 a year to church funds – worth over Fr600 today.

On a Sunday morning, Boyne Bunting would walk to the Lerberschule in time for the 8.30 Communion service, where there were usually five to ten people. The *Abwart* of the Lerberschule was paid Fr170 a year to set up the communion table, candles and other furnishings – in addition to the Fr300 a year the church paid the school for use of the room. The main service, normally Morning Prayer followed by Communion, was at 10.30, and the congregation could range from 30 to 60. He would return for Evening Prayer at five, with a congregation of between ten and twenty.

In January 1894, the chaplain looked back over the past year and wrote:

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the English and American Church at Berne, as set forth at the last General Meeting.

Allow me to thank all the members of the Congregation for their kind support & courtesy shown to me since my appointment last Easter, which I hope may be extended to me as long as I am Chaplain here.

I take this opportunity of calling your attention to the fact that Lent & Easter fall very early this year, & to the necessity of Public Worship as a means of deepening the Spiritual Life- “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together”, as the Apostle says. Lent is a Penitential Season, in which some small self sacrifice should be made by us all. Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving are the three cardinal Virtues enjoined and connected together by our Master. - “If ye know these things, happy are ye, if ye do them.” - May God grant you this happiness in the present year is the earnest prayer of

Your faithful Servant in Christ

W.H. Boyne Bunting

The 1893 Accounts were attached. These make interesting reading. The church's income for the year was Fr4003.40 (multiply by anything between twelve and twenty to find an equivalent in today's currency), just over half of which came from collections, which averaged between Fr30 a week in winter to Fr55 a week in summer. A further Fr295 came from seven donors, six of them named, one “a friend”. R.V. Boyle, Esqre, A.S.T. gave Fr100, five times as much as the American Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, James Broadhead. Mme Loumyer gave Fr90 and promised to become a “subscriber” in 1894.

Subscribers were regular givers – what we would call pledgers. Besides the two grand hotels, seven people pledged to give Fr12.50, Fr25, or, in the case of H.E. Sir Francis St John, the British minister, Fr100 each quarter to the church. Subscriptions provided Fr900, almost a quarter of the church's income. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel provided Fr500, and a further Fr293.50 came from collecting boxes in the city's hotels, fees for private services “etc.”

It would be fascinating to find out more about these early members of our church. Francis St John was an “interesting, delightful man” (said Bishop Wilkinson on a visit in 1895). He is best known for finding a map of the Transvaal in the Bundeshaus which was of use to the British during the Boer War. Mrs de Mutach, who subscribed Fr25 a quarter, is remembered for presenting the church with one or more altar frontals, which were only replaced in the 1930s. Lady Vaux of Harrowden was another subscriber – Lord Vaux was in the diplomatic service.

The church had relatively few expenses, beyond paying for the hall and the caretaker at the Lerberschule. Lighting and heating amounted to Fr51.10, Locum clergy standing in during the chaplain's absences received Fr85.35, Fr25 was sent to the Bishop of Fulham for the "Bishopric Sustentation Fund". In all, outgoings were Fr708.10, leaving Fr3299.30 for the chaplain's use – a reasonable annual income in 1893.

Later chaplains would give more vivid accounts of their work. Harcourt Lightburne, chaplain from 1913 to 1916, contributed a gossip column to the local weekly English-language Chronicle, and Bassell Winter, chaplain from 1921 to 1935, wrote regularly for church magazines back in England. But piecing together fragments about church life here before St Ursula's was built is an interesting experience, and there is much more to be tweaked out!

– Hector Davie

<u>Statement of Accounts, 1893.</u>			<u>Francs</u>
Dr.	Francs.	Cr.	
Hire of Hall	300. 00	Grant. S.P. &	500.00
Board of Lerberschule	170. 00	Subscriptions	
Lighting & Heating	51. 10	H. S. - E. W. St. John, Esq. (34 ^{rs})	300.00
Locum Tenens, Fees	85. 35	Lady Vaup of Harroldon (28 ^{rs})	50.00
Bishopric Sustentation Funds	25. 00	Mrs. Dawson 4 Quarters	100.00
Printing	16. 00	Mrs. Eden "	100.00
Washing & Repairs	7. 50	Mrs. A. de Mubach "	100.00
Wine for Holy Communion	7. 80	Mrs. Nixon "	100.00
Charity &c.	15. 00	Miss Forsler "	50.00
Candles (Altar &c.)	13. 50	Bernerhof Hotel (Proprietors)	50.00
Postage & Incidental Expenses	12. 85	Bellevalde Hotel (Proprietors)	50.00
	704. 10	Donations.	900.00
		Hon. J. V. Broadhead	20.00
		^{Subscribers} Madame Coumyer	90.00
		^{Annual} Mrs. Beresford	40.00
		Mrs. Morgan	25.00
		Miss Vincent	10.00
		R. V. Boyle, Esq. A.S.T.	100.00
		"A Friend"	10.00
		Offertories	295.00
		January - March (last day)	384.50
		April - June	407.80
		July - September	715.05
		October - December	497.55
Balance due to Chaplain	3299. 30	Fees, Hotel Boxes, Priv. Celebrations of H.C. &c.	293. 50
	4003. 40		4003. 40

13. Münstgraben
Berne.

January 1894.

Dear

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the English & American Church at Berne, as set forth at the last General Meeting.

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I take this opportunity of calling your attention to the fact that Lent & Easter fall very early this year, & to the necessity of Public Worship as a means of deepening the spiritual life — "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together", as the Apostle says.

Lent is a penitential season, in which some small self-sacrifice should be made by us all. Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving are the three cardinal virtues enjoined & connected together by our Master. — "If ye know these things, happy are ye, if ye do them." — May God grant you this happiness in the present year is the earnest prayer of

your faithful servant in Christ

W. H. Boyer Bunting

A Word for the Month – Synagogue

We Christians know the routine. If it's Sunday, there'll be a service at the local church. And if we are good Christians, we will go and join in. That's what Christians do. And if we were Jews, it would be the Sabbath, Saturday and not Sunday, and the synagogue and not the church.

That has been so for the last two thousand years, give or take. But the Jews have been around for much longer – since the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Yet synagogues, as an institution, are not very much older than churches. They don't even get a mention in the Old Testament.

You can guess the reason. Until they were exiled to Babylon in the sixth century BC, the Jews' religion revolved around the Temple, and in some cases around their village feasts. With the Exile all this changed. The exiles felt a need to gather together their laws, their writings and their prayers, and to study them. The rebuilding of the Temple in the fifth century BC didn't stop the gradual development of local places where people could meet and study the Law together – especially as Jews spread all over the known world, for you couldn't really attend the Temple feasts if you lived in China, in India, in Ethiopia or in Spain.

Such a place was called a synagogue, from a Greek word meaning “meeting together” - the Hebrew name is *beth kneset*, a meeting house. For many Jews, a more familiar name is *shul*, Yiddish for *Schule*, which hints at the primary purpose of a synagogue – not worship but study. The first century Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria calls synagogues “houses of instruction, where the philosophy of the fathers and all manner of virtues are taught.” And the gospels refer frequently to Jesus “teaching in the synagogues.” Prayer and worship played a part, but in second place.

Like churches, synagogues can be large or small, imposing or humble. In modern times they all contain a light to recall the menorah, the seven-branched candlestick kept burning in the temple. But the two essential furnishings are the ark – the box containing the scroll of the Law, and the desk to read it from.

We can piece together a picture of the synagogues where Jesus and where Paul taught. They were purpose-built – the synagogue in Capernaum had been built by a Roman army officer (Luke 7:5). The assembly would start with prayers (where some regarded this as a chance to put on a show (Matt 6:5)), and would then continue with readings and explanation of the Law and of the Prophets.

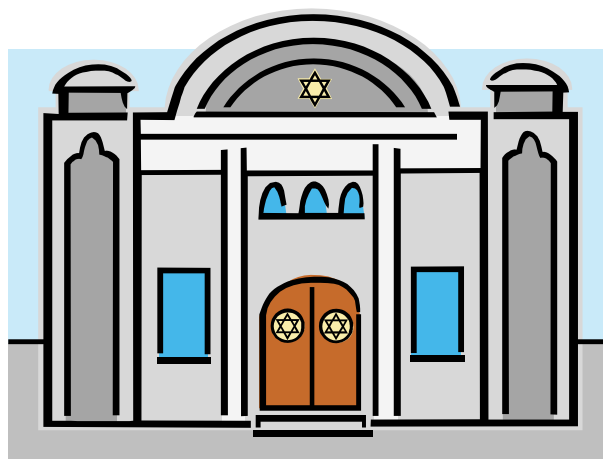
The “ruler”, or leader of the synagogue would act as chairman, and might explain passages of the law himself, or invite a suitable person – a priest, maybe, or a rabbi – to speak. The New Testament assumes that anyone with something important to say would be allowed to address the assembly – as at Antioch in Pisidia, where Paul and his companions receive a message “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.”

So we read in Luke 4 of Jesus teaching at the synagogue in Nazareth. Having read the set passage from Isaiah 61 (“The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the poor...”), he returns the scroll to the ark, sits down, and, with everyone's eyes fixed on him, tells them that “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” His hearers are impressed, but Jesus then goes further and reminds them that God's message is not only for the Jews, reminding them of deeds done by Elijah and Elisha, which so enrages them that they hound him out of the synagogue and out of town.

So synagogues provided the setting for the early church's missionary work. When he went to a new city, Paul made a point of going to the local synagogue and telling them the good news about Jesus. And early worshippers preceded their sharing of the meal that Jesus had asked them to celebrate “in remembrance of me”, with something thought to be very similar to the worship in the synagogue: prayers, psalms, singing, followed by readings and a sermon. This is a format that has survived to our services of this day.

We have few records of what a typical synagogue in the first century was like. But they were places where people could go and learn to know God better. They were also places of fellowship – and in a Jewish context, modern-day synagogues still have this rôle. We can trace much of what we do in church today back to what people did in synagogues in Jesus' day. Indeed, essentially St Ursula's too is a place where we can share together in fellowship, coming to know and feel God's love and God's greatness together.

- *Hector Davie*



Church Breakfast

The first ever St Ursula's Sunday breakfast took place on 4 May. 21 people enjoyed cereals, bread, croissants, jam, orange juice, tea, coffee etc. together with good company and conversation.

We hope to repeat this on Sunday 1 June. Just come along from 8.30 – no need to sign up. Everyone is welcome.

- *Tricia Carrick*



SACEP Training Day- “Churches in the Headlines”

Led by the Revd Paul Needle the Diocesan Communications Officer
on Saturday, 5th July, 10.00 - 15.30 at Christ Church, Lausanne

The world of communications is changing. The church notice-board and parish magazine are no longer the only way to spread the message of the Gospel and news from our congregations.

This one day entertaining and challenging course by Paul Needle (Diocesan Communications Officer and a regular broadcaster on BBC local radio) looks at how we communicate within our churches, how we publicise news of our activities and how we can use social media to build and grow congregations and includes a safeguarding warning on social media. The course will also offer advice on dealing with the media when your church is the focus of “bad news” stories.

There is no catering – please bring a packed lunch.

Please contact the Church Office, berne@anglican.ch
or 031 352 8567 to sign up



Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld

“Understanding the beginning is the beginning of understanding”

We are studying “Unshakable Faith” by Rick Joyner.

The Ecumenical House Group meets on the following dates at 19.30:

Wednesday, 11 and 25 June 2014

Wednesday, 9 and 23 July 2014

Please contact Brian or Lynn Morgan
(031 971 13 36, 079 415 26 19 or
bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch) for more
information.

Address: Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld



Daytime House Group in Stettlen

The Daytime House Group will meet on
the following dates at 13.30:

Tuesday, 10 and 24 June 2014

Tuesday, 8 and 22 July 2014

We are also studying “Unshakable Faith”
by Rick Joyner

Please contact Brian Morgan (Leader)
(031 971 13 36) or
Linda Bisig (Host) (031 931 63 86) for
further information.

Address: Flurstrasse 15, 3066 Stettlen



- *Brian Morgan*

St Ursula's to take to the streets!

On Saturday 30 August, St Ursula's will be joining other churches in the city in the open-air Kirchenfest.

The aim of the event is to draw attention to the range of activities provided by the churches in Berne. In addition to street concerts and workshops, there will be a *Boulevard d'échange* in the Zeughausgasse when churches can, literally, set out their stall. This is what we shall be doing, to raise awareness of St Ursula's and what we have to offer. Donna Goepfert, Chloe Hodler and Janet Wenger have offered to join me to form a working party to plan our contribution.



The organisers are clear that they do not want stalls with piles of leaflets. We shall have some of those of course but we want to put on various activities during the day. So far we have thought of face-painting, badge-making, a quiz, banner-making and some musical contributions. If anyone has any other ideas, we would be glad to hear them. We also want to offer refreshments – cakes and buns, lime cordial perhaps, things that show the international nature of St Ursula's. We shall also need a team to set up and clear away afterwards.

During the coming months we shall be appealing for volunteers and we are looking for a good response.

The next day is when we have our Back to Church Sunday, so the timing couldn't be better.

Please pray and be ready to help, so that more people can find out about what a great church we have at St Ursula's.

-PMP



Calendar of Services

1 June- Easter 7

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

15 June - Trinity

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

8 June - Pentecost

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 All in Church Together

Acts 2:1-21

John 7:37-39

22 June - Trinity 1

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 21:8-21

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

29 June - St Peter and St Paul

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Zechariah 4:1-6a, 10b-14

Acts 12:1-11

Matthew 16:13-19



6 July - Trinity 3

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 24:34-38, 58-67

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

20 July - Trinity 5

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 28:10-19a

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

13 July - Trinity 4

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 All in Church Together Eucharist

Genesis 25:19-34

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

27 July - Trinity 6

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 29:15-28

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Baptism Agreement



Gathering round the font at Riva St Vitale, the oldest Christian building in Switzerland, at the start of the service at which the leaders of six churches signed an agreement to recognise the baptisms given in each other's churches.

Prayer Diary June and July 2014

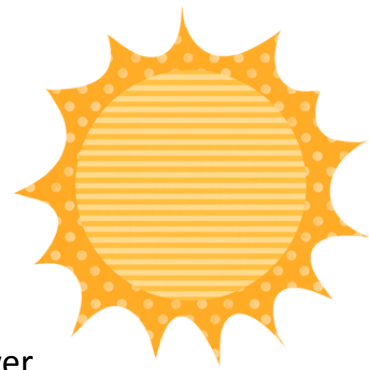
June

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Sunday | Our links with Kigezi Diocese (water project) |
| 2 | Monday | Diocesan Synod meeting this week |
| 3 | Tuesday | Time to listen to God |
| 4 | Wednesday | The city and cantonal governments |
| 5 | Thursday | Farmers |
| 6 | Friday | New arrivals in Berne and Thun |
| 7 | Saturday | Respect for God's animal creation |
| 8 | Sunday | Thanksgiving for the gifts of the Holy Spirit |
| 9 | Monday | Passantenhilfe Bern, our charity for the month |
| 10 | Tuesday | Tonight's Council meeting |
| 11 | Wednesday | University theology departments |
| 12 | Thursday | Groups using our premises |
| 13 | Friday | The Old Catholic Synod meeting today |
| 14 | Saturday | Partner Sein |
| 15 | Sunday | Our confirmation candidates group |
| 16 | Monday | Care for our church premises |
| 17 | Tuesday | Our Charities Committee |
| 18 | Wednesday | Ecumenical relations in Berne |
| 19 | Thursday | Thanksgiving for Holy Communion |
| 20 | Friday | Seasonal chaplains at holiday resorts |
| 21 | Saturday | People going away on holiday |
| 22 | Sunday | The persecuted Church |
| 23 | Monday | The Willibrord Society |
| 24 | Tuesday | Colleges training candidates for the ordained ministry |
| 25 | Wednesday | The ICS (Intercontinental Church Society) |
| 26 | Thursday | AGCK (the Swiss national council of churches) |
| 27 | Friday | Vocations to ministry |
| 28 | Saturday | The Archdeaconry Synod in Zurich |
| 29 | Sunday | Those being ordained priest or deacon |
| 30 | Monday | Fair trade practices in the world |

July

1	Tuesday	Tonight's Council meeting
2	Wednesday	Young people leaving school
3	Thursday	Sakh ulutsha (our SU project in South Africa)
4	Friday	The people and government of the USA
5	Saturday	SACEP training day - communications
6	Sunday	The protection of children and vulnerable adults in the Church
7	Monday	Local hospitals
8	Tuesday	Zentrum 5, our charity for the month
9	Wednesday	Youth Groups in the Archdeaconry
10	Thursday	The leaders of the nations from which we come
11	Friday	Transport workers
12	Saturday	The people and government of Northern Ireland
13	Sunday	Merchant seafarers
14	Monday	The people and government of France
15	Tuesday	Listening to each other
16	Wednesday	The Taizé Community
17	Thursday	Christians in the media
18	Friday	Local businesses
19	Saturday	Diplomatic representatives in Berne
20	Sunday	The Church's healing ministry
21	Monday	People made redundant
22	Tuesday	<i>Mary Magdelene</i> , victims of people-trafficking
23	Wednesday	Visitors to our churches
24	Thursday	Thanksgiving for God's goodness in creation
25	Friday	Christian stewardship (time, talents, treasure)
26	Saturday	<i>Anne and Joachim</i> , Grandparents
27	Sunday	Our Reader in training
28	Monday	<i>Mary and Martha</i> , a good work-life balance
29	Tuesday	Holiness in our daily lives
30	Wednesday	All who contribute to the Magazine
31	Thursday	Robert Innes, our bishop-elect

For Your Diary June & July 2014



Regular Weekly Events

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

Other Events

Sunday 1 June	08.30	Church Breakfast
	12.00	Bring & Share Lunch
Tuesday 10 June	13.30	House Group in Stettlen
	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 11 June	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Sunday 15 June	10.00	Confirmation Class
Sunday 22 June	12.00	JC 7 – 11 Activity Club Event
Tuesday 24 June	13.30	House Group in Stettlen
Wednesday 25 June	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Tuesday 1 July	19.30	Church Council
Saturday 5 July		SACEP Training Day in Lausanne
Tuesday 8 July	13.30	House Group in Stettlen
Wednesday 9 July	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Sunday 13 July		COPY DATE
Sunday 20 July	10.00	Prayers for Healing
Tuesday 22 July	13.30	House Group in Stettlen
Wednesday 23 July	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Thursday 24 July	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating

Future Dates

Saturday 30 August		Taking to the streets (see page 15)
Sunday 31 August	10.00	Back to Church Sunday
Saturday 6 September	10.00 – 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 12 October		Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 26 October		Pledge Sunday
Friday 21 November	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 22 November	10.00 – 15.00	

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

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



Youth Confirmation Class

The youth confirmation class had a long break over Easter. We met on the last Sunday in April and then twice in May.

In April we reviewed the events of Easter, which was a challenge trying to remember what happened, the order of the events and then finding the relevant Bible passages.

In May and June we are focussing on learning more about the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.

Our meetings are held on Sunday mornings, normally on the first and third Sunday of each month – you can find the dates for June and July on the “For Your Diary” page.

Please continue to pray for all those involved in this group: the young people, their families and the leaders. If you would like to know more please contact the chaplain or Tricia Carrick.

-Tricia Carrick



Youth Group

Recently, the Youth Group explored the story of the resurrection of Lazarus. We looked at how Jesus waited before going to his friend even though he knew it meant his friend would die. Jesus knew that resurrecting, rather than simply healing Lazarus was needed in order to help others believe. Jesus did what was needed, even though it caused his dear friends much pain and suffering. The Bible says that, while standing next to his grieving friends, "Jesus wept." Here, in the shortest sentence in the Bible, we see that, though he doesn't stop bad things from happening, Jesus empathises with us and cares for us. Jesus loves us. With this in our hearts, the Youth Group wrote the following poem.

Jesus Wept....

Jesus wept when Lazarus died.

Jesus wept for the people in
Ukraine.

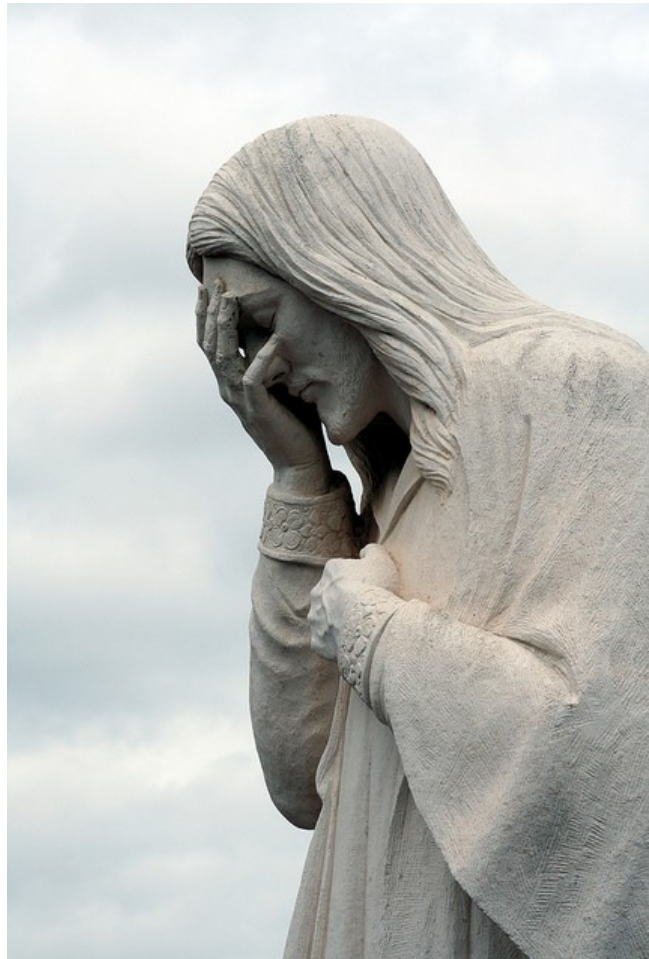
Jesus wept with the orphans and
the homeless.

Jesus wept with me when my loved
one died.

Jesus wept with victims of abuse.

Jesus wept with the families of the
plane crash victims.

- *Mary McKinley*



Junior Church News

The Junior Church (Sunday School) provides Christian teaching for children aged 3 upwards. Children under 3 are welcome in the crèche/nursery which meets every Sunday in the lower hall.

Teaching Material

The Junior Church currently uses material from Seasons of the Spirit (www.seasonsonline.ca), which offers a range of information, ideas and teaching material for different age groups. The lessons follow the same lectionary as the services proper. This means that the whole church family is learning and focusing on the same topics, each in an age appropriate manner.

Help Needed

This year three teachers have left the team, which unfortunately leaves us severely understaffed. At the moment we cannot offer Junior Church on a weekly basis. We are using this as an opportunity to have more all-age worship. However, without more helpers, it might not be possible to keep up a Junior Church ministry. Please, if you feel drawn to teaching or have ever been interested, now would be the time to step forward and join the team - it is also very fulfilling to interact with and see the next generation of the church maturing in all aspects of life. Contact Father Peter, Jana Kutesko or anyone on the teaching rota if you would like more information.

Classes

The Junior Church meets almost every Sunday during the service. The second Sunday of each month is an all-age worship in church and on the fourth Sunday all the Junior Church classes meet together. Children start with the main congregation, then leave together for their classes shortly after the start of the service. There are three classes by age:

- Sparklers (3 - 6+)
- Trailblazers (7 – 10+)
- Pilots (11 – 14+)



Children under the age of 3 are welcome in the crèche/nursery, which is available every Sunday in the lower hall.

7-12s Activity Club

The Junior Church Activity Club continues to meet for fun activities, some of which are aimed at helping others. We also enjoy getting to know each other better and making new friends. In June we are planning a bike trip after church. The full 2014 programme is displayed on the Junior Church Page on our website www.stursula.ch or you can contact Françoise Hänggi (031 802 1005) or Sharon Batley (031 711 4148) for more information.

- Jana Kutesko



Happy Birthday!

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

Aaron Campbell 4 on 5 June

Zornitsa Neda Holden 5 on 8 June

Charlotte Gertsch 9 on 10 June

Brenda Sacks 13 on 12 June

Ariel Hutchison 7 on 18 June

Paul Quesnot 12 on 22 June

Nayden Holden 2 on 25 June

Rachel Eze 8 on 3 July

Emma Quesnot 8 on 6 July

Lucas King 11 on 9 July

Emily Batley 16 on 15 July

Michael Hänggi 9 on 21 July



Charity of the Month: ***Kirchliche Passantenhilfe und Sozialberatung der Heilsarmee –*** **Church supported aid and social counselling to transients by the Salvation Army**

Passantenhilfe is there for people who are destitute and have practically nothing left. There they get food, clothing or a shelter for the night and, where possible, perspective for the future.

Social workers Seev Levy and Manfred Jegerlehner accept people in need who do not fulfil the criteria to be helped by the official institutions in the region of Bern. This relieves the churches, the Salvation Army and other institutions. Twenty-five years ago it was mostly drug addiction and alcoholism that brought people to their door. Since 2004 rejected asylum seekers (14%), since 2007 people from Eastern Europe (18%) and now also people from Southern Europe seeking work (6%) arrive daily, altogether around 4,000 contacts in 2013. Another group are people who are mentally or physically ill and hope to be able to find better care in Switzerland.

The *Passantenhilfe* is able to provide short-term aid, information, and contacts to other institutions. Most of all, they have an open ear and heart for people in need. Each person gets a friendly welcome and is treated with respect. It is inevitable, however, that their hopes often are dashed. For Manfred Jegerlehner it is important to clear up a frequently heard misunderstanding: "We are not human ATMs who spit out money after hearing a sad story." Their financial possibilities are limited and have to be used wisely. There was the young man from Spain who came to this country seeking a better life. Even the *Passantenhilfe* could not fulfil his dream and he ended up sleeping on a park bench. And there is the single mother who is about to lose custody of her child due to her addiction. These situations are hard on the social workers as well and they can feel powerless and distressed. But resigning and giving up? Never!!

They are always willing to share someone's life for a stretch, explore possibilities and set goals. Sometimes they themselves are astonished how a difficult situation has been turned around and is on the way to a healthier life. And because they are not able to lessen all the material needs for them it is important to them to strengthen the people who come in other ways. They live acceptance, give comfort, inform and encourage them to find the small

miracles in their daily living or try to find some meaning for their life. It is satisfying even to bring some joy back into a person's life.

They are thankful that every morning there is food waiting for them at a nearby Coop store, financed by the head of the store himself. They also get food from the "Schweizer Tafeln", an organization gathering food which can no longer be sold but is still good for consumption. These they can pass on to the needy.

One of their success stories is Pierre. After working with him closely for five years, including talks with the Immigration Authorities and his partner, the couple is now happily married and has two children. Pierre is no longer threatened with expulsion, he has a B permit and a job. No wonder he has a big smile on his face!



There are challenges as well:

In winter there are not enough places in the shelters for the homeless. People from other countries seeking work often have to be turned away which is a challenge for the *Passantenhilfe* and also for the city authorities.

Another concern are those who have really no chance of getting a permit to stay in Switzerland because they are not able to work here. What can they give them on their way back to their country besides minimal financial aid? Sometimes it is possible to talk to them from heart to heart and let them know that someone cares. Occasionally there is also room for a spiritual conversation.

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

Prayer concerns:

Pray for Seev Levy and Manfred Jegerlehner that they continue to find strength and creative ways to help people in need.

Pray for the people seeking help, that they can be motivated and enabled to better their situation.

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



Spring into Summer Fête



We had a lovely day, the sun was finally shining (but with a nip in the air!) and the atmosphere was one of fun & relaxation.

A huge THANKS to all who helped both before and after the fête and to all those who visited us on the day itself.

The Spring into Summer added a very useful Fr 6350+ into church funds. Takings from the individual stalls (including money taken on the Sunday) amounted to:

Books	1404.00
Restaurant, bar and grill (net)	1211.80
UK food (gross)	3114.60
Tombola	438.00
Outside Activities	139.00
Other Stalls	59.80
Total	6367.20

-Jana Kutesko, Church Office





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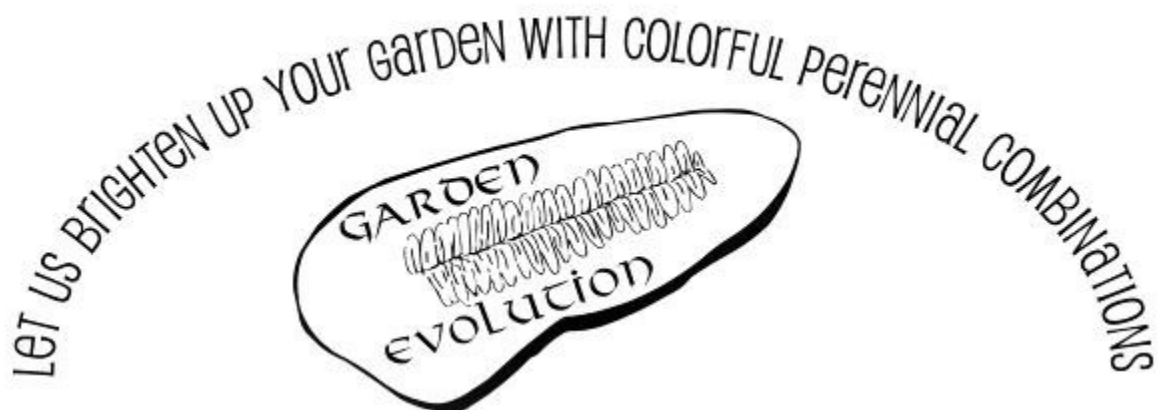
We are looking forward to meeting you

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

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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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Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

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.

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Brian C Morgan, Clinical & Pastoral Counsellor

*Falkenstrasse 2
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Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Church Council

Lay Members:

Tricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

John Eze 079 489 58 46

Donna Goepfert (*secretary*) 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

Isabelle Wienand

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 032 510 22 12

CHURCHWARDENS

Archana Jacob 031 859 64 12

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

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ECUMENICAL CONTACT

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The churches in Berne celebrated Easter together. The clergy and leaders of eleven churches gathered on the steps of St Peter and St Paul after the ecumenical Vespers on Easter Day.