

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



August - September 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 October—November magazine is

14 September 2014

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: 25 September 2014

Chaplain's Message

August 2014 sees the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The date is being marked by a variety of commemorations across Europe, including our service at St Ursula's on 3 August.



Note that the anniversary is being commemorated, not celebrated. The theme is not victory and defeat but more a solemn reflection on human folly and the horrors that were unleashed. As well as being remembered for its destructiveness, it is now realised that the First World War was a turning point in history. It marked the end of the long era of relative peace and stability when European countries dominated the world. It also brought in huge political and social changes that still have an impact today. The loss of confidence and optimism it brought about undermined the place of Christianity in European society, setting off the process of decline in religion that we see today.

What do we mean by “commemorate” though, when there is now almost nobody left alive who can remember the events of August 1914? A negative way to remember is to keep alive old hurts and suspicions. This can only do damage to both the person (or society) which holds on to the memory and passes it on to successive generations. It is the cause of family feuds, of Northern Ireland's troubles, of dysfunctional church congregations.

The opposite of remember is “forget”, a word which is closely associated with “forgive”. This is what we believe God does when he wipes away our sins. We are called to do the same thing. In the Gospels, Jesus teaches us to forgive and to love our enemies. St Paul tells us that love does not keep an account of (i.e. does not remember) wrongs. On the other hand, to forget could mean people are showing a lack of care and are neglecting to learn lessons from what has happened. The forgetfulness of forgiveness is far harder – and more fruitful – than that.

The outcome of remembering enough to learn from what has happened but forgetting enough to stop hating can be seen in the progress towards European unity since 1945, which was pioneered by Christian politicians, in the ecumenical movement in the churches, and in South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, led by an Anglican Archbishop.

It is not surprising that Christians have played such a major part in all of this since our central act of worship is one of commemoration. The past is recalled into the present in order to celebrate the defeat of sin and the victory of eternal life.

Peter

The Two Extremes

This time it is Syria. The time before it was Iraq. And Libya. And Afghanistan. We do not fully understand the conflicts, but very often some kind of extremism is mixed into them, whether ideological or religious. Sometimes even genocide, which is almost the most irrational kind of extremism. Of course, conflicts also spring up where there is corruption or poor government, and political interests can fan the smoke of discontent into a flame of violence.

How far from Micah's vision of swords beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, where "they shall all sit under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid." How far from St Francis' call: "Make me a channel of your peace." How far from "the message we have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." (1 John 3:11) How far even from Mohammed's vision of God as "the Compassionate, the Merciful."

The New Testament is not in favour of luke-warm religion. Jesus repeatedly challenges his listeners to be for him or against him. Micah contrasts the peace of the Messianic age with the total corruption of the people, with friends and family set against each other (7:5-6), and Jesus, with his alarming statement "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword" echoes Micah's prophecy. The new age will be sharply different from the old.

The church in Laodicea is cosy and comfortable and blind to its spiritual poverty. It is in danger of God's rejection. But God makes it the best promise of all: "I am standing at the door, knocking: if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me."

Like the Laodiceans, we live in the new age. We turn the other cheek. We go the second mile. We offer our cloak to the needy. Or do we?

Micah's complaint was that the people who practised corruption would not listen. Jesus saw that there were people who heard and heard, but heard nothing (Mark 4:12). From Ezekiel to Paul, from Moses to Mohammed, the

message has been that faith must come from the heart, and the “true” believer needs to serve God with heart, with soul and with strength – Deut 6:5 (or Mark 12:30, or even verse 36 of the Koran's chapter on women!)

We serve God in our own ways, and it is not for us to judge others. Despite the bloodthirsty passages in the Old Testament suggesting God wanted the Israelites to massacre the Hivites, the Hittites, the Perizzites and all the rest, the picture we gain from such books as Deuteronomy or the historical books is of coexistence, even of kindness to “the stranger within your gates”. Only under threat does the story become more bloodcurdling.

The world of today has become a world of threats, where many hear but few listen. It is not true that understanding everything means excusing everything, but our attitude still needs to be one of listening – and forgiveness. For the only true extreme is God's redeeming love for this world – and that is beyond all extremes.

- *Hector Davie*



FAQ: Can Christians be in favour of assisted suicide?

This is a question some of my colleagues have struggled with. They have been asked to give pastoral care to people who have travelled to Switzerland to end their lives. The dilemma is how to give that care when you disapprove of what the person is intending.

I know some sincere Christians who would like to be helped to die in certain circumstances. Nevertheless the Church's teaching is opposed. The reasons are partly practical and partly theological. The practical ones include the "slippery slope" argument. What starts as a well-intentioned move that would only apply in exceptional circumstances can in time become commonplace. This has been the case with abortion and one sees it also in the number of euthanasia cases in countries such as Belgium, where it can now be administered to children and people with learning difficulties.

Then there is the fear that vulnerable people will be put under pressure to ask for euthanasia, perhaps to prevent their money being eaten up by care costs or because they are made to feel they are a burden on their families and the health service. By definition, this is a decision that cannot be reversed but the situation that led to it might change. I have visited several people in hospital who have told me they "have had enough" but a couple of weeks later they are feeling better and looking forward to life again.

Many, if not most, doctors are opposed because they fear it would change the doctor-patient relationship. To be viewed as a potential killer must take its toll on their morale. Patients may worry that the doctor will start making decisions about who is worth treating and who not.

Theological objections include such things as what it means to be human, the problem of suffering and the nature of God as giver of life. If we believe the latter, then "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away", as it says in the Book of Job. As we have seen, problems arise when humans begin to encroach on God's prerogative. This can work both ways, for sometimes people are kept alive, for example in an artificial coma, when there is little likelihood of recovery. To "let nature take its course" in such circumstances is not the same as assisted suicide, however.

The argument that we put down dogs or cats is not relevant. It does not happen in nature but only when we have domesticated them and subjected them to a human environment.

One of the ways in which we are made in the image of God is our capacity for love and care. This extends not only to our nearest and dearest but also to all our neighbours, in Jesus' sense of the word. It follows that we have a duty to care for the sick and people with special needs. We begin to chip away at the belief that every person is equally a child of God if we concede that the right to life does not apply to some people. This would be the outcome if we embarked on the "slippery slope". Similarly, putting people in a position where they feel they have an obligation to ask for euthanasia, is not treating them as children of God.

The issue of suffering is more difficult - but then it always is in any discussion of God's goodness. There is no single, satisfactory answer that solves the problem. A partial answer is that the way a person lives with suffering and their attitude in the face of death can be, in a strange way, a source of strength and hope for others. Euthanasia (and, it must be admitted, some forms of hospital treatment) can rob people of this opportunity. The question is, though: is assisted suicide ever a proper response?

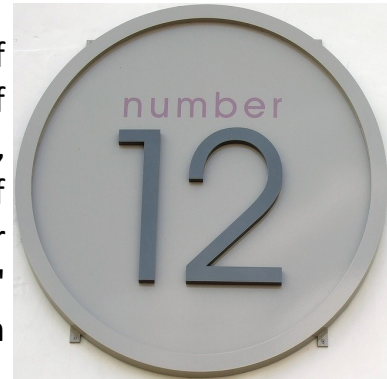
The position taken by the Church is that we should look for other ways of relieving suffering. The hospice movement was pioneered by Christians and today many hospices remain religious foundations. Berne's main palliative care facility is part of Salem hospital, originally a deaconess institution. Hospices specialise in pain relief and aim to allow the dying to end their days in peace and dignity. I have visited hospices many times and the atmosphere is quite different from that of a busy hospital ward. We Christians know that death is not the worst thing that can happen to us. When it is inevitable, we do not have to fight grimly against it but nor do we have to grasp for it with a bitter feeling that God's precious gift of life is no longer worth having. Science has made great advances in pain relief and many places have a greater awareness of the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the dying.

The Christian response to assisted suicide should therefore be one of willingness to stand compassionately alongside those who have chosen this path but without necessarily agreeing with them. Christians should also support efforts to improve the care of the dying and encourage people to find out more about the alternatives to a one-way trip to Zurich.

-PMP

A Word for the Month – Twelve

The Bible is full of numbers – not only in the fourth of its books, but everywhere, from the seven days of creation to the 144,000 elect at the final apocalypse, from the 153 fishes of John 21:11 to the number of the beast in Revelation 13 (666 or 616 – take your choice), from the thirty days of mourning at Moses' death (Deut 34:8) to the thirty pieces of silver which were Judas' reward (Matt 26:15).



Many of these numbers had meanings. Seven was a sign of completeness (and 49 even more so!), six showed incompleteness. Ten was also a significant number, and ten and seven together, either added, as 17, or multiplied, as 70, occur again and again. The five loaves and the 5,000 people they fed recall Moses and the five books of the Law. But it is important to be careful – don't be like Dan Brown and read more into the numbers than the Holy Spirit intended!

Twelve is a naturally interesting number. The moon waxes and wanes twelve times from one spring equinox to the next. Twelve can be divided by two, three and four – one of the reasons why there were twelve inches to a foot and twelve pence to a shilling (and why there are still sixty minutes (five times twelve) in an hour). It would have seemed a happy coincidence that the Jewish people, when they came together as a nation, could be allotted to twelve tribes, just as the neighbouring Ishmaelites were too.

In those patriarchal days, the tribes drew their strengths and their weaknesses from their common ancestor and their shared history. And just as Ishmael, Jacob's half-uncle, was accounted the father of twelve tribes (Gen 25), so Jacob is recorded as having twelve sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin.

If you look at one of those old maps of the tribes of Israel at the back of your Bible, you won't find Joseph and you won't find Levi. Instead you will find two other tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh – named after children of Joseph (and the Bible usually refers to the “house” of Joseph, and seldom to the “tribe”). And Levi's tribe were the priestly caste, and had no land – hence they relied on the tithe contributions from the rest of the “children of Israel” for their support.

The twelve tribes felt strong individual identities. What united them was their relationship with God, and many of them regarded the short period under

Saul, David and Solomon when they were politically united as a rejection of God's kingship over them (1 Sam 8:7-8).

So the number twelve recurs in the ordering of the temple in Jerusalem. The High Priest's robe, the ephod, was to have a "breastpiece of judgement" set with twelve precious stones, showing that the relationship with the twelve tribes was close to God's heart (Ex 28). There were twelve loaves of bread set out in the temple (Lev 24), the "showbread", showing the tribes' commitment and dedication to their God.

In the New Testament, Jesus asks twelve individuals to "follow him". He has many followers, many disciples, but the twelve are an inner group who are instructed more closely. The idea is clear – Jesus is establishing the new Israel, and the symbolism of the number is so important that when Judas leaves them, the eleven remaining feel called to choose a successor, Matthias, to be a witness of the resurrection.

The twelve tribes split up in Solomon's time, and some of them were almost forgotten – the tribes in the north were lumped together as "the Samaritans". It is the same with the disciples. When they became apostles, carrying the good news to the ends of the earth, some lapsed into obscurity – few of us can say much about the other Simon, the Zealot, and still less about Thaddeus, Nathaniel or the other Judas!

The twelve apostles and the twelve tribes come together in the symbolism of the Book of Revelation. The 144,000 elect, the walls of the new Jerusalem "144 cubits high", the twelve pearl-studded gates, the twelve stars crowning the woman in chapter 12, all recall God's relationship with God's people – all people.

For we are the new Israel, we are children of the one God. The twelve tribes, the twelve disciples enjoyed an intimate relationship with God. But we all have the same relationship now – as Paul tells the Corinthians at the end of 1 Cor 3, all things are ours, and all things belong to us, and we belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God. Indeed!

- Hector Davie

6 September – Book and Food Sale



After the summer, there's a chance to re-stock your shelves and your larder at St Ursula's next quarterly sale. We have a very large selection of English-language paperback books for you to browse over – and a well-supplied choice of those goodies you yearn for but have difficulty in getting – from Yorkshire Tea to Rowntree's Jelly, from Fray Bentos pies to Gentleman's Relish. And you help not only yourself, but you help the church as well.

There will be refreshments too – drinks, cakes and scones all day, with more substantial food at lunchtime. And a chance to meet people and chat.

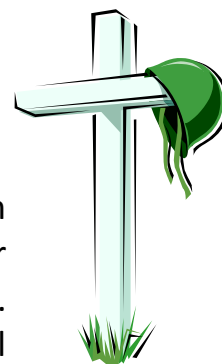
So note the date in your diary, tell your friends – and keep reminding them. Put the flyer enclosed with this magazine in a prominent place, and, above all, come along on Saturday the 6th and enjoy yourself.

- *Hector Davie*



PS We're always looking for helpers – either in setting up the stalls and taking them down again, or in selling, serving, clearing up, or helping in other ways. If you feel this is you, get in contact with the Church Office or any council member, who will put you in touch with the appropriate person!

Chaplain's Notes



Commemoration

On 3 August we shall commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the First World War, as will many other churches and organisations across Europe during that week. The choir will be singing the Coventry Litany by Paul Leddington-Wright. At the end of the service we shall ceremonially put out all the candles in the sanctuary, remembering the words of Lord Grey, the British Foreign Secretary at the time, "The lights are going out all over Europe".

Many countries are holding exhibitions, pilgrimages and other events over the next four years, until November 2018, and no doubt we shall be involved in some of those.

Healing

There will also be prayers for healing on 3 August. To have the prayers that day is a reminder that healing embraces not just people who are ill but also political and other situations in the world which damage people and the environment.

Worshipping with confidence

We are fortunate to have many people who volunteer to take part in our services and it is right that we should provide training from time to time. On 17 August Claudia Slater (née Winfield) has kindly agreed to provide some voice training for everyone who speaks in church, whether reading from the Bible or leading intercessions. Claudia is a professional actress, so this will be a very valuable opportunity for us.



On 7 September we shall be looking at leading intercessions. We shall consider different ways of doing this, different forms of prayer, the topics to be covered, sharing information etc. I hope the session will open up new ways of enriching our prayer life together.

Both these sessions take place in church after the service and are open to all, whether you are already involved, are interested or just want to find out more. Younger members of the congregation are also invited!

Back to Church

Our Back to Church service and international lunch has become a regular feature of St Ursula's. Not only is it “back to church after the holidays” for the regulars, it is also a chance for anyone who has been thinking about coming back after a long absence but has not quite got round to it. This year, the timing is perfect as the day, Sunday 31 August, comes straight after the *Kirchenfest*, when we shall be literally setting out our stall in town.

Please be there and bring something to share for lunch from your home country. That way we can really taste the international flavour of our church.



Lovely food!

A gentle reminder. ... If you are bringing food for a bring-and-share (pot-luck) meal that needs to be heated up, please be willing to do this yourself as it is not up to the people on the coffee rota. And please also remember that facilities and space in the kitchen are limited



St Ursula's is taking part in this important event. We are joining the other churches in Berne to raise people's awareness. There will be stalls, concerts and drama in the Zeughausgasse and surrounding streets to show what the churches are doing.

Our stall is prominently located in the Zeughausgasse and we will have people on hand to tell others about St Ursula's and give out information.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PLEASE SEE THE POSTER IN THE CHURCH HALL.

Micawber and St Ursula's

Anyone who has read Dickens' *David Copperfield* will remember Wilkins Micawber. He drifts through the pages, usually on the verge of bankruptcy, but always optimistic and always good-natured. He knew the value of honest labour, and the need to live within a tight budget – even if he failed and ended up in debtors' prison from time to time. His constant hope is that “something will turn up”.

St Ursula's is fortunately not on the verge of bankruptcy. Thanks to past generations of faithful people, we are cushioned from unexpected cuts in our income, allowing us to plan new things and to improve our buildings and our ministry without looking for a short-term return on what we spend. But this cushion is gradually growing smaller, and as a church, we should plan for our long-term future.

Our largest expenditure – roughly half of what we spend – is on staffing costs. This covers not only Peter's stipend and expenses, but Jana's essential labour in administration, and the work of Julieta, our reliable cleaner. Council also decided to give an extra impulse to our youth programme by paying a nominal amount to Mary McKinley for her work, and the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England in London makes a grant, which will total some Fr9,500 this year, towards the extra work that Peter does as archdeacon, and this enables us to pay Mark to help in the ministry in Berne and in Thun.

In the first half of this year we spent nearly Fr80,000 on our staff – admittedly more than we will spend in the second half, but that is because a lot of payments tend to cluster in January. The Fr80,000 does not end up in their pockets – roughly Fr30,000 of it goes towards insurances, pension and social security payments for which we are responsible as their employer.

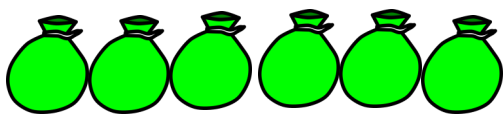
Pause for a moment and think of this sum of Fr80,000. And reflect that over the same six months, collections totalled Fr18,434, pledged giving totalled Fr47,285 and other donations just over Fr1,000. This is 16% less – a shortfall of some Fr13,000.

And staff account for only half of what we spend. We give a tenth of our income to charity. A further 5% goes back to the diocese for the needs of the church in Europe. And almost a quarter goes towards maintaining our plant – heating, electricity, repairs, general running costs.

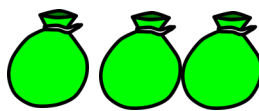
Thanks to many efforts we have cut these general costs as much as possible. Over the last year, we have replaced our telephone system and our photocopier, halving our phone costs and cutting a third off our printing costs, and helping the environment as well. A team is looking at doing the same with our energy needs. Many of these improvements need investment, and we can pay for some through a specific appeal, as we did with the church roof, or with the new chairs.

Our buildings grow steadily older, and need more and more to be done to them. It is twenty years since the hall was restructured, and blinds, electrical fittings and doors no longer work the way they did. We set aside Fr10,000 a year to supplement our building fund, but this is not enough.

Our sales and bazaars, and the money we raise from donations for the use of the hall help towards these running costs, but again we need to raise more. To put it graphically: here is our income



from you

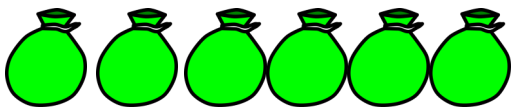


from events and rent

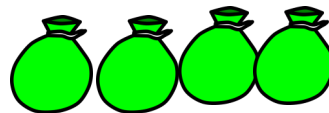


from grants

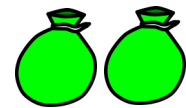
and here is our expenditure



on people



on running costs



for charity

Please think of ways you can help. Every little counts!

- *The Treasurer*

Thank you

The prayers during the time I was out of action because of my foot injury were very much appreciated.

Many thanks!

- *Annemarie Walthert*

Church Breakfast

The next Church Breakfast will be on Sunday 7 September. Just come along from 8.30 – no need to sign up. Cereal, bread, butter, jam, marmalade, croissants together with tea, coffee and orange juice etc are provided. Everyone is welcome.

- *Tricia Carrick*



Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2014



The annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Geneva at Holy Trinity Church (HTC) at the weekend of 17-18 May 2014. It was attended by 45 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Zurich. From St Ursula's Church 11 singers were able to join the choir in Geneva. The Music was led by Christopher Thomas and Mark Charles (both of HTC Geneva), who both took their turn as conductor and 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 Anerio, Bairstow, Darke, Ireland, Purcell, Smith and Tallis. In addition the choirs also supported the Matins on Sunday Morning with choral music.

Thanks are extended to the Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity Church 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

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, 6 and 20 August 2014

Wednesday, 3 and 17 September 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 is on summer break.

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



Prayer Diary

August and September 2014

Your prayers are asked for -

Our Charities and Mission spotlight, The Sri Lanka Children's home (see page 28)

- for the children resident there
- for the staff
- for funding and prayer support
- for other children at risk in the area

Our Junior Church and Crèche

- for more teachers and helpers
- our special meeting on 24 August
- for the children in church
- for greater understanding of children's spirituality

The *Kirchenfest* in Berne and our Back to Church Sunday

- for opportunities to tell people about St Ursula's
- for other churches in Berne
- our Back to Church service and lunch



The 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War

- peace in war zones today
- the casualties of conflicts past and present
- learning lessons from the past
- thanks for peace and reconciliation Europe

Our Diocese

- Bishop Robert as he takes up his new ministry
- chaplaincies waiting for a new priest (Geneva, Basel)
- education and training for lay people
- the establishment of new congregations
- the new online Safeguarding training

Our church community at St Ursula's and Thun

- our training for speaking in church on 17 August
- people ill at home or in hospital
- more sharing in prayer
- increased income to fund our church activities
- the Council meeting on 2 September
- a session on leading intercessions on 7 September



Calendar of Services

3 August – 100th anniversary First World War

10.00 Sung Eucharist with prayers for healing

Lamentations 3:17–26

Revelation 21:1–7

John 6:51–58

10 August – Trinity 8

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 All in Church Together

Romans 10: 10-15

Matthew 14:22-33

17 August – Trinity 9

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a,29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

24 August – Bartholomew

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 43:8-13

Acts 5:12-16

Luke 22:24-30

31 August – Trinity 11

(Back to Church Sunday)

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Exodus 3:1-6

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28



7 September – Trinity 12

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Exodus 12:1-14

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

21 September – Matthew

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Proverbs 3:13-18

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Matthew 9:9-13

14 September – Holy Cross Day

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 All in Church Together

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:13-17

28 September – Trinity 15

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Exodus 17:1-7

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32



For Your Diary

August & September 2014

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.00-09.30	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice — not on 9 August

Other Events

Sunday 3 August	10.00	Prayers for Healing
Wednesday 6 August	19.30 - 21.00	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Friday 8 August	10.00 - 19.00	JC 7 – 11 Activity Club Event
Sunday 10 August	10.00	Youth Group
Friday 15 August	09.00 - 13.00	Book Sorting
Sunday 17 August	10.00	Confirmation Class
	11.30	Voice Training
Wednesday 20 August	19.30 - 21.00	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Sunday 24 August	10.00	Youth Group Junior Church Special Meeting
Friday 29 August	19.45	Kirchenfest in Bern begins
Sunday 31 August		Back to Church Sunday
	10.00	Confirmation Class
	12.00	Bring and Share International Lunch
	20.00	Kirchenfest in Bern ends



Tuesday 2 September	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 3 September	19.30 - 21.00	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Friday 5 September	09.00 - 13.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 6 September	10.00 - 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 7 September	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Confirmation Class
	11.30	Session on Intercessions
Sunday 14 September		COPY DATE
	10.00	Youth Group
	11.30 - 17.00	JC 7 – 11 Activity Club Event
Wednesday 17 September	19.30 - 21.00	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Thursday 25 September	09.00	Magazine Collating
Sunday 28 September	10.00	Youth Group

Future Dates

Friday 21 November	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 22 November	10.00 – 15.00	
Thursday 11 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Thursday 18 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service

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

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 has had a long break over the summer. We meet again on Sunday 17 August. In August and September we will continue to discuss aspects of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity and the Creeds.

Our meetings are held on Sunday mornings, normally on the first and third Sunday of each month – you can find the dates for August and September 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

Youths Hard at Work

The youth at St Ursula's had quite a busy 2013-2014 school year, and we give a hearty congratulations to Ruby, Matthew and Georgina who graduated from gymnasium in July! On top of their various studies, confirmation course, sports and extra curricular activities, our busy teens pitched in throughout the year and baked goodies to fundraise for Ruby's upcoming volunteer trip to Tanzania this October with Raleigh International!

If, like me, you don't know much about Tanzania, here are some interesting facts, from africabridge.org:

- Tanzania is just a little bit more than twice the size of California.
- Over 120 languages are spoken in Tanzania. Most of these are Bantu languages, a category of over 535 languages and dialects that are spoken throughout Africa.
- Mpingo trees (a.k.a. Africa blackwood trees, commonly seen in Tanzania) are the most expensive hardwood tree in the world.
- The world's earliest human skull was found in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.
- Tanzania has the largest concentration of wildlife animals per square kilometer, with more than 4 million wild animals and representatives of 430 species and subspecies.



- Once upon a time, the ancestors of the wild elephants that live in Tanzania today didn't roam on the land, they swam in the water! Dugongs were sea cows that lived in Tanzania in sheltered waters 55 million years ago. They grew about 3.5 meters in length and lived to be about 70 years old.
- Mount Kilimanjaro is located in Tanzania. At 19,341 feet above sea level, it is the largest mountain in Africa.
- Tanzania shares its national anthem with South Africa and Zimbabwe. It's titled "Mungu Ibariki Afrika" (God Bless Africa) and was composed by Enock Sontonga.
- Tanzania is divided into 26 regions (mikoja), 21 on the mainland, 3 on Zanzibar Island and 2 on Pemba Island. These are further divided into 99 districts (wilaya)! That's a lot of parts and pieces to divide a socialist country into. The stacks of paper must be huge.
- Tanzania is the home of the coconut crab. This crab, the largest crab in the world (and reportedly one of the most delicious), can be found on Chumbe Island of Zanzibar.

We are very proud of how much we will be able to contribute to her for this worthy program, and it's all thanks to our dedicated teens and our generous (and hungry) church members. How much have we raised? You'll have to wait until the Youth Group presents Ruby with the "cheque" at church one Sunday soon.

During this next school year, the Youth Group will once again be fundraising for future volunteer programs or charities, but they haven't chosen this year's cause. If you have any projects near to your heart, or creative ideas for fundraising ideas, please contact Mary McKinley directly.

- *Mary McKinley with photos by Raphael Hänggi*



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.



Classes

The Junior Church meets almost every Sunday during the service. The second Sunday of each month is an All in Church Together service and on the fourth Sunday all the Junior Church classes meet together to sing. 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+)

Help Still Needed

A special meeting was held on 29 June to discuss the Junior Church ministry. At the moment there aren't enough volunteers to offer weekly Junior Church classes. After months of appeals there were still no new volunteers, so the meeting had to address the fundamental question of whether the Junior Church ministry should continue. Although the overwhelming consensus of the meeting was that Junior Church is a vital ministry and should not be discontinued, no concrete solutions to the staffing shortage were found. Another Junior Church special meeting is scheduled for 24 August.

Please consider volunteering to help with Junior Church. It is a rewarding experience for both the children and the adults who teach them. With twelve volunteers we could once again offer weekly classes and each volunteer would teach only once a month. Volunteers are welcome from the whole church family, not just those whose children are involved in Junior Church. If you are able to help, please contact Father Peter, Jana Kutesko or anyone on the teaching rota for more information.



7-11 Activity Club

The Junior Church 7-11 Activity Club is a fun way for children to spend time with their church friends. On 8 August the club is going for a hike to the Schwarzwasser Canyon for an afternoon of swimming and a barbecue. On 14 September they are making syrups, corn dolls and stewed fruits for the Harvest Festival. The full 2014 programme is available on the Junior Church Page on the website (www.stursula.ch) or you can contact Françoise Hänggi (031 802 1005) or Sharon Batley (031 711 4148) for more information.

- *Querida Long*



Happy Birthday!

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

William Hargrave 5 on 5 August

Finn Hofer 6 on 6 August

Sean Gertsch 15 on 25 August

Benedikt Bisig 12 on 30 August

Shelley Wildhaber 15 on 3 September

Lele Yan 7 on 6 September

Delali Agoba 13 on 15 September

Florie Masciadri 14 on 23 September

Edi Kingori 15 on 27 September



Charity of the Month: Child Development Centre, Talagolla, Ragama, Sri Lanka

The Appeal for Children's Committee of Ceylon for the Child Development Center (previously called the Children's Convalescent Home) is an approved charity in Sri Lanka under the Inland Revenue Act and is also under the supervision of the Child and Probation services of Sri Lanka. St Ursula's Church has supported the Home in Talagolla for many years.



The setting up of the Home was the brainchild of the late Professor C.C.de Silva and the late Dr Lloyd Abeyratne. The Appeal for Children's Committee of Ceylon was formed in 1951 in order to establish a Convalescent Home for poor, destitute and sick children who were in

need of post medical and surgical recuperation. For over 50 years it has provided an invaluable service to sick and undernourished children from low-income homes. Children are taken in irrespective of race, creed or caste.

The home, which has accommodation for 40 children and 12 staff, fills a need at the Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital (the Colombo North General Hospital at Ragama) where, owing to the shortage of beds, many of the children would be sent back home prematurely only to return again and again to hospital. The majority of the children are suffering from malnutrition, anaemia or rickets, some are physically handicapped, have speech, visual and hearing defects or suffer from rheumatic heart disease.

Over a number of months, or years, the children are given love and encouragement at the Child Development Center as well as a balanced and nutritious diet that enables a rapid return to normal growth and raises their strength and resistance to overcome infections better.

If the children have family members or relatives, contact with them is encouraged through regular visits to the children if this is possible. In addition,

if a child is to return home, next of kin are instructed on matters of health and nutrition for children, taking into account the family's limited financial support and resources.

A pre-school and educational program is run at the Home and the older children are sent to the village Government School. Two Montessori trained teachers are employed to teach and special tuition classes are conducted in the afternoons and at the weekend. The children can enjoy and take part in various gala and festival days, including a Christmas party each year, Independence Day celebrations, Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations, in song and dance recitals, games and other activities.

Every year we get detailed monthly reports from Mrs Sheryll Jinasena, Hon. Secretary/Warden on what has been happening at the Home and giving a glimpse of the work that is done on a daily basis. We are often sent colourful drawings from the children and photos of the children and their activities at the center and the Board of Trustees.



Have a look at the hall charity notice board in August and September for more information, recent photos and some of the children's drawings.

Please pray for the Child Development Center in Talagolla

- Give thanks for the dedication of Mrs Jinasena, her staff and the doctors, who faithfully take care of the needs of the children.
- Pray for the children, that they would be nourished in body, soul and mind.
- Pray for the families of the children, that they find help to overcome poverty and the difficult circumstances they are in.
- Pray that the home will continue to have the needed personal and resources to serve the children.

- Cecily Klingler for the Charity and Missions Team



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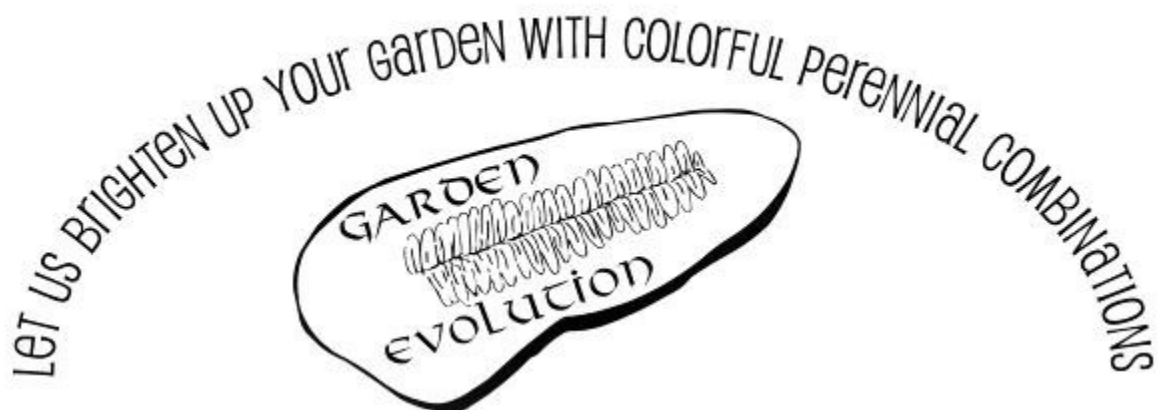
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Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

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Philip Larkin(1922-1985) from his poem "MCMXIV"

Those long uneven lines
Standing as patiently
As if they were stretched outside
The Oval* or Villa Park**,
The crowns of hats, the sun
On moustached archaic faces
Grinning as if it were all
An August Bank Holiday lark#;

Never such innocence,
Never before or since,
As changed itself to past
Without a word—the men
Leaving the gardens tidy,
The thousands of marriages
Lasting a little while longer:
Never such innocence again.

** a cricket ground in London*

***a football ground in Birmingham*

a public holiday entertainment.

*(He is referring to the lines of men waiting
to join the army at the outbreak of the war)*

