

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



April - May 2015

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 June—July magazine is

17 May 2015

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: 28 May 2015

Chaplain's Message

During Lent, four groups have been following the CMS course "The Possible World". It has generated lots of ideas on how St Ursula's as a whole and its individual members can bring about change for the better.



Our Church Council has been discussing over the past year the vision and values we share at St Ursula's. These include our purpose: to proclaim the Gospel and provide the sacraments in an Anglican context; our mission, which includes: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, to teach, baptise and nurture new believers and to respond to human need by loving service; and what is expected of church members. This last point was featured on the back page of the December/January magazine.

In his address to our Archdeaconry Synod in February, Bishop Robert told us about the work being done on a Diocesan Strategy. It begins:

"Our aim is to build a common purpose throughout the diocese by:

- Knowing ourselves to be the beloved children of God*
- Loving God and our neighbour and sharing the good news*
- Generating a sense of shared direction*
- Providing a focus for all that we do."*

We shall be hearing more of this as work progresses.

All of these activities are pointing in the same direction. While we are all called to be disciples, it is important to remember that we have a common purpose. Obviously, some of us are not Anglicans by origin and this diversity is part of our attraction and strength. But nevertheless we are all sheltering under an Anglican roof. This means, amongst other things, that we are aware of being part of a larger family than just the congregation at St Ursula's and that we can benefit from the resources available elsewhere in the Diocese.

It is important too that our activities are focussed and that we don't dissipate our energy by going off in many different directions at once. We shall have to leave some good ideas to one side. Some people will have their own particular

interests and want to support projects that the church cannot take on. It has always been like this and that is why the Church of England recommends that when we tithe (give 10 percent of our income), half should go to causes of our own choice and half to the Church.

However we channel our giving of money, time and talents, the important thing is that it contribute to the good news that Christ is risen – a better world is not only possible but is here already – and we have the job of helping others see it.

Peter

Although the Doors were Shut

The Bible is not a holy newspaper. The stories it contains are there for a reason, and we need to keep asking ourselves what their point is. This is spelled out for us near the end of John's Gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (20:30-31)

The chapter that ends with these words contains three stories about the resurrected Jesus. Firstly, early on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene finds that the stone has been rolled away. She goes and tells Peter and "the other disciple", who come and find the folded grave-clothes, but return home. Mary



Resurrection of Christ and women at the Tomb; Fra ANGELICO;1440-41 fresco; Convento di San Marco, Florence

stays and sees two angels, and then meets Jesus, in the flesh – so solid that she thinks he is the gardener, although he bids her not to touch him. She runs to the disciples and tells them the news.

Then, the same evening, the disciples meet behind locked doors, for fear of the authorities. Jesus comes, stands among them, and wishes them peace, and breathes on them with the gift of the Holy Spirit and the power to forgive sins.

The third story happens seven days later. Thomas had missed the first meeting. For him, seeing was believing, and not seeing was not believing – indeed, he even wanted to put his

finger in Jesus' wounds to test that they were genuine. And again, Jesus comes, "although the doors were shut". And Thomas believes, even without touching the wounds.

These are the stories the writer of John's Gospel has selected "so that you may come to believe". In a further chapter, we learn of the net full of fish in the Sea of Tiberias, and of Peter restored from his threefold denial of Jesus in Caiaphas' courtyard and entrusted with a threefold commission to feed Jesus' lambs. And elsewhere in the New Testament we read of other meetings with the risen Jesus – with the couple on the Emmaus road, with Peter, with James, with "more than five hundred brothers and sisters" (1 Cor 15:6) – the list is a long one.

In this age of instant news, instant commentary and instant analysis we would be glad of more information. How did the guest who vanished so suddenly at Emmaus on that Sunday evening reappear seven miles away in Jerusalem? How did he get in "although the doors were shut"? Why are there no accounts of his reappearing until the following Sunday? But these are the wrong questions.

John's Gospel is not a newspaper, and it is not a detective novel either. If we ask how things happened, we shall miss the point. The Jesus who stood among the disciples was no ghost, had no supernatural power to pass through walls or locked doors (and nor does the Gospel account suggest this in any way!) He was there, he was alive, he was real, and he was among the friends who loved him.

The shutting of the doors recalls the gatherings of the early church. The whole community came together. They prayed, they studied the scriptures and they listened to what their fellow Christians had to say. And then, among themselves, they shared bread and wine. And then Jesus was among them too, alive and real.

The two meetings in the closed room, and the meeting beside the lake, all stress the reality of Jesus' presence. He shows the disciples his body, he shares bread and fish with them. This is a real victory over death. As Paul tells the Romans: "If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved through his life." We can all say alleluia to that!

- Hector Davie

FAQ: What do we mean by "mission"?

At the Ascension, Jesus sent (Latin, *missio* – sending) his followers to make disciples of all nations. This is where our mission begins and we are sent out again very time we celebrate the Eucharist. We are dis-missed (*missio* again) with the words "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord".

Worship, specifically the Eucharist, equips us for mission and at the same time it is the most effective means of making disciples. Anyone who attends a celebration of the Eucharist sees a dramatic re-presentation of the story we have to tell, the Good News of Jesus Christ. In it we are shown the meaning of St John's words "God so loved the world". Through the Holy Spirit the Son is sent into the world and made present for us in the form of bread and wine. We see the extent of God's love in his willingness to go to the limits, to be broken for us, and we receive that love, given for us. His broken body becomes the means of wholeness and new life for us. We are both witnesses and participants in the movement from Good Friday to Easter, of bringing good out of evil, light out of darkness.

And we are sent out to make all that visible in the way we live our lives. We can love and serve the Lord in a whole host of ways, on our own or as part of an established organisation like Us, CMS or Partner Sein and, it goes without saying, St Ursula's. It might be volunteering our time in our local community or consciously trying to be more Christlike in the way we treat others. It does not have to be "bible-bashing" - and in fact it is probably better if it is not – but it should make people see something different in us and realise that the Church is a force for good in the world.

It follows, therefore, that mission is not simply "telling people about Jesus". You have to follow that up with "Come and see", an invitation for others to see what inspires and empowers us, so that they too will want to be part of it.

PMP



A Word for the Month – Apostolic

Nearly every Sunday we declare our faith “in the words of the Nicene creed”, and we confirm our belief in “one holy catholic and apostolic church”. There were 318 bishops (though other observers give different numbers) who followed the Emperor Constantine's summons and rode from all corners of the Empire to meet in what is now the Turkish city of Iznik in the summer of the year 325. They came to settle disputes about Jesus' divine nature, and the words about the church actually come from a tidied-up version affirmed 56 years later, at Constantinople in 381.

These are the four marks of the church. The church is one – there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism – it looks inward to its source of unity (and laments that in practice this unity is still far away). The church is holy – it looks upward to God who has cleansed it and sanctified it. The church is catholic – it looks outwards to the ends of the earth, for “catholic” means “with all”: totally inclusive. And the church is apostolic – it looks forwards, for it has a mission.

Jesus' first followers were called disciples – a Greek word meaning learners. Much of Jesus' earthly life was spent teaching, and even more of the disciples' time was spent learning. But Jesus was not merely a teacher. He proclaimed the Kingdom of God, he gave sight to the blind, speech to the dumb, movement to the lame, and forgiveness to the sinful – and in the end, he proclaimed the Kingdom in his death and resurrection.

The disciples shared in this work, at first in a limited way. Luke 9 tells how Jesus called the twelve together and “gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.” The Greek word for “sent” is *apeteilen*, and the noun *apostolos* simply means someone who has been sent – you can find it used in a non-technical sense in John 13:16.

After Jesus had died and risen, the Bible changes from using the word “disciples” to using the word “apostles”. The eleven draw lots and appoint Matthias to share in their “ministry and apostleship” and “become a witness with us of the Lord's resurrection.” This is the work of an apostle – to bear witness to the resurrection.

The twelve apostles were joined by Paul, who was called directly by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Acts 14 also describes Barnabas as an apostle, and Paul himself thought of his apostleship as a direct mission – he had been called to bear witness to non-Jews.

For Paul, there was no fixed number of apostles. He distinguishes between “the twelve” (1 Cor 15:5) and “all the apostles” (1 Cor 15:7). He describes his companions Silas, Timothy and Apollos as apostles. At the end of his letter to the Romans, he describes Andronicus and Junia as “well-known among the apostles” (though the meaning of this is not entirely clear-cut!).

Jesus' mission had been carried forward after his death by Peter and his companions among the Jews, and by Paul and his companions among the Gentiles, and after them, the church continued to spread and to witness to the good news of the coming of the kingdom. And the people who helped it to spread are also known as apostles. So we might talk of Patrick as the apostle of Ireland, or Augustine of Canterbury as the apostle of England.

But the root meaning of apostle (and of its Latin equivalent, missionary) is someone who has been sent, and now in the twenty-first century we recall the chain of witnesses who have been sent, reaching back to the first apostles and to our Lord himself, the one who sent them. The church is carrying on their work in every generation, and, every time we say the Nicene Creed, we proclaim that it continues to do so. And this work of witness is not only the task of missionaries, but the task of us all.

- *Hector Davie*



Communion of the Apostles, 1512, by Luca Signorelli

From St Ursula's Book Corner

Do you perhaps know the religious poet George Herbert, the blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby, the French mystic Brother Lawrence, author of *La pratique de la présence de Dieu*?

Are you maybe more familiar with the American evangelist Billy Graham, the Italian poet Dante, the missionary David Livingstone, or the German theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer?

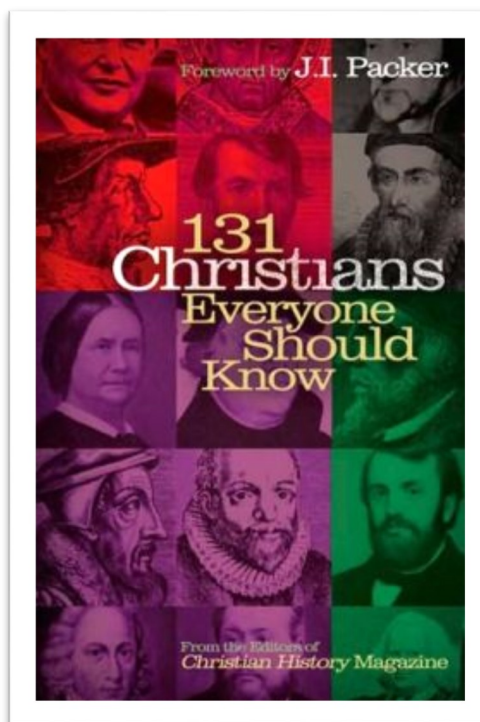
This is a kind of amusing quiz, but it is not just a quiz. Marc Galli and Tel Olsen (the editors of the *Christian History Magazine*) did an excellent job with this anthology published in 2000, *131 Christians Everyone Should Know*. Both authors draw short portraits (each is not more than two pages long) from 131 men and women from Augustine until Bonhoeffer whose extraordinary callings have shaped our Christian culture, sensibility and worship.

The number 131 is not symbolical, but pragmatic and inevitably arbitrary, as the editors explain in the foreword. They had to select ten personalities per section in order to meet with the space constraints of a book. The thirteen sections are: Theologians, Evangelists and Apologists, Pastors and Preachers, Musicians, Artists and Writers, Poets, Denominational Founders, Movers and Shakers, Missionaries, Inner Travellers, Activists, Rulers, Scholars and Scientists, and Martyrs.

More people could surely be added to this gallery of grand Christians, but the book seeks less scholarly completeness than educational and spiritual goals: all these – or at least some of these – biographies should inspire and encourage us in our efforts to think, act and feel in a Christian way.

131 Christians Everyone Should Know is available at St Ursula's Library.

- Isabelle Wienand



Electoral Roll

Last chance to join this year's Electoral Roll.

The **closing date** for applications is **Sunday 29 March**.

Being a member of St Ursula's Electoral Roll shows your commitment to our church. It also means that you can vote at the AGM. You can also stand for election yourself or nominate someone else.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, may I encourage you to join. You can find an application form in the church hall, on our website, or you can contact the church office to get one sent to you. Please fill in this form and return it to me.

If you have questions please speak to the chaplain, to me, or to a member of council.

- *Electoral Roll Officer (Tricia Carrick)*

A Gentle Reminder

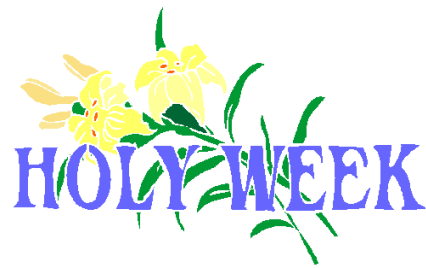
The last issue contained a payment slip, and I am pleased to see that well over half of our readers have paid their magazine subscription. Thank you! Perhaps a further fifty or sixty receive a complementary copy of the magazine – it is our way of keeping in touch with you and letting you know what we are doing.



However, this leaves another fifty or sixty of you who have not remembered to pay. The subscription is small: only Fr20, which just covers our costs and produces a small surplus which helps in the running of the church – helping us in particular to keep in touch in other ways. Please check your records, and if you haven't paid, find the original subscription request and pay it, or send your payment to our Postfinance account, 30-4416-8, marking the payment slip "Magazine". Many thanks!

- *The Treasurer*

Chaplain's Notes



Holy Week and Easter

There is lots of movement in our services during this week, some of it outdoors, as we remember the comings and goings of the last week of Jesus' earthly life.

On **Palm Sunday**, we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his joyful reception there. We all join in the procession and then the children will leave for their groups when we get to the church.

On **Maundy Thursday** we begin in the hall for a bring-and-share supper, remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples. On that occasion he washed his disciples' feet and we shall do the same. Then we move from the Upper Room (the hall) to the Garden of Gethsemane (the church) for those last hours of prayer.

This is a service for all ages. Please bring some simple food to share and wear suitable footwear. We begin at 18.30.

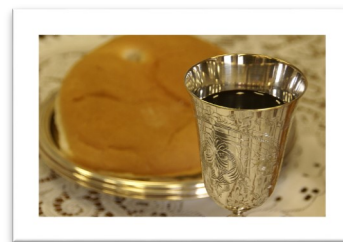
On the morning of Maundy Thursday the **holy oils** for healing, baptism and confirmation are blessed by the bishop of the diocese. We are invited to join with our Old Catholic brothers and sisters at the church of St Peter and St Paul at 10.00.

There are two services on **Good Friday**. The Family Service at 10.00 traces Jesus' route through the streets of Jerusalem to the hill of Calvary and at 14.00 we watch with Jesus in the last hour. We hear the account of the crucifixion and we kneel in silent adoration of the one who both died and reigned on the cross.

The pattern for **Easter Day** this year is slightly different. We will begin with a breakfast at 8.30, when we shall also listen to the stories of God's redemption of his people. So that as many of us as possible can get together, we shall have one main service at 10.00, when we celebrate the Resurrection with the traditional ceremonies from the lighting of the Easter candle to the egg hunt. Please bring some flowers or greenery to decorate the cross and the Easter garden.

Please pray for fine weather, so that we can make the most of these moveable feasts. And remember that, in order to enter fully into the joy of Easter, you have to have experienced what went before. I hope to see lots of you at our services in this crucial week.

Easter is the most important day of the year for Christians. It is a day of obligation, when all churchpeople should receive Holy Communion. If you or anyone you know is too ill or housebound to come to church on Easter Day, please let me know and we shall endeavour to bring them Communion at home.



Ascension Day, 14 May

We usually do something a bit different for our Ascension Day service. This year is no exception but the details are not yet finalised. Keep an eye on the weekly notices for details.

Appeals

The Bishop's Advent Appeal 2014, for the Sant'Egidio Programme for asylum seekers arriving in Sicily, has raised £15,814-81p.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2015 is for the benefit of "Hestia", a hostel for unaccompanied minor refugees in Athens. You can find more information on the notice board in the hall.

The Council includes a sum of 1000 francs each for the Bishop's Advent and Lent Appeals every year in its budget for giving to mission agencies and charities.

Bible Reading Fellowship – now an app.

The BRF publishes a range of booklets to help you develop a regular pattern of reading the Bible. The **New Daylight** series provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. Each day offers a short Bible passage (text included), thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection, and aims to give a fresh, devotional approach to Bible reading.



It is ideal for anyone wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

New Daylight is available as a booklet (copies available on the book case in the hall) and now as an app for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and Android.

Further information from Claire Morgenthaler (see back page).

Shrove Tuesday = Pancakes

It is a tradition in the UK to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday – the day before Lent begins.

This year, around 40 people came and ate pancakes. Just to give you an idea: we used 45 eggs, 2.5 kg flour, and 5l milk. Plus the toppings – as always the chilli con carne was very popular (all eaten). Cheese and ham, and sugar and lemon went very well too.



As well as generally chatting to people we know and those we didn't know, we were challenged by Hector's quiz. This year it seemed particularly difficult and I don't think anyone got 100%, but we all had fun.

Pancake evening seems to be a popular event – if you missed it this year, put it in your diary now for next year.

- Tricia Carrick

Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld

We welcome you to walk with us on our journey of faith.

"Understanding the beginning is the beginning of understanding"

We are studying "Unshakable Faith" by Rick Joyner, a devotional based on the Book of Genesis.

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

Wednesday, 1, 15 and 29 April 2015

Wednesday, 13 and 27 May 2015

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

(No.10 bus to Hessestrasse and then just a short walk)



Piano Recital at St Ursula's Church

2 February 2015



The Recital was well attended by members of our community and by visiting music lovers. Tamar Usenashvili gave an extremely impressive performance playing works by Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann and Liszt. Playing it all from memory, her fingers danced up and down the keyboard of the church's piano with the highest of skills. Tamar really brought the piano to life in all variations, from gentle, slow and reflective movements to strong and powerful passages that filled the church.

A highly appreciative audience expressed their admiration and thanks with very generous applause, and with substantial contributions to the collection in support of the charity Cecily's Fund. Many discussions followed after the concert over the light refreshments generously provided by Yvonne and Andreas.

A big thank you to Tamar, for your great performance, and thank you to all who contributed to a successful and enjoyable evening.

- Hans-Karl Pfyffer

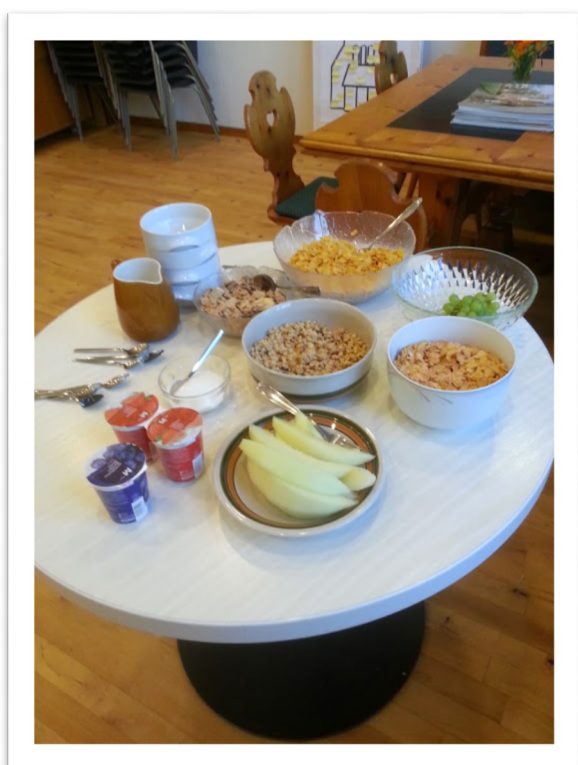


Church Breakfasts

The monthly Sunday Church Breakfasts on the first Sunday of each month continue in April, May and June – we will then have a break in July and August.

Everyone is welcome. Just come along from 8.30 – no need to sign up or bring anything. Cereals, fruit, bread, butter, jam, marmalade, croissants together with tea, coffee and juice will be there waiting for you.

And you can meet people – those you know and perhaps even some you do not know.



Easter Sunday

As you know, Easter Sunday (5 April) is the first Sunday of the month. So there will be a church breakfast. But this will be a bit special – maybe there will be a small addition to the menu. It will also be slightly more formal than usual and include some readings from the Easter Vigil.

So put the date in your diary now and plan to come along and experience something special.

- *Tricia Carrick*



This year's summer fête will once again be a fun and fabulous event with lots of games, activities and stalls for adults and children alike, including our fabulous "Pimms on the Lawn", an outside barbecue, Usborne Books and a terrific Tombola - whilst not forgetting our usual stalls selling second hand books and British food and fine cheeses.

Anyone wanting to sell their own bric à brac or crafts is also welcome to book a space with the Church Office.

However, to make this day a success we'll need **lots of help** – from set up on the Friday afternoon/early evening, during the sale itself and the clear up afterwards.

The restaurant also needs volunteers not only to help on the day but also to bake our usual scrummy selection of cakes.

New and in perfect condition (please check the sell-by date on any food items first though!) tombola items are also needed – just leave them in the red box in the Upper Hall.

Flyers will be included with our next magazine and are also available from our website and in the Upper Hall – please advertise this event widely!.

For further information and to volunteer please contact the Church Office (031 352 8567) or email berne@anglican.ch

- Jana Kutesko, Church Office

“Words for worship”

Exploring opportunities for creativity in designing and leading services in the Anglican tradition

For those new to leading worship, or looking for new ideas and resources, this workshop/teaching day will clarify foundational guidelines for leading worship and draw on the variety of structure and liturgical resources available to enhance our services.

The day will be run by Alison and Peter Callway from Rochester Diocese.



Saturday 30th May

at

The Chapelle de la Maladière, Neuchatel
from 10.00am to 3.30pm

The venue is located at Rue de la Maladière 57, Neuchâtel
(next to Pourtales Hospital)

Refreshments and Lunch will be provided at a cost of 20CHF. To register and to book for lunch (please include any dietary requirements) contact:
Revd. Hilary Jones – hilaryjones@bluewin.ch or 0041618133405 or
Jenny Veenendaal – veenendaal.peter@gmail.com or 0041328416432

Services and Readings April, May 2015

2 April – Maundy Thursday

18.30 Commemoration of the Last Supper

Exodus 12:1-4,
Exodus 12:11-14
John 13:1-17, 31-35
Psalm 88

3 April – Good Friday

10.00 Family Service

Psalm 41:5-13
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 12:20-26

14.00 Liturgy of the Last Hour

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
John 18:1-19:42

5 April – Easter Day

10.00 Easter Parish Communion

Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8

12 April – Easter 2

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 ACT with Holy Baptism

Acts 4:32-35
John 20:19-31

19 April – Easter 3

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

26 April – Easter 4

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



3 May – Easter 5

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

10 May – Easter 6

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 ACT

Acts 10:44-48
John 15:9-17

14 May – Ascension Day

11.00 Holy Communion

Acts 1:1-11
Luke 24:44-53

17 May – Easter 7

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-11

24 May – Pentecost

8.30 Holy Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

31 May – Trinity Sunday

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Prayer Diary

April and May 2015

1-4 April: Holy Week

- dealing with hostility from others
- accepting God's will
- feeling that God is far from us
- times of emptiness and desolation

5-11 April: Easter Week

- "Do not be afraid"
- "All manner of things shall be well"
- Letting go and moving on
- God's surprises

12-18 April: Second week of Easter

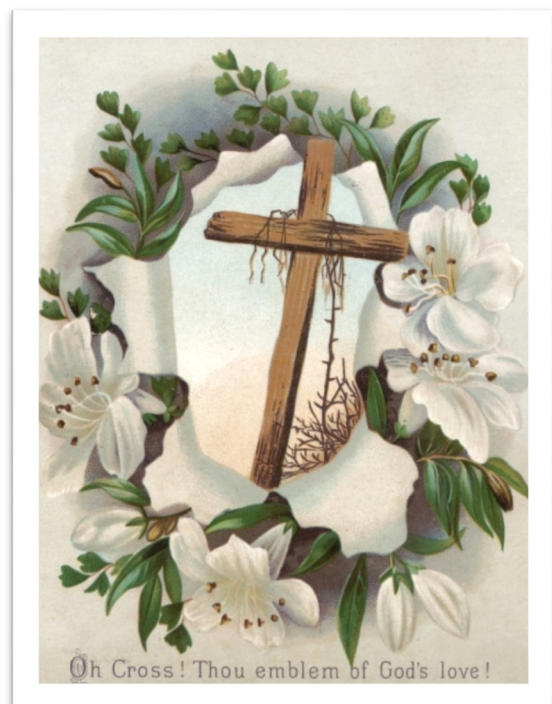
- believing the unbelievable
- the promise of new beginnings
- living out our baptismal promises
- knowing ourselves to be forgiven

19-25 April: Third week of Easter

- our fellowship in the sacrament
- the resurrection in daily life
- transforming the lives of the poor
- our witness to a possible world

26 April – 2 May: Fourth week of Easter

- the Shepherd and his flock
- serving God in the Church
- the Church's task to equip God's people
- the values of the Church



May

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Friday | fair employment practices |
| 2 | Saturday | all who teach the faith |
| 3 | Sunday | young people and adults preparing for Confirmation |
| 4 | Monday | victims of human trafficking |
| 5 | Tuesday | the clergy of the Swiss Archdeaconry |
| 6 | Wednesday | peace in the Middle East |
| 7 | Thursday | elections in the UK |
| 8 | Friday | developing our Christian spirituality |
| 9 | Saturday | local health services |
| 10 | Sunday | our duty to love one another |
| 11 | Monday | environmentally responsible farming |
| 12 | Tuesday | tonight's Council meeting |
| 13 | Wednesday | the people of Ukraine |
| 14 | Thursday | Ascension Day |
| 15 | Friday | St Matthias: our willingness to take on duties in the church |
| 16 | Saturday | people working unsocial hours |
| 17 | Sunday | our unity in Christ |
| 18 | Monday | colleagues and neighbours |
| 19 | Tuesday | resourcing the ministry of the Church |
| 20 | Wednesday | the home for deaf children in Jordan (HLID), our charity of the month |
| 21 | Thursday | the Thun church group |
| 22 | Friday | members of the federal and cantonal governments |
| 23 | Saturday | the gift of restfulness |
| 24 | Sunday | Pentecost: thanksgiving for the gifts of the Holy Spirit |
| 25 | Monday | the Venerable Bede: Christian writers |
| 26 | Tuesday | St Augustine: the Archbishop of Canterbury |
| 27 | Wednesday | the Old Catholic Church in Switzerland |
| 28 | Thursday | our stewardship of the earth's resources |
| 29 | Friday | police officers |
| 30 | Saturday | SACEP worship workshop |
| 31 | Sunday | those who lead intercessions at St Ursula's |

For Your Diary

April & May 2015

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.00-09.30	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork (not on 3 April)
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice (not on 4 and 11 April)

Other Events

Wednesday 1 April	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Friday 3 April	15.15-16.45	Choir Practice
Sunday 5 April	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Group
Friday 10 April - Sunday 12 April		Archdeaconry Choir Festival in Zürich
Wednesday 15 April	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Sunday 19 April	10.00	Youth Group
Sunday 26 April	10.00	Confirmation Class
	12.00	St Ursula's AGM
Wednesday 29 April	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld



Friday 1 May	09.00	Book Sorting
Sunday 3 May	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Confirmation Class
Sunday 10 May	10.00	Youth Group
Tuesday 12 May	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 13 May	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Sunday 17 May		COPY DATE
	10.00	Confirmation Class
Sunday 24 May	10.00	Youth Group
Wednesday 27 May	19.30	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Thursday 28 May	09.00-11.00	Magazine Collating
Saturday 30 May		Youth Group Charity Fundraising Event
		SACEP Worship Workshop

Future Dates

Saturday 20 June	Summer Fête
Sunday 21 June	Confirmation Service
Saturday 5 September	Book and Food Sale
Friday 20 & Saturday 21 November	Christmas Bazaar

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to the Junior Church Children with birthdays in April and May:

Anna Batley 12 on 1 April
 Samuel Eze 2 on 2 April
 Rebecca Shergold 9 on 11 April
 Lily Janssen 7 on 15 April
 Eleanor Kutesko-Pawsey 16 on 28 May
 Raphael Hänggi 16 on 29 May



Junior Church News



During Lent the Junior Church has been following Jesus' journey from his baptism to his death on the cross and resurrection on Easter day. We have been looking at what Jesus' journey and teaching mean for us today and how we can be inspired and carried in our everyday lives. Each week the children and Father Peter have been hanging symbols of this journey on a cross in church as a visual reminder of what we have been learning.

On Mission Sunday the Junior Church led the rest of the congregation in singing two songs. As the Junior church and the congregation sang the same song overlapping, it turned into an impromptu sing off, with the Junior Church pulling the congregation into their timing. Junior Church 1 Congregation 0. But everyone won in the end, as on the second take everything worked as planned and sounded great.

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to welcome Walter Bisig as the newest member of the teaching team. This helps to alleviate our immediate teacher shortage, but we still need more teachers. So get in touch with Father Peter or one of the teachers if you are interested.

Groups and Meeting Times

Junior church meets Sundays during the service. The children start the service with the congregation and then leave together after the welcome. Every second Sunday of the month is ACT (All in Church Together) when the children stay in the congregation.

Classes are divided into three age groups: Sparklers (3-6+), Trailblazers (7-10+) and Pilots (11-14+). After a short introduction together, the groups split for their separate teaching. On the fourth Sunday of the month, the groups stay together for song and praise.

Crèche

For children younger than 3 there is supervised crèche every Sunday, except when there's an ACT (All in Church Together) service. The crèche is in the lower hall. Parents can bring their children before the service. Pick up is immediately after the service or alternatively before the Eucharist, when they will receive a blessing.



Activity Club

The Junior Church Activity Club is for children 7-13 years old and organizes fun group activities several times a year. If you are interested and want to know more please contact Francoise Hänggi (031 802 10 05) or Sharon Batley (079 482 29 72) or check the church webpage (www.stursula.ch/Junior) for more information.

- John Hutchison



Youth Confirmation Class

The focus of the youth confirmation class in 2015 is to learn more about what it means to live as a Christian. We are very privileged that several members of our congregation have agreed to come and talk to the group about some aspect of their Christian life. This is a very special time for both the members of the group and also for those who come to meet the young people. We still have a few slots free, so if you would like to take part please speak to me.

At the start of June, the confirmation class will have a weekend away. This is a good opportunity for us to get to know one another a bit better. Once again, we will be going to the Wildhabers' place in Sargans. The theme for the weekend is "The Bible" with many different activities. We will work hard, but also have lots of fun.

There will be a confirmation service on Sunday 21 June with Bishop David. Please pray for the young people as they prepare to make the decision whether to be confirmed at this service. Pray too for the leaders of the group, those organising the weekend away and all the people coming to talk to the young people.

-Tricia Carrick

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE 2015

“We are an Easter People and Hallelujah is our Song!”

The great St. Augustine of Hippo wrote these words 1600 years ago and they have spoken to people through the ages down to our own time. Being an Easter people means that resurrection is part of our life experience. Easter celebrates how Jesus dies and rises in each of us – in our personal lives and in the community of the church. Easter celebrates how Jesus is present in our daily work, our relationships, the joys and sorrows of the world.

We are an Easter people, in a Good Friday world. Within Europe, many countries continue to live with the grinding effects of austerity. In the South of the continent, we have a whole generation of young people growing up without work. Eastern Ukraine has faced the misery and devastation of armed struggle. This is in addition to the conflicts in the wider world – in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria and Iraq - with their tragic humanitarian consequences.

In this kind of world, it could seem that the only God in whom we might believe, or refuse to believe, would be a deist god – that is, a god who may have created the world back in the mists of time but has since then left it alone to run down by itself. Whilst philosophers might find it interesting to debate whether or not such a god exists, the deist god would not make any practical difference to the way the world is.

By contrast, the Christian Easter insists that God is not a god who is far off, but one who in Jesus draws very near. In Jesus, God himself comes among us. As the Church Fathers insisted, “what God has created, only God can redeem”. In his bursting from the tomb on Easter Day, God releases new energy into the world. Far from allowing his world to decay, according to a relentless law of entropy, God in Christ initiates a programme of renewal. Beginning with the first disciples a new community is created that exhibits a remarkable degree of joy, hope, and love. 2000 years later, the Easter people is still growing rapidly in number, especially in Africa, in China and in some other Asian countries.

Unfortunately, in the old continent of Europe, the churches (or at least the traditional churches) are generally not enjoying numerical growth. Our own Church of England has been declining at the rate of about 1% per year for many years. On top of this, the average age of our church has increased so that it is now much higher than the average age of the UK population. This means that, even if we manage to replace all those who leave the church, we will still decline as a large proportion of our current membership comes to the end of their lives. Moreover, a bulge in the clergy age distribution means 40% of our clergy are due to retire in the next 10 years.

Faced with this reality, one approach would be to dig our heads in the sand and either pretend that decline wasn't happening or that it doesn't matter. If our God was a God who had simply left the world to decline in its own way, than that might be permissible. But as an Easter people we simply daren't do this!

Aware of the great challenge facing the church, the General Synod at its meeting in February approved a range of reports that constitute an ambitious programme of 'Reform and Renewal'. At the heart of these is a renewed commitment to personal discipleship across all dioceses. There are plans to alter the way in which central church funds are distributed so that the church particularly addresses areas of deprivation and possibilities for growth, plans to increase the number of candidates for ordained ministry by 50%, proposals to simplify the process of church planting, all backed by a significant investment programme from the Church Commissioners.

The February General Synod was a gathering of some historic significance, and it left me with a real sense of hope in the future of our church. But all of us are aware that 'renewal' is not something that can be programmed or managed centrally. Renewal happens personally and locally. It is in our local congregations that lives are touched by the love of Jesus. It is through personal friendship and invitation that people come to know and follow the Lord. It is in the gathering for worship of our local communities that minds are challenged and hearts transformed.

This Holy Week, I will be spending Palm Sunday in Naples and Easter Sunday in Florence. I am deeply thankful to all our clergy and lay people who will be involved in the preparation and conduct of worship for Holy Week and Easter. I pray especially for those who will be endeavouring to communicate the Easter message in ways that will connect with regular churchgoers and visitors alike. I hope there will be an expectancy that people will come to faith in Jesus through the welcome and worship we offer. We have a great story to tell and a wonderful song to sing!

I wish you a blessed and joyful Easter,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe



Charity of the Month: The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf More than 50 years of Service

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) has been supported by St Ursula's as one of its charities for many years now. The institute offers comprehensive schooling and training to deaf children and also offers help and counselling to their families.

Brother Andrew, HLID's Director, has dedicated his life to enriching, educating and enabling the lives of deaf children.

HLID was founded in 1964 as a small deaf school on the site of a former missionary hospital in Salt, Jordan. The school is considered as a model school for deaf people in the Middle East.

HLID is a Busy Place

There is a lot going on at HLID and its main aims are to enable hard-of-hearing, deaf and deafblind people to participate meaningfully in the family and the community and to make their unique and valuable contributions to an inclusive society. It does this by:

1. providing education to over 140 deaf children.
2. offering a loving home in the boarding houses where children can develop fully as young people.
3. providing vocational training for an average of 40 students.
4. caring 24 hours a day for one of the most ignored and neglected groups of people - deafblind children.
5. providing much needed audiological services for the poorer part of the population.
6. starting outreach programmes for children with hearing and speech disabilities.
7. training hearing, deaf and disabled teachers and technicians
8. developing teaching materials in Arabic and in Jordanian sign language.

Nevertheless, there are difficulties. When the Charity & Missions team asked Brother Andrew about some of the recent challenges, he commented:

“The rising costs of providing a quality education as well as finding good staff are a challenge. Also the regional teacher and technician training, which covered most countries in the region in days gone by, is now severely limited because of security issues.”

Growing in God’s Love

The Institute started with thirty-two children and four teachers. Later in 1986 it developed a curriculum and syllabus for teaching sign language, Arab deaf culture and educating deaf



Picture 1: Brother Andrew with Staff and Children at HLID

interpreters. In 2001, the institute grew to be the first boarding school in the Middle East to take in deafblind children. Later in 2004, in Jofeh at the Dead Sea a centre of education and training for disabled women and children was opened. This centre includes Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR), which has been shown as one way of effectively increasing the availability of services in developing countries.

First Language is Sign Language

Last year in 2014, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt celebrated its Golden Jubilee and now offers education and vocational training to around 150 deaf boys and girls aged from 4 to 20 years old. Some 120 of them stay in the boarding houses. They all communicate in sign language, which is their first language, but in school they later learn both Arabic and English.

The school operates under the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem with the Archbishop as chairman. Children of all religions are welcome. The institute was the first for children with disabilities in Jordan and is highly respected for sharing its experience with many other schools throughout the region.



Picture 2- Talking Hands: Training courses are provided in deaf education, sign language interpreting and other subjects.

Learning Matters

As well as learning subjects and skills, the children learn to take care of each other using a “buddy” system. Older children are responsible for the small ones, and several of the bigger ones take care of the deafblind children at meals and during breaks. The responsibility then develops over time, providing the child mentors with skills which are very useful for the outside world.

The institute does not keep its know-how to itself. There is a teacher training department where hearing and deaf teachers for the deaf from Jordan and surrounding countries are taught. In the Jordan valley two CBR centres are opened with classes and vocational training for disabled children and women. There is an audiology department which provides hearing aids and ear moulds.

Working through Networks

More recently, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf has been working with a network of specialist Jordanian charitable organisations to provide rehabilitation and education for children with disabilities and their families in the Za’atari camp for Syrian refugees, which currently constitutes the 5th largest city in Jordan. HLID has provided case assessments for almost 1000 people since December 2012 via the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Network.

Brother Andrew asks us to keep them in our prayers, and to help them be the beacons of hope through Christian care and compassion, for children and elderly persons with disabilities in the lands where our Lord Jesus chose to live and throughout the Middle East region.

Thank you for your support of the work of the HLID. Please join with us in prayer support for the work of the HLID:

- Pray that the teachers and caregivers are filled with God’s love and strength as they work with the children and young people.
- Pray for more volunteers to give of their time and talents to HLID.
- Pray for the outreach to other areas which need this kind of service.
- Pray for the children that they adjust to the school environment so they can benefit from the teaching and training.



Further Information

You can find out more about the HLID from these websites:

HLID Website: <http://www.holyland-deaf.org/en/home/>

HLID on the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem website:

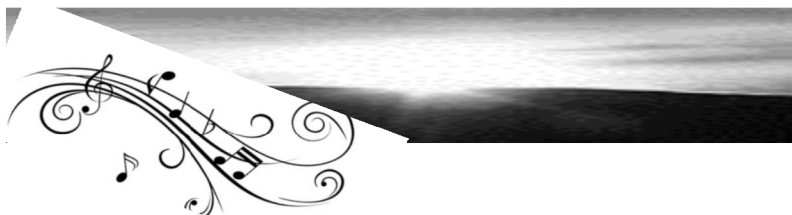
<http://www.j-diocese.org/index.php?page=129666024424&sub=129698352822>

A short tour around HLID:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFbxhH0VyHw&t=49>

The Jofeh Center: <http://www.jofehcenter.org/index.php/our-work/>

- Pieter Perrett on behalf of the Charity and Missions Team



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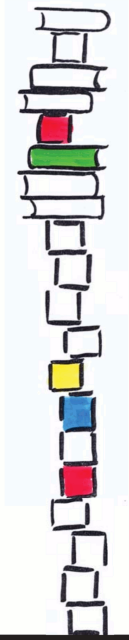
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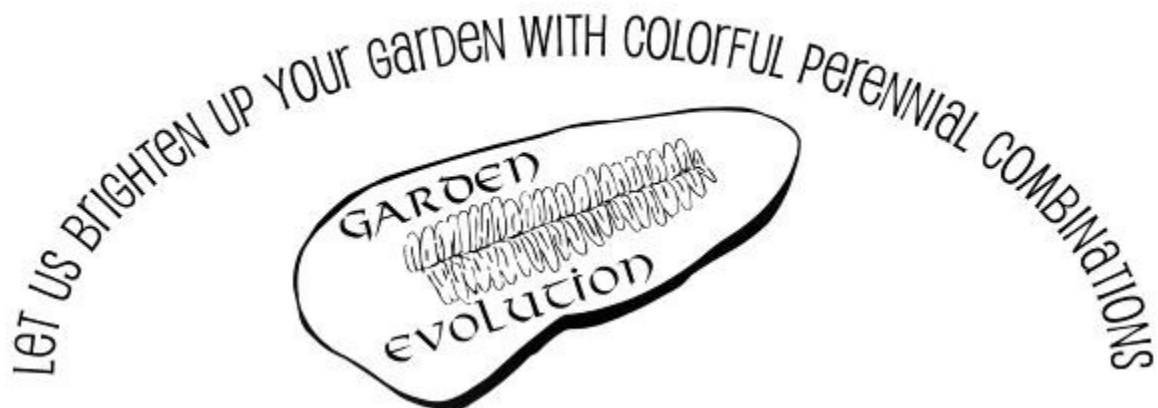
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Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

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Caravaggio, The Supper at Emmaus

1601, National Gallery, London