

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



February– March 2016

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

Chaplain

Ven Peter Potter

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Honorary Assistant Chaplain Assistant Chaplain 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: 18.30 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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Chaplain's Message

Before we know it, it will be time for spring-cleaning and clearing out the clutter in our homes and in our lives. As soon as you have thrown out some long-unused object, do you, like me, suddenly find it's just what you needed?



In the Church, there are people who want to throw out tradition and say that the way to attract people is to be *contemporary* and *relevant*. For two generations at least, churches of all sorts have declined in spite of all the efforts in this direction. Of course there are success stories but they can be deceptive. Some large churches have grown by siphoning people off from other churches rather than by attracting new worshippers. The news from America is that mega-churches are in decline and polls reveal that the number answering “unaffiliated” has risen from 15 to over 20 percent in just five years.

I have read articles written by people from American free church circles expressing dissatisfaction with contemporary worship, especially music. One of them says in fact that “contemporary worship” is a contradiction in terms. If you want to stick with the here-and-now, there are plenty of celeb mags that can do it a lot better. Our worship should connect us with the past and future. This means celebrating the seasons and festivals, the saints and martyrs and tapping into a long liturgical history rather than trying to come up with something new every week. Worship is not the same as entertainment – and churches are not good at that anyway, no matter how hard they try. Worship should challenge. It may uplift but it can also comfort the sorrowful by helping them give voice to their pain. It should offer, not a passing feel-good factor, but a sense of mystery, something we cannot quite grasp. Something you cannot get at Migros, in *Zwanzig Minuten* or on TV.

That is what is lacking in people's lives and we need to recover the confidence to know that we can offer it to them. In England one of the largest growth areas is cathedral services. In Berne we can pack the Heiliggeist Church for Nine Lessons and Carols every year. These are services done well, with confidence and using material that has stood the test of time.

Lent is the Church's season for spring-cleaning – and a time to consider what is truly of lasting worth.

Peter

Thirty-Nine Things We Believe (?)

What do Anglicans believe? Every so often somebody asks this, and finding a satisfactory answer is complicated. We believe what all Christians believe, that Christ died for our sins and rose for our justification. We share their acceptance of the creeds and their hope of salvation. But what is distinctive about us? Yes, we're nice people. Yes, we're welcoming and we brew a nice coffee after the service, but where do we stand on the things that matter?

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Well, there is no distinctive Anglican position on many of the things that matter today. On such questions as economic globalization, climate change, gay marriage, remarriage after divorce, women's ministry, Anglican teaching hardly differs from that of many of the other Christian churches. And this teaching is constantly changing and developing – and rightly so. Two centuries ago, slavery was acceptable, cremation was a pagan ritual, a failed marriage was sinful. What Anglicans think today can easily change five years further on from now.

There is a distinctive Anglican position, though, on the things that mattered in the sixteenth century. Clergy still have to keep to the doctrine in the Prayer Book, the Ordinal and the Thirty-Nine Articles, all of them substantially the same as at the beginning of Elizabeth I's reign in the late 1550s.

The Book of Common Prayer and its accompanying Ordinal – the service for ordaining bishops, priests and deacons – show us that “doctrine” is not just a set of dry statements. The way we pray indicates what we believe, just as much as the statements we make or the declarations we sign. The Thirty-Nine Articles, however, form a statement of the Church of England position on some of the things that mattered at the time of the Reformation.

They were written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer during the reign of Edward VI. There were originally forty-two of them. Edward died in 1553 less than three weeks after they had been formally adopted, and it was some ten years before they were revised and re-issued under Queen Elizabeth. They took their final form in 1571.

Cranmer was a master of compromise, and many of the articles carefully avoided narrow definitions and extreme views. The articles condemned the excesses of mediæval Catholicism, but did not make it clear whether it was the excesses or the beliefs themselves that were wrong. Article 22 says: “The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping, and Adoration,

as well of Images as of Reliques, and also invocation of Saints, is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.” It does not say all doctrines of purgatory or of pardoning are wrong.

A key question for the Reformers was how Christ was present in the Eucharist. The Articles declare that “transubstantiation (or the change of the substance of Bread and Wine) in the Supper of the Lord, cannot be proved by holy Writ; but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a Sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions”, rejecting the view of Catholic scholars of the Middle Ages, who had tried to define the change in terms from the philosophy of Aristotle, but at the same time, they reject Zwingli's view of the Eucharist as a simple memorial and declare that “the Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ.”

The Articles take a similarly wide view of infant baptism (“most agreeable with the institution of Christ”), of predestination (“predestination to life is the everlasting purpose of God”), where neither the Calvinist doctrine nor the Catholic counter-claim is accepted, and of scripture, which is not the sole guide to salvation, but is presented as the yardstick to test human teaching, “so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved (“proved” here means “tested”) thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.”

The Articles were printed at the back of the Book of Common Prayer. You will no longer find this in your seat, although there are a few copies at the back of church, and more in the office. They are interesting, but the questions they address belong to a different age. We do not see reality in Aristotelian terms. We do not lie awake at night thinking about the relationship between baptism and original sin. We read the Bible to understand what its writers are trying to say (its metanarrative, in modern terms) rather than to deduce from its pages how many wives a man can have or how the fifth heaven differs from the sixth. Rather than fighting yesterday's battles, we should be living the Gospel, not dissecting it. We need to be making Christ known in our lives, and witnessing to a dark world.

- *Hector Davie*

FAQ: Why eggs at Easter?

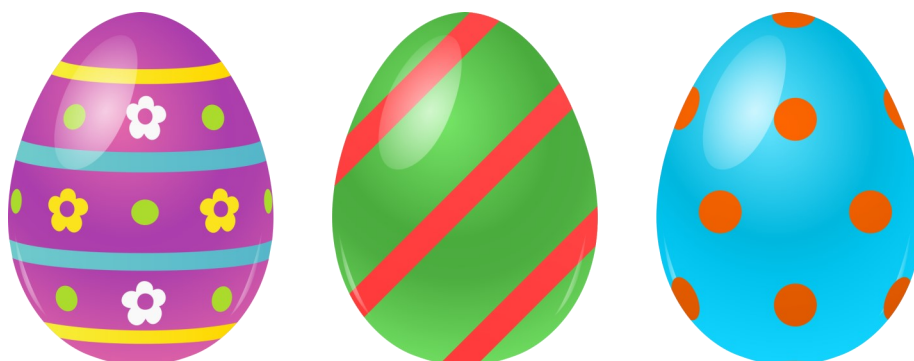
At first sight, eggs have no more to do with Easter than fir trees with Christmas. Neither are mentioned in the Gospels but all the same they help widen our understanding of what the Gospel accounts are telling us.

Both Christmas trees and Easter eggs are survivals of pagan religions that were replaced by Christianity in the Dark Ages. To explain the new faith the Church would often take things that were familiar to their converts and reinterpret them in a Christian manner. As the carol “O Tannenbaum” tells us, for instance, the tree's green branches are a sign that God is still near when all else seems dead and dark. During Lent there are no flowers in church, which fits this season of sombre reflection and penitence. The bareness of the church on Good Friday reflects the bare rock of Jesus' tomb. Then on Easter Day the church is full of life, the bright spring flowers proclaiming the new life that has come bursting out of the tomb.

The eggs, along with the chicks and rabbits also portray new life. Eggs actually contain new life, the chick that is yet to be hatched. On the outside an egg looks hard and dead but once the shell is broken, life emerges. It is not a tomb but a womb. This is another picture of what happened on the first Easter Day. Jesus bursts out of the cold rock of the tomb, rising to new life. In many places ladies used to have a new hat for Easter or a new outfit, which is perhaps reminiscent of the new clothes put on by people being baptised at Easter. Baptism itself dramatically presents the Easter message, as the candidate rises up out of the water into the new life of faith.

Today the task of the Church is to make those connections for people to whom an Easter egg is simply another chocolate treat. The illustrations are easy to understand and they involve things that are familiar to everyone. In her Christmas broadcast last year Queen Elizabeth had a go, pointing out that the candles on the tree represent St John's “light that shines in the darkness”. If she can do it, so can we!

- PMP



A Word for the Month – Prophet

I remember clearly the first essay one tutor set me to write when I was at university. “Was Amos a prophet?” It was the sort of question that academics like to ask – deceptively simple, but not at all easy to answer – one that makes you stop and ask yourself what lies behind it.

At first sight, the answer is straightforward. Jesus spoke of “the law and the prophets” - two parts of the Jewish Bible. The law comprised the first five books, the prophets comprised 15 of the 16 last books (from Isaiah to Malachi), but also the books of Joshua, Judges, I and II Samuel and I and II Kings. We would call these the historical books, but the Jews saw them as “the former prophets”, dominated by the figures of Elijah and Elisha. The Book of Amos fits tidily between Joel and Obadiah as one of the twelve minor prophets – minor not because they were less important, but because they were shorter! The rest of the Old Testament (also including Daniel, I and II Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah) formed “the writings”.

The hidden trap in the question is Amos' own words, “I am no prophet” (7:14). This opens up a range of questions about religion and society and how Amos fitted in (or didn't) – the sort of things tutors like students to write about. But the basic facts about Amos are clear. He lived in the northern kingdom of Israel in the time of Jeroboam II, over 750 years before Christ. He was “a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees (not the kind of maple tree that grows in Switzerland, but a type of fig tree) and the Lord took me from my flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'” And prophesy he did.

Amos was appalled by the corruption, the immorality and the exploitation that he saw in society. The rich “trampled on the poor”, they built luxurious houses, the judges turned a deaf ear to any complaint. The nations all around had sinned, and God would punish them. But the people of Israel too had sinned, and God would punish them too. “You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.” Amos brought a message from God: “Seek good and not evil, that you may live.” (5:11-14).

This kind of talk was unpopular with the authorities. The high priest went to the king and told him “Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words.” It seems that there were other prophets who could be relied on to give politically correct answers. Amos was not one of these – hence his reply “I am no prophet.”

A true prophet, then, is someone who speaks God's mind, and not the “correct” words. The word prophet means someone who speaks out, and the

word in Hebrew probably means someone who is inspired – many prophets say “The Lord spoke to me”, perhaps in a dream or a vision.

A prophet is not like a weather forecaster. The object is not to predict what will happen in the future, but to look at the present, and point out its consequences. Prophecy aims to change people's behaviour now, not to foretell what is going to happen in the distant future. Unlike the weather forecast, where we cannot change the paths of cyclones or the movements of rain-clouds, prophecy seeks to change people's ways.

As prophets tend to speak out against evil ways, and the consequences of evil are bad, many prophecies are prophecies of doom. Evil consequences can only be avoided by repentance and a change of heart. God wanted justice. God wanted righteousness. But the prophets also brought the message of God's steadfast love. Behind their criticism and reproof, there was the message of a better future. Isaiah looks forward to an age of peace, when swords are beaten into ploughshares (2:4) and a child is born to be the Prince of Peace (9:6). Jeremiah sees a new covenant where God writes a new law in people's hearts (31:33). Ezekiel talks of a new heart and a new spirit (36:26).

The prophet's message is God's message – “the word of the Lord”. The prophet tells people to follow God's ways, warns them of the consequences of not following God's ways, but also assures them of God's redeeming love. In Jesus, prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus not only proclaimed God's message, he was God's message. And although the early church had its prophets (and in 1 Corinthians 14, Paul describes how valuable they are), Jesus himself was the source of redemption. Henceforth, for the church, prophecy meant telling people about Jesus – which, if they had known it, is what all the prophets in the Old Testament did.

- *Hector Davie*

Thank you

Better Late than Never!

My grateful thanks to all who helped make our sale of Christmas cakes such a success at the Christmas Bazaar. To Jana, for preparing everything for the Big Bake, to Shareene, Joan, Anne, Jane, Becky, Manuela and Georgina— and of course Jana— for making the day fun and to everyone who baked and decorated the many cakes so beautifully. Special thanks also to Vreni Hawker for the delicious shortbread.

I look forward to another successful sale in 2016!

- *Libby Stewardson*



Thank You!

Chaplain's Notes

All in Church Together



The second Sunday in February falls on St Valentine's Day, so the theme will be love and marriage. We give thanks for Christian marriage, especially for our own or for the married life of parents and others who have been important for us. We will also pray for people for whom marriage has not been a happy experience.

In March we have a change to our usual pattern of services. We have our Missions Sunday on 6 March and that will be when we are all in church together to hear Canon Medhat (see more about this below).

Prayers for Healing

Our first service with prayers for healing will be on 31 January, the Feast of the Presentation, when Simeon hailed Jesus as "the light to lighten the nations".

We have prayers for healing at the 10.00 service about once a quarter, and the next will be on Trinity Sunday, 22 May. The other two Sundays will be 31 July and 30 October.

Baptisms

We have four Sundays a year which are designated for baptisms. This year they will be on 7 February, 12 June, 11 September and 4 December. In addition, Easter Day is always a day for baptisms. If any of those dates do not work, for instance if you have family coming from abroad, we can be flexible. For more information, see www.stursula.ch/baptisms.html



Ash Wednesday

Easter is early this year and Ash Wednesday falls on 10 February. We have a celebration of Holy Communion at 18.30 and you are invited to come forward to have a cross marked on your forehead in ash. This is a reminder of our mortality ("You are dust and to dust you shall return"), which is a powerful way of bringing us – literally – down to earth. This year we shall once again be joining with the Church of Sweden congregation.

Time for prayer and reflection in Lent

We had originally planned to use the ecumenical "*Jesus ist...*" material during Lent but unfortunately it has not turned out to be suitable for discussion groups. So we shall have a series of weekly addresses on the miracles in John's

Gospel followed by Compline (Night Prayer). These will be on Wednesday evenings at 19.30. Please watch out for further details in the weekly notice sheets.

Being an Anglican

We welcome people from all church backgrounds or none but St Ursula's is a member of the Anglican family. This means we have particular ways of doing things, not just in our worship but also in the way we run our affairs. If some things seem strange to you, or if you are not sure how to explain them to a newcomers, then the SACEP training in Neuchâtel on 20 and 21 February is for you. You can come for just one of the days if you wish. For details please see the flyers.

Who knows, after the session you might see there's a reason why we do things the way we do!

Special occasion at the Münster

The world-famous Tenebrae Choir from London will perform on 27 February at the Berner Münster as part of their British Weekend Programme. They will be singing at Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Saturday at 17.30 and there will be a concert at 20.00, "A Hymn of Heavenly Beauty". Tickets: www.tipo.ch On Sunday at 10.00: service we shall be joining with the Münster congregation for a bilingual service of Morning Prayer led by the choir. Please see the flyers in church for more information.

There will be Holy Communion at St Ursula's at 8.30 on Sunday so that you can make your communion that day.

Missions Sunday

Our speaker for Missions Sunday (6 March) this year will be Canon Medhat Sabry, the chaplain in Casablanca. Before that Fr Medhat was based at Cairo's Anglican Cathedral and was involved with their charity Refuge Egypt. We have supported this organisation for many years in its work of caring for refugees in Cairo, mainly from Sudan. Morocco is of course on one of the main migrant routes into Europe, so it will be extremely useful to learn at first-hand what life is like there.



Canon Sabry has also agreed to give a talk on Saturday afternoon in our church hall and we shall be inviting people from other churches as well as all from St Ursula's.

Holy Week and Easter

Yes it's time to be thinking of Easter already! We shall have our traditional Palm Sunday procession and our Easter celebration for all the church family, visitors and others on Easter Day. The service will include the Easter ceremonies and the all-important egg hunt.



Between Palm Sunday and Easter Day there are other important occasions, our remembrance of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, making the Easter Garden and our observance of the Last Hour on Good Friday. The more you experience the depths of Holy Week, the greater will be the feeling of joy and new life on Easter Day. So please do what you can to join us on these crucial days of the Christian year.

And finally...

My mobile phone ("Handy") is not usually switched on if I am in the chaplain's house or in church. This means it may be several days before I check it for calls or SMS. So always try my landline first and leave a message if there is no answer.

Please also be aware that sometimes your caller display may show the office number even if you have reached my home phone. We don't know why this is but it means that you can't always rely on the call-back function to return a call.

- PMP

Request

What do you do with all your Christmas cards after the festive season has gone by? Do you keep them as mementoes, recycle them, or throw them away? If you throw them away, please consider letting me have them.



I have been asked to help with an exhibition about Christmas in England and am trying to collect as many cards as possible. They will be used for decorative purposes only and any written messages can be crossed out or otherwise removed.

Please contact me if you'd like to contribute.

tel. 031 352 34 68

- Dorothy Beriger



Missions Sunday 6 March 2016



On 6 March we will be having our Missions Sunday where we focus on the missions and charities we support at St Ursula's. This will be an All in Church Together worship service. This year our special focus is on Refuge Egypt, a mission we have supported for many years. Our guest speaker at the service will be Canon Medhat Sabry who grew up in an Anglican family in Cairo and entered the ministry there and is at present is serving as an Area Dean of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Casablanca, Morocco.

Please note that Father Medhat will also be giving a talk on the Refugee Situation from an Arab and North African perspective on Saturday 5 March in the church hall at 17.30. This meeting is open to all at St Ursula's as well as to other churches. Light refreshments will be provided.

Following the Sunday service we will be having a Pot Luck or Bring and Share lunch. All (including children!) are most welcome to join us in the fellowship at the lunch and you will have an extra chance to meet Father Medhat personally. During the lunch we will be able to hear a presentation from Father Medhat with more detail about the work of Refuge Egypt.

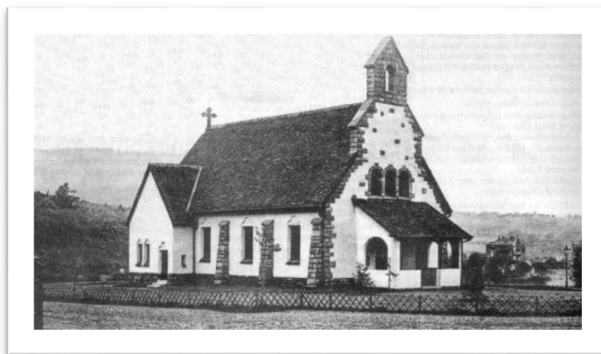
Please bring along a dish of food to share (salad, main and/or dessert) enough for you (and your family) plus a little extra. It is helpful for us if you make sure your food is heated and ready to serve when the meal starts. Since our focus is on Egypt perhaps you might be able to cook something from Egypt or the Middle East?

We will also have materials displayed in the hall about our other missions we support at St Ursulas and you are encouraged to look at these and to talk with members of the Charity & Missions team about our charity support.

- Cecily Klingler on behalf of the Charity & Missions Team

Energy & Sustainability

**WE NEED YOUR HELP
to make St Ursula's
fit for the 21st century!**



St Ursula's Church was built in 1906. It was heated by a single coal-fired stove. People must have been more prepared for hardship in those days!

The hall and house were added in 1959. Their heating and insulation followed the standards of the time. In 1993, the lower church hall was built and the church porch was glazed, though at the wish of the conservation authorities, not completely. And in 1998 and 2006 we renewed the church and the hall roof.

Since 2014, a team led by Hans Goepfert has been studying our energy needs and problems. We have called in outside experts and listened to their advice. The church council has accepted the team's report. Now we need to act on it.

What's the Problem?

In short, an inefficient and wasteful heating system.

The Church

The church is heated by long, low radiators on the side walls. An inefficient two-speed air blower gives additional warmth from a heat-exchanger in the basement. The system is regulated by a time-switch and a thermostat, currently set to 19°C. However, when this temperature is reached, the entire system is switched off, the radiators become cold, and the cold walls produce unpleasant draughts.

In addition, the temperature is not even. If it is 19° at the thermostat, it can be 16° at the back of the church, and up to 23° in the rafters above the front of the church.

The Hall

The roof insulation is good, but heat is lost through the side walls and the windows, especially in the upper hall. However, the main problem is that the

hall is heated constantly, for 168 hours a week, while it is occupied for only 30-40 hours. In addition, users can tamper with the heating controls, with unintended results. The tap water is also heated needlessly when it is not being used.

The House

The house guzzles energy. This costs us money, as we pay practically all the bills. From an environmental standpoint, it is a serious waste of resources. The walls, windows and roof are all poorly insulated, and there is a big heat loss. After over 50 years, the roof needs replacement, to keep the heat in and the weather and the martens out. The boiler is in the house, but it also serves the halls and the church. It is too large and the hot water circulation is also inefficient. The cantonal energy certification classes the house as a G – the lowest point on a scale from A to G.

What's the Solution?

The Church

Larger radiators in the church with more efficient controls will provide heat when it is needed, where it is needed. We will phase out the inefficient air-blowers. Insulating the walls and windows would bring minor benefits. The church is only in use for a short time every week, however, and the protected status of the building makes internal insulation far too expensive.

The Hall

We aim to insulate the walls and window in both halls, and to regulate the heating circuits so that each hall is heated only when it is used. Hot water will be supplied only when it is needed.

The House

Our plans include some major repair items that have been needed for several years in any case. The walls and roof need to be properly insulated, the roof repaired, doors and windows replaced. The aim is to raise the energy grade from a G to a C.

The Boiler

The boiler needs to be replaced with a modern one of smaller capacity. The hot water supply also needs to be made more efficient.

What will it cost and what are the savings?

We need around Fr 250,000

We would save around 70% of our energy usage

We set aside Fr10,000 each year into our Building Fund for long-term projects like this. But the fund only stands at around Fr88,000. The Church Council thinks this project is essential. So we need to launch an appeal.

Come along to a meeting after church on 7 February to share your ideas and to help plan our strategy.

Green Corner

Recycling – Why should I bother?

If it is one of those things you know you should do but so easily forget in the daily routine, because there is always something more pressing – then here are five points to remind you why it is worth your time.

- What we think of as “rubbish” are valuable materials that we can make available again for productive use.
Recycled materials from PET bottles are made into plastic film and tape, textiles such as fleece, filling for pillows, back packs, sneakers etc.
- The resources of our planet are dwindling, while the global population is increasing and more families in developing countries aspire to live like us, consuming more and using more energy.
The U.N. projects that world population will increase 41 percent by 2050. This surge in human numbers threatens to offset any savings in resource use from improved efficiency, as well as any gains in reducing per-capita consumption.
- Recycling means that fewer new resources have to be extracted or mined, requiring less energy, so we reduce emissions and global warming as well as the often high cost for the environment and the workers.
It requires up to 95% less energy to recycle aluminium than to produce primary metal.
- On the other hand, recycling creates new jobs and supports economic growth.

*Incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates one job;
recycling 10,000 tons of waste creates 36 jobs.*

- Recycling feels good, because you are doing your share to help to preserve resources as steward of God's creation.

Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.



So, where to start? Or are you already doing your best but wonder if you can do even better? I am a rather lazy housewife, there are always lots of things I would rather do outside of the kitchen. That is why I keep looking for ways to make a job easier. Number one for easy housekeeping is: make it a habit; number two: make arrangements. The same goes for recycling.

Making it a habit takes a bit of training at first, but once recycling is a habit, it takes practically no time, no thinking about it, no effort. You do it almost automatically, like washing your face in the morning, or brushing your teeth at night.

Making arrangements is important to support your new habit. Create a "recycling station" in your kitchen for all materials that have to do with food preparation, so you can easily dispose of aluminium, tin cans, glass or pet bottles, paper, etc. right away. Even if your kitchen is small, have at least one box or bag ready for whatever comes along while you work, then move the contents to your "recycling station" placed wherever convenient.

Of course at some point you will have to take your collected materials to the appropriate public collection point. Again, making this a habit is the easiest way. Whenever you go to the supermarket, or somewhere near the local recycling place (your hairdresser, the cleaners, the Post Office or bus stop ...), you take some of your valuable materials along and donate them to the recycling industry.

If you live in Berne (other local authorities may offer this as well) you can also collect organic materials like kitchen waste from preparing food, or leftover food you are not able to consume (but of course you always try to make use of it in some way). There are green bins from which this is collected weekly along with green waste from the garden. This is something we should remember for our catering at St. Ursula's, when we scrape leftovers from the plates that come back to the kitchen. Our green bin is ready to receive all organic waste; it will be transformed into bio gas to drive buses or into fertilizer to help grow new food.

So let's not waste our "waste" but use it as the valuable resource it should be.

- Ruth Freiburghaus

Treasurer's Notes

Firstly, let me thank all of you who have contributed to the church's life in 2015, in your actions, in your prayers, in your giving. By the time you get this, I should have sent you a formal acknowledgement of your giving, which you can use to complete your tax declaration. Let me know if it is wrong, for I am certainly not perfect, and my computer is only as accurate as the data entered into it by my fallible fingers!

Elsewhere in this magazine you will see news of our energy project, and it is really important that as many of you as possible come to our presentation on 7 February and share your views on the possible plans.

Our accounts for 2015 will show a deficit. By and large, income failed to come up to expectations, even though many people were more than generous in their giving. Bazaars, sales and events were as profitable as ever, and income from our premises was healthy, but pledged income and collections were below the budget target, and expenditure, while staying at the 2014 level, did not fall to match the reduced income. This is something to pray about in the course of 2016.

- *The Treasurer*

Electoral Roll Revision

Each year our Electoral Roll is revised just before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) – you will find more information about the AGM elsewhere in this magazine.

At the AGM we elect representatives to the church council and also the churchwardens.

In order to vote at these elections, you must be on the Electoral Roll. You must also be on the Electoral Roll if you would like to stand for election yourself or nominate someone else. You can see the current list of members of the Electoral Roll in the church hall.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, may I encourage you to consider joining. You can find an application form in the church hall and 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. The closing date for the receipt of applications is Sunday 20 March.

If you have questions about the Electoral Roll or are unsure whether to join please speak to the chaplain, to me or to a member of council.

- *Electoral Roll Officer (Tricia Carrick)*

Notice of Annual Church Meeting

The Annual General Church Meeting (AGM) of St Ursula's, Berne will be held in the church

on Sunday 10 April 2016 at 12:00

- for the election of representatives of the laity as follows:
 - two (2) churchwardens
 - six (6) representatives to the Church Council
- for the appointment of the independent auditors
- for the consideration of
 - a) a report of changes in the roll since the last annual church meeting;
 - b) an annual report on the proceedings of the church council and the activities of the chaplaincy generally;
 - c) the audited financial statements of the council for the year ending on 31 December immediately preceding the meeting;
 - d) a report upon the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church;
 - e) a report on the proceedings of the Archdeaconry synod;and other matters of chaplaincy or general Church interest.

Note: the agenda for the meeting will be included in the next magazine

Jam Jars!

It's that time of year again.... the oranges are ready for marmalade making but I've got very few jars left, so a special plea for lots of jam jars so that we don't have a shortage of marmalade at this year's sales.



The jars should be no bigger than 450g size, have all their labels removed, be totally clean inside & out and have their lids with them.

If you have any to spare, please leave them in the Church Kitchen.

THANK YOU!

- *Jana Kutesko*

Prayer Diary

February 2016

1	Monday	all who work on the land	
2	Tuesday	St Ursula's Church Council	
3	Wednesday	the Mission to Seafarers	
4	Thursday	our colleagues at work	
5	Friday	people with mental health issues	
6	Saturday	the Archdeaconry Synod	
7	Sunday	our Energy and Environment Appeal	
8	Monday	vulnerable children	
9	Tuesday	social events at St Ursula's	
10	Ash Wednesday	a faithful keeping of the season	
11	Thursday	shared prayer in Lent	
12	Friday	the Neuchâtel Church	
13	Saturday	General Synod meeting next week	
14	Sunday	National Marriage Week	
15	Monday	children in the Holy Land	
16	Tuesday	people facing difficulty in their marriage	
17	Wednesday	marriage guidance counsellors	
18	Thursday	the Mothers' Union	
19	Friday	people who have lost a spouse	
20	Saturday	people caring for their spouse at home	
21	Sunday	the Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme (SACEP)	
22	Monday	the Train a Priest (TAP) Fund	
23	Tuesday	diplomats working in Switzerland	
24	Wednesday	Polycarp, martyr - people persecuted for their faith	
25	Thursday	family members far away	
26	Friday	victims of human trafficking	
27	Saturday	our book and food sale	
28	Sunday	"Strive first for the kingdom of God"	
29	Monday	the diocesan mission strategy	

March 2016

1	David, Bp.	The Church in Wales
2	Chad, Bp.	the mission field in Europe today
3	Thursday	reconstruction work after natural disasters
4	Friday	the Bishop's Lent Appeal, Friends of the Holy Land
5	Saturday	refugees from North Africa
6	Sunday	Missions Sunday - Refuge Egypt
7	Monday	the Old Catholic Church
8	Tuesday	a just sharing of the earth's resources
9	Wednesday	the Parents and Tots Group
10	Thursday	local schools
11	Friday	people in financial difficulty
12	Saturday	Christians in sport
13	Passion Sunday	our awareness of God's grace
14	Monday	fair trade
15	Tuesday	people resident in care homes
16	Wednesday	knowing how much is enough
17	St Patrick	the people and churches of Ireland
18	Friday	our local medical practices
19	Saturday	pilgrims to holy places
20	Palm Sunday	the majesty of God
21	Monday	our keeping of Holy Week
22	Tuesday	the persecuted Church
23	Wednesday	those who have hurt us
24	Maundy Thursday	“Love one another, as I have loved you”
25	Good Friday	those whom we have hurt
26	Saturday	when God seems far away
27	Easter Day	Alleluia!
28	Monday	peace in the Holy Land
29	Tuesday	people with chronic illness
30	Wednesday	groups using our hall and church
31	Thursday	people travelling

For Your Diary

February & March 2016

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

Other Events

Tuesday 2 February	19.30	Church Council
Saturday 6 February	09.30	Archdeaconry Synod
Sunday 7 February	08.30	Church Breakfast
	11.30	Energy Appeal Meeting
		Youth Group
Tuesday 9 February	18.00	Pancake Evening
Wednesday 10 February	18.30	Ash Wednesday Service
Friday 12 February		Kitchen Tidy-Up
Wednesday 17 February	19.30	Lent Devotional Studies & Compline
Sunday 21 February		Youth Group
Wednesday 24 February	19.30	Lent Devotional Studies & Compline
Friday 26 February	09.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 27 February	10.00 – 14.00	Book & Food Sale
	20.00	Tenebrae Choir at the Münster
Sunday 28 February	10.00	Joint Service at the Münster
		(NO 10.00 SERVICE AT ST URSULA'S)

Kitchen Tidy-Up

On Friday 12 February we will do a major clean-up of the church kitchen. We will clean out all the cupboards, throwing away everything we do not want to use.

So if you have any personal possessions in the church kitchen, please remove them beforehand – or label them clearly – otherwise they may be thrown away.

If you'd like to come and help with the clean-up please contact Lynn or Tricia.



Tuesday 1 March	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 2 March	19.30	Lent Devotional Studies & Compline
Saturday 5 March	17.30	Talk on Refugee Situation from an Arab and North African perspective
Sunday 6 March	MOTHERING & MISSION SUNDAY	
	08.30	Church Breakfast
	12.00	Bring & Share Lunch
Wednesday 9 March	19.30	Lent Devotional Studies & Compline
Saturday 12 March	10.00 – 12.00	Children's Toy & Equipment Sale
Sunday 13 March	COPY DATE	
Wednesday 16 March	19.30	Lent Devotional Studies & Compline
Sunday 20 March		Youth Group
		Last date for Electoral Roll applications
Tuesday 22 March	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 23 March	19.30	Lent Devotional Studies & Compline
Thursday 24 March	09.00 – 11.00	Collating
	18.30	Commemoration of the Last Supper
Sunday 27 March		Youth Group
Future Dates		
Sunday 3 April		Church Breakfast
Sunday 10 April		St Ursula's AGM
Saturday 23 April – Sunday 24 April		Archdeaconry Choir Festival in Berne
Saturday 4 June		Summer Fête

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church Children with birthdays in February and March:

- Cara Hofer 10 on 7 February
- Justin Campbell 10 on 22 February
- Christopher Shergold 8 on 12 March
- Lydia Shergold 6 on 12 March
- Daniel Hänggi 14 on 15 March
- Edem-David Agoba 9 on 28 March



Services and Readings

February and March 2016

7 February – Sunday before Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Exodus 34:29-35
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36

10 February – Ash Wednesday

18.30 Joint Eucharist
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

14 February – Lent 1

08.30 Holy Communion
10.00 ACT (All in Church Together)
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

21 February – Lent 2

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

28 February – Lent 3

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 at Münster
Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 13:1-9

6 March – Lent 4, Mothering Sunday and Missions Sunday

10.00 ACT (All in Church Together)
Exodus 2:1-10
John 19:25b-27

13 March – Lent 5, Passion Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

20 March – Palm Sunday

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Palm Gospel
Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Dramatised Gospel reading

24 March – Maundy Thursday

18.30 Commemoration of the Lord's Supper
Exodus 12:1-4
Exodus 12:11-14
Psalm 88

25 March – 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-end of 53
John 18:1-end of 19

27 March – Easter Day

08.30 Holy Communion
10.00 ACT (All in Church Together)
Exodus 15:1b-8, 13, 17-18
Acts 10:34-43
Luke 24:1-12



Archdeaconry Choir Festival at St Ursula's Church

The traditional annual Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2016 will be held at St Ursula's Church over the weekend 23-24 April 2016. Gordon Appleton will be our Festival Director of Music, with Mark Charles at the organ.



On Saturday there will be a Choral Evensong at 17.30 with the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis by C.V. Stanford, the Responses by J. Reading, an Anthem by E. Elgar, and a sung Psalm.

On Sunday the Communion Service at 10.00 will be sung to the setting by C. Wood (Mass in F), an Anthem by O. Gibbons and a Motet by C. Saint-Saëns.

The first Joint Choir practice with all choirs present will start in the Evening of Friday 22 April.

The Choir of St Ursula's has started practising the music on Saturdays at 9.30 in the church. Singers would be welcome to join the choir at the practices for this event.

For information please contact Hans-Karl or Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 0326.

- Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Jacket Mix Up, Surprise Stickers

MISPLACED JACKET AT THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Did you come to the Christmas Bazaar wearing a size 38 dark navy "Kingfield" jacket? If so please check to see if the jacket you now have – although similar in style - is actually bigger and black! If you have ended up with the wrong jacket, please contact the Church Office (031 352 8567) to arrange a coat exchange.



MIGROS SURPRISE STICKERS

We are collecting the Surprise Stickers for Tombola stall items for our Summer Fête. If you have any spare stickers, please donate them to St Ursula's – just put them in the basket in the Upper Hall. **THANK YOU!**

Junior Church News



Meeting times

Junior Church meets most Sundays. Children join the whole congregation in church at the beginning of the service. After the priest's talk with the children, we move to the church hall for a brief greeting, prayer and collection before separating into three classes in age groups between 3 and 14 years. During February and March, there is no Junior church on the following Sundays: 14 February (All age praise and worship service), 28 February (joint service with choir at the Münster), 6 March (Mothering and Mission Sunday) and on 27 March (Easter Day).

Lessons

During Lent, we will work on a project with the children and also the same teacher will teach a class over at least three consecutive Sundays to keep continuity. During the seven weeks from 14 February to Easter Day on 27 March we will read and study using the gospels of Luke and John and go on a journey of 'Easter encounters' with Jesus. We will hear some sad and searching stories that might make us feel like crying, as Jesus did. During the way to our Jerusalem, beside tears, we also can see a lot of encouragement and protection through Jesus. Each week we will make and decorate a teardrop, and create a road of tears to represent Jesus' and our journey to Jerusalem. On Easter Day, we will transform the road of tears into flowers of joy and praise.



Safeguarding training

All Junior Church teachers have completed an online child protection training provided by the Diocese in Europe. With the individual personal registration and completing the test at the end of the training, our Chaplaincy and our Diocese are making sure that every person involved in the work with children completes the training successfully.

Nursery

All children under 3 are welcome in crèche. Children need to be collected immediately after the service. There is also the possibility to fetch your child before communion, to receive a blessing.

- *Walter Bisig*



First-hand News about Scripture Union Western Cape, South Africa Lifeskills Program

The work of Scripture Union in South Africa began in the Western Cape Province. Their school and camping programme started a process of "friendship evangelism." Today SU seeks to continue this legacy through a range of activities. Core to these are a number of community-based volunteer holiday clubs run throughout the region, aiming to build the kingdom of God in partnership with the local churches. Their ethos is one of vibrant leadership development, combined with effective evangelism



While Rolf and I were recently on family holidays in South Africa we spent three days in Cape Town at the end of November and had a brief chance to go and visit the Western Cape Scripture Union (SU) Offices in Rondebosch. They are housed in a villa which was donated to Scripture Union. Some of you will remember Rob and Janet Mackay from a good many years ago when they were located in Bern and attended St Ursula's. Later, on their return to live in South Africa, Rob became involved with Scripture Union South Africa and is the National Development Coordinator. It is through their connection with Rob that we have supported the SU Lifeskills program now for many years. Rob arranged for us to meet at the Rondebosch offices and the regional director Daryl Henning introduced us to most of the staff members who each gave us a short account of the work they do with children in school, youth and camp ministries. It was so special to be able to meet these committed people personally.



After our visit to the offices, Rob and Janet kindly invited us to lunch in their lovely home with a beautiful garden in Kenilworth and then took us on a tour of the famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens which are not so far from where they live. Rob and Janet send their greetings to all of you who knew them from when they were living in Bern!

- Cecily Klingler

St Ursula's Charity and Missions Review 2015

For many years St Ursula's church has set aside 10% of the giving we receive for charitable and missionary work.

The task of the Charity and Mission team is fourfold:

- To draw up a proposal towards the end of each year for council as to how to allocate these funds
- To keep in contact with the organisations we are supporting
- To pass on news to our church family about the organisations through articles in the church magazine, displays in the church hall or by direct contact
- To help our church family pray for the people we support with our gifts

Our Missions Sunday has become a regular annual event with the service being followed by a Pot Luck meal for the Church family. Last March we had a visit from Bishop Henry Scriven, CMS Director for South America and his wife. Bishop Henry inaugurated our new support for CMS Mission partners Andrew and Maria Leake. Andrew serves with the Anglican Diocese of Northern Argentina and his family is based in Salta. They have established Land for Life, an initiative aimed at creating protected areas in the Argentine Chaco as well as researching and monitoring the deforestation of the Chaco's forests.

Our next Missions Sunday and Pot Luck meal will be on 6 March 2016.

In November, Basil Eastwood visited our church and gave us a talk on the work of Cecily's Fund and was also present at the Cecily's Fund Soup lunch organised by Yvonne Bomonti and her team.

After her return, we were privileged to have Ruby Wildhaber give us a talk about her time as a volunteer in a Raleigh International program in Tanzania.

Last year during Lent, the Charity and Mission team helped set up the CMS 'Possible World' Course with 4 study groups involving about 40 individuals. Ideas from the various groups were consolidated to come up with sustainable projects for St Ursula's, i.e. hospitality and environmental issues.

We very much appreciate the prayer support of our church family. We also encourage groups or individuals in our church congregation to specifically support one of our church charities or organisations. For example, we have an active Friends of Cecily's Fund team led by Yvonne Bomonti and the Junior Church support the TearFund Schweiz Uganda Water and Sanitation project. Our Harvest Festival auction is a lively fundraiser for TearFund Schweiz (also for the Uganda Water & Sanitation project).

Local Charity or Mission Organisations supported at St. Ursulas

- Partners (Partner Sein, Old Catholic Relief Organisation)
- AKIB Passantenhilfe, Heilsarmee
- Zentrum 5
- Discretionary (to be used locally by Chaplain)

Regional Charity or Mission Organisations

- Family Life Mission
- Church Times 'Train a Priest Hardship Fund '
- Regional help for refugees Middle East (Partner sein appeal)

International Charity or Mission Organisations

- Church Mission Society
- Us (was known to us as USPG!)
- Refuge Egypt: All Saints Cathedral Cairo and their "Helping Program" work with the refugees who have fled persecution in Sudan and elsewhere
- Child Development Centre founded by Professor da Silva in Sri Lanka
- HLID, Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan
- Cecily's Fund, Zambia
- Life Skills Project (Sakh'ulutsha)
- TearFund Schweiz (Junior church project – Diocese of Kigezi Uganda Water & Sanitation project)

Again as in 2014 we have also allocated Fr 400 for the support of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East - supporting the work of Canon Andrew White and providing humanitarian relief in Iraq through St George's Church and Clinic in Baghdad.

Charity and Mission prayer focuses for Feb/March are:

- Prayer for the local charities or missions we support around Bern
- Prayer for the regional charities or missions we support in the UK and Poland and for regional help for refugees from the Middle East.
- Prayer for the various international charities and projects we support in Cairo, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa, Baghdad or globally
- Pray that our church family may provide generous financial support as well as active and regular prayer support

- Cecily Klingler on behalf of the Charity and Missions Team

You are cordially invited to our

Curry Evening



Enjoy a relaxing evening with family and friends, over delicious food and drinks, accompanied by live music, with raffle prizes to be won.

You can sign up as an individual, a couple or group. All for just CHF 40 per person. Please pay cash at the event.



When:

20 February 2016 from 7pm

Where:

Pfarrei St. Josef
Stapfenstrasse 25
3098 Köniz

Hurry up and register with

Abraham Koshy: a_koshy@gmx.ch
Ken McKeown: kjasmckeown@bluewin.ch
Tissa de Zoysa: t.dezoysa@bluewin.ch
Aseem Dhawan: dhawan.aseem@gmail.com

For further Infos: www.bernecricket.com

2016 Festival of Model Railways

Presented by

Förderverein für die Erhaltung technischen Kulturgutes e.V. in collaboration with the Christ Catholic Church Bern & Reformed Church Bethlehem.

22 - 24 April 2016

Friday 22 April, 9.30 installation of the model railway system
(helpers are very welcome)

Saturday 23 April 10.00 – 18.00 drive mode

Sunday 24 April 10.00 rail service then - 15.00 drive mode

Admission free - donation box for the Cecily's Fund

Flyers (in German) to provide you with more details
are available in the Upper Hall

We would like to invite everyone, of all ages, to join us at the
Kirchgemeindehaus und Kirche der Ev.-reformierten
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Looking forward to seeing you soon
Team of Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund



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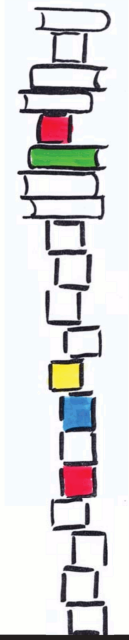
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English Speaking Playgroup/School

Enjoying English from 0-18

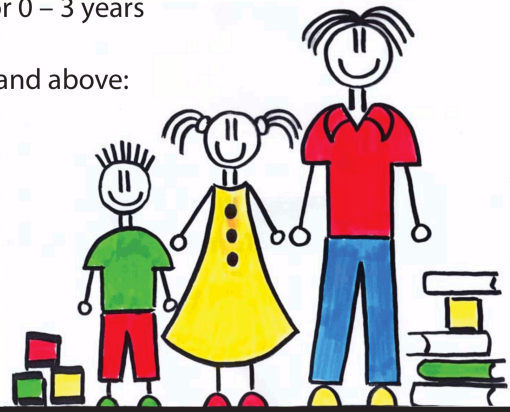


The English Speaking Playgroup/School offers a stimulating learning environment aimed at developing English language skills.

- o Parents & Tots Group in English for 0 – 3 years

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Tel: +41 31 952 7557

Fax: +41 31 952 7557

E-mail: britishschool@bluewin.ch

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- 80 pupils of all nationalities
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- Staff trained in Schools Attuned/All Kinds of Minds program



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- English as a Second Language Groups
- Friendly, family-like atmosphere

Early registration is recommended!

English Speaking Club of Bern

Official Invitation

Since 1978, we have been Bern's one and only English Speaking Club. We offer you a reasonably priced bar, free billiards and a free round of darts. Visit us and get in touch with our English speaking members from all over the world. Just present this invitation at the bar. If you enjoy the experience, you can become a member - Basic Membership is free!

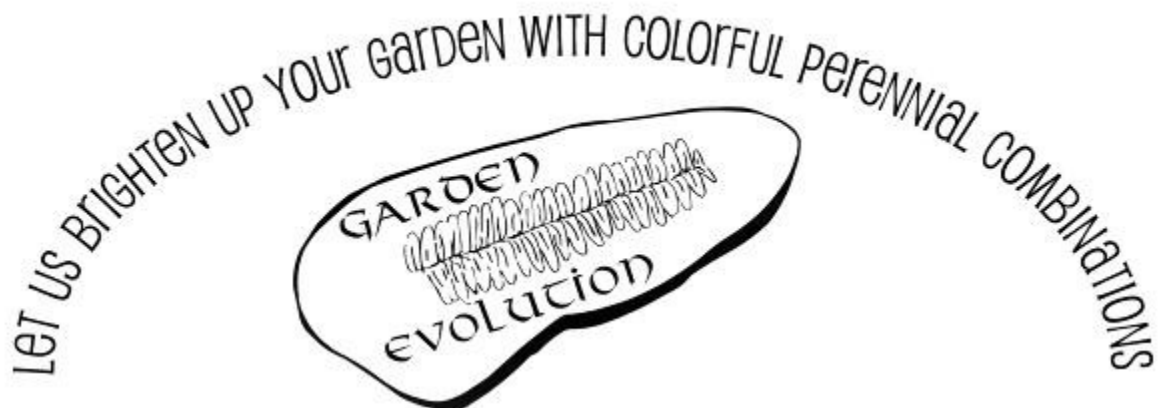
We are looking forward to meeting you

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

Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count 140 members (including families) from some 30 nations. Our common language is English, but among our members many other languages can be heard. We hold a monthly meeting with guest speakers and presentations on a wide range of topics, and publish a monthly Newsletter. In 2016 the club celebrates its 25th anniversary with several special events. We are waiting to welcome you !

Nazanin Kupferschmid, President
Tel. 078 905 5743, email nkschmid@gmx.net
International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, www: icberne.ch
Annual membership: CHF 50 for singles, CHF 60 for families.



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Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

Here to help you

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Claire Morgenthaler 031 351 57 29

CARETAKER

Rolf Klingler 031 302 48 59

CATERING COORDINATOR

Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Church Council

Lay Members:

Tricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

John Eze 079 489 58 46

Sue Faillettaz 031 832 42 45

Donna Goepfert (*secretary*) 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

Edi Wildhaber 079 460 61 15

Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

Donna Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Richard King 031 822 09 21

CHURCH OFFICE 031 352 85 67

Administration: Jana Kutesko

Normally open Tuesdays & Thursdays

Church Hall 032 510 22 12

CHURCHWARDENS

Isabelle Wienand 079 864 03 83

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

CRÈCHE

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

ECUMENICAL CONTACT

Esther Hutchison Funkhouser 031 351 73 47

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Patricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Walter Bisig 031 932 41 69

FLOWERS

Vreni Hawker 026 670 62 21

JUNIOR CHURCH

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Françoise Hänggi 031 802 10 05

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Organist

Hans-Karl Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

Choir

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Music Group

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PARENTS AND TOTS

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PASTORAL GROUP

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PATCHWORK

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Chalice Bearers:

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