

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



December 2016 – January 2017

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

Locum Chaplain

Revd Ian Eglin (3 December to 8 January) Tel 031 351 03 43

Revd Jan Jensen (10 January to 7 February)

Assistant Chaplain

Revd Mark Pogson

Lay Reader

Archana Jacob (archana.jacob@outlook.com)

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 more informal.

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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COPY DATE

for the February - March magazine is

15 January 2017

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: 26 January 2017

Locum's Letter

It has been a delightful privilege and experience to have filled the position of Locum Chaplain during October and November. As most would know, I have been able to be here on account of my connection to the University. Allied to that, we all enjoyed the presence in mid-November of the Most Rev. David Moxon, the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See and, among other things, the present Anglican Co-Chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). His primary purpose in coming to Berne was to contribute to my seminar class on Anglican Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. His presence at St Ursula's happily covered for my absence in Oman where for a few days I attended an international consultation concerning Oman's engagement in promoting religious tolerance and interreligious dialogue.

During my time in Berne we remembered those who had died in the past year, and those whose sacrifice in time of war has contributed to our era of peace and freedom. Yet nothing can be taken for granted. Britain has decided to quit the EU and, at the other end of Western Europe, Turkey appears headed towards a totalitarian state. Great social and migratory upheavals, the result of today's wars, have rattled Europe, and beyond. Societies and nations, hitherto on a track toward greater international co-operation, openness, and globalisation, seem more and more to be turning inward, withdrawing into the imagined security of protected borders and the 'recovery' of a sovereign identity and supposed independence. Has the liberal democracy of the United States also been trumped by a seemingly global lurch to the political right? We live in changing times, and the future is murky at best.

In concluding my locum chaplaincy, I do so at the point where we begin, again, the liturgical Christian year. Advent 1 is the commencement of the period of preparation that leads us to Christmas, the celebration of the gift of God the Father – the gift of love and grace incarnated in the Christ-child. We recall that this gift which has inspired greatness and goodness through the ages is not constrained by the foibles and changes of human politics and social arrangements. It transcends and, at times, uplifts the merely human. It is ever a source of hope, calling us into a future, God's future; and ever empowering acts of grace, of kindness, of caring love that ultimately trumps those things which divide, demean and belittle the human spirit. Our beginning, as also our ending, and all that comes in between, is grounded and sustained in this love. Advent and Christmas remind us of that. Lent and Easter, recalling the work of

God the Son, will bring it into sharp and meaningful focus. Ascension and Pentecost, the empowering work of God the Holy Spirit, remind us this love is ours not only to receive as treasure, but to live out in mission, to be Christ in and to the world today.

St Ursula's is a diverse community whose strength is in fellowship, faithful worship, and love-filled service. I wish the next locum every blessing in his ministry here, and my prayer for this community of faith is for an eventual new chaplain who, working with the leadership team, will build upon the many strengths of this congregation to take it forward with a refreshed sense of vision, focus and mission fit for the future that lies ahead. May God bless you all.

Rev Canon Douglas Pratt
Advent, 2016

The Reverend Ian Eglin

My wife Caroline and I arrive in Berne on 1 December and I very much look forward to being your locum priest for six weeks. We live near Plymouth in Devon in the UK, three miles from the coast. We very much enjoy walking and I spend a lot of time gardening.

I was ordained thirty seven years ago in Coventry Cathedral, and after four years as a curate in Coventry, moved to be a parish priest in Northampton. I joined the Royal Navy as a Chaplain in 1987 and served sixteen years both at sea and on land and saw a great deal of the world in that time. It was in the Royal Navy that I met my wife Caroline, who was also a chaplain. When I left the Navy I went to serve four country parishes in Devon as their parish priest and retired from there in November 2012 after ten years. I now have permission to officiate in the Diocese of Exeter and the Diocese of Europe, so very much look forward to getting to know you all. Recent locum duties have been in Beaulieu sur Mer, Nice, Lisbon, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Bonn and Cologne, Zurich, and Pau.

It will be a great honour to be with you for Advent and Christmas.

Caroline is a Baptist Minister and her ministry is leading quiet days and retreats and offering spiritual direction.

With our good wishes

Ian and Caroline Eglin

And there were Shepherds.



Never begin a sentence with “And”, my teachers told me. But in the Authorized Version of the Bible, made in 1611 under King James, sixteen of the twenty verses describing the birth of Jesus, as told in Luke’s Gospel, begin with “and”.

Modern versions no longer translate word by word, because modern English people do not write stories with an “and” at the start of every sentence. But in the Middle East at that time, it was the normal way of telling a story. Read any of the first three Gospels, and you will find “and” upon “and” upon “and”, with the occasional “immediately” when the narrative changes.

The message behind all these “ands” is that the events of the story belong together. The emperor’s census, Joseph’s home town, Mary’s pregnancy, the over-occupied bedchamber, all combined to produce the picture Luke wants us to have, of the baby in the manger. God, the mighty God, with a strong arm to scatter the proud and bring down the powerful, the God who sent Gabriel as messenger to tell the news to Zechariah and to Mary that the reign of peace was about to begin, was to manifest this tremendous transformation through a baby on an improvised bed of hay.

And the shepherds are part of the story. After the people present at the birth, the first people to witness the Son of God are not rich or influential people. They are not religious people from the synagogue or the temple. They do not even have a fixed home – their home is where their flock is. All of this fits very well into Luke’s message of Jesus, the humble yet powerful saviour.

Shepherds had rather a poor reputation at the time. Being nomadic, they could not regularly attend worship in the synagogue. But there was a close

connection between shepherds and Bethlehem. For in the distant past, God had sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem, to anoint a king from among the sons of Jesse the Bethlehemite. Only after seven of Jesse's sons have failed to be chosen does Samuel ask, "Are all your sons here?" Jesse admits that his youngest son is not present – he is keeping the sheep. So David, the shepherd, becomes king over Israel.

We do not know how many shepherds there were. We do not know if they were seated on the ground, or whether the sheep were safely penned in a sheepfold for the night. We do not know what time of year it was – but it was unlikely to be 25 December! For Luke's Gospel this does not matter. There was the baby in the manger, there were the shepherds.

And the angel. Just as the carpenter's betrothed had been "much perplexed" by Gabriel's greeting, just as Zechariah had been "terrified" and "overwhelmed by fear", so the shepherds were terrified at the sight not just of an angel, but of the shekinah, the divine presence. And just as with Zechariah and with Mary, the angel tells them to be calm and to hear the good news of great joy – joy not just for them but for all the people.

The good news is the birth of a saviour (a word seldom used in the Gospels because it was associated with worship of the Roman emperor), the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Lord. And the message is echoed by the heavenly host: glory to God and peace on earth.

With each "and", Luke brings together the heavenly and the earthly. In the shekinah and in the heavens, there is the good news of salvation and peace, the glory of the incarnation; and in the fields and in the manger, humble folk leading humble lives. This is message to all of us, however rich or poor we are, however comfortable, however influential, however wise we may be, we are all, in the end, like the shepherds in the fields. We are all human, and the glory of the Lord has broken in upon our world. May the glory which we wonder at anew every Christmas never fade.

- Hector Davie

A Word for the Month – Preaching

One Sunday I was on North Uist, one of the outer Hebrides. I had no car, and on Sundays in North Uist there are no buses. So I walked three miles to the nearest church. It belonged to the Free Presbyterian Church. The sermon was fiery. After the service, the congregation left in silence. I said hello to the minister. “We don’t speak after church,” was his reply.

What happens in church? What do we go there to do? To pray, to grow in our faith, indeed, but we can do that elsewhere too. The Anglican answer would be to share in fellowship, and that is why much of our liturgy centres round the fellowship instituted by Jesus himself in the breaking of bread – the Eucharist. Another tradition would say that we go to receive the word of God by listening to a sermon, and the task of the liturgy is to bring the word of God alive through hymns and prayers. A good service requires a good preacher.

It comes as a surprise, then, to find that the word “preach” is hardly ever used in newer translations of the Bible – only once in the NRSV New Testament (Acts 10:34, if you’re interested!) – and even then always with an object. A preacher doesn’t preach, a preacher always preaches something. And that something is the Good News, the Gospel.

The word “preach”, like its German equivalent, *predigen*, comes from a Latin verb meaning to tell somebody about something. It is the verb used at the end of the first chapter of Mark’s Gospel, where Jesus heals the leper, and tells him to say nothing to anyone, and the leper in his joy goes off and tells everyone he can find. The NRSV consistently translates the original Greek word as “proclaim”, and this gives the sense well – the preacher is a herald, a broadcaster who spreads the word (and it is interesting that Mark’s leper not only “proclaims many things” but also “spreads the word” about his cure).

This is the sort of thing that is done outside the church – in the fields, in the market-places, in the synagogues. It is something for the unconverted – there is no sense in preaching to the converted. So what does the person do who gives the sermon?

A sermon can always remind people what the Good News is: as Paul does to the Corinthians – how “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and ... was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3-4). But more often, sermons shed light on passages from scripture (at least after the New Testament had been set down in writing), or give advice on Christian living.

We do not know very much about how the church worshipped in the first four centuries after Christ. One source says that only bishops might give a sermon, but that priests (like St Augustine) might speak with the bishop's special permission. Paul's letters were surely intended to be read out in church, and we can imagine, in the same place as we have the sermon at St Ursula's, after the preparatory prayers and readings, the congregation listening carefully to the advice and explanation St Paul gave in his letters.

But the letters of Paul, like the sermons of the early churchmen that have been preserved, are not the Good News. They are commentaries on the Good News, how it influences our lives, how we should behave as children of light. Preaching, or proclaiming the Good News, is not something that happens among the family of Christ who have already received the Good News. It is something that happens outside the Church, and it is not a task reserved for the clergy, for the bishop, for the holy few – it is the task of us all.

- *Hector Davie*



Notes from the Treasurer

Dear all,



First of all I want to say a massive Thank You to all who responded to our pledge appeal. I was thrilled by the response. At the time of writing not all pledge forms are in, but many are, and we have also seen a 10% increase in the number of people pledging. This is such a positive sign for the future. I am very happy.

Another great response was to our Pub Quiz in aid of the building appeal. It was a really fun night and a good outreach event as we had several people attending who do not normally come to the church. Everyone without fail said they enjoyed it and wanted this to become a regular event. We raised Fr1500 for the appeal as well – a great effort all round.

The building appeal has sort of stalled otherwise, mainly due to a lack of time on my part. But we are progressing with the project, and hope soon to be able to start placing some orders. The e-book idea is also on the back burner at present. We have had some entries for it, but not yet enough to make a real go of it. I hope to be able to relaunch the idea next year, and hopefully get more response.

Finally on the finances side, things remain positive and I am still forecasting a break even position this year. Our cash flow position is much better at the moment which also makes my life easier. The current accounts position can be seen on the notice board in the hall, updated as I get up to date. If anyone would like more information in the meantime just send an email to treasurer@stursula.ch or catch me on a Sunday after Church.

- Sue Higson, Treasurer



If you have not yet sent in your pledge 2017 form, please do so asap, or drop me an email. Also please check if your pledge amount 2016 has all been paid in—I can let you know if you are not sure.

Richard Rohr: Creative Continuation

Art Funkhouser read the 22 September 2016 edition of the Richard Rohr daily meditations and passed it on to the church magazine for the rest of us to enjoy. If you'd like to receive Richard Rohr meditations, you can sign up at: <https://cac.org/>

Daniel Walsh, who was Thomas Merton's primary philosophy teacher, says he's not sure if the human person can even legitimately be called a creation, because we are a continuance of, an emanation from, a "subsistent relation" with what we call Trinity. Wow! This is getting very wonderful and also very dangerous. ^[1] He taught that the human person must see itself in continuity with God, and not a fully separate creation. We are "chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world" (see Ephesians 1:4). How different Christian history would have been if we had believed and taught this to the ordinary beginner.

Mature Christianity is thus an invitation to share in the personal life of God, a dynamic of generated love forever continued in space and time through God's creatures. Thus, God's self-knowledge includes knowledge of us, and God's self-love includes love of us. They are the same knowing, the same loving, and the same freedom.

Yes, in some sense we become an "other" that can be seen as a separate object from God, but from God's side we are always known and loved subject to subject, just as the persons of the Trinity know and love one another. God and the human person must know (and can know) one another center to center, subject to subject; we will not and cannot know one another if we objectify one another.

This is perhaps the clearest way to describe God's unconditional acceptance of us, forgiveness of our mistakes, and mercy toward us in all circumstances: We are never an object to God. God cannot not love God's image in us. This is the eternal covenant.

So a fully Christian theology and philosophy of the human person must say that our personhood originates in the divine Logos, the eternal Christ, as imitations and reflections of God's relationship to Godself. We are constituted by the same relationship that exists between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

"The end for which the human person is created is to manifest the Truth of Christ in the love God has for himself in his Divine Trinity," Daniel Walsh says in his lectures to the monks. This is the theology of personhood upon which Thomas Merton builds his monumental worldview, and upon which we can, too.

Divine Personhood and human personhood are reciprocal, mutually-mirroring concepts. God's nature as relationship creates ours; and our nature is constituted by this same bond, which is infinite openness and capacity to love. We must know that we are in fact objectively loveable to honestly be able to love ourselves. We cannot pretend. Our false self is never fully ready to trust in unconditional love. Maybe forgiveness and forbearance, but not unconditional love—at best a kind of highly conditional love, which is most practical Christianity when people do not go inside of the Living Mystery.

You cannot “get” to such a place; you can only rest and rejoice in such a place.

Gateway to Silence:

Love flows in and out, in and out.

References:

[1] Daniel Walsh, unpublished notes from his teaching at the Abbey of Gethsemani. Walsh taught regularly at the abbey from the late 1950s to the early 1960s.

Adapted from Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* (Whitaker House: 2016), 78-79. This book is available for pre-order at thedivinedance.org.

Church Breakfasts

The monthly Church Breakfasts continue to be well supported. The next one takes place on 4 December – put the date in your diary.

As the first Sunday in January is 1st January, there will be no breakfast in January. The following dates are 5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May and 4 June.

Everyone is welcome. Just come along any time between 8.30 and 9.15 – no need to sign up or bring anything. Cereals, fruit, bread, butter, jam, marmalade and croissants together with tea, coffee and juice will be there waiting for you.

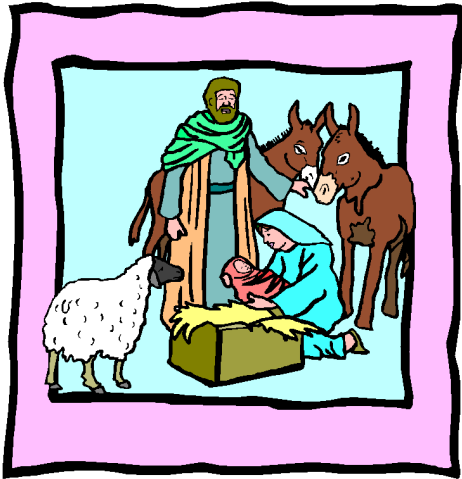
And you can meet people – those you know and perhaps even some you do not know.

- Tricia Carrick



The Joy of the Gospel

An Advent & Epiphany study course



A Saviour is born unto us! This is the exciting news of Christmas. Yet, sometimes we wonder how we can express genuine enthusiasm when we share our faith - or we lack to feel joy when facing hardships.

This year we would like to offer a practical course on finding joy in the gospel (again) and sparking it when sharing your faith.

We will follow Paula Gooder's study course which is based on Pope Francis' much acclaimed recent reflections on joy, mission and reaching out. She adapted his reflections for a wider Christian community.

The course will be led by Rev. Ian Eglin (our next locum) and myself. It's a six week study course and starts on Friday, 2 December 2016 - 12.00 till 13.30.

All you need to bring with you is your Bible, a pen and a notebook.

Sign up now on the sheet in the hall if you have already made up your mind or speak to me if you would like to know more about the course.

- Archana Jacob (Lay Reader)

Christmas Party

Our traditional Christmas party will take place this year on Friday 16 December. We will start at 18.00 and everyone is welcome.

Simple buffet food and drinks will be provided. There will be the traditional quiz, together with the singing of carols. If you would like to contribute to the entertainment, then please bring your reading, poem or song along with you.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

- Tricia Carrick



PUB QUIZ NIGHT



The Pub Quiz Night on 28 October was a great success with good food, a tricky quiz and a superb atmosphere. There was fierce competition between the teams but “The Mushy Peas” triumphed over “The Roundheads” after two tie-breakers. Fun was had by all with many calls for this to become a regular event.

We also raised over Fr 1,000 for our Sustainability Appeal.

A special thank you to the night's helpers and quiz compilers – a magnificent job was done by all of you.

We're hoping that the Ethiopian Church will host an event in the New Year. Details will be announced as soon as we know more.

- Jana Kutesko, Church Office



This magazine was printed shortly before the bazaar took place, however even though at the time of writing, we don't know how financially successful we were (or weren't!) or have any photographs to display, we do know that the Christmas Bazaar can't happen without an inordinate number of help from dozens of people, so - a HUGE thanks to all the many, many people who dedicated hours of their time and skills both behind the scenes and on stalls - before, during and after the bazaar.

An especial thanks to all those who undertook to organise and run a stall/ event.

I hope everyone who helped and attended the bazaar had a wonderful and joyous start to the Christmas period.

A full report with photographs will be in the February/March magazine.

- *Jana Kutesko, Church Office*

2016 at St Ursula's



Easter



Swedish Night



Ascension Day



Summer Fête

Services and Readings

December 2016 and January 2017

4 December – Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

11 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

10.00 Nativity Service

18 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

24 December – Christmas Eve

16.00 – Crib Service
Luke 1:26-31, 38
Luke 2:8-16
Isaiah 9:2,6,7
22.00 – First Eucharist of Christmas
Isaiah 52:7-10
John 1:1-14

25 December – Christmas Day

09.00 – Holy Communion
Hebrews 1:1-4
Luke 2:1-7
10.00 – Family Carol Service
Isaiah 62:10-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:8-20

1 January – Naming of Jesus

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

8 January – Epiphany

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
Matthew 2:1-12

15 January – United Service at the Münster, 10.00

No service at St Ursula's

22 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

29 January – The Presentation of Christ

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40



For Your Diary

December 2016 & January 2017

Regular Weekly Events

Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots - not on 28 December
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork - not on 23 and 30 December
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice - not on 24, 31 December and 7 January

Other Events

Friday 2 December	12.00 - 13.30	Advent & Epiphany Study Course
Sunday 4 December	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Group Bible Study
	11.30 - 14.00	Nativity Service Rehearsals
Tuesday 6 December	19.30	Church Council Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Friday 9 December	12.00 - 13.30	Advent & Epiphany Study Course
Saturday 10 December	10.00	Junior Church Craft Workshop
Sunday 11 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Thursday 15 December	19.30	Carol Service at the Heiliggeist Church
Friday 16 December	12.00 - 13.30	Advent & Epiphany Study Course
	18.00	St Ursula's Christmas Party
Sunday 18 December	10.00	Youth Group Bible Study
Thursday 22 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service at Göttibach
Friday 23 December	12.00 - 13.30	Advent & Epiphany Study Course
Christmas Eve	16.00	Crib Service at St Ursula's
	22.00	First Eucharist of Christmas
Christmas Day	09.00	Said Eucharist
	10.00	Christmas Carols
Friday 30 December	12.00 - 13.30	Advent & Epiphany Study Course

Wednesday 4 January	19.30 - 21.00	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Friday 6 January	12.00 - 13.30	Advent & Epiphany Study Course
Tuesday 10 January	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 15 January		COPY DATE
	10.00	Ecumenical Service at the Münster
		NO SERVICE AT ST URSULA'S
Wednesday 18 January	19.30 - 21.00	Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld
Thursday 26 January	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating

Future Dates

Saturday 4 February	09.00	Archdeaconry Synod
Sunday 26 February		Missions Sunday with Bring & Share Lunch
Saturday 4 March	10.00	Book and Food Sale



Prayer Diary

December 2016



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|----|---------------|--|
| 1 | Thursday | For a warm welcome to our third locum, Rev Ian Eglin |
| 2 | Friday | For the leaders and participants of the Advent Study Course |
| 3 | Saturday | For HIV Orphans in Kenya being supported by Hope for the Children |
| 4 | Sunday | For preparers and participants of the Church Breakfast |
| 5 | Monday | For Bishop Robert and our representatives Maxine and Hector interviewing for a new chaplain today |
| 6 | Tuesday | For the Church Council Meeting and members of Council |
| 7 | Wednesday | For Parents and Tots meeting in the Church Hall |
| 8 | Thursday | For Churches of the Porvoo Agreement especially St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane, Scotland |
| 9 | Friday | For all ordinands in Training |
| 10 | Saturday | For leaders and participants in the Junior Church Craft Workshop |
| 11 | Sunday | For all taking part in the Nativity Service |
| 12 | Monday | For our Treasurer, Sue Higson |
| 13 | Tuesday | For the Old Catholic Church in Berne and the Christmas Services being held there. |
| 14 | Wednesday | For those offering hospitality and care to the homeless this Christmas |
| 15 | Thursday | Especially for non-Christians attending the Carol Service at the Heiliggeist Church, Berne. May God's word enter their hearts! |
| 16 | Friday | For good fellowship at the St Ursula's Christmas Party |
| 17 | Saturday | For those facing their first Christmas alone |
| 18 | Sunday | For those leading and participating in the Youth Bible Study |
| 19 | Monday | For those rebuilding their lives after natural disasters |
| 20 | Tuesday | For all carol services being held in schools, hospitals and other non-church settings |
| 21 | Wednesday | For those in hospital over Christmas |
| 22 | Thursday | For everybody taking part in the Carol service in Thun |
| 23 | Friday | For all those who cannot share the joy of Christmas |
| 24 | Saturday | For our Locum Chaplain and ministry team this Christmas starting with the Crib service and First Eucharist of Christmas |
| 25 | Sunday | That our Hearts may be open to the joy and wonder of God's almighty works |
| 26 | Monday | For all those who have died for their faith in this past year |
| 27 | Tuesday | Remembering John the Apostle and evangelist |
| 28 | Wednesday | For children in danger and being exploited |
| 29 | Thursday | Remembering Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170 |
| 30 | Friday | "For all that has been. Thanks! For that to come. Yes!" (Dag Hammarskjöld) |
| 31 | Saturday | For blessings of peace in the New Year to come |

January 2017

- 1 **Sunday** For the peace of the world
- 2 **Monday** For Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389 (Turkey)
- 3 **Tuesday** For our cleaning and maintenance staff
- 4 **Wednesday** For Bishops Robert and David and the diocesan staff
- 5 **Thursday** For our building team coordinator, Edi Wildhaber
- 6 **Friday** The Epiphany
- 7 **Saturday** For "Refuge Egypt", an Anglican Charity supported by St Ursula's
- 8 **Sunday** For our outgoing Locum Chaplain Rev Ian Eglin
- 9 **Monday** Welcome to our fourth Locum, Rev Jan Jensen
- 10 **Tuesday** For the Church Council Meeting
- 11 **Wednesday** For the Eastern Archdeaconry: Archdeacon Colin Williams & Area Deans Frank Hegedüs and Malcolm Bradshaw
- 12 **Thursday** For Synod Representatives from St Ursula's and other Swiss Chaplaincies
- 13 **Friday** For Vienna Christ Church; Chaplain Patrick Curran and Assistant Curates Mike Walter and John Barker
- 14 **Saturday** For the teachers and children of our Junior Church
- 15 **Sunday** For the Ecumenical Service in the Münster
- 16 **Monday** For the People and Government of the United States of America
- 17 **Tuesday** For the Intercontinental Church Society, All Saint's, Vevey and St Nicholas, Basel.
- 18 **Wednesday** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) begins
- 19 **Thursday** WPCU Day 2 "Called to be heralds of joy"
- 20 **Friday** WPCU Day 3 "The witness of fellowship"
- 21 **Saturday** WPCU Day 4 "A Priestly people called to proclaim the gospel"
- 22 **Sunday** WPCU Day 5 "Listen to the dream"
- 23 **Monday** WPCU Day 6 "Hospitality for prayer"
- 24 **Tuesday** WPCU Day 7 "Hearts burning for unity"
- 25 **Wednesday** The Conversion of Paul. WPCU Day 8 "The fellowship of the Apostles"
- 26 **Thursday** For the magazine collating team
- 27 **Friday** For Holocaust Memorial Day. Pray for an end to race discrimination or marginalization
- 28 **Saturday** For the people and government of Greece
- 29 **Sunday** For Holy Trinity Corfu and Chaplain Julian Wilson
- 30 **Monday** Remember Charles, king and martyr, 1649
- 31 **Tuesday** 4th Sunday in Epiphany/Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) For our Lay Reader, Achana Jacob

Junior Church News

Groups and Meeting Times



Junior Church meets on most Sundays during the 10.00 service. The children start the service with the congregation (the first two rows of seats on the right are reserved for the Junior Church) and then leave together after the welcome.

There are three classes - Sparklers (ages 3-6+), Trailblazers (ages 7-10+) and Pilots (ages 11-14+). The second Sunday of the month is a more informal service and only the Sparkler and Trailblazer classes have Junior Church; the

Pilots class remains in church. On the fourth Sunday of the month the Junior Church groups meet together for songs and praise.

Junior Church Charity

The Junior Church's weekly collection supports Tear Fund's "Uganda Water and Sanitation" project.

Crèche

Children younger than three are welcome to play in the supervised crèche in the lower hall. Parents can bring their children before the service and pick them up immediately after the service or before the Eucharist so that the children can 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. For more details please contact Françoise Hänggi (031 802 10 05) or Sharon Batley (079 248 19 89).

- *Querida Long*



Nativity Service

The annual Nativity Service will take place on Sunday 11 December at 10.00. It will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with readings and carols. Some of the older children will take on the part of one of the characters in the story and tell this person's story in their own words. As the story unfolds, we will set up the crib scene.

So come along and enjoy a different way of looking at this familiar story. And please invite other people to come to this special service.

As always, we need extra adults to help with sorting out costumes, with helping the children to practise their parts or their readings and much more. If you can help please contact Tricia (pcarrick@hispeed.ch) – the rehearsals are after the services on 27 November and 4 December.

- Tricia Carrick



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in December and January.

David Eze 8 on 13 December

Anabelle Hebeisen 15 on 12 December

Samuel Klein 16 on 17 December

Johann Underwood 3 on 31 December

Aydon Kuruvilla 5 on 4 January

Kilian King 12 on 24 January



Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld

WE WELCOME YOU TO WALK WITH US ON OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH AND WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE 5 NEW MEMBERS

We continue our study of Matthew's Gospel but are just on chapter 5. New members to the group are always welcome. So this would be a good time to join us.

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

Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Wednesday, 4 and 18 January 2017

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 Hessesstrasse and then just a short walk down Hessesstrasse).

Please contact us in advance, in case there is a change of location.



International Day of Tolerance

Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, 16 November 2016

In a world of diversity, tolerance is a prerequisite for peace. It is also a lever for sustainable development, as it encourages the construction of more inclusive and thus more resilient societies that are able to draw on the ideas, creative energy and talents of each of their members.

Tolerance is often a minority idea and one that is sometimes threatened. In too many countries in the world I have noted the rise of doctrines based on withdrawal and rejection. I have noted that migratory crises, the tragic situation of refugees and armed conflicts are being used as tools to whip up hatred of the other, stigmatize minorities and legitimize discrimination. I have heard the rise in racist attitudes and stereotyping of religions and cultures, as it is said that different peoples cannot live together and that the world would be a better place if we returned to olden times when “pure cultures” lived alone, protected from outside influence, in a mythicized past that has never existed.

We must counter this tendency to isolationism by restoring strength and substance to the culture of tolerance. We must again emphasize the extent to which cultures are enriched by mutual exchange. We must remember the historical facts, recall how peoples and identities have mingled, engendering richer, more complex cultures with multiple identities. Using the living testimony of world heritage sites, we can show that no culture has ever grown in isolation, and that diversity is a strength, not a weakness. We must say again that tolerance is not naive or passive acceptance of difference: it is a fight for the respect of fundamental rights. Tolerance is not relativism or indifference. It is a commitment renewed every day to seek in our diversity the bonds that unite humanity.

The promotion of the spirit of tolerance is the source and purpose of UNESCO’s actions. It is inspired by the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, adopted in 1995. It draws on many educational, cultural and scientific programmes, in the framework of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities, and the promotion of global citizenship education. These programmes need to be supported and relayed by public policies, in official speeches and in daily behaviour, in the media and in the streets of our towns and cities. I call upon all UNESCO’s Member States and all the citizens of the world to take up this message, to build together societies that are more inclusive, more peaceful and more prosperous, because they are more tolerant.

The Bishop's Advent Appeal

St John's, Casablanca

As a church, St Ursula's has, over the last half century, given a tenth of its income to missionary work and to the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. We have tried to do this intelligently, so that we support a dozen or so charities that we know well and that we can pray for with specific ideas about their needs. We always make an extra contribution, in Lent and in Advent, to the appeal the Bishop launches throughout the whole diocese.

This Advent, the Bishop's Appeal and the charities that we know are close together. For in March this year, our Mission Sunday service focussed on Refuge Egypt, an operation by the Anglican Cathedral in Cairo to give practical help to the refugees flooding into that country – from Sudan, and now from Syria as well. Canon Medhat Sabry came and told us about the charity. He is an Egyptian, and had worked on the project in Cairo. Now he had moved to St John's, Casablanca.

Canon Medhat also told us about the situation of his own church. Morocco is a Muslim country, and practices the Muslim gift of hospitality to strangers. So English speakers settling in Casablanca were able to build the fine, Anglican church in the picture. It was built in 1906 – one of several things in common with our own church.



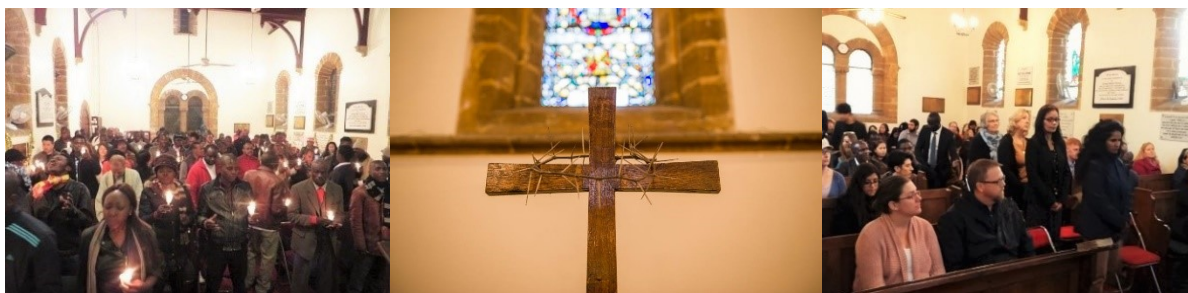
But Morocco is not immune from the current refugee crisis. One of the

migration patterns that have been caused lately has involved people fleeing conditions in Nigeria, Chad and other sub-Saharan countries and heading northwards towards a better life. Many are Christian, and many speak English. One result is that congregations at St John's are overflowing. A church built for a hundred now has to accommodate two hundred.

The Bishop describes the situation: "Pews are filled to overflowing. Folding chairs fill the back and are squeezed into the aisles to provide extra seating,

leaving little room to pass by. Ceiling fans whirring overhead can't provide sufficient relief in the crowded sanctuary during the summer months.... A temporary tent structure serves as a fellowship hall, and a repurposed shipping container houses Sunday school classes, with the 11-14 Sunday school class meeting in a coffee shop across the road from the Church."

To cope with this, they have started an ambitious building project, with an extension of the church, and a redevelopment of the chaplain's housing to provide Sunday School, meeting rooms and a roof-top terrace. A little searching on You Tube will find an inspirational video of their plans (or you can find the Bishop's letter on our own or on the diocesan website, europe.anglican.org).



As a church, we shall be contributing to this appeal. If you would also like to give, then please contact the Treasurer. The charity team is also looking into specific giving which will alleviate the needs of refugees more directly, and we shall keep you informed about this too. In any case, we should remember St John's in our prayers.

- Hector Davie, for the Charity and Missions Team

Save the date: 26 February St Ursula's Mission Sunday

Please join us for St Ursula's Mission Sunday service on 26 February 2017, followed by a Pot Luck meal.

- Cecily Klingler





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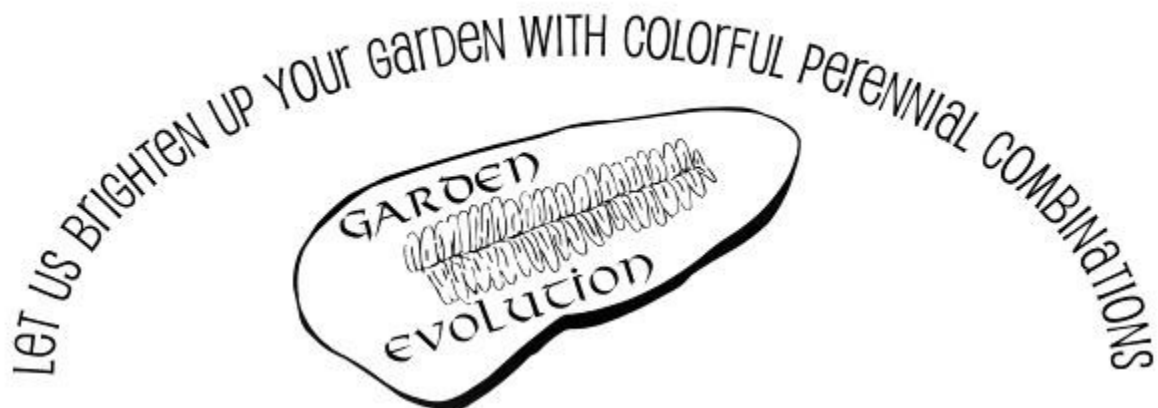
We are looking forward to meeting you

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
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The Swiss British Society, Berne organises a number of cultural events including visits to exhibitions, concerts, a Christmas dinner, Burns supper and musical evenings. We also invite guest speakers to address our members on a range of literary, musical or political topics. Usually our events have a social element - we try to combine dinner or lunch together with our lectures and outings, or at least a chat and a cup of tea! New members are always welcome. Our website (and circular) is hosted by the Federation of Anglo Swiss clubs at www.angloswissclubs.ch

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

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There are so many Christmas carols. Some, like “I saw three ships come sailing in” and “The holly and the ivy”, are full of popular devotion, and not so full of Christian teaching. Others, like “Hark, the herald angels sing”, George Whitefield’s reworking of Charles Wesley’s 1739 hymn, bristle with theological meaning. “O come, all ye faithful” is just pure praise and joy at the birth of the Christ child.

The four verses we usually sing were translated in 1841 by Frederick Oakeley, a priest who would soon afterwards be received into the Roman Catholic church. The carol had originally been in Latin, *Adeste fideles*. The Latin words and the tune had first been published in 1751 by an exiled musician, John Francis Wade. This is as much as we know for sure.

It would be reasonable to think that since John Francis Wade published the words and the music, it was he who had written and composed it. But people have suggested alternative composers, such as Thomas Arne (who gave us *Rule, Britannia*) or Handel, and alternative authors – in particular, the musical King John IV of Portugal, a hundred years earlier, who wrote something quite similar – but not identical!

It has even been suggested that the carol is a secret tribute to King John’s grand-nephew by marriage, Bonnie Prince Charlie. Wade was exiled in France after the failure of the 1745 Rebellion, and sharp-eyed academics have noted that the “faithful” could be the Jacobite faithful, that “Bethlehem” was used in Jacobite circles as a code-name for England, and “born the king of angels” could be a play on “born the king of Angles” (*non Angli, sed angeli!!*). In view of the rest of the carol, this is rather far-fetched, but it is a reminder that for the first ninety years from its publication, the carol which is now so popular was little known outside a small circle of exiles. Everything has its time!

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

