

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



February – March 2017

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

**Locum Chaplains**

Revd Jan Jensen (to 5 February)

Revd Brian Rodford (12 February to 19 March)

Revd Michael Tristram (26 March to 30 April)

**Assistant Chaplain**

Revd Mark Pogson

**Lay Reader**

Archana Jacob ([archana.jacob@outlook.com](mailto:archana.jacob@outlook.com))

**Church Office:** 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

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**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 at  
Chapelle Romande: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: church office 031 352 8567

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**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](mailto:berne@anglican.ch)**



# St Ursula's Church Magazine

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Please send copy to [magazine@stursula.ch](mailto:magazine@stursula.ch)

**COLLATING DATE: 23 March 2017**

# The Reverend Jan D. Jensen

The Reverend Jan D. Jensen was born in Salt Lake City, Utah (USA), grew up there attending public schools and graduated from the University of Utah Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Piano Performance. He studied piano and composition also at the then Hochschule für Musik Wien in the early 1970's and Rabbinic Judaism at Yeshivat Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem, Israel.



He received his M. Div. from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas and was ordained both deacon and priest in the Diocese of Texas. He has served churches there and in Algiers, Algeria, (shortly before returning to Vienna in January 2011) as well as hospital chaplain at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas.

Jan's two grown daughters (Rania and Amira) make their home in Austin, Texas. He is married to Margaret Gichanga, who is originally from Nairobi, Kenya, but has worked the past 13 years at the U.N. in Vienna.

Jan received his "Permission To Officiate" from the Diocese of Europe in April of 2013 and has previously served as locum at Church of the Resurrection, Bucharest, Romania, and St. Luke's in Fontainebleau, France. He is very happy to return to Bern having been last here in 1974 and to be serving St Ursula, Bern for the next few weeks.



# The Way to a Better Life

Lent spans the gap between Christmas and Easter – between birth and rebirth. Two articles that I read at Christmas reminded me that the pathway from our old ways to a new life is very much a topical and urgent theme.

The first article quoted the closing lines of W.B. Yeats' poem, *The Second Coming*. It was written in 1919, after a devastating war in Europe, and at the height of the Irish struggle for independence. After depicting a chaos where "things fall apart", where "the best lack all conviction", he asks:

And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,  
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

This is a lament of despair. There is none of the joy of Mary and Joseph, of the shepherds and the angels at the birth of the Son of God. For Yeats, history was cyclical, and the "rocking cradle" had vexed the world to nightmare. This is in no way a Christian poem.

The second article was a report that the Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali, had condemned a reading from the Quran at a Christmas service in Glasgow Cathedral. The reading was from Sura 19, "Mary", which recounts the story of Zachariah, John the Baptist, Mary and Jesus. The story follows Luke's account quite closely, though Mary gives birth under a palm tree – not the stable we see on our Christmas cards (but Luke 2:7 does not mention either a stable or a palm tree, so who knows?)

Mohammed would have learnt the story from the church in Mecca, who would have heard the New Testament and would have followed Christian tradition. But tradition can be like the game of Chinese Whispers (where a chain of people relaying a message can easily change the general's message "Send reinforcements. I am going to advance" into "Send three and fourpence. I am going to a dance"!), and some people doubt that the church was preaching the gospel clearly enough. In any case, the Quran quotes Jesus' words: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him", but uses them to deny his divine nature. "It is not fitting for God to beget a son." This is in no way a Christian part of the Quran.

Like Yeats, Mohammed was writing at a time of change – the Byzantine empire to the north was weakening, and Mecca was in an area of conflict. And the present day is also a time of change. With migration and with conflict in the area between Algeria and Afghanistan, the desire for a new beginning, an Arab Spring, has again brought out the different views of the events of Bethlehem, of Golgotha and of the Empty Tomb.

Yeats wrote just after “the war to end all wars”, when the injustices of rural Ireland cried out for a solution. The current tensions in the Middle East, with the extremists calling for an Islamic state, reflect the great imbalances in the distribution of wealth and the injustices in Palestine and the surrounding lands. The solution in Ireland called out for a political solution, but also a religious one. The same is true in the lands of the Near and Middle East.

Our own vision of a God who “makes all things new” (Rev 21:5) is focussed on the incarnation and the resurrection, and on a reign of peace. This is what we look forward to during Lent. We are on the way, and we do well to talk and listen to others who seek the paths of righteousness – Jews, Muslims (for shariah too means “way”), and even politicians! In Christ, we are there already. But here on earth, we have a long way to go. And that is what Lent is all about!

- *Hector Davie*

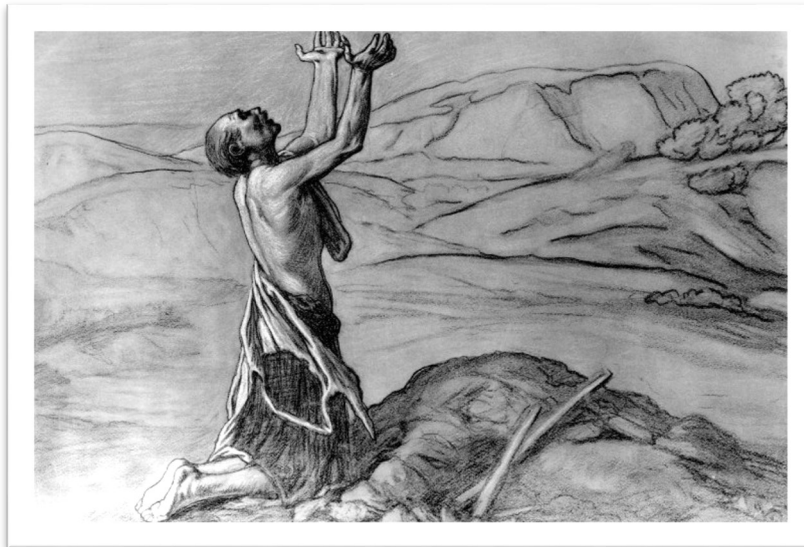
## **A Word for the Month – Wilderness**

The Sinai peninsula, and the Negev, which adjoins it on the east, are empty, hostile stretches of land. Writers in Hebrew and Greek had a word for such stretches. True to form, the team that translated the Bible into English for King James in 1611 used not one word, but two – wilderness and desert (or even three, if you include the word “desolation”). Modern translations have tended to use the first of these, but to use “deserted” for the related adjective (whereas earlier translations used “lonely” or “solitary”).

The point about a desert is that it is empty. Nobody lives there, apart from a few hardy nomads. Nobody tends it or cultivates it because it is so hostile. The climate is dry and arid. It is no place for a relaxing holiday. This idea of emptiness and desolation lies behind the Hebrew word (*midbar*) and the Greek word (*eremos*) – this is the kind of wilderness the Bible depicts.

Because of its emptiness, we cannot rely here on our own resources. The account of the Exodus tells how dependent the people were on God. When they failed to trust God, God taught them a lesson. This happened with the quails and the manna in Exodus 16, and with the water at Massah in the next chapter. The wilderness is a place of intense experiences, the place where Elijah went to hear the “still small voice” (I Kings 19), the place where Hagar sobbed for Ishmael, where Moses encountered God in the burning bush.

Little wonder, then, that Jesus shared this experience of the wilderness as a “thin” place, a place where God is close. After his baptism by John, he was



*Study for Prayer for Death in the Desert, Elihu Vedder*

“driven” into the wilderness, and there his faith was tested. Repeatedly, we find him going to a “deserted place” to pray – sometimes to be discovered and joined by “the people”, eager to share his experience.

From at least the third century on, there have been people who have searched for this closeness with God, this wilderness experience, this desert consciousness. They have sought out solitary places, to be with God. From the Greek word for wilderness, these are the eremites, or hermits. Not everyone wants to share in their ascetic way of life. But Lent offers us an opportunity to come closer to God, to reflect on how much we need God. We can provide for many of our needs, but not all of them. It is hard to reflect on this while we are shopping in Migros, or among the spectators at Wankdorf. We need to find a wilderness, a solitary place, a quiet time when we can share this reliance on God.

Migros will provide us with the food we eat, sports fixtures and television will provide the entertainment we crave. But life is more than food and entertainment. That is why we give things up for Lent. The more we give up, the more we can concentrate on the good things that God gives us – truth, joy, beauty, peace. The closer we are to our own wilderness, the closer we are to God.

- *Hector Davie*

(A note for pedants and linguists. There was actually another area of arid land, the rift valley between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba, called the Arabah. Hebrew poetry delights in parallel ways of saying the same thing, so we have Isaiah’s famous prophecy “In the wilderness (*midbar*), prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert (*arabah*) a highway for our God” (40:3 – another example is at 35:1). Modern English Bibles, perhaps influenced by Handel’s Messiah, continue to talk of wilderness and desert. French Bibles, more accurately, talk of desert and steppe. Such are the perils of translation!)

# St. Anne's at the Glacier

There was a time in the 19th century when the Rhone Glacier in the heart of the Swiss Alps reached all the way down into the valley at Gletsch, one of the great attractions for foreign visitors to Switzerland. Some took the diligence from Brig up the Rhone valley, some walked from Meiringen over the Grimsel Pass. Others, like Queen Victoria in 1868, were driven down the many serpentine from the Furka Pass and gazed "with astonishment at the marvellous glaciers", as she wrote in her diary.

The number of tourists grew as the means of transportation improved. In 1866 the Furka road was opened and through traffic was possible from the Rhone valley to the Gotthard route. With the completion of the Gotthard railway in 1882, Gletsch was linked to another major tourist attraction. The Grimsel road was finished in 1892, allowing carriages to cross over from the Bernese Oberland. All this made Gletsch the perfect stopover on a Swiss tour: for changing horses, staying the night or at least for dinner, and of course for paying homage to the glacier.

From the 18th century, English travellers had been attracted to Switzerland. Artists as well as aristocrats on their grand tour arrived, fascinated by the alpine scenery. As images and information of snowy peaks, picturesque chalets and grandiose waterfalls spread, more and more people followed the early explorers. In the 1860s Thomas Cook began to offer package holidays, while Murray's Handbook for Travellers was published for the individual tourist. It included Switzerland for the first time in the 1867 edition and makes fascinating reading, thanks to the internet. You learn everything about diligence travel, for instance, or about Swiss inns ("tea may always be had tolerably good"), and that the alpenstock is an almost indispensable companion for mountain journeys.

The Hôtel du Glacier du Rhône at Gletsch, once a simple inn, was bought by the Seiler hotelier family of Zermatt around 1860 and enlarged several times along with the growth of the tourist stream. At the turn of the century it offered as many as 350 beds. Although the roads, and with them the hotel, were open only four to five months each summer, 13'540 guests were recorded in 1907. Anglican church services were offered at the hotel from the late 1870s for the many English guests, and in 1897 a chapel on the grounds of the hotel was transferred to the Colonial and Continental Church Society. It was dedicated to St. Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary. In 1907 Josef Seiler had a new chapel built for the CCCS at the side of his hotel, as shown on the postcard. It was one of three chapels built by the Seilers; the others were in





Postcard published by Edition Photoglob Co., Zürich, probably around 1905; not mailed.

Zermatt and nearby Riffelberg. In all of these, services were led by visiting English clergy, many of them bishops and archbishops who were regular guests of the Seiler hotels.

Things began to change when the railway line along the Rhone valley arrived at Gletsch in 1914. Construction was stopped due to financial problems, but for those who came by train, travelling to Gletsch took less time, so fewer guests stayed overnight. Also the First World War kept international tourists away. The decline of the hotel's business continued when the Furka railway was completed in 1926, although at least trains waited long enough so passengers could have a meal at the Grand Hotel. But everything was still closed down in the winter. When finally year-round train travel was possible after the construction of the Furka base tunnel in 1982, Gletsch was literally passed under. In 1984 the hotel was given up.

The glacier, too, had abandoned Gletsch. Slowly but steadily it had retired from the valley bottom. By 1910 it had lost about 500m of its length compared to 1880; by 2015 the difference was 1400m. It can still be admired from the roads and trains climbing up the mountains, but Gletsch has lost its main attraction.

So what remains of the former glory? During the summer, the restaurant is open in the historic old hotel. Services are still held regularly in St. Anne's Chapel, although the CCCS sold it to the hotel in 1932, to be used for Catholic services. For lovers of railway history, diesel and steam trains are running from June to October on the old Furka Mountain route.

- *Ruth Freiburghaus*

# Notes from the Treasurer

Dear all,



2016 is behind us and with the New Year comes a lot of work for the Treasurer. I have to close the books for the Church and Association, send out tax statements to thank all our pledgers and donors, as well as issue the invoices for the magazine for those who receive it by mail.

The invoice should be enclosed with this mailing: if not, then for sure next time. You will notice that we have decided to increase the price just a little. It has not increased in years, and we hope that you still find the magazine to be informative and good value. For those reading this online, a donation is of course always very welcome.

Part of my thinking behind the increase is to rethink our budgeting methods. The copier for example will be fully depreciated in 2017. How much longer will it last before we need to buy a new one? With the extra we make on the magazine, plus what we make from contracting out copying services we can start a replacement fund for our office equipment so that we have the funds earmarked when and if it needs replacing. We can also use part of the funds to cover other advertising expense if we want to publicise our services more than now.

The same could be said for the rental income we get from the halls. This could be earmarked for the building fund. Someone gave me this idea, and I find it has a lot of merit. It will help us to focus on where our funds come from and what they are used for and is something I will be exploring for the 2017 budget, which I will present at the AGM in April.

Looking back at 2016, financially we made a surplus which allows us to replenish our reserves as well as add some money to the building fund. As I wrote in my last report, the response to the pledge appeal was very encouraging, and also brought in more one-off donations and higher amounts

as a result. That combined with lower costs for the second half year has resulted in a surplus currently in the region of CHF40'000. The figures are not yet final, nor audited, so come along to the AGM to find out the final result.

In the meantime I thank you all for your generosity whether in time or money, in supporting our Church, and your patience if you are still waiting for the tax acknowledgement. If you still have not received one by mid February and were expecting one, please contact me (treasurer@stursula.ch) and I will see what has gone wrong.

In Christ

Sue Higson, Treasurer

## Electoral Roll Revision

Each year our Electoral Roll is revised just before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on 2 April – 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. And this year we will also elect representatives to the Archdeaconry Synod.

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 5 March**.

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

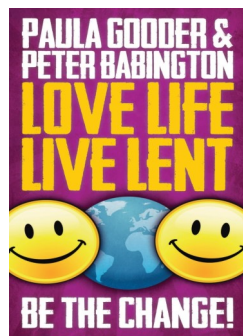
- *Electoral Roll Officer (Tricia Carrick)*

# Love Life Live Lent – Be the change!

## A Lent Bible study course

Do you ever wish the world could be a better place? Do you sometimes wish you had the influence to change the world?

Well, you don't have to wait any longer for change to happen! We will make a combined effort through our Lent study course to make this world a better place.



### **When does the course take place?**

3 March – 7 April 2017

### **Where do we meet?**

Upper Hall at St. Ursula's

### **What time do we meet?**

Lunch Time Group: Fridays 12:00 – 13:30

Evening Group: Fridays 18:00 – 19:30

### **How can I take part?**

Put your name on the sign-up sheet

### **What do I need to bring with me?**

Bible, pen, course booklet

### **Who can give more details?**

Archana Jacob,

[archana.jacob@outlook.com](mailto:archana.jacob@outlook.com)

Through this course, we want to spread the message that the world really could become the place God wants it to be: one person at a time, one action at a time. After all, this is also the approach our Lord Jesus Christ took in his life here on earth. He was the change he wanted to see in the world.

Hence, this year's Lent course will combine Bible studies AND actions. But don't worry. You will not be forced to do anything (unless you want to do it). The actions are quite simple. What makes them challenging, is how you do them and if you have an openness to embrace the world with your love.

I am still in the planning process and there are many things to be decided in the coming weeks. Here is what I can already share with you, though:

- We will use the “Love Life Live Lent” booklet.
- Hopefully we will also be able to combine the study with some form of outreach.
- There will be two different groups and you can decide which time fits you better
  - Lunch Time Group: For those who have other commitments during the evening
  - Evening Group: For those who have other commitments during the day
- The course will be led by our locums and me.

Watch out for more information on the weekly notice sheet.

We will also make sure there will be a sign-up sheet (in the Upper Hall and Church Porch) in the coming weeks. Please sign up soon as we need to order the course material in advance.

- Archana Jacob (Lay Reader)

## Church Breakfasts

The monthly Church Breakfasts continue to be well supported. The 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





## Christmas Bazaar 2016

This year's bazaar once again proved to be a very popular event with lots of visitors – at once stage on Friday people were queueing for baskets for the British Food Stall! I hope that these few photos capture the wonderful atmosphere throughout the 2 days of the bazaar.

A HUGE thanks to all the numerous people who dedicated hours of their time and skills both behind the scenes and on stalls - before, during and after the bazaar.

I would particularly like to thank all those who organised and ran a stall.

I hope everyone who helped with and attended the bazaar had an excellent and festive start to the Christmas period.

Except for the British Food Stall, all the figures below are after expenses have been deducted.

Second Hand Books	1'997.50
Bric à Brac & Cards	569.00
Christmas Cakes	1'483.35
Children's Crafts	67.00
Christmas Decorations and Wreaths	1'450.00
Glühwein & Mince Pies	150.00
British Food Stall	9'937.65
Patchwork	2'473.00
Restaurant	1'992.85
Raffle	686.15
Tombola	1'002.00
Toys	146.50
External Stalls	140.00
Grand Total	22'050.00

Our next Book & Food Sale is on **Saturday 4 March** from 10.00 – 14.00, please use the flyer with this magazine to advertise this event.

*- Jana Kutesko, Church Office*



## Christmas Cakes

We once again had great success selling more than 90 Christmas cakes. We could not have done it without the marvellous team of helpers. My special thanks to Jana who, in spite of a broken wrist, managed to have everything ready for the big preparation day in October. Thank you to all the willing helpers - Georgina, Jane, Henry, Rachel, Diane, Eva & of course Jana. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone! Then there was the decorating workshop - something which I hope can also become an annual event. It was such fun, enjoyed by all and the results were excellent. Thank you everyone for supporting us. I wish you all a very happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

- Libby Stewardson



# Relaunch Thun Service – perfect even if you live in Bern.

Thun is not just about a nice castle and a carol service in the former Gottibach church once per year. As lots of you are hopefully aware we have been having services in Thun, once a fortnight, for many years now. The services are generally a Eucharist followed by a time of fellowship or a bible study, and take place on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Numbers have dwindled recently, plus our location was very difficult for newcomers to find, and therefore we have decided to relaunch our service, in new premises, just behind Thun main station.

We have been so lucky to get the use of the Chapelle Romande on Frutigenstrasse 22, in Thun. It is a lovely little place, complete with an organ and a pulpit.



The services will take place on the first and third Thursday of each month commencing at 18:30.

The timing is perfect for coming after work, or getting home before it is too late in the evening. The services are also open to all. It is not just for those living in Thun or the Oberland. The location now means that it is even worth the trip from Bern. Thun is just 18 minutes on the fast train from Bern, so the 18:04 or the 18:06 from Bern will get you to our service in time. Just go through the underpass under the tracks to the back of the station, up the ramp and straight out on Seefeldstrasse, and it is opposite. For those in Thun, there is even a bus stop outside on the number 5 route.

More information is on our website. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Sue Higson



# Services and Readings February and March 2017

## 5 February - Fourth Sunday before Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

## 12 February - Third Sunday before Lent

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Eucharist

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

## 19 February - Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 1:1 - 2.3  
Romans 8:18-25  
Matthew 6:25-34

## 26 February Mission Sunday (Sunday before Lent)

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Eucharist

Isaiah 29: 17-19  
Matthew 11:2-6



## 1 March - Ash Wednesday

18.30 Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Isaiah 58:1-12  
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10  
John 8:1-11

## 5 March - First Sunday of Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

## 12 March - Second Sunday in Lent

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Eucharist

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Romans 4:1-5,13-17  
John 3:1-17

## 19 March - Third Sunday in Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Exodus 17:1-7  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

## 26 March - Mothering Sunday

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Eucharist

1 Samuel 1:20-28  
Colossians 3:12-17  
John 19:25b-27

# For Your Diary February & March 2017



## Regular Weekly Events

Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice

## Other Events

Wednesday 1 February	19.30	Ecumenical House Group
Saturday 4 February	09.30	Archdeaconry Synod
Sunday 5 February	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Bible Study
Tuesday 7 February	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 15 February	19.30	Ecumenical House Group
Sunday 19 February	10.00	Youth Bible Study
Sunday 26 February		MISSION SUNDAY
	12.00	Bring & Share Lunch
Tuesday 28 February	18.00	Pancake Evening
Wednesday 1 March	18.30	Ash Wednesday Service
	19.30	Ecumenical House Group
Friday 3 March	09.00	Book Sorting
	12.00 – 13.30	Lent Course
	18.00 – 19.30	Lent Course
Saturday 4 March	10.00 – 14.00	Book & Food Sale
Sunday 5 March	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Bible Study
Tuesday 7 March	19.30	Church Council
Friday 10 March	12.00 – 13.30	Lent Course
	18.00 – 19.30	Lent Course
Sunday 12 March		COPY DATE

Wednesday 15 March	19.30	Ecumenical House Group
Friday 17 March	12.00 – 13.30	Lent Course
	18.00 – 19.30	Lent Course
Sunday 19 March	10.00	Youth Bible Study
Thursday 23 March	09.00 – 11.00	Collating
Friday 24 March	12.00 – 13.30	Lent Course
	18.00 – 19.30	Lent Course
Saturday 25 March	10.00 – 12.00	Children's Toy & Equipment Sale
Sunday 26 March		MOTHERING SUNDAY
Wednesday 29 March	19.30	Ecumenical House Group
Friday 31 March	12.00 – 13.30	Lent Course
	18.00 – 19.30	Lent Course



### Future Dates

Sunday 2 April	St Ursula's AGM
	Church Breakfast
Friday 7 April	Lent Course
Saturday 6 May – Sunday 7 May	Archdeaconry Choir Festival in Lausanne
Saturday 20 May	Summer Fête

## Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2017

The traditional annual Choir Festival will be held in **Lausanne over the weekend 6-7 May 2017** with a choral Evensong on Saturday and a choral Eucharist on Sunday. The music will include the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Dyson, the choral Communion service by Stanford, and anthems by Bainton, Bairstow and Nardone.

Our choir has just started practising the festival music. Singers interested in joining the choir in view of this event are welcome. Please contact Hans-Karl or Elisabeth Pfyffer. We are also contributing as usual to our own services on several occasions.

Choir practices are as usual on Saturdays from 9.30 to 11.30 in the church.

Looking forward to seeing you.

- *Hans-Karl Pfyffer*

# Prayer Diary

## February 2017

- |    |               |   |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1  | Wednesday     | For our Sunday intercessors   |
| 2  | Thursday      | For the Interregnum Prayer Group meeting each Sunday after the 10.00 service                          |
| 3  | Friday        | For our Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod, Donna Goepfert, Hector Davie, Richard King             |
| 4  | Saturday      | For the Archdeaconry Synod being held in Berne  |
| 5  | <b>Sunday</b> | For the Church Breakfast; give thanks and pray for Locum Chaplain Rev Jan Jensen leaving us this week |
| 6  | Monday        | For the Anglican Churches in Greece; their priests and congregations serving the many refugees        |
| 7  | Tuesday       | For the Church Council Meeting this evening   |
| 8  | Wednesday     | For Anglican Churches serving congregations in Southern France  |
| 9  | Thursday      | For Anglican Churches in Belgium adapting to a ministry affected by Brexit                            |
| 10 | Friday        | For <i>Partner Sein</i> , the Swiss Old Catholic relief agency, with whom St Ursula's closely works   |
| 11 | Saturday      | Welcome and prayers for our incoming locum Chaplain, Rev Brian Rodford                                |
| 12 | <b>Sunday</b> | For the Music Group and its joyful renderings   |
| 13 | Monday        | For Anglican Chaplaincies in Portugal and Madeira   |
| 14 | Tuesday       | For all in our Diocese discerning their vocation towards ordained ministry or readership              |
| 15 | Wednesday     | For our caretaker, Rolf Klinger   |
| 16 | Thursday      | For the Anglican Church in Luxemburg  |
| 17 | Friday        | For St Andrew's, Zürich, with Chaplain Rev Paul Brice and the congregation                            |
| 18 | Saturday      | For the World Wide Lutheran Church  |
| 19 | <b>Sunday</b> | For our Youth and those leading the Youth Bible Study   |
| 20 | Monday        | For the Anglican Church in Reykjavik; Rev Bjarni T Bjarnason and the congregation                     |
| 21 | Tuesday       | For the Church Mission Society; specifically Andrew and Maria Leake working in Northern Argentina     |
| 22 | Wednesday     | For those grieving the loss of someone dear to them   |
| 23 | Thursday      | For those in our community dedicated to Pastoral Care; and those being visited                        |
| 24 | Friday        | For St Ursula's plans to increase energy efficiency in our buildings                                  |
| 25 | Saturday      | For those preparing food for the Bring and Share Lunch tomorrow, Mission Sunday                       |
| 26 | <b>Sunday</b> | That Mission Sunday will encourage the congregation to carry the Good News out of the church building |
| 27 | Monday        | For those waiting for or recovering from an operation   |
| 28 | Tuesday       | Shrove Tuesday! For fellowship at the Pancake Evening   |

## March 2017

- |    |               |   |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1  | Wednesday     | Ash Wednesday; prayerfully decide how you will observe Lent   |
| 2  | Thursday      | For St Nicholas, Basel; Rev Hilary Jones, Chaplain; Rev Ann Lowen, Assist. Chaplain, Readers and congregation           |
| 3  | Friday        | For the Lent Course starting today  |
| 4  | Saturday      | For the Spring Book and Food Sale; for fellowship and mission   |
| 5  | <b>Sunday</b> | Continue to pray for the Youth Bible Study  |
| 6  | Monday        | For Tricia Carrick in her many responsible and varied positions at St Ursula's  |
| 7  | Tuesday       | Continue to pray for the Church Council especially during the interregnum.  |
| 8  | Wednesday     | For Switzerland's Acting Archdeacon, Rev Adèle Kelham   |
| 9  | Thursday      | For the Anglican Churches in the Netherlands  |
| 10 | Friday        | Continue to pray for the organizers and participants of the Lent Course   |
| 11 | Saturday      | For Cecily's Fund, educating AIDS Orphans in Zambia   |
| 12 | <b>Sunday</b> | For Sue Faillettaz, who oversees the vestry   |
| 13 | Monday        | For the Anglican Churches in Hungary and Romania  |
| 14 | Tuesday       | For the Anglican Churches on the Balearic Islands   |
| 15 | Wednesday     | For the many people responsible for rotas. For example; Vreni Hawker (flowers) and Allison Masciadri (readers)          |
| 16 | Thursday      | For the Mission to Seafarers in Rotterdam and other ports   |
| 17 | Friday        | For The Anglican Church in Lugano; Rev Nigel Gibson, Chaplain   |
| 18 | Saturday      | For the Russian Orthodox Church   |
| 19 | <b>Sunday</b> | Thanks and prayers for Locum Chaplain Rev Brian Rodford, who will be leaving us this week                               |
| 20 | Monday        | For the Anglican Church in Neuchâtel, presently in an interregnum   |
| 21 | Tuesday       | For the Anglican Church in Moscow, presently in an interregnum  |
| 22 | Wednesday     | For the Anglican Churches in Sweden   |
| 23 | Thursday      | For the collating group, led by Annemarie Walthert  |
| 24 | Friday        | For the Church in Montreux, presently in an interregnum and considering various options for the way ahead               |
| 25 | Saturday      | Mothering Sunday is tomorrow; please pray for mothers and all women who – for whatever reason - have not become mothers |
| 26 | <b>Sunday</b> | Welcome and prayers for Locum Chaplain Rev Michael Tristram   |
| 27 | Monday        | For all refugees throughout the world   |
| 28 | Tuesday       | For the homeless throughout the world   |
| 29 | Wednesday     | For the marginalized and downtrodden throughout the world   |
| 30 | Thursday      | For the ending of racial discrimination throughout the world  |
| 31 | Friday        | For the Brexit negotiations   |

- Compiled by Brian Morgan

To: All Members of St Ursula's, Bern

24 January 2017

### **Annual General Meeting**

Dear friends,

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St Ursula's Church, Bern which will be held at 12.00 on Sunday 2 April 2017 in the church.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Reception and Approval of the Electoral Roll
3. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM held on 10 April 2016
4. Approval of the Audited Accounts for the year 2016
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Auditors' Report
5. Presentation of the Budget for the year 2017
6. Election of
  - a. Two churchwardens
  - b. Three Synod Representatives
  - c. Six council members

If necessary, there may be a short break while the votes are counted.

7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Reports on church groups and activities
9. Any Other Business

A list for nominations for the elections will be available in the church hall starting 5 March. Names should only be entered after obtaining the consent of the candidate. The proposer and seconder should sign their names (and also print their names, just in case the signature is unclear). All those standing for election or proposing or seconding someone for election must be members of the electoral roll.

Please make nominations before Sunday, 26 March, so that those voting have time for prayerful consideration before the AGM.

Note that to be able to vote at this meeting you must be on the electoral roll.

Annual reports of the various groups and activities in St Ursula's will be available from Sunday 26 March, at the AGM and afterwards - in the Upper Hall or from the church office. Please collect your copy.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Church Council,  
Donna Goepfert Council Secretary

# 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.

## 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).

## Missions Sunday

Junior Church will be involved in Missions Sunday service on 26 February. The first three Sundays in February will be used to plan the Junior Church contribution. Please let Jana ([office@stursula.ch](mailto:office@stursula.ch)) know if your child is able to take part.

- *Querida Long*

# Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in February and March.

Cara Hofer 11 on 7 February

Christopher Shergold 9 on 12 March

Lydia Shergold 7 on 12 March

Daniel Hänggi 15 on 15 March

Edem-David Agoba 10 on 28 March



# Ecumenical House Group in Liebefeld

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

We continue our study of Matthew's Gospel. New members to the group are always welcome. Anytime is a good time to join us!

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

**Wednesday, 1 and 15 February 2017**

**Wednesday, 1, 15 and 29 March 2017**

Please contact Brian or Lynn Morgan

(031 971 13 36, 079 415 26 19 or [bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch](mailto: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. There could be a change of location.



## 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 and out and have their lids with them.

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

THANK YOU!

- Jana Kutesko







# Missions Sunday 26 February 2017



On 26 February 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'/ all age worship service and we look forward to having our Junior Church children and young people with us.

This year our special focus is on the HLID (Holy Land Institute for the Deaf) in Salt, Jordan, a mission we have supported for many years.



Our guest speaker at the service will be Mr Gerhardt Tschanz who has recently been on a visit to the HLID and so can give us a first hand report on the HLID.

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 Mr Gerhardt Tschanz personally. During the lunch we will be able to hear a presentation from him with more detail about the work of the HLID

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.

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

*- The Charity and Missions team*



## مؤسسة الأراضي المقدسة للصم The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

The Holy Land Institute of the Deaf (HLID) in Salt, Jordan believes “...in a world in which all are seen as equal, both in the eyes of the people as well as in the eyes of the Creator, the Lord our God.” We can all “let our light shine” no matter what our condition.

HLID has existed for 50 years and “seeks to enable deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind children, as well as people with other sensory and physical disabilities, to be included in and participate in their families and communities in meaningful ways.”

The Institute educates approximately 140 children. Without the school most



of the children would have no opportunity for education. There is a boarding house where children can develop domestic skills and thrive fully as young people, the older children taking care of those younger and weaker than themselves. Vocational training is offered to about 40 children, an outreach program has

been started and has already reached thousands of children with hearing and seeing problems. The idea is to help integrate children with disabilities into the regular schools. One outreach program is in Jofeh and they have a website: <http://www.er-d.org/jofeh>. HLID also works on training teachers and developing suitable materials in Arabic and the Jordanian sign language.

The workers at HLID want to walk with Jesus in their daily lives, to rely on Him in decision making and all their activities. They desire to care for others as God cares for them. Although HLID is a Christian and church affiliated organization (the Arab Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East) a large part of their work is in an Islamic context. They work towards solid and respectful relations with the Moslem communities around them and at helping break down walls of misunderstanding. That



means extending a helping hand to all regardless of their social, religious, economic or political background.

Since 2013 HLID has run Za'atari Camp for children with disabilities on the Syrian-Jordanian border. Camps often have low budgets and are understaffed so refugees with special needs get overlooked. But in Za'atari there are trained Syrian volunteers who work with the disabled. To date 3,000 children, plus young and elderly, have received help with their hearing, visual and mental disabilities. Around 75 people per day come to the camp, sometimes just for support and friendship.

In the HLID Center in Salt there are occasionally new children coming to board. What must it be like for a new child who doesn't understand the language, whose parents leave him/her and for whom everything is new and strange? Some children understandably cry and are anxious. But it seems that the children who have already lived for some time in the school are a great help, encouraging the newcomers. After a few weeks there are no more tears and the sign language skills progress.

To encourage vocational training a restaurant is being set up so students can learn cooking, baking and serving. Deaf and other handicapped children will be given special consideration for the available places.

There is a „Freunde des Holy Land Institute für Gehörlose, Jordanien“, group in Switzerland. One of its members, who has been several times to visit and volunteer at HLID, will be coming to speak at St Ursula's on 26 February. His enthusiasm is catching and one has to be humbled by the relentless effort that is made by many to support such a worthy charity. [www.holyland-deaf.org/](http://www.holyland-deaf.org/)

Prayer requests:



1. For continued healthy relations between the different religious groups who work together.
2. That the boarders will continue acting in a spirit of brotherly love to all the newcomers.
3. That the children in vocational school will find jobs using their skills.
4. That the people supported by HLID will find their way in the world.
5. That financial help will continue from the various support groups around the world.

- *Charity and Missions Team*



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[britishschool@bluewin.ch](mailto:britishschool@bluewin.ch)

[www.britishschool.ch](http://www.britishschool.ch)

<https://www.facebook.com/britishschoolbern/>

- \*Individual achievement of each student is valued alongside support for one another.

- \*Enviably low student to teacher ratio

- \*promotion of close partnerships between parent, teacher and child



**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!

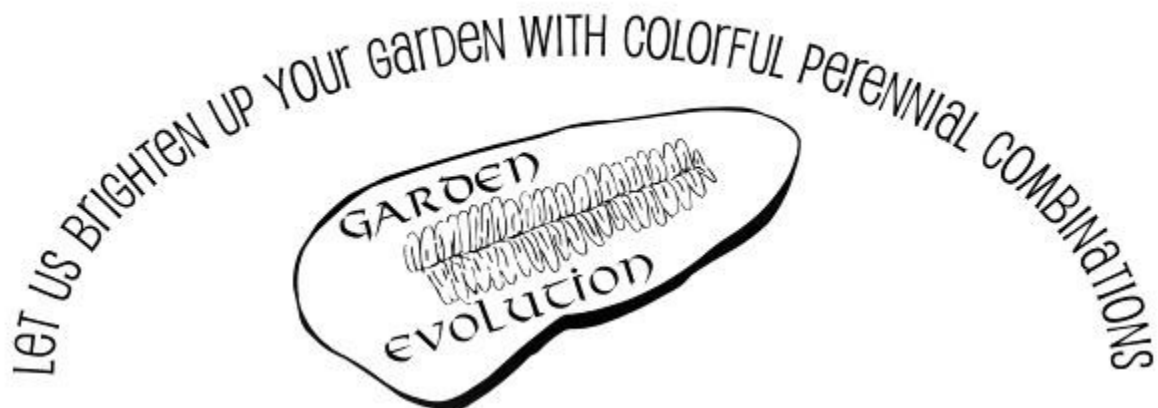
We are looking forward to meeting you

Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | [www.englishclub.ch](http://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](http://www.angloswissclubs.ch)

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: [cuwarren@zapp.ch](mailto:cuwarren@zapp.ch)

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# Here to help you

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## **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 (vice chair) 031 535 53 28

John Eze 079 489 58 46

Donna Goepfert (*secretary*) 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

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**

Contact the Church Office 031 352 85 67

Françoise Hänggi 031 802 10 05

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## **LIBRARY**

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## **MAGAZINE COLLATION**

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### **Choir**

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

### **Music Group**

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

## **PARENTS AND TOTS**

Francine Mariaux 079 792 75 44  
fmariaux@gmail.com

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Contact the locum

## **PATCHWORK**

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## **ROTA COORDINATOR**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Chalice Bearers:**

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Allison Masciadri 031 829 18 69

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Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Sidespersons:**

Käthy Hoag 032 377 32 02

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Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

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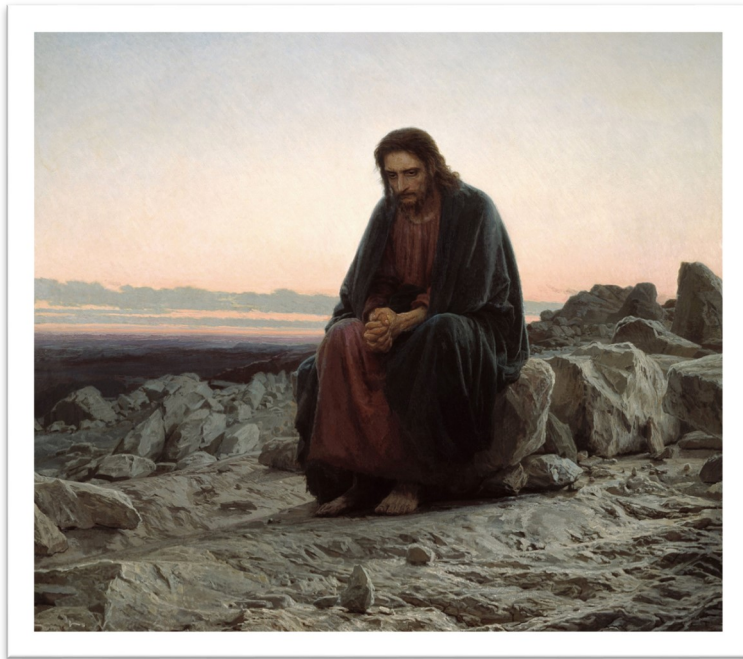
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Sue Faillettaz 031 832 42 45

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Hector Davie 031 971 27 71



*Christ in the Desert, Ivan Kramskoi*

Someone has called “Forty days and forty nights” the dreariest hymn in the hymn book. The first three verses paint a picture of gloom and pain, the fourth asks for perseverance (“with this awful tune”, we say to ourself), the fifth suggests that we have to put up with all this sorrow, joylessness, fasting and pain in order to reach any sort of heavenly peace. Only the last verse is free from any gloom, as it looks forward to “the eternal Eastertide.”

The tune fits the words. Set in a minor key, it is dark and dismal. It was borrowed from the *Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch* of 1676, where it was used for a setting for that psalm of despair, Psalm 130, *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*. Here at St Ursula’s we try to brighten it by changing to a more positive tune in a major key for the last two verses.

Even the writer’s name sounds sorrowful, George Hunt Smyttan. The discovery that this obscure Nottinghamshire clergyman, born in Bombay in 1822, was unhappily married, was left by his wife, died in Frankfurt am Main at the age of 48 and was buried in a pauper’s grave, adds to the picture of unhappiness.

And if that was not enough, anyone seeking out his hymn on the internet and chancing upon cyberhymnal.org will be met with a painting by the 19th century Russian artist, Ivan Kramskoi, showing Jesus sitting dolefully on a rock in the desert, resigned to his fate. The painting may reflect the sufferings of Golgotha, but certainly does not depict our Lord’s triumphant victory in his argument with Satan!

Yet we do well to sing this hymn. For we are all tempted by “earthly joys”, we all experience pain, we all have to resist the vexation that Satan seeks to bring into our lives. The hymn is a reminder that Christ overcame these pains and temptations. Only “with him” can we “nor faint nor fail” when tempted too. And only “with him” can we share the heavenly banquet and appear “at the eternal Eastertide”.

## Forty days and forty nights

Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
Prowling beasts about thy way;  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Should not we thy sorrows share  
And from earthly joys abstain,  
Fasting with unceasing prayer,  
Glad with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fall!

So shall we have peace divine;  
Holier gladness ours shall be;  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side;  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

- *George Hunt Smyttan*