

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



August - September 2019

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

**Chaplain:** Revd Helen Marshall

chaplain@stursula.ch

031 351 03 43

Day off Friday

### **Lay Reader**

Archana Jacob

archana@stursula.ch

**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, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

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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 Company. 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: [www.stursula.ch](http://www.stursula.ch)**

**E-mail: [berne@anglican.ch](mailto:berne@anglican.ch)**



# St Ursula's Church Magazine

VOL 38/4

August - September 2019

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Published & printed in Berne by St Ursula's Church/Hergestellt in Bern durch St Ursula's Church  
Appears 6x a year/wird 6x jährlich herausgegeben

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Annual Subscription Rates:  
Fr22 including inland postage  
Postfinance Accounts 30-441 6-8 (Church), 60-666488-7 (Charitable Association)

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### **COPY DATE**

for the October - November magazine is

**15 September 2019**

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

**COLLATING DATE: Thursday 26 September 2019**

# From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

It's now the 'holiday season' and many of us may have been on holiday or are planning a holiday. David and I are looking forward to three weeks away as we return to the UK to see family and friends (and hopefully to have a rest!). We will be away from 29 July until 20 August. During that time our friends Julie and Ernest Nelson will be living in the Church House and Julie will be taking the services. I'm sure you will like Julie and Ernest very much (I just hope you'll then be happy to have us back!)

However, holidays – like retirement for many people – can sometimes be difficult. Sometimes we may feel at a bit of a loss when we don't have our usual work or activities to give us a sense of value. That should give us pause for thought. How often do we judge our value (and the value of other people too) according to what we 'do', by how busy we are, by our titles or roles, or by what we think we have achieved?

But if we are only valuable for what we can do, what does that say about the very young, the very old and frail, the unemployed, the disabled, or those suffering from dementia? When I worked as Chaplain in an elderly people's home, I found that many of the residents felt they were 'useless' because they couldn't do all the things they used to be able to do. They often felt less of a person.

There is always the danger in our church community that we see people's importance in terms of what they 'do'. We need to be constantly reminded that our value lies not in our busyness and our achievements but in who we are before God. The good news of the Christian faith is that we are valuable because we are created, known and loved by God and that applies to everyone whatever they can, or cannot, 'do'. We don't have to prove ourselves by what we do; we can simply 'be' and know that we are loved. Realising that can change the way we see ourselves and the way we see other people.



Perhaps our holidays can be a time of enjoying simply 'being'. Perhaps we can take more time to enjoy the gifts of life, to open our eyes to the beauty of creation, to truly appreciate the people and relationships we may sometimes take for granted. During our holidays, can we also

make more time simply to be still before God in prayer?

Many people like to sunbathe on holiday (though I don't particularly!). Someone once described being still and silent before God as being a bit like 'spiritual sunbathing', as we allow the warmth and light of his presence to touch our hearts. In the light of God's grace, we need simply to receive and be loved.

'Prayer begins with the realisation that I am loved by God as I am. God's love is based on nothing and, therefore, is the most basic and secure fact in my life. I simply let myself be loved by God. This is not so much an activity of mine but a passivity in which I let God's love soak in and permeate my whole being.'

*(Peter van Breeman)*

## August - During Helen's Holiday

Revd Julie Nelson will be covering the Sunday (and Thursday) services while we are on holiday.

Julie was ordained in 1995 and served her curacy in Tavistock, Devon, which was their family home. In 2001, Ernest's job as Compensation and Benefits Manager for a multinational company took them both to Munich, where they became fully involved with the American Episcopal Church of the Ascension, and Julie was licensed as an Assistant Priest, and later as 'Vicar' of the mission congregation at Nuremberg.

This was a very exciting couple of years – working with a largely ex-pat church membership and experiencing different ways of 'being church'. Deep friendships were formed that continue to this day.

In 2004 they decided (mainly for family reasons) to move back to the UK, where Julie took up a full-time post as Rector of four rural parishes in North Yorkshire, and Ernest 'retired' from his professional career and instead worked (briefly) as a brewery tour guide and later became a lay canon at Ripon Cathedral.

Six years in Yorkshire were followed by five years in Essex, where Julie was diocesan Rural Officer as well as a parish priest, and Ernest worked as an HR adviser to the Diocese. They both retired fully in 2015 and now live in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire, where they are kept busy with a large garden, and spending time with family (three children and partners and four grandchildren) and friends, as well as escaping on their narrowboat to explore the English canals. They are passionate about environmental issues and the climate emergency and are committed to engaging with churches to strengthen Christian concern for Creation Care.

HM





# Reading the Book

*In the thirty-seventh year of King Joash of Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria; he reigned sixteen years. He also did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin, but he walked in them. Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, as well as the might with which he fought against King Amaziah of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? (2 Kings 13:10-12)*

*In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. (Genesis 8:13)*

When we read our newspapers, we assume that the journalists describing events have got their news from reliable sources. We realize that they may have been selective in the details they report, and if we think about it, we know that they may have put their own spin, their own interpretation on the story, to fit in with the political ideas of the paper, liberal or conservative. And, especially if we read foreign newspapers, we realize that culture as well as politics play a big part in what stories the editors select to tell us.



The Old and the New Testaments are also the products of different writers – unlike the Quran or the Book of Mormon, which contain the thoughts of a single writer over a period of time. In contrast to a newspaper, they were not commissioned by a single editor, but selected by faith communities.

Jews gathered the Hebrew books of what we know as the Old Testament into a set of “readings” (*Miqra* – the Arabic word *Quran* has the same root) and divided them into the Law, the Prophets and the Writings (not necessarily in the way we would divide them, for Joshua is among the Prophets and Daniel among the Writings!). Christians included other books which had no formal Hebrew version – works we know as the Apocrypha (although ‘apocryphal’ has taken on the meaning of ‘untrue’, which is not the case at all!), and then gathered the

Gospels (and Acts), the Letters of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation into the New Testament – more or less agreeing on which books were genuine and which were not.

Although we read that God spoke to Moses and to the Prophets, we should be careful not to think of those parts of the Bible as a verbatim transcript! 2 Timothy 3:16, referring to the Old Testament, tells how “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching”, and gives us a guide as to how we should read our bibles – what is each writer trying to tell us about God? Too often people think that the first chapter of Genesis is about dinosaurs. It is not. It is about God. The details of Jehoash’s reign at the head of this article tell us nothing about what life was like under him - “all that he did” is reported in a book that has not survived. All the writer is interested in was that he “did what was evil” - in other places this means tolerating other gods (and later, when we learn of his sacking King Amaziah’s palace and the temple in Jerusalem, we are told that Amaziah “did what was right in the sight of the Lord.”) ‘Doing right’ is what the story is about.

In reflecting on scripture, it is easy to read our own ideas into the text, so that it says what we want it to say. There is a long tradition of reading the Bible allegorically – as St Paul does with the story of Esau and Isaac in Galatians 4, or as in the connection made in the gospel of Matthew between the three days Jonah spent in the belly of the fish and the time Jesus lay in the tomb. We can learn a lot from comparing the two things, but in the end, a fish is a fish and not a tomb.

With the Reformation came a new attitude to the Bible. Scripture had to be interpreted by scripture alone. It took the eighteenth-century Enlightenment to realize that this meant accepting it literally – that if it said Noah’s Flood dried up nine and a half months after it started, then that was what it said. If elsewhere it said that the Flood lasted forty days, plus a couple of weeks, then that was what it said as well, and probably someone had combined two separate accounts. It did not mean that one account was right and one was wrong. It did not mean that we had to contort ourselves to reconcile the stories





at the beginning of Matthew and Luke, or the names of the twelve disciples, or the sequence of events at the end of Jesus' life. It meant we had to look behind the story at what the writer was being inspired to explain – about God.

For God is at the heart of all scripture, and we need to see God not only in descriptions of loving deeds and saving grace, but also in the intensity of emotions in the Psalms and in the Song of Songs, and in the painstakingly trivial details of the old Law. As John 20 concludes, "Jesus did many other signs... but these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

HD

## A Word for the Month – Healing



Who is Jesus to you? A great teacher? A friend? A king? An example to follow? A healer? All of these, and more – Son of God and Saviour of the world.

In the Old Testament, God was all of these too, and its pages are filled with tales of healing and prayers for healing. "O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror", cries the Psalmist (6:6). "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed," begs Jeremiah (17:14); "save me, and I shall be saved."

The Hebrew word for healing means making something whole again, mending something which is broken (even pots!). And as the verse from Jeremiah suggests, it is closely linked with restoring relationships, with salvation.

God is not only the healer of individuals, but the healer of nations.

“Come,” says Hosea to the people of the Northern Kingdom, “let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us.” If people will only turn to God, they will be healed and restored.

It is no wonder, then, that healing is one of the signs of God’s Kingdom – “the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them” (Matthew 11:5). We are all to some extent spiritually blind, spiritually lame, unclean, deaf, dead and poor. We all need healing.

Sometimes the Gospels give the idea that sickness is the work of demons, but this is too simple. God wants us to be healthy, but it does not follow that anything that is less than healthy is a sign of the devil at work. The devil can use sickness to turn us away from God, as in the book of Job. Acts 10:38 talks of Jesus healing “those who were oppressed by the devil” with the same implication – sickness can turn us away from God.

In Luke’s second book, the book of Acts, we find that the Peter and Paul carry on Jesus’ work of healing – still in the sense of bringing God’s kingdom closer. For Luke, healing is an act of witness to God’s power. But in Luke’s account of Paul’s time in Malta, it is also seen as a work of Christian love, and it is clear from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians that one of the gifts of the Spirit was the gift of healing – some members of Christ’s body would speak words of wisdom, others would perform miracles, others might preach prophetically, others might have gifts of healing, though these were “lesser gifts” (12:31) – the greatest gift was love.

The letter of James makes it clear how this healing was carried out in a church context. “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.” We do the same to this day.

Some people imagine that science has replaced religion, but in the case of medicine there are few signs that this is true. We have a better knowledge of drugs, but few ideas of how they work. There is very strong evidence that faith can heal a range of diseases. This does not mean that they are psychosomatic, in the sense of imaginary. They are very real. But our souls and our bodies, our relationships with God and with our neighbour are much more closely linked than we sometimes think. In Christ we have salvation and healing, if we only commit ourselves to God.

HD

# Book and Food Sale

The next book and food sale will be on **Saturday 7 September.**

As always there will be second-hand books and British food on sale, along with delicious cakes, scones and lunch in the restaurant.

Do plan to come along and bring your friends with you. Please use the enclosed flyer to advertise the event.

If you can offer to help in any way - with set-up, clear-up, in the restaurant, please contact the church office (031 352 8567 or email [berne@anglican.ch](mailto:berne@anglican.ch))



# Church Breakfast

The church breakfasts continue to take place on the first Sunday of each month. Why not come along and meet friends or strangers. Everything is provided - cereals, fruit, juice, coffee, tea, bread, butter, jam, marmalade etc. Just come along and join in. Come any time from 8.30.



The dates for August and September are:

**4 August**

**1 September**

So why not put these in your diary now and plan to come along.

- *Tricia Carrick*



# St Ursula's Church Summer Fête

We had lovely Summer Fête weather and despite the many other events going on in Berne that day we had a steady stream of visitors. Fun was had by all plus we raised over CHF 5,500 for church funds.



A huge THANK YOU to the very many people who helped make our summer fête so successful whether behind the scenes, before and after the sale, as well as those who helped on the day itself and finally, of course, to all our fête visitors.

*Jana Kutesko, Church Office*



# Music

St Ursula's is home to a variety of music styles - ranging from traditional psalms and choir anthems to modern worship songs. We are blessed with a choir led by Hans-Karl and Elisabeth Pfyffer and a music group led by Tony Read.



The choir usually sings at special services and the music group normally accompanies the worship at the informal Eucharist services on the second Sunday of each month. Both styles of music are very much appreciated by members of the congregation.

The choir has about nine members and meets almost every Saturday morning to practise and prepare music for services and for the annual Archdeaconry choir festival.

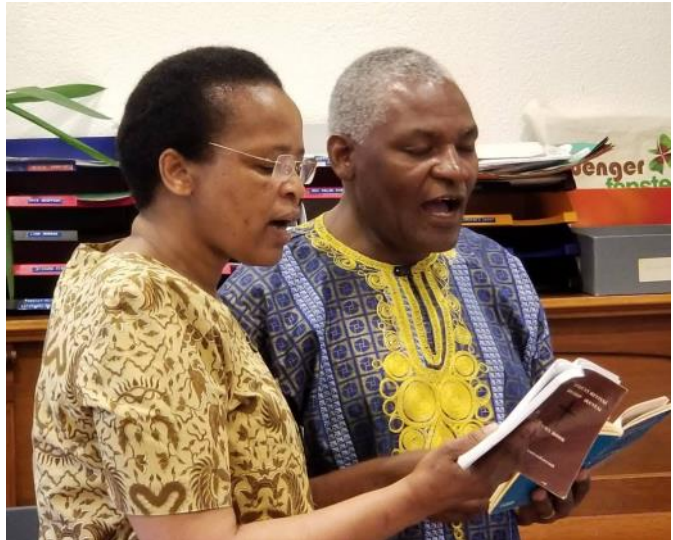


The music group also has about nine members and usually meets before the services they are playing in - it is expected that they will practise at home. Tony sends the music by email.



# A Diverse Community but One in Christ

We are a very diverse community at St Ursula's; our membership is made up of people from many different nationalities, cultures and backgrounds. At Pentecost, we celebrated this with a special lunch after the service. Fifty-five people stayed for the lunch and we enjoyed a wide variety of delicious food from many different countries. We also had the treat of listening to a Swahili Christian song sung as a duet by Joram and Janiffer.



During the meal, I asked people to write down where they were from and/or what nationality they were. This is the list of countries that were mentioned:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Switzerland | England       |
| Scotland    | Ghana         |
| Nigeria     | Kenya         |
| India       | China         |
| Hong Kong   | France        |
| Germany     | Portugal      |
| Italy       | Greece        |
| Jamaica     | United States |
| New Zealand | Australia     |
| Canada      | South Africa  |



The Pentecost meal was a real success and we hope to do it again sometime. In the meantime, let us continue to give thanks for the richness of our church family, learn from one another, and welcome new members into our midst. And let us rejoice that we are brought together in unity in Christ.

*Helen*

# Junior Church News

## Groups and Meeting Times

Junior Church meets on Sundays during the main (10.00) service. There are usually two classes: Sparklers for children aged 3 - 8 and Pilots for those aged 9 - 14, although there is some flexibility. We all meet together in church for the first part of the service and then the Junior Church leaves after the children's talk and song.

## Crèche

For children aged up to three, there is a supervised crèche which meets in the downstairs hall. Parents can bring their children before the service starts and are asked to collect them at the beginning of communion when they can receive a blessing in church.



## Projects

In August we continue to look at Paul's world with focus on the letters to the Galatians and Colossians. And consider how life was in Galatia and Colossae.

On 1 September we celebrate Creation Sunday in church and so the Junior Church will continue with this theme throughout September and October - including the Harvest Festival (on 20 October), of course.

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church and Confirmation Class young people with birthdays in August and September

Delali Agoba 18 on 15 September



## SACEP INVITATION

to a day all around Children and Youth issues  
and especially the role of 'Sunday School' in church life.

ON: Saturday 19 October 2019

AT: St Andrew's Church Zürich

WHEN: 9.30am for coffee, 10am start – 4pm finish

**“Let the little children come to me and do not stop  
them.”**

**Luke 18:16**

The Church of England believes: “that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the church, and that discipleship is possible at any age. They are integral to our churches, but we need to make sure there are no obstacles preventing them from getting involved.” *(from the CofE website)*

The day will be led by Mary Hawes – the Church of England's National Children and Youth Advisor. Mary's role includes resourcing and advising the Church at National and Diocesan level in its ministry with children.

The information collected recently by Vahe Jebejian and issues arising from Archdeaconry Synod on 22 June, will help to form the Agenda on the day.

Obviously, this day should especially interest those who work with our children but it is open to anyone – after all children are a vital part of our Church family, not just because they are it's future but primarily because we want them, too, to know God's abundant love for them and for the world they live in.

Please register with Elizabeth at [bemdeo@gmail.com](mailto:bemdeo@gmail.com) **by Monday 14 October 2019**. Cost for the day is Fr.20.00 including refreshments and lunch *(please let me know if you have any allergies!)*

# Services and Readings

## August and September 2019

### **Sun 4 August Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

### **Sun 11 August Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

*8.30 Said Communion*

*10.00 Informal Eucharist*

Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

### **Sun 18 August Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

Luke 12:49-56

### **Sun 25 August Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

*8.30 Said Communion*

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

### **Sun 1 September Creation Sunday (Eleventh after Trinity)**

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 1:1-28

Romans 8: 18-25

Luke 4: 16-21

### **Sun 8 September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

*8.30 Said Communion*

*10.00 Informal Eucharist*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

### **Sun 15 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Exodus 32:7-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

### **Sun 22 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

*8.30 Said Communion*

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

### **Sun 29 September Michael and All Angels**

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 28:10-17

Hebrews 1:5-14

John 1:47-51

### **Sun 6 October Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

*10.00 Sung Eucharist*

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

# For Your Diary

## August & September 2019

### Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	08.30	Morning Prayer (not 29 July - 19 August)
	18.00	Evening Prayer (not 29 July - 19 August)
Tuesdays	08.30	Morning Prayer (not 29 July - 13 August)
	18.00	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	08.30	Morning Prayer (not 29 July - 14 August)
	9.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Thursdays	10.30	Holy Communion & Fellowship (not 1 August)
	11.30	Lectio Divina (not 1 - 15 August)
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
	18.00	Evening Prayer
Saturdays	09.30	Choir Practice (not 3 & 10 August)

### Other Events

Sunday 4 August	08.30	Church Breakfast
Friday 9 August	09.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 10 August	10.15	Church Family Walk
Thursday 15 August	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 18 August	14.00	Family Treasure Hunt & Grill
Saturday 24 August		Bring & Share Lunch at the Gugelmann's Junior Church Sleepover
Sunday 1 September	08.30	Church Breakfast Creation Sunday
Tuesday 3 September	19.00	Church Council
Thursday 5 September	18.30	Thun Service
Friday 6 September	09.00	Book Sorting
Saturday 7 September	10-00 - 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Friday 13 September	15.00 - 18.00	Afternoon Tea & Quiz
Sunday 15 September		COPY DATE
Thursday 19 September	18.30	Thun Service
Saturday 21 September	10.00	Church Family Walk
Thursday 26 September	09.00	Magazine Collating



## Future Dates

Sunday 20 October		Pledge Sunday and Harvest Festival
Wednesday 23 October	09.00	Christmas Cake Baking
Sunday 27 October		Bible Sunday
Friday 8 November	19.00	Pub Quiz Night
Saturday 16 November	09.00	Cake Icing Workshop
Friday 29 November	17.00 - 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 30 November	10.00 - 15.00	
Thursday 12 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Thursday 19 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service

## Laughlines

These sentences are from church bulletins (not ours!)

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water. '

The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

# Prayer Diary

## August

- Thursday 1 For the People and Government of Switzerland on their National Day
- Friday 2 For Helen's and David's ministry here at St Ursula's
- Saturday 3 For Evening Prayer today and for Peter leading it
- Sunday 4 For an influx of children and teachers to Junior Church
- Monday 5 For the Church Breakfast before church this morning
- Tuesday 6 For Bishop Robert and Bishop David as they lead and pastor the Diocese
- Wednesday 7 The Transfiguration of our Lord**
- Thursday 8 For our Church Wardens, Vinitha and Martin
- Friday 9 For the St Ursula Ecological "Task Force", its participants and Hector leading it.
- Saturday 10 For Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921
- Sunday 11 For the Family Walk today
- Monday 12 For John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890
- Tuesday 13 For the Archdeaconry of Switzerland and Archdeacon Adèle
- Wednesday 14 For Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910
- Thursday 15 For a shared vision for the focus and future of St Ursula's
- Friday 16 The Blessed Virgin Mary**
- Saturday 17 For the Talagolla Child Development Centre in Sri Lanka
- Sunday 18 For our Archdeaconry Synod Representatives: Hector, Donna & Richard
- Monday 19 For the Family Treasure Hunt and Grill this afternoon
- Tuesday 20 For the Church Library and Isabelle and Donna organizing it
- Wednesday 21 For William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army
- Thursday 22 For the sick and infirm in our congregation
- Friday 23 For the Holy Communion Service followed by Lectio Divina this morning
- Saturday 24 For the Bring and Share Lunch at the Gugelmanns tomorrow afternoon
- Sunday 25 Bartholomew the Apostle**
- Monday 26 For "our" Refugee Family Sediqii and for Cecily, Rolf, Chloë and Beat who support and encourage them
- Tuesday 27 For Evening Prayer being led by Maxine
- Wednesday 28 For Evening Prayer today and Brian leading it
- Thursday 29 For Jana in the Church Office
- Friday 30 Remember the beheading of John the Baptist
- Saturday 31 For John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688
- Sunday 31 For Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

## September

- Sunday 1 For the services and ecumenical activities celebrating Creation Day today
- Monday 2 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604
- Tuesday 3 For the Church Council Meeting this evening
- Wednesday 4 For those in our community who are unemployed or unable to work because of a disability
- Thursday 5 For all members of the congregation in Thun and their faithfulness in supporting the twice-monthly services
- Friday 6 For the book sorting team
- Saturday 7 For the Book and Food Sale today
- Sunday 8 For Elizabeth Bussmann talking about the Environment and the Ecological Lunch after Church today
- Monday 9 For the Outreach team and Sue leading it
- Tuesday 10 For the elderly and infirm in our community especially those who can no longer live at home
- Wednesday 11 For the leaders and governments of our own home countries
- Thursday 12 For the Afternoon Tea and Quiz tomorrow
- Friday 13 Continue to pray for the Ministry of our Chaplain Helen and pray she may relax on her weekly day off on a Friday
- Saturday 14 **Holy Cross Day**
- Sunday 15 Today is Magazine Copy Date: please pray for those contributing to the Church Magazine and its Editor
- Monday 16 For Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle to the Picts, c. 432
- Tuesday 17 For all our Junior Church Teachers
- Wednesday 18 For Archana, our Reader, and her family
- Thursday 19 For the Pastoral Care Team
- Friday 20 For the Family Walk tomorrow
- Saturday 21 **Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**
- Sunday 22 For a holy and blessed day of worship throughout the world
- Monday 23 For Esther, our Ecumenical Contact
- Tuesday 24 For Querida, our Church Magazine Editor and Tricia who manages the Magazine Mailing List
- Wednesday 25 For the Magazine Collating Team who meet tomorrow
- Thursday 26 For Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942
- Friday 27 For the Technical Team
- Saturday 28 For Hans-Karl, our organist, Elisabeth our choir leader and members of our choir practising this morning
- Sunday 29 **Michael and All Angels**
- Monday 30 For a good outcome to the Brexit deliberations

*Compiled by Brian Morgan*

*Lynn and I would appreciate your prayers during our time at Mission School in the USA.*

# Report on Church walk 29 June 2019. Gwatt to Spiez on the Jakobsweg



This was probably one of the hottest days of the year. The heat put a lot of people off, and only four brave, or foolish, souls joined the meeting point in Thun. One sensible person dropped out fairly early in the walk, and opted for a bus.

Three of us carried on, and due to the heat, we took a fair time to do a short distance, but in the end we

made it to Spiez having seen some lovely sights, including the old church in Einigen, and having a dip in the lake at Spiez. I think I can say that all three of us who finished the walk suffered some symptoms related to mild heat stroke in the next days, so we learnt from this that if the temperatures are over 30 degrees out there, then we will need to go high in order to avoid the heat.

The next walk planned on 10 August, is from Rüeggisberg to Schwarzenburg. We will do it weather permitting. Please register for the walk with a mobile phone number, so that we can let you



know on the day if there are any changes. Please see the next page for a description of the route.



*Sue Higson*

# Church walk, 10 August - Rüeggisberg to Schwarzenburg



Meet Rüeggisberg Post 10.46 (depart Köniz Bahnhof on bus 631 at 10:18)

Bring: Picnic, suncream, hat, water, sunglasses, walking shoes and sticks if available.

Distance 10.4km, 3 hours walking plus time for picnic en route. Descent 326m, ascent 189m, max altitude is 929m above sea level.

## Locations on the way

Rüeggisberg Kloster (897m) – Helgisried (795m) – Rohrbach (769m) – Wislisau (714m) – Henzischwand (808m) – Elisried (801m) – Schönetanne (803m) - Schwarzenburg (792m)

**Register via SMS to 076 690 50 88, with name and numbers, or sign up in the hall. Thank you.**



# Church Family day: 21 September 2019.

## Visit to Beatushöhlen caves, and easy walk to Manor Farm campsite.

For an idea of numbers, please register via SMS to 076 690 50 88 with numbers and name, or sign up in the hall.

A two-part day, we meet in the morning at the Beatushöhlen caves for those who would like to explore the cave system or join a guided tour. Note that inside the caves the temperature remains constant, between 8° and 10°C. For safety reasons, St Beatus Caves are not pushchair or wheelchair accessible. Entrance fee is Fr18 per adult, Fr16 if we make a group of 10 or more. Children from 6 to 16 cost Fr10. A family pass is Fr49. Dogs Fr10. These prices include entrance to the museum.

**Getting there:** Depart Thun: 10.02 bus 21 from Stop A, direction Interlaken to Beatushöhlen, arriving at 10.37. <http://www.beatushoehlen.swiss>

**10.45-13.30:** explore caves, visit museum and have lunch, either in the café or a picnic  
**13.30:** walk to Manor Farm; a distance of around 3.3km mainly along the lakeside. We expect this to take about 45 minutes to 1 hour. (A bus is available for those who are unable to walk.)

**14.30:** Arrive at Manor Farm where we will have light refreshments served by Sharon and Toni at their caravan. Opportunity for a swim in the lake.

**Getting home:** There are boats from Unterseen Neuhaus to Interlaken West at 15.25 and 17.25, each taking 24 minutes and connecting with trains back to Thun and Bern. Or buses from the camp site at 14 and 44 past every hour, taking 6 minutes. Alternatively there is a boat from Unterseen Neuhaus to Thun at 16.35 and 18.35 taking 1hr 40 minutes.

For those who would like to walk into Interlaken, perhaps via Unterseen, then this takes around 40 minutes and is 3.1 km. Bring jacket for in the caves, swim costume and towel, picnic if wished. Money, SBB passes, water, sun protection and hat. Footwear can be light walking shoes or trekking sandals. Parents need to take responsibility for their children at all times during the day.



A flyer is included with this magazine or downloadable from our website. This event is designed and sponsored by Diccon Bewes. Using riddles to find places in Bern, you will then solve clues in teams of up to 6 people in a timed race around the old city. Prizes for the top three teams.

Note that there is a small fee to enter, but as the riddles are difficult for young children, children under 12 are exempted from the fee. Teams will be created on the day, or you can bring your own along. You will also need a smartphone in the group in order to send us a selfie at random times to show that your team is still together.

The treasure hunt will end at the church, where the grill will be on. Burgers and beer will be on sale along with a salad buffet, vegetarian options and of course wine and soft drinks.

To join in and find out the starting point, register via email under [event@stursula.ch](mailto:event@stursula.ch) or talk to me and I can give you more information. Note that this is an outreach event, and open to all. Please tell your friends and work colleagues about it.

Sue Higson

**Have you paid for your magazine?**

If you have lost your payment slip, please make a transfer to our Postfinance account, 30-4416-8 with a note that it is for the magazine (Fr22 for the year, including postage within Switzerland)

The Treasurer

# Care for Creation

## **Creation Sunday, 1 September, 10am**

Along with many other churches we will be celebrating Creation Sunday on 1 September. Our readings, hymns, sermon and prayers will all be on this theme. We will be giving thanks for the wonders of creation and thinking about how we can better care for the environment.



## **Creation Sunday, 1 September, afternoon**

We will be joining together with other churches in the city. See the details on pages 26-27.

## **Creation Season, Sunday 1 September – Sunday 4 October**

During this period, we will continue to keep care for creation in our thoughts and intercessions and our Junior Church will be following a project focused on creation.

## **Sunday 8 September: Talk on Caring for the Environment**

After the service, Revd Elizabeth Bussman (Diocesan Environmental Officer) will be giving a talk about how we can better care for our environment. (*We hope to have an "eco-meal" on that day too. Watch the notices!*)

## **St Ursula's Eco-Group**

The newly formed Eco-Group, led by Hector, is seeking to recommend ways that we can care for the environment more effectively both as a church and as individuals. The Eco-group are leading us through the process to (hopefully) gain our Bronze Church Eco award.

### **Creation Focused Magazine Edition**

The next edition (October/November) of our magazine will be especially focused on environmental issues. We would like to invite you to be involved! If you have any environmentally friendly tips, stories, or articles to share, please let the magazine editing team know. Thank you.

*Helen*

# Notes from the Eco-Group

ECO CHURCH  
AN AROCHA UK PROJECT



We are continuing in our efforts to qualify as an eco-church, and need each of our members to work positively with us. This does not just mean making the church carbon-neutral, nature-friendly and socially responsible. The coffee we serve is fairly traded. The chairs in church are made from sustainably-sourced wood. Our recent energy project has reduced the heat we waste at the same time as adding to our comfort. But is the coffee you drink at home produced as fairly? Do you avoid products which encourage the dangerously harmful tree-logging activities that go on in Brazil, in Siberia, in Argentina? How is your own home heated? How reliant are you on your car? On plane travel? How much water do you waste?

To help you think about this, we are printing a tip each week on our notice sheet. Being responsible with the resources in God's world is a way of loving God and our neighbour, and when we examine ourselves before coming to worship, we should examine not only the things we have done (or failed to do) to the people we meet, but also what we have done to the natural world around us – or failed to do! We can always do more!

HD





## Creation Sunday, 1 September 2019

Taste and see how good the Lord is  
under the auspices of oeku – Church and Environment  
**Angel Delight and Devils Food Cake**

14.30-17.00

**Taste Trail for families  
and everyone interested**

Start: Münsterplatz

17.00

**Ecumenical celebration at the Münster**

followed by a pot-luck buffet



## Creation Sunday, 1 September 2019

---

**Taste Trail for families and everyone interested**  
**14.30 – 17.00 - Start: Münsterplatz**

**First stop – Münsterplatz, Moses Fountain**

**The taste of water**

Discovering various forms of taste

We shall also be gathering signatures here for the Glacier Initiative

**Second stop – Stiftsgarten, Badgasse 40**

**The taste of a garden**

A quiz about the wealth of edible plants in September

A garden trip for every taste

**Third stop – Lutheran Church, Postgasse 62**

**For the sweet tooth**

Decorating and tasting church biscuits

**Fourth stop – Münster Tower**

**Angel Delight and Devils Food Cake**

What delights us and what disgusts us

The Trail stamp allows free entry to the Münster Tower

where above the caretaker's apartment there will be culinary experiences both heavenly and devilish!

---

**17.00 Ecumenical Celebration in the Bern Münster**  
**followed by a pot-luck buffet on the Münsterplatz**

**Prayer and action to preserve God's creation is a task common to all churches. The recent climate strikes have shown how urgently and how emphatically we need to change our own behaviour. Everyone is invited to take part.**

# Charity of the Month – Sakh'ulutsha

*Scripture Union South Africa's  
Lifeskills Programme*



Over the last couple of centuries Christianity has played an important role in South African society, and the churches there have a position of influence and respect. The Scripture Union is an international and inter-denominational organization founded in 1867 which helps individuals and churches to live by principles based on the Bible. It began as a children's mission, and although it serves adults too, its primary emphasis is on sharing the Christian message with young people, through mission camps, work in schools and with student groups, by producing resources for Bible reading, family counselling, AIDS education, urban and youth ministry and work among the handicapped. Each country's Scripture Union (SU) works independently, but an international office provides extra support.



We have ties with SU's South African section through Rob Mackay, who was a member of St Ursula's many years ago. In 1991, SU set up a Lifeskills programme in response to the AIDS pandemic which had taken hold in that country. The aim was to help young people learn to avoid peer

pressure in all areas of life and think for themselves.

The programme encourages them to choose values and behaviour that will help them avoid negative consequences such as drug and alcohol abuse, gang life and also exposure to HIV. Young people learn how to make good decisions and how to set goals, to develop self-esteem and to engage with peers and authority figures. They learn how to think differently from "the crowd". They learn to take on responsibilities and not merely insist on their rights. They are taught about nutrition and healthy living, about faith, about rising above personal and family circumstances, and about behaving appropriately with members of the opposite sex.

Thanks to Scripture Union, Life Orientation is now a subject taught in schools in most provinces of South Africa, and SU is heavily involved in providing teachers and resources in primary and high schools throughout the country, as well as providing young people's camps and holiday clubs. Resources can be anything from short leaflets to longer cartoon books and short videos, but the most important resource is peer contact, and it often happens that children finishing one course will help training others in the next.

Sakh'ulutsha is the name given to the arm of SU that trains young people in lifeskills. It is a separate charity for organizational and legal reasons. It offers a well-planned curriculum throughout schools in South Africa:

1. It's Your Move: a Lifeskills programme aimed at preparing Grade 7's to transition smoothly to secondary school
2. Awareness Programmes (entrepreneurship, lifeskills, career advice, etc.)
3. Empowerment Camps for Youth (capacity development)
4. Youth-driven Community Projects, youth-led dialogue; lobbying and advocacy
5. Motivational Talks and Assemblies
6. Sport Coaching and Tournaments

As well as the financial support we give, we should pray

- for the helpers on the courses, often young people themselves, that they may find themselves well-prepared and enthusiastic for their work
- for the camps they run, and for the materials that they prepare, that young people may find them engaging and exciting
- for the young people themselves, that they may use their time creatively, take part in sensible social activities and steer away from gang and drug culture
- for the whole of society in South Africa, that it may continue in its efforts for harmony and the establishment of true Christian values

*HD for the Charity and Missions Team*





*Some of the materials produced by Scripture Union South Africa for Sakh' ulutsha, its Lifeskills and School Christian Group Programme*



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# English Speaking Playgroup/School

## Enjoying English from 0-18

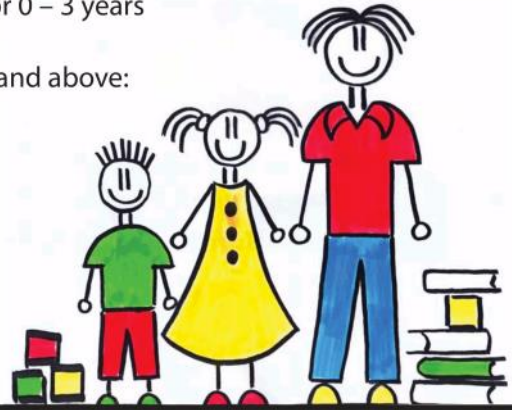


The English Speaking Playgroup/School offers a stimulating learning environment aimed at developing English language skills.

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

There are 5 types of classes for ages 3 and above:

- o Playgroup
- o Reading and Writing
- o English as a Foreign Language
- o Examination Classes
- o Private Classes



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\*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!

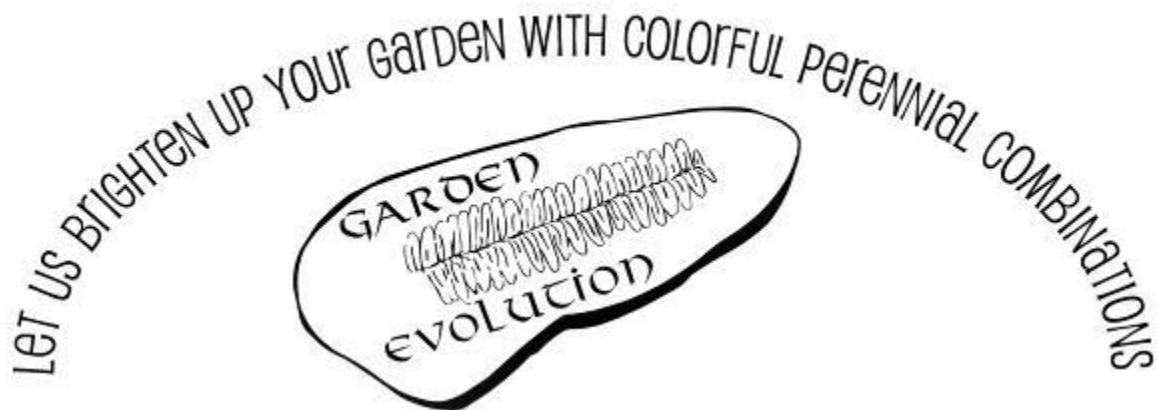
We are looking forward to meeting you

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 celebrated its 25th anniversary with several special events. We are waiting to welcome you !



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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

Are you a theatre fan with a good command of English?  
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# Here to help you

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Donna Goepfert (*secretary*) 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

Archana Jacob 031 914 02 40

Vinitha Jacob 079 547 23 54

Janiffer Kingori 031 534 65 39

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

Ruby Wildhaber 031 301 75 62

#### *Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:*

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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**

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Vinitha Jacob 079 547 23 54

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The Welsh are renowned for their hymn singing, and it is surprising that the hymn on our cover is the only Welsh hymn commonly sung in church – the only one translated into English from a Welsh original. It is often known by the name of its tune, *Cwm Rhondda*, and it is also surprising that the tune was only written in 1905 and that the Welsh normally use this tune for a different hymn.

*Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch* means "Lord, lead (me) through the wilderness", and echoes the story of the Exodus. God guides the people to freedom, with a pillar of fire by night and of cloud by day. The crystal fountain is the rock struck by Moses in Exodus 17 to provide life-giving water. The bread of heaven is the manna God sent when the people complained of hunger, "as much as each of them needed" (Exodus 16:18). The hymn recalls the goal of the journey, crossing the River Jordan to enter the Promised Land of Canaan, and God's assurance of protection there. It asks for the same protection for the modern Christian, and originally had the title *Gweddi am Nerth i fyned trwy anialwch y Byd* (A prayer for strength for the journey through the world's wilderness).

It was written by William Williams, known as Pantycelyn from the farm his wife inherited. He was from Llandovery in Carmarthenshire and trained as a doctor. In 1738, after hearing a sermon by Howell Harris, a leader of the Evangelical Revival in Wales, he decided to enter the ministry and was ordained by the Bishop of St David's. He left the Anglican church three years later to join the newly-formed Calvinistic Methodist connection, travelling thousands of miles over the next forty years to preach throughout Wales. It was Howell Harris who suggested he had a talent for writing hymns, and he composed some eight hundred, nearly all in Welsh.

Our hymn was first published in 1762, in a collection called *Caniadau y rhai sydd ar y môr o wydr* (The songs of those on the crystal sea). It had six verses, and in 1771 three of these were translated into English by Peter Williams (no relation!) in his *Hymns on Various Subjects*. The next year, William Williams adapted this translation in a leaflet entitled *A favourite hymn sung by Lady Huntingdon's Young Collegians*, adding a fourth verse of his own.

We do not usually sing this fourth verse, and many hymn books have 'Redeemer' instead of 'Jehovah' in the first line, stressing the parallel between the Exodus and the work of Jesus. In the same way, the last line of the first verse is sometimes rendered as 'Feed me now and evermore', recalling Jesus' sermon in Capernaum in John 6.

The rousing tune was composed in 1905 for a Welsh Revivalist festival at Pontypridd in the Rhondda Valley by John Hughes (1873-1932). An unlikely legend claims that he originally wrote it in chalk on a piece of tarpaulin. Hughes was a railwayman, and in charge of the music at the local Salem Baptist Church. Most of the worshippers there were miners from England, so the hymn was normally sung in English. Its popularity was boosted by its frequent use in the trenches during the First World War, where German troops took it up.

HD



## **Prayer for Strength** *Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open thou the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream shall flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.

Musing on my habitation,  
Musing on my heavenly home  
Fills my soul with holy longings:  
Come, my Jesus, quickly come;  
Vanity is all I see;  
Lord, I long to be with thee!  
Lord, I long to be with thee!

*William Williams (1717-1791)*  
*translated by Peter Williams (1722-1796)*