

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



Special Eco-Issue



October - November 2019

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

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Day off: Friday

Lay Reader

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Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

Normal pattern of Sunday services:

8.30 Said Eucharist (2nd and 4th Sundays)

10.00 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church and Crèche

Our services follow the Church of England's Common Worship Order One (2000)

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, the 10.00 service is more informal.

See Calendar of Services inside for details of the next few weeks.

Services in Thun: 18.30 on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Chapelle

Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

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: www.stursula.ch

E-mail: berne@anglican.ch



St Ursula's Church Magazine

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10 November 2019

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: Thursday 21 November 2019

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

A few Sundays ago I started a sermon with the words 'choose life' (from the book of Deuteronomy) and then reflected on what it might mean to 'choose life' in our care for creation and in our discipleship of Jesus Christ.

I hope we can keep those two words 'choose life' in our minds as we continue to ponder our call as Christians to care for this beautiful world God has made; its forests and oceans, diversity of plant and animal life and its many different peoples.

We are now in what has been called 'Creation Season', a time when Christians around the world are asked to give thanks for the world God has made, to treasure it and delight in it, but also to repent of ways that we have exploited its resources and damaged its ecosystems. We are all familiar with dismal stories of melting glaciers, plastic filled oceans, air pollution, deforestation, rising temperatures, severe flooding and droughts. As human beings we have sometimes made choices based on short term gain, greed and excess, rather than choosing to preserve the resources of the world and share them fairly. It can be more tempting to choose profit rather than preservation; to 'choose money' rather than to 'choose life', but these choices are proving disastrous for our planet.

How can we 'choose life' which is not just about our own self-fulfilment and short term material gain, but for the long term good of the planet? Do our life choices have a bearing on those living on the front line of environmental disaster and climate change? How might the way we live and our lifestyle choices affect the lives of our children and grandchildren and those who come after them? We may feel that anything we can do is far too small and ineffective in the face of the enormity of the environmental crisis. But if all of us took small steps to change our lifestyle this would begin to make a difference.

This edition of our church magazine is particularly focused on caring for the environment and includes theological reflection, practical tips and suggestions, prayers and poems. I hope that you will ponder what is said here and try out some of the practical suggestions. Caring for creation is not an 'optional extra' for Christians but part of our call to live on this earth as God's creatures made in his own image, to be good stewards of all that he has made. It is not just about caring for our forests and oceans, for plant and animal life, but also an

issue of justice for the peoples of the world; it is not right that the rich should squander the world's resources while the poor suffer, or that our descendants should have to pay for the life choices we have made.

So let us ask ourselves whether we can 'choose life'; life which is not focused on ourselves but on God and others. We are called to live life in thankfulness for all the rich blessings God has given to us, but also in generosity in sharing those resources with others.

Let me end with a prayer from the Creation-time website. As we pray this prayer, let us commit ourselves to play our part, however small, in choosing life for future generations. We do this in obedience to the commandment to love God and to love our neighbour and to care for all that God has made.



Climate Change Prayer

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,
and every living thing belongs to you:

have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live,

to reduce the energy we use,

to share the resources you provide,

and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes

and send us your Spirit,

with wisdom in present controversies

and vision for the future to which you call us

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Where have all the Flowers gone?

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow.



Youth Surprised by Death, circa 1640-1650 by Giovanni Martinelli

Call him Ecclesiastes, call him the Preacher, call him (or her, indeed) Qoheleth, the writer of the book tucked away between Proverbs and the Song of Songs seldom looked on the bright side of life. Without God, life was pretty pointless. Even the pleasures of eating, drinking and merrymaking would not last long. Only God and God's wisdom were permanent.

But Ecclesiastes had hit upon a truth that was not at all pointless. The earth is not dead. It is full of life. And much of life is by definition cyclical. We learn in school about the water cycle, the carbon cycle, the food cycle. These are not a waste of effort. They are the mechanism by which life is sustained.

For the Old Testament prophets, it was God who “forms the mountains, creates the wind, ...makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth” (Amos 4:13). It was God who “has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance” (Isaiah 40:12). For Jesus, God’s involvement with the world extended even to the little things. “Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.” (Matthew 6:26)

Of course the birds also feed themselves – on insects or worms or seeds or whatever God provides. And of course the insects or worms or seeds grow by themselves – and so the food chain continues. And of course the hills and the seas are the result of natural forces. The sea does not fill up, or dry out. Or does it?

Humanity has interfered with these natural cycles. In an effort to gain something from “all the toil at which they toil under the sun”, people have made bigger and bigger inroads into the environment around them. Some streams do not run to the sea but evaporate in wasteful irrigation projects – so the Aral Sea is drying up. Some streams carry extra water from melting glaciers – so the level of the oceans is rising. Even worse, the waste we leave behind us used formerly to be absorbed into the world around us, the air, the soil, the water. But now the oceans are contaminated with our plastics, the air with our sulphates and our particulates, the soil with radioactivity and with harmful chemicals.

The cycles we rely on for life, the cycles referred to in Ecclesiastes as mere uselessness, have been thrown out of balance. To gain bigger crop yields, we have poisoned the insects. By poisoning the insects, we have starved the birds, and robbed the flowers of their pollinators. By starving the birds and preventing the flowers from seeding, we have thrown the whole world out of balance. Nature no longer proclaims the glory of God. The flowers have not yet gone, but they are going.

In his Encyclical letter *Laudato si'* Pope Francis stresses the need “to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development”. It is not too late to do this. And we owe a duty to do as much as we can, for in harming the world we harm our neighbours, we harm unborn generations, and we harm ourselves. Let us join our prayers with his:

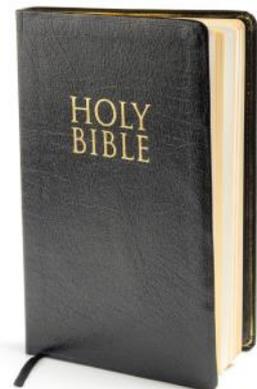
All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.
Amen.

Bible Sunday 2019

This year we will be having a special service on 27 October to celebrate Bible Sunday and to thank God for the precious gift of His word along with many churches throughout the world. The goal is to remind ourselves that the Bible truly is God's word and that it is relevant to our lives more than ever before. After all, Christ is the heart and the centre of our Bible.

Presumably, all of us have at least one Bible in our home. I invite every person (including children) to bring along their favourite Bible for the service. If you don't happen to have a Bible please come and speak to me so that I may provide you with one.

- *Archana Jacob*



A Word for the Month – Creation

There are many ways of translating the first sentence of our Bible, but all of them agree in one thing – that God created the heavens and the earth. Not God shaped. Not God formed. Not God moulded. Not God made. Not God established. God created. There was nothing there before God created it.

This statement does not tell us about the origins of the universe. It tells us about God. The universe, the heavens and the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars, the forces of nature do not control our lives. It is God who does that. The first chapter of Genesis is a statement that God is the source of life and being, a manifesto against the nature religions of the Canaanites, the Babylonians and the Egyptians.

The world God has created is “very good”, and throughout the whole Bible, we are invited to marvel at God’s handiwork, from the young lions roaring for their prey (Psalm 104:21) to the lilies of the field (Matthew 6:28-9), at God’s generosity in providing it (think of the manna in the wilderness in Exodus 16) and God’s power in subduing it (think of Behemoth and Leviathan in Job 40-41, and of Jesus and the storm in Mark 4:39-41). God may have given us “dominion” over it, but it is God’s world, and we are its trustees, not its owners.

The same verb used in Genesis 1 for “create” is also used for humankind, for speech, for salvation and righteousness, for “a clean heart” (Psalm 51:10). The same creative power of God in bringing the world into being is exercised in making us part of a renewed world, where “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor 5:17).

This new creation is an ongoing process. The Kingdom of God may well be among us, but we are not there yet. In the meantime, the old creation continues, as St Paul puts it, to wait expectantly for the birth-pangs of this new order, “the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:21). We are created in God’s image, we are God’s new creation, and we and the whole earth are in this together, sharing a common life and common needs.

This shared interest in leading a sustainable life, for our own good and for the good of our neighbours is not purely Christian. It is common sense. But Christians know that humankind is not in charge of the world, God is. In the words of the Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, “for human beings... to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation; for human beings to degrade the

integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins.” Sin goes against the way God wants the world to be.

As Helen noted in a recent sermon, we have tipped God's created world off balance, but it is not a time for panic. It is a time for hope. For God who creates also tends and sustains. We have failed to sustain the creation entrusted to us. Adam was told “to till and to keep” the garden of Eden – not to rob and exploit it. It is time for a change of heart – for repentance!

- *Hector Davie*

Who Made a Mess?

Who made a mess of the planet
And what's that bad smell in the breeze?
Who punched a hole in the ozone
And who took an axe to my trees?

Who sprayed the garden with poison
While trying to scare off a fly?
Who streaked the water with oil slicks
And who let my fish choke and die?

Who tossed that junk in the river
And who stained the fresh air with fumes?
Who tore the fields with a digger
And who blocked my favourite views?

Who's going to tidy up later
And who's going to find what you've lost?
Who's going to say that they're sorry
And who's going to carry the cost?

- *Steve Turner*



image: Freepik.com

Eco-Notes



We have moved several steps closer to becoming an Eco-Church over the last couple of months. This is thanks to the Eco-Church committee's momentum, with the hearty support of Helen and, when she was away on holiday, the particular enthusiasm of Julie and Ernest Nelson who stood in for her. Julie and Ernest met our team and passed on a wealth of valuable ideas.

These ranged from gardening tips (use tubs but plan for maintenance – sow yellow rattle (*kleiner Klappertopf*, *petit cocriste*) among your grass – track down the naturalists your congregation knows to help make a survey of what is there), through useful ideas (mark homes on a map to see possibilities for lift-sharing – a “Give and Take Day” – a plastic-free Lent – a film show) and theology (why care for creation is as central as other parts of our faith – why we need to proclaim this clearly) to websites to visit (too many to list! Look at www.stursula.ch/links.html)

The regular committee meeting made progress with our “Tips of the Week”. During the Creation Season in September and October we are holding special services and special Junior Church activities, hearing a talk from Elizabeth Bussmann, Diocesan Environmental Officer, followed by an eco-lunch. We have engaged with city-wide initiatives for a greener world. Our worship has a clearer reference to creation. As you see, this is an eco-issue of the magazine. There is more we plan to do – a dedicated notice board and suggestions book, and a big push towards getting our Bronze Award from A Rocha.

This last means concentrating a little more on our social engagement, and on the use we make of our land, to make it friendlier to nature, friendlier to people, and to get more acquainted with the plants and animal life which inhabit it. We'd love to have your help and your involvement.

- *Hector Davie*

Food and Global Warming

How can we make a difference in reversing the trend of global warming? The production and consumption of food, what we choose to eat, and the methods employed to grow it, rank with energy as the top causes and cures of global warming. Here are two possible solutions relating to Food as a means of reversing global warming.

The Western diet comes with a steep climate price tag. Conservative estimates suggest that raising livestock accounts for nearly 15% of global greenhouse gases emitted each year; a comprehensive assessment says more than 50%. The production of meat and dairy contributes more emissions than growing their sprouted counterparts. Among others, cows are the most prolific offenders, generating methane as they digest their food. In addition, the energy consumed to grow livestock leads to carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions. If cattle were their own nation, they would be the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. The case for a plant-rich diet is convincing. (*Drawdown*, Paul Hawken)

I. Consider a Plant-Rich Diet

If we transition to plant-based diets between now and 2050, business as usual emissions could be reduced by as much as 70% through adopting a vegan diet and 63% for a vegetarian diet. However, making dietary changes is not simple because eating meat is personal and cultural.

1. Meat Substitutes

To minimize disruption one can consider meat substitutes (Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods), which mimic the flavour and texture and even replicate the nutritious values of animal protein.

2. The Celebration of Vegetables

Initiatives such as Meatless Monday and VB6 (vegan before six pm) are helping to shift biases against reduced meat consumption. Consider not eating meat once a week. There are many good vegetarian cookbooks that one can be inspired by. Yotam Ottolenghi's *Plenty* and Mark Bittman's *How to Cook Everything Vegetarian* are some examples.

3. Make Eating Meat Less Desirable

Beyond promoting "reductionism", if not vegetarianism, it is necessary to reframe meat as a delicacy and not a staple. This means ending price-distorting government subsidies so that the wholesale prices of animal protein

more accurately reflect their true cost. Levying a tax on meat to dissuade purchases is also a possible way to make eating meat less desirable.

However they are achieved, plant-rich diets are a compelling win-win for society. Eating with a lighter footprint reduces emissions, but also tends to be healthier, leading to lower rates of chronic diseases.

II. Reduce Food Waste

A third of the food raised does not make it from farm to fork. That statistic is startling, especially when hunger is a condition of life for nearly 800 million people worldwide. The food we waste pours 4.4 gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. Something is off-kilter: People who need food are not getting it, and food that is not getting consumed is heating up the planet.

Losing food to one waste heap or another is an issue in both high- and low-income countries. In low-income countries unintentional food waste (weak infrastructure, bad roads, lack of refrigeration, etc.) is the norm. However, in regions of higher income, willful food waste predominates. Retailers and consumers alike reject food based on aesthetics (bumps and bruises).

Consumers over shop for food, toss out food that has not gone bad, or forget about leftovers in the back of the fridge. Thirty-five percent of food in high-income countries is thrown out by consumers.

1. Be mindful how you shop, consider Zero Waste shops.

2. Think before you toss, expiration dates are a guideline; *Zero Waste Kitchen* DK, *Cooking Scrappy* Joel Gamoran.

3. Buy “ugly” produce, Imperfect Produce.

Standardizing date labeling on food packages, celebrating “ugly” produce and efforts such as Feeding the 5000 – a large public feast made entirely from wasted food can address emissions and enable society more effectively to supply future food demand.

- Belle Täuber



Black Soap?

As part of our drive for environmental friendliness, Rosalind Richards has sent this recipe for a natural, biodegradable and economic cleaner, based on sodium bicarbonate and savon noir. *Savon noir* (or *Schmierseife*) is not soap which is black. It is normally based on olive or linseed oil, and comes as a paste or a liquid. It can be used for floors, kitchen surfaces or windows. It can be used as a washing-up liquid and for washing clothes. And Rosalind adds that it may also be used for pets' bedding as it is well tolerated!

- Heat 1 litre of water in a large saucepan on a low heat
- Dissolve 1 tablespoon of black soap (or grated Marseilles soap) in the water
- Add 1 tablespoon of sodium bicarbonate
- Leave to cool
- Store in a screw top bottle

Et voilà!

- Rosalind Richards



Music Group Changes

Due to special services in the next months we will be accompanying the services on the third Sundays of October and November (instead of second Sundays).

20.10.2019 Harvest Festival (All age Eucharist)

17.11.2019 (changed due to Remembrance Sunday on 10 November)

Please note the new dates in your diaries.

- Tony Read

Services and Readings

October and November 2019

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

Sun 13 October Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30 Said Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist

2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15c
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Sun 20 October Harvest Festival and Pledge Sunday

10.00 All Age Eucharist

Luke 12:13-21

Sun 27 October Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)

8.30 Said Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 45:22-25
Romans 15:1-6
Luke 4:16-24



Sun 3 November All Saints and All Souls

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Daniel 7:1-3,15-18
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

Sun 10 November Remembrance Sunday

8.30 Said Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist

Micah 4: 1-5
Ephesians 2: 11-22
John 15: 12-17

Sunday 17 November Second Sunday before Advent

10.00 Informal Eucharist

Malachi 4:1-2a
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday 24 November Christ the King

8.30 Said Communion
10.00 Sung Eucharist

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44



This year – as ever! – we will be relying on the generosity of YOU to make the Christmas Bazaar a success and all help offered is gratefully received!

PRESERVES AND PICKLES

The home-made jams, marmalades and pickles are always very popular, so if you can spare a few jars of your home-made preserves, please leave them - clearly marked - in the Church Kitchen.

CAKE BAKING & DECORATING

Please join us to help make this year's Christmas Cakes. All the ingredients are provided but please bring along any small cake tins that you have. Baking day is Wednesday 23 October from 09.00.

CAKE DECORATING

Decorating day is on Saturday 16 November from 09.00 or if you prefer to decorate at home, please collect some from the Church Kitchen after Thursday 24 October. Cakes should be iced in the traditional way with marzipan and white icing. If you need icing ingredients, please contact Jana Kutesko 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567.

TOMBOLA

The tombola is a wonderful “catch all” stall – we all receive gifts that aren't quite right for us but could be perfect for someone else, or perhaps you've over stocked on some food items or have some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate! Everything, as long as it's brand new, in perfect condition

and not past its sell by date, is welcome. Please deposit any suitable tombola prizes in the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

RAFFLE

The raffle is always very popular and if we can get some good prizes, will be even more so. If you can think of any potential donors or can donate a prize yourself, please contact the Church Office: 031 352 8567 or just bring the prize along to church before the Bazaar.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION WORKSHOP

Please come along on Thursday 28 November at 09.00 to help make the lovely Christmas Wreaths and Decorations that we sell at the bazaar. No special skills are needed to take part in this fun-filled day of crafts. Lunch will be provided – just let Church Office know you'll be there.

BAZAAR RESTAURANT

Help is needed throughout the whole of Friday and during the bazaar itself. We'll need plenty of cakes, scones, biscuits or mince pies baking too! All help, even if it's just for an hour or two, will be gratefully received.

TOY STALL

New or second hand toys in excellent condition are wanted for the Toy Stall – please bring your donations into church on Sundays and put them in the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

BRIC À BRAC

Please check your cupboards, drawers, cellars or attics for any “no longer wanted” crockery, ornaments, china & any other items suitable for this stall please note that we can not accept clothing or items of furniture - please bring your donations into church on Sundays and put them in the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

NEW STALLS?

If you have an idea for a new stall and are willing to help run it, please contact Jana Kutesko: 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567 – we'd love to hear from you!

HELP ON STALLS

If you can help on a stall during the bazaar, please either contact the stall holder directly or write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall. A list of stall holders will be available in the Upper Hall or ask the Church Office: berne@anglican.ch or 031 352 8567 for contact details.

SET UP

We need to move lots of furniture around to set up the bazaar, so if you can spare a couple of hours on Thursday 28 November from 17.30 to help set up the stalls – please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall.

CLEAR UP

Please join our clear up team on Saturday 30 November from 15.00, and help get the church and halls ready for Sunday. If you can help, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall.

FLYERS

Please use the flyer with this magazine to help advertise the bazaar. If you'd like more flyers, please either pick them up from the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office: berne@anglican.ch or 031 352 8567. Flyers are also available in German.

- Jana Kutesko, Church Office

Treasurer's Report – an Orange tinted look towards 2020

Dear all,

Autumn is here again. What I love about autumn is all the lovely colours on the trees, plus the cooler days give me an excuse to wear cosy layers in those same autumn colours. Those who have visited my house will know that my living room has a lot of orange and reds in it, whatever the time of year. In addition it is traditional time in our church for harvest festival as well as thinking about our giving to St Ursula's for the next year. As your Treasurer this is an important time of year for me, when I can get an idea of who is committing what in terms of funds for our ongoing work. I need to know this so I can create a realistic budget for 2020. As you hopefully all know, our church is striving to improve our green footprint and to become more of an eco-church. I already know that if we want to do this, we will need to spend a bit more money. We would like to do something with our grounds to attract wildlife as well as provide an area for people to sit and contemplate the beauty of our world. The benches are in a pretty poor state, and need at least a good rub down and painting, or the slats replacing. One of our trees is diseased, and we need to take it down, and of course we will need to plant a new tree to replace it. We want to do this, but actually have no choice in any case, as this is a conservation area, and the trees are protected. This magazine is printed on recycled paper this time, but for some strange reason, recycled paper costs more than the virgin product. Electricity and gas from sustainable sources also cost more. We want to install recycling containers in our building to separate

the glass, plastics, paper and general waste. Probably we should also do something with the toilets to use less water on flushing. I am sure you can also think of ways we can improve and be greener, but I think you have also got the idea that my next budget will be an eco-budget with an increase to cover the costs of greening our church. Our running costs currently are around 20% of our annual costs. Our eco budget, including the work in the garden and taking down the tree will probably add about Fr8,500 to our costs, which is around 4% of total costs currently.

As 55% of our income comes from pledged giving, Fr8,500 is an increase of around 7.7% on pledge income, either through new pledgers, or existing pledgers increasing their pledge. Ideal of course is a combination of both, as it should not be down to the few to finance this. If the community supports the greening of our Church, then this small increase in giving is a positive indication to us of that support. I encourage you all to consider either pledging a regular amount, or increasing your pledge by just 5% to help us meet our eco goals. Alternatively we can also have a special appeal or event for the work in the garden, which allows you to give a lump sum for this one off expenditure. However, although this is a good idea, I am also aware that our income from events next year will inevitably decrease, as our food store will probably be run by outside sources, and so we will forfeit at least Fr10,000 income that we have achieved annually from that stall each year thanks to Jana selflessly giving her time and using her petrol to fetch food from the UK. We are looking for ideas to fill that gap, and anyone who has ideas or would like to join our events and fundraising team is very welcome to contact me.

PS, if you currently give via the collection, switching to pledging, and no longer putting in the collection means that I will still be down on my budget as the 55% income I quote is purely the pledge income!

Wishing you all a wonderful autumn

Sue



For Your Diary October & November 2019

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	08.30 – 09.00	Morning Prayer
	18.00 – 18.30	Evening Prayer
Tuesdays	08.30 – 09.00	Morning Prayer
	18.00 – 18.30	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	08.30 – 09.00	Morning Prayer
	09.15 – 11.15	Parents and Tots
Thursdays	10.30 – 11.30	Holy Communion & Fellowship
	11.30 – 12.00	Lectio Divina, except 3 October (discussion group)
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
	18.00 – 18.30	Evening Prayer
Saturdays	09.30 – 11.30	Choir Practice

Other Events

Tuesday 1 October	19.00	Church Council
Thursday 3 October	11.30	Discussion Group on “Solitude and Community” booklet
	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 6 October	08.30	Church Breakfast
Tuesday 8 October	19.00	Discussion Group on “Solitude and Community” booklet
Sunday 13 October	11.30	Follow-on talk on Islam by Rev David Marshall
Thursday 17 October	18.30	Thun Service
Saturday 19 October	10.00 – 16.00	SACEP workshop in Zürich on Children and Youth issues
Sunday 20 October		Harvest Festival & Pledge Sunday
Wednesday 23 October	09.00 – 11.00	Christmas Cake Baking
Friday 25 October	09.00 – 13.00	Book Sorting
Sunday 27 October		Bible Sunday

Sunday 3 November	08.30	Church Breakfast
Tuesday 5 November	19.30	Church Council
Thursday 7 November	18.30	Thun Service
Friday 8 November	19.00	Pub Quiz Fundraiser
Saturday 9 November	17.00 – 23.00	Night of Religions in Bern
Sunday 10 November		Remembrance Sunday Magazine Copy Date
Saturday 16 November	09.00 – 14.00	Christmas Cake Decorating
Sunday 17 November	12.00	Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch
Thursday 21 November	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating
	18.30	Thun Service
	19.00	Cecily's Fund Benefit Concert
Saturday 23 November	13.00 – 15.00	Junior Church Christmas Crafts
Thursday 28 November	09.00 – 15.00	Christmas Decoration Workshop
	17.30 – 20.00	Bazaar Set-up
Friday 29 November	09.00 – 16.00	Bazaar Set-up
	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 30 November	10.00 – 15.00	Christmas Bazaar
	15.00 – 17.00	Bazaar Clear-Up
	15.00	Junior Church helping to tidy up after the Bazaar followed by bowling.

Future Dates

Sunday 1 December	08.30	Church Breakfast
Thursday 12 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Friday 13 December	18.30	St Ursula's Christmas Party
Sunday 15 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Thursday 19 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service

Prayer Diary

October

Tuesday 1	Social reformer Earl of Shaftesbury, 1885; for all working to improve social conditions for others
Wednesday 2	For the Pastoral Care Team
Thursday 3	Bishop George Bell, ecumenist and peacemaker, 1958; for all peacemakers
Friday 4	Francis of Assisi, 1226; that we might live humbly and simply and care for creation
Saturday 5	For all those preparing for confirmation
Sunday 6	For our Junior Church, teachers, children and parents
Monday 7	For Archana, our Reader, and her family
Tuesday 8	For the deepening of prayerful solitude and community life in our church
Wednesday 9	For the Archdeaconry of Switzerland and our Archdeacon Adèle
Thursday 10	Thomas Traherne, poet and spiritual writer; that all our gifts might be used to God's glory
Friday 11	For the leaders and governments of our own home countries
Saturday 12	For Hector and our Eco group; for good use of our church's resources
Sunday 13	For David Marshall's work and relations between Christians and Muslims
Monday 14	For the sick, distressed or lonely in our congregation
Tuesday 15	Teresa of Avila, 1582; that we might all grow in our prayer and spiritual life
Wednesday 16	For other churches in Bern and our working together
Thursday 17	For all who are persecuted and suffer for their faith in Christ
Friday 18	Luke the Evangelist; for all who work in the healing professions

- Saturday 19 For all those who are new to our church and for the newcomers supper today
- Sunday 20 For our Harvest Festival and Pledge Sunday; for thankfulness and generosity
- Monday 21 For Martin Browne, our churchwarden
- Tuesday 22 For Vinitha Jacob and for Brian and Lynn Morgan in their new situations
- Wednesday 23 For the homeless and all who work to support them
- Thursday 24 For the Eucharist and Lectio Divina meeting this morning
- Friday 25 For Peter Hawker and Vreni, giving thanks for their faithful service
- Saturday 26 For Hans-Karl and the choir practising this morning
- Sunday 27 Bible Sunday; that Scripture might shape our minds, hearts and daily life
- Monday 28 Simon and Jude, apostles; for all who preach and teach the faith
- Tuesday 29 For Jana in the Church Office
- Wednesday 30 For the UK's relationship with Europe and the rest of the world
- Thursday 31 Martin Luther, 1546; for the Lutheran and Reformed churches

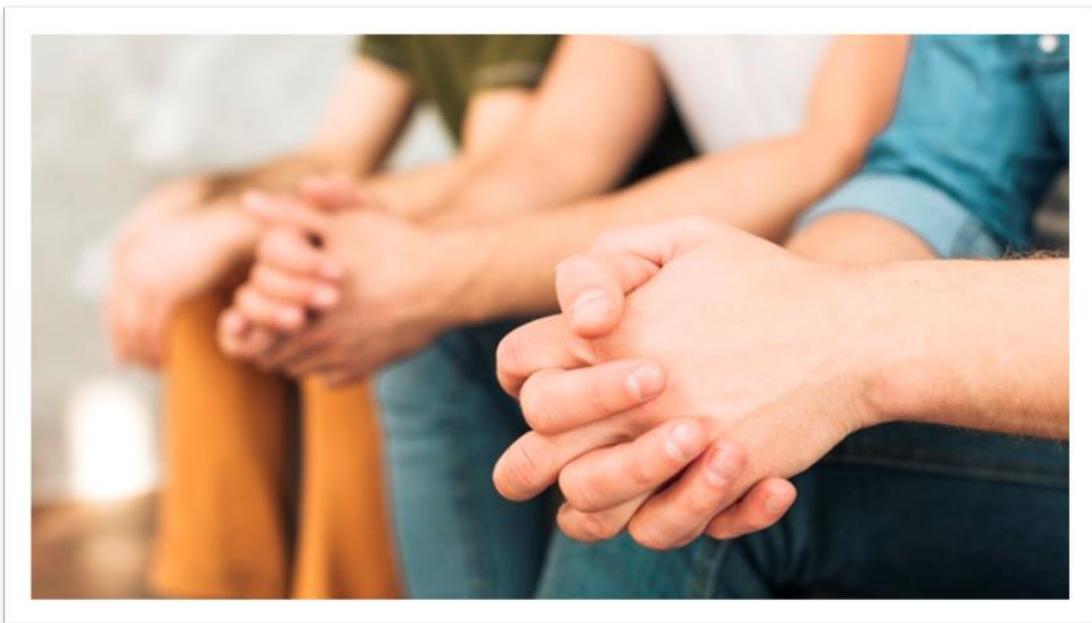


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November

Friday 1	For all readers, intercessors, servers and welcomers in our church
Saturday 2	All Souls' Day; we give thanks for family and friends who have died and commend them to God; we pray for all who grieve
Sunday 3	All Saints' Day; for all those who have inspired us in the way of Christ
Monday 4	For A Rocha International in their work in Christian conservation
Tuesday 5	For the Church Council meeting this evening
Wednesday 6	For Tony, Tricia and the music group
Thursday 7	For the fellowship at Thun; for a deepening of faith and love
Friday 8	For our Treasurer, Sue Higson, and a good use of our financial resources
Saturday 9	For the Nacht der Religionen and all who attend
Sunday 10	Remembrance Sunday; we pray for all those in our world affected by war and conflict, praying for peace
Monday 11	For the Sediqii family ('our' refugee family) and Cecily, Rolf, Chloe and Beat as they support them
Tuesday 12	For all the people of Bern, especially our neighbours
Wednesday 13	For Bishop Robert and Bishop David, for grace and wisdom
Thursday 14	For all refugees and asylum seekers and those in prison
Friday 15	For Helen and her ministry; for refreshment for her on her day off
Saturday 16	For those suffering from mental health problems and those supporting them
Sunday 17	For greater openness to God and to one another within our church fellowship
Monday 18	For a shared vision for the future of St Ursula's
Tuesday 19	For evening prayer and Maxine leading it
Wednesday 20	For all those in our world affected by natural disasters and climate change

Thursday 21	For a deeper trust in God even in difficult circumstances
Friday 22	For the Technical Committee
Saturday 23	For the people and government of Switzerland
Sunday 24	Christ the King; that those in authority might learn from Christ, the servant king
Monday 25	For the sick and housebound and those who care for them
Tuesday 26	For the International School and for international students in Bern
Wednesday 27	For any people we find difficult or need to forgive
Thursday 28	For the courage, humility and wisdom to share our faith in appropriate ways
Friday 29	For the Christmas Bazaar, for the organisers and all those who attend
Saturday 30	Andrew the apostle; that we might be faithful as followers of Christ



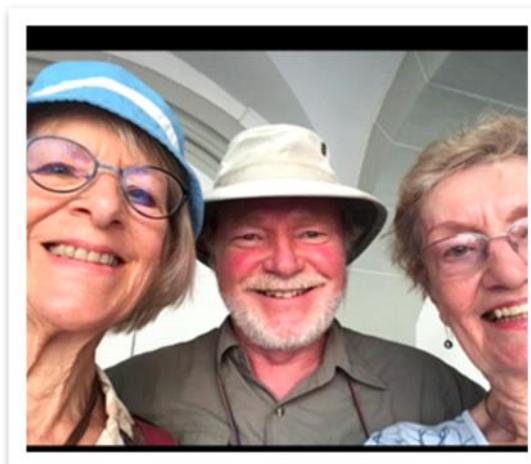
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Report on fundraising and Events of the Summer 2019

It has been a fairly busy summer events wise starting with our Pilgrims' walk on 10 August from Rüeggisberg to Schwarzenburg. The rain put a lot of people off, as it was raining hard in the morning, and also while the six of us were on the bus heading to Rüeggisberg, but would you believe me when I tell you that as soon as we got off the bus, the rains stopped? It must have been because we had Julie and Ernest with us. We had a lovely walk across to Schwarzenburg without a drop of rain the whole way.



The following weekend on 18 August we had our treasure hunt around Berne with Diccon Bewes. The weather was the total opposite in this case with blazing sunshine; maybe a bit too hot really for our contestants. We had nine teams however going off in different directions answering all those riddles and clues. They all, without exception, had a great time with the first team making it back to church in good time. But time was not everything, it was important to also get the questions right. There was some discussion about the number of bears around one particular fountain in town, but in the end we had clear winners who got every question correct, congratulations to Ernest, Donna and Sheila. Afterwards we had a delicious grill hosted by Dan in the church grounds, plus we raised around Fr300 towards our eco church activities. It was agreed that we have to do this again, next year, perhaps when it is not quite so hot. I hope more of you will be able to join in the fun.



On 7 September we had our book and food sale. Lovely weather brought in lots of people from the beginning, especially when word got out that we had fresh crumpets. The restaurant did a roaring trade in cakes and coffees, plus burgers and sausages from our grill, and a delicious vegetable gratin that was all sold out. Books also had a steady stream of happy customers all day, and the food stall was as popular as ever. Overall we raised around Fr4,700 for church funds. Thanks to all the helpers who made this possible. Lots of photos on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/st.ursula.berne>

On 13 September was our afternoon tea and quiz. This attracted 15 contestants, some from outside our church, and three teams were formed. The four rounds plus a picture round had everyone chatting and discussing the best answers. First round was all about Friday the 13th and why it is viewed as unlucky. Nobody knew the official name for the fear of Friday 13th, and the quizmaster could not pronounce it, but for the record it is Paraskevidekatriaphobia. Our second round was about the environment, and this time nobody knew the answer to the question of which search engine plants trees with the profits and runs its servers on renewable energy. For the record it is Ecosia. Check it out, as it also does not track what you are searching. Then we had a general knowledge round with a good mix of questions that just about everyone could answer, only tripping up with Peter Jackson. The final question round was about sports and games where again most people knew the answers to the questions, except perhaps the number of league football teams in Liechtenstein. All in all a fun afternoon, which also raised Fr180 for our eco initiatives.



Our next quiz will be on 8 November. It will be a curry evening with a selection of delicious authentic curries, and a quiz that might have a bit of an Asian theme going on hosted by Diccon. See page 26 for more details. Please get your tickets early by sending an email to event@stursula.ch or contacting the church office; Just Fr10 per ticket which includes the quiz and a free drink. We expect a good turnout for this event.

Currently we are working on producing a calendar for next year that you will be able to buy at our Christmas Bazaar at the end of November. The calendar will contain most of the dates for events next year, so you never need to miss one.

- Sue Higson



FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER FROM 19.00 with Diccon Bewes as Host & Quizmaster

Our popular and fun filled quiz night returns with an authentic and spicy South Asian twist

Quiz set and presented by Diccon Bewes, author of *Swiss Watching*, and also a bit of an expert on Asia as well (or so we hear).

Ticket price is Fr10 per person, which will include the first drink and entry to the pub quiz. Team size can be from 1 – 6 members. You can sign up as a team or simply join a team on the night.

We expect this to be again a popular event. Numbers are limited and all tickets must be bought in advance. To reserve your ticket please email event@stursula.ch or call 031 352 8567 or 076 690 5088.

Please take a flyer from the Upper Hall and help publicise this event – flyers are also available to download from the website www.stursula.ch.



Pumpkin Soup Lunch



*Take a break from cooking and enjoy
a meal with your family and friends*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

11.30 am to 1.30 pm

ST URSULA'S CHURCH BERNE

Meal includes: Soups, Bread, Dessert, Drinks

ALL ARE WELCOME

NO COST, DONATIONS VERY APPRECIATED

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE Cecily's Fund,
supporting and educating Zambian children
who have been orphaned by AIDS

Thank you very much indeed for your generous support!

SWISS FRIENDS OF



Yvonne Bomonti, Berne Representative, Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund

A Morning in the Garden

A few days ago, a few of us had a very pleasant walk – all around the church garden – with Birgit Baumberger, from the Verein Natur (read all about them at www.vereinnatur.ch). Brigit is a neighbour of Cecily Klingler, and is very active in promoting biodiversity and the encouragement of native species.

This may sound like environmentalist gobbledygook. It isn't. Brigit was thoroughly practical and down-to-earth – quite literally sometimes, for whenever she saw an alien plant she took out her black bag, uprooted the intruder, and put it out of harm's way.

We want a garden that looks good, that is useful, that attracts friendly animals, birds and insects, and that is within our resources to maintain.

We peered into corners of the garden we hardly realized we had. A lot of plants had found their way into our hedge – elderflower, blackthorn, wild cherry and a warren of ivy – all to be welcomed, and good for insect life. We looked at the lawn by the former gate on to Kirchenfeldstrasse with new eyes – Brigit told us the names of the plants that had found their way.

We talked about improvements we could make. Perhaps ivy to cover the stepped area outside the lower hall. Perhaps a pile of stones beyond the car park to be a refuge for small creatures. A compost heap? A herb garden, with thyme, rosemary, sage and basil against the vestry wall? One of our lime trees is decayed and needs felling – could the trunk be sawn up and turned into a place to sit? The car parking by the Jubiläumsstrasse gate is an eyesore – what can we do with it?

There are some things where we'd value your input. We'd like to open the garden up more and create a space for reflection and meditation. We thought of putting a hedge around the present patio, and possibly creating a solar-powered water feature there. Or would somewhere else be more suitable?

And what do you think about the trees? They are all in the city inventory, and we cannot easily get rid of them, but if you look at pictures of the church from 70 or 80 years ago, the garden was light and airy, whereas now it is dwarfed by our iconic but monstrous Douglas fir.

We have set up a gardening day on 9 November (check in the notices!). Brigit will come with a small team of trainees – refugees who are getting experience in the field – to make a start at transforming a space we usually pass through without thinking into a foretaste of Eden!

- *Hector Davie*



Climate change and the purposes of God: a call to the Church

The likelihood of runaway global warming, which will diminish food security, accelerate the extinction of huge numbers of species and make human life itself impossible in some parts of the world, raises questions that go to the heart of our Christian faith.

What should our relationship be with God as both the origin and the end of all things? How do we balance our energy and material consumption with the needs of the poorest communities, and of future generations and other species? How do we sustain hope in the midst of fear and denial? How can we encourage global cooperation, challenge unsustainable economic systems and change our lifestyles? These fundamental questions prompt this urgent call to the Church.

FIND JOY IN CREATION!

According to the witness of our Scriptures, everything that we have, life and the means of life, comes to us as gift. This is the ground of our worship. The beauty and harmony of God's creation is for all cultures a source of human wellbeing, spiritual nourishment and joy. Christians understand God's relation to creation in three ways. All reality comes from God the Father; the flourishing of the

How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures...
May the Lord rejoice in his works. PSALM 104:24, 31

earth and its future are foundational to the mission of God (and therefore to the Church's mission). God embraces material reality in Jesus in whom all things hold together (Colossians 1:17). God the Spirit gives life to all reality at all times and in all places. 'The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,' (Romans 5:5) overflows in our love and care for all God's creatures.

LISTEN!

In recent decades, and with increasing urgency, climate scientists have warned of the dangers of catastrophic climate change resulting from human activity. Instability in weather systems is already bringing destruction and suffering to millions of people. In the light of the best knowledge we have, climate change could result in the loss of livelihoods and sometimes of life for huge numbers of people and the extinction of countless species.

I appointed watchmen over you and said;
"Listen to the sound of the trumpet!" JEREMIAH 6:17

This matters because the wellbeing of all creation matters to God (Psalm 145:9). Prophets are those who speak truth, usually uncomfortable truth, to their generation. In ancient Israel, prophets were always shadowed by false prophets, representing the ruling powers. We must listen to the scientists warning us of approaching dangers, exercise discernment, and be wary of 'false prophets' representing the vested interests of the powerful.

REPENT!

Continuing to pollute the atmosphere when we know the dangers, goes against what we know of God's ways and God's will. We are failing to love not only the earth, but our neighbours and ourselves, who are made in God's image. God grieves over the destruction of creation and so should we.

Jesus said; "The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" MARK 1:14-15

Repentance means finding creative, constructive and immediate ways of addressing the danger. It happens when God's Spirit enables a change of mind and change of heart, prompting a turn from past wrong and a decision to change direction. For our generation, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels has become essential to Christian discipleship.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!

Humans, made in God's image, have unique responsibility for the wellbeing of creation (Genesis 1:26, 2:15). We are to care for the earth because it is gift, the product of God's love. No sparrow falls without God knowing. Humanity has always had the capacity to destroy our environment, but today

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. ISAIAH 24:4-5

we have this to an unprecedented extent. Whereas previous generations did not know the damage they were causing, we do. We must use our power wisely to promote the flourishing of future generations and the diversity of life on earth. This is the responsibility of every Church and every believer.



SEEK JUSTICE!

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. He will defend the afflicted among the people, and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. PSALM 72:2-4

God is just and requires justice in response from us. This justice applies to poor communities already suffering the devastating consequences of climate change, to future generations, and to all other creatures. The prophets put economic behaviour at the forefront of their call to justice. The primary driver of human induced climate change is the belief that prosperity depends on limitless consumption of the earth's resources. Today, the challenge is to seek a different, sustainable economy, based on

the values of human flourishing and the wellbeing of all creation, not on the assumption of unlimited economic growth, on overconsumption, exploitative interest and debt.

To seek justice for all, for present and future generations, our authorities must encourage and enable all people to live fairly and sustainably. Acting justly requires us to hold our governments and corporations to account.

LOVE OUR NEIGHBOURS!

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. MATTHEW 7:12

Christ teaches us to love all our neighbours, not just our own family and friends. This love extends to our grandchildren and future generations. People in poor communities are mostly innocent of any role in causing climate change, whilst the nations that pollute the most, refuse to accept their responsibilities. Loving our neighbour requires us to reduce our consumption of energy for the sake

of Christ, who suffers with those who suffer. To live simply and sustainably contributes significantly to human flourishing. As the nations fight over dwindling energy resources, Christians need to bear witness that the way to life, and not death, is the way of non-retaliation. In the future, Christians may also be called to receive into their communities refugees forced to leave their lands through climate change.

ACT WITH HOPE!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ROMANS 15:13

Hope in God motivates us to take action that can lead to transformation, for by God's power at work within us, God is able to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. Despite the strong probability of very serious effects from global warming, for Christians despair is not an option. It is when we follow Christ and the way of the Cross, in response to his grace, that we experience the God of hope who gives us joy and peace. We are called to faith and action in trusting response to the God made known by the Holy Spirit in the life, death

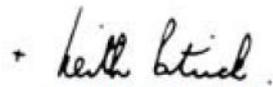
and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord of all life. As Christians we can live in hope, despite the dangers that threaten us.

Through God we hope for new life for all creation (Romans 8:19-25). Our planet, made new by the meeting of heaven and earth, will have an abiding value in the purpose of God (Revelation 21:1-5). We are called to live and work with hope in response to God's gift, and in the light of God's future: the promised coming of Christ's reign over all.

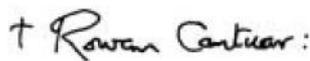
PRAY

O God, who set before us the great hope that your Kingdom shall come on earth and taught us to pray for its coming: give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning and to work for the perfect day when the whole world shall reflect your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (PERCY DEARMER)

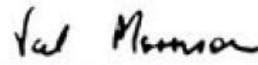
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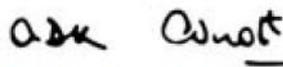
The Most Revd and Rt Hon Rowan
Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury



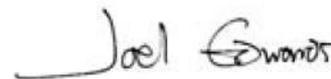
Mrs Val Morrison, Moderator
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United Reformed Church



The Revd Lionel E. Osborn, President of
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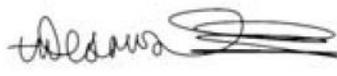
The Rt Revd David Arnott, Moderator of the
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Joel Edwards, International
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Ellen Teague, Chair, National Catholic
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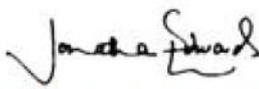
The Most Revd Desmond Tutu,
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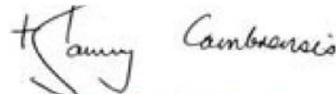
The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard
Chartres, Lord Bishop of London



The Most Revd Kallistos,
Metropolitan of Diokleia



The Revd Jonathan Edwards, General
Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain



The Most Revd Barry Morgan,
Archbishop of Wales

Please add your signature of support online at www.operationnoah.org and sign your pledge here to keep as a reminder:

I support this Call to the Church and I pledge to respond.

Signed: _____

For a range of resources and
responses based around this
call, please go to:
www.operationnoah.org



Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT
tel: 07804 059426
campaigns@operationnoah.org

Ash Wednesday Declaration © Operation Noah 2012

Cecily's Fund's Annual

BENEFIT CONCERT

Thursday, November 21st, 2019

7 p.m.



Featuring performances by professionals



***Sibylle Bähler, Marc Fitze,
Alexandre Dubach
Emma Saskia Bähler***



*Emma (*14 June 2007) began playing the piano at the age of three years and nine months. She gave her first public concert before her sixth birthday. Emma has been studying at the Geneva Conservatory of Music since 2018.*

**Nicolò Paganini, Johann Sebastian Bach,
Pablo de Sarasate, Antonín Dvořák etc.**

Heiliggeist Church, Berne (opposite to the railway station)

We look forward to seeing you and your friends!

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 September we started a new project based on a pamphlet "The story of Creation" produced by the Anglican Church of South Africa Environmental Network. We follow a different theme each week and the children get "Challenge Cards" about each week's theme. We will continue with this project until the All-Age service to celebrate Harvest Festival on 20 October.



Nativity Service

The annual Nativity Service will take place on Sunday 15 December at 10.00. As always, it will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with carols. Please come along - and invite other people to come to this special service.

The rehearsals will be during the Junior Church time on Sunday 1 December and Sunday 8 December – on 8 December, we will continue for a short time in church during coffee time.

We need lots of people, young and old (it is not “just for the children”), to be involved in many different ways. So if you are interested, please contact Tricia, Ruby or another JC teacher.

- *Tricia Carrick*

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in October and November

Jonah Aakervik 2 on 10 October

Daniela Cintron 6 on 19 October

Ayla Carnell 7 on 22 October

Louis Carnell 7 on 22 October

Marvin Carnell 7 on 22 October

Carlos Mendoza 12 on 22 October

Takura Wyder 16 on 11 November

Joana Agoba 16 on 13 November

Gabriela Cintron 11 on 19 November

Gabriela Matthews 5 on 26 November

Karl Gertsch 12 on 26 November

Samuel Wienand 5 on 28 November

Albert Gertsch 8 on 28 November



image: Freepik.com

Charity of the Month – A Rocha International

A Rocha is “a Christian organization engaging communities in nature conservation”, enabling Christians of all denominations to care for the earth. It was founded in 1983. At that time there was a growing threat to the balance of nature and



some species were becoming extinct. A group of concerned Christians set up a field study centre on the Algarve in Portugal to monitor wildlife and to teach others to do the same. The name A Rocha is Portuguese for “the rock”.

A Rocha has grown into an international Christian organization. It now works in 21 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, UK and the USA. It engages in scientific research, environmental education, theological education and community-based conservation projects.

The structure of A Rocha International is designed to allow flexibility. Its projects aim to fit into the local cultures and environments. At the same time, they maintain their global ‘Five Commitments’: Christian, Conservation, Community, Cross-cultural and Cooperation.

A Rocha helps to restore and protect forests, fields, rivers and coasts, and to care for the people who live near them and whose livelihoods often depend on them. They do this in response to the biblical command to look after all that God has created.

Areas of their work include:

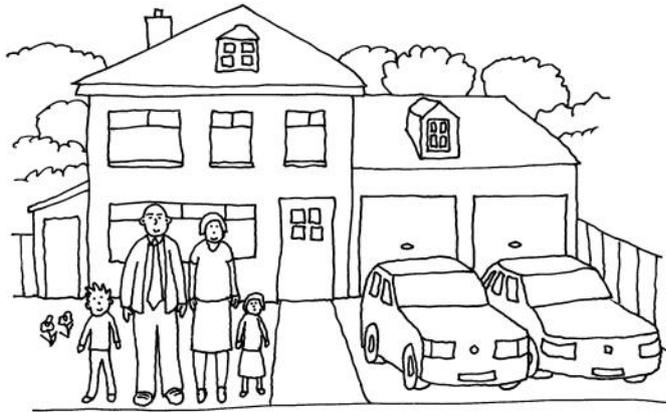
- Mapping and monitoring species and landscapes, such as raptors in Canada, wild mammals in India, birds in Kenya, grassland biodiversity in Switzerland and tropical forests
- Restoring habitats such as mangrove areas in Ghana, and breeding sites for seabirds in New Zealand
- Reducing conflict between humans and wildlife in India, notably with elephants and leopards

- Setting up parks and reserves such as the Kiroso Scott Reserve in Kenya, and Foxearth Reserve and Minet Country Park in the UK
- Enlarging and campaigning for existing natural and protected areas in Ghana, and in Portugal
- Combining conservation and sustainable livelihoods, for example via community garden projects across Canada, Eco-tourism in Kenya, resource management projects in Ghana and water management in Uganda
- Starting educational activities and providing resources, such as the Wild Lebanon website in Lebanon and "creation care camps" in the USA
- Projects to reduce carbon emissions, such as producing charcoal briquettes from waste in Uganda, our own "Eco Church" greening programme and "Climate Stewards", a global programme which encourages people to reduce their carbon footprint, and accepts donations to offset emissions via community forestry and cookstove projects in Ghana, Kenya and Mexico
- Cooperating worldwide for nature conservation, and engaging with Christian communities over the relevance of nature conservation to the Christian faith, through conferences, speaking engagements, books, papers and partnerships such as the Creation Care Network

Each of these projects should be a topic for prayer, and for our interest and involvement. A Rocha's website, www.arocha.org, is packed with information. It might also encourage you to donate yourselves – there is even a shop, shop.arocha.org! Together we can make God's world a more sustainable place.

- *Hector Davie*

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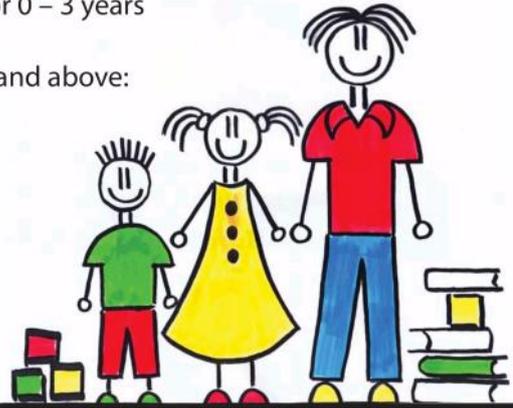


The English Speaking Playgroup/School offers a stimulating learning environment aimed at developing English language skills.

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

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- o Reading and Writing
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Early registration is recommended!

English Speaking Club of Bern

Official Invitation

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

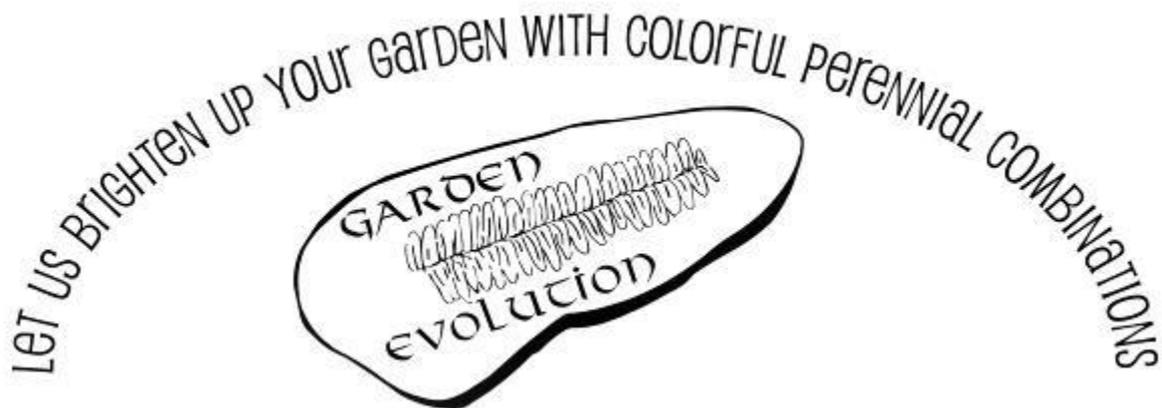
We are looking forward to meeting you

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

Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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

Nazanin Kupferschmid, President
Tel. 078 905 5743, email nkschmid@gmx.net
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The Swiss British Society, Berne organises a number of cultural events including visits to exhibitions, concerts, a Christmas dinner, Burns supper and musical evenings. We also invite guest speakers to address our members on a range of literary, musical or political topics. Usually our events have a social element - we try to combine dinner or lunch together with our lectures and outings, or at least a chat and a cup of tea! New members are always welcome. Our website (and circular) is hosted by the Federation of Anglo Swiss clubs at www.angloswissclubs.ch

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

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St Francis of Assisi was a remarkable personality, even when we discount the myths and legends that have grown up around him. The son of a rich merchant, he renounced wealth and became a friend of the poor. He was a lover of nature, he founded an order of friars who would dress like peasants and go from place to place preaching, he travelled extensively, preaching in Egypt at the court of the Sultan, and yet was happy to retreat to the calm of a mountainside in Umbria.

Francis believed that God could be seen mirrored in nature. He addressed all creatures as his brothers and his sisters. The tales of him preaching to the birds and to the wicked wolf are probably imaginary, but it was the sort of thing he might have done. And there are hymns attributed to him which he almost certainly did not write (“Make me a channel of your peace” is an example), but are the sort of thing he could have written.

He certainly had a part in the composition of a piece in the local Umbrian dialect known as the *Cantico di Frate Sole* – the Song of Brother Sun (or sometimes as the *Cantico delle Creature* – the Song of the Creatures), many of whose stanzas begin *Laudato si’, mi Signore* – be praised, my Lord. Inspired by Psalm 148, and by the song attributed to the prisoners in the fiery furnace in the Book of Daniel, the first part of the song praises God for brother sun and sister moon, brother wind and sister water, brother fire and mother earth. Legend has it that this part was written in a state of ecstasy at the end of a forty-day fast – or dictated, for Francis’ eyesight was failing.

Then it turns to praise God for those who forgive. This supposedly had its roots in a local dispute between the Bishop and magistrates in Assisi. The final stanzas may have been written during Francis’ painful last illness in 1225, and praise God for sister death.

In 1865 the poet Matthew Arnold made a word by word translation of the canticle into English, but in poetic prose – as the original had been. Some forty years later William Draper, a Yorkshire rector, made a much freer translation into verse. The ideas are in the same order as Francis’ canticle, but the language is simpler. It was intended for a Whitsun children’s celebration at his church.

We usually sing the hymn to a seventeenth-century German tune, *Lasst uns erfreuen herzlich sehr*. This was arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams for the *English Hymnal* for the hymn *Ye watchers and ye holy ones*. The *English Hymnal* was published in 1906, when our hymn was relatively little known, but it now appears in nearly every collection. *Laudato si’!*

- *Hector Davie*

II Canticum di Frate Sole



All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

*O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them His glory also show.

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

And thou most kind and gentle Death,
Waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou ledest home the child of God,
And Christ our Lord the way hath trod.

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

*St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)
translated by William H Draper (1855-1933)*