

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



December 2019 - January 2020

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

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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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COLLATING DATE: Thursday 23 January 2020

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Christmas will soon be upon us. The weeks of December often seem to pass by so quickly, filled as they are with so many busy activities: carol services and nativity plays, Christmas markets, shopping and preparations for family visits and celebrations. It is easy in the pre-Christmas busyness to completely miss the Christian season of Advent.

Advent is a season of waiting; expectant waiting, both for the celebration of the coming of Christ as the vulnerable little baby in Bethlehem, but also for the Second Coming of Christ in all his glory to renew and restore all things. Advent is a time of waiting, yearning, and longing for God. During Advent we hear readings from the prophets as they foretell the coming of the Messiah, we focus on John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the One coming after him, and we learn from the obedience of Mary as she says 'yes' to God and then has to wait expectantly to discover all that will mean for her and for the world.

Can we find the time to enter into this season of waiting; to ponder the Scriptures, to make space in our hearts and lives for the God who seeks to dwell among us? On Wednesday 4th December, I will be leading a Quiet Evening on the theme of waiting – waiting for God and waiting on God. This will provide an opportunity for prayerful stillness and reflection in the midst of all the frantic activity of these coming weeks. I will offer two short talks, but there will also be longer periods of silence for us to meditate on Scripture, to pray, and to wait on God. I know that many of you long for more space and silence in your lives, so I hope you will join me for this evening.

We celebrate at Christmas time that God is with us, present in our midst. We will know this truth more fully and joyfully, when we make time, day by day, to be present to him, and open to his grace. I encourage you this Advent to prepare for Christmas by making more space to pray, to be still, to yearn, to hope, and to wait expectantly for God's gift of love in our lives and our world.

Advent Prayer

In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair
we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
Look upon your church and its pastors
in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue
and in this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
to the edges of our fingertips.
We do not want our several worlds to end.
Come in your power
and come in your weakness
in any case
and make all things new.
Amen.

*Walter Brueggemann, Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth;
Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*



Adam and Adam – and Adam

Two descriptions at the start of our Bible tell of our own human origin. In Genesis 1:26, God says “Let us make humankind in our image” (the word translated “humankind” is *adam*), and God does so, giving the new creature responsibility for all the other moving beings on the earth. And Genesis 2:7 describes the moulding of Adam from the dust of the ground, and the provision of other life for support.

When you read these accounts, what picture comes to mind? I always think of Pamela Arnaud’s tableau on the back of our church window, of two naked figures walking hand in hand into the darkness. We do not think of Adam as a baby. How old he was when he was created is one of those questions that it makes no sense to ask. For unlike wasps or frogs, young human beings need constant care if they are to survive – swaddling clothes and a mother’s milk.



In his letters to the Corinthians. Paul describes Jesus as “the last Adam”, coming from heaven and filled with the Holy Spirit. This seems a bit unfair on the first Adam, but Paul is writing for Christians, and it is clear from his argument what he means. And John’s Gospel tells how the Word “became flesh and lived among us”. It is very easy for us to read this and get the same picture, of Jesus coming into the world as a mature adult human being – especially when John’s Gospel passes straight on to the story of Jesus’ baptism in the River Jordan.

Fortunately, two of our Gospels have accounts that tell us otherwise. Their writers did not intend us to stitch them together and tell stories about generous innkeepers, frightened shepherds, moving stars and slaughtered babies. Their aim was to show how in Jesus, God was like us – in every way. Even down to being born as a baby.

Through the centuries Christians have struggled with the details of this double side to Jesus’ nature – both human and divine. It is much too easy to point to the human or the divine. (“He wept to hear of Lazarus’ death – so human! He commanded the storm to stop – only God could do that!”) The final agreement between church leaders, that the baby born to Mary was truly God, is so central to our faith that we must believe it, but it is almost beyond our

understanding. In being born, just as in dying, God gave every part of God's self for us.

This is why we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is not primarily about stockings, fir trees with glass baubles, or reindeer, even if the presents in the stockings remind us of the gift of God's Christ, even if the evergreen trees remind us of the promise of immortality and the baubles of the fruit of the Tree of Life, even if the reindeer... (well, think up your own story!). Christmas is primarily to remind us of what Paul told the Corinthians (2 Cor. 5:19) that in this weak child, we were being reconciled to God's very self. Come, let us adore.

- *Hector Davie*

Church Administrator at St Ursula's

After 14 years in the church office, Jana is leaving her post as Church Administrator at the end of February for new opportunities. We wish her well. Nobody can fulfil all the tasks that Jana did, but we are seeking someone who can assist in administering the practical business of the church. Can you?

Main duties include:

- Providing administrative support to the Chaplain and the Church Council;
- Producing regular church service booklets and promotional material;
- Organising and administering bookings of the church premises;
- Assisting with the organisation of church events;
- Basic bookkeeping tasks, liaison with suppliers, ordering supplies etc.

16 hours per week (days and hours by arrangement; flexi-time available)

Fluent English required, with some German language ability.

For further details of role description and person specification, please email: appointment@stursula.ch.

Closing date for applications: 15 December

Interviews: early January

Start date: 1 February (or by arrangement)

A Word for the Month – Myrrh

Commiphora myrrha is a shrub. It has prickles. It grows up to four metres tall, on arid hillsides near the Arabian Sea, from Somalia to Oman. It is related to the incense tree, to the cashew and to the pistachio. Its sap can be dried into a resin that is useful in medicine – in the jargon of the pharmacists, it has astringent, antiseptic, antiparasitic, antitussive, emmenagogue, and antispasmodic properties. It used to be included in mixtures used to treat worms, wounds, and sepsis, and you can still buy ointments using it as a base in pharmacies today. Medically, it falls in the same group of antiseptic plants as garlic, pineapple and the tea tree.



Most of us know about myrrh from the carol “We three kings”, or if we go to carol services, from Matthew 2:11. The carol saves us the trouble of hunting through a Bible commentary to find the significance of the gifts the magi brought with them from the east – gold for kingship, incense for holiness, myrrh for – well, the carol tells of its “bitter perfume” breathing “a life of gathering gloom”. For the name myrrh means “bitter”, both in Hebrew and Arabic, and the resin is usually spread on the skin, although we know from our Bibles that the Romans mixed it with wine to dull feelings of pain. It was valued as a balm, and was used by the ancient Egyptians for embalming their dead – Joseph’s brothers sold him to Ishmaelite traders dealing in myrrh, incense and spices. At the same time, it was an ingredient of the incense used in the Jewish temple, and of the sacred oil with which the high priest was anointed. So myrrh not only looked forward to the new-born infant’s untimely suffering and death, but also to the life of holiness and dedication he would lead.

These are modern times, and we tend to think of gold as an element used in the electronics industry, of incense as a fumigant to keep flies away from Bedouin dinner tables, of myrrh as a source of cancer-fighting furanosesquiterpenes. This can lead us astray, for faith is not just a matter of the sort of knowledge we get from an encyclopaedia. Faith is a matter of feeling, and feeling can be brought to us by sound, smell, taste, touch or sight. Myrrh with its gentle but bitter fragrance can put us in touch with thoughts and sensations beyond our rational understanding, and open our eyes further to share in the true wonder of Christmas. Come, let us adore the new-born King!

- Hector Davie

The Church in the stable



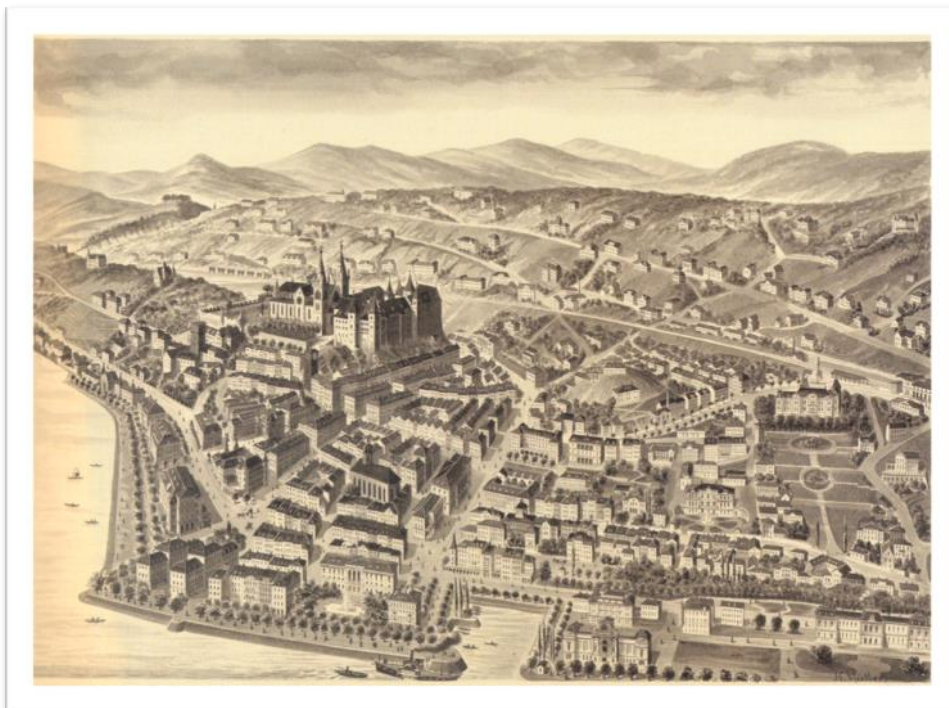
When I first read the caption on this postcard published by S. Gonard around 1900, *Neuchâtel – Eglise anglaise*, I thought there must be a mistake. The building looked unlike all other “English churches” I had seen so far. Yet I soon learned that this former stable of an old mansion had actually been for more than fifty years the home of the Anglican congregation in Neuchâtel. The key for solving the mystery was the name Du Peyrou which I found in Paul W. Schniewind’s book “Anglicans in Switzerland”.

The Du Peyrou were a Huguenot family who fled to the Netherlands after 1685, when the Edict of Nantes was revoked and Protestants lost their legal protection in France. The mansion was built by Pierre-Alexandre Du Peyrou, born in 1729 in Surinam, then part of the Dutch colonies of Guyana on the North-East coast of South America. At the time, Surinam exported sugar, cotton and indigo (the plant originally used to produce indigo dye) from plantations based on slave labour. Pierre-Alexandre’s father, who owned several plantations, was a Councillor at the Surinam Court of Law in Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam. He died prematurely, and Pierre-Alexandre came to Neuchâtel in 1737 with his mother and stepfather, who was returning from Surinam to his home town.

With the excellent education he had received in the Netherlands, the rich young man became not only a successful financier, but also a supporter of the Enlightenment with its ideas of individual liberty and religious tolerance. Having formed a close friendship with Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), he

financed and co-edited the first edition of the philosopher's complete works. Architecture was another interest of Du Peyrou's. For the estate he was intending to establish east of the old city he engaged a Bernese architect with international training, Erasmus Ritter (1726-1805). The magnificent manor house was built in the baroque style between 1765 and 1771; to the north there were vineyards as well as several outbuildings grouped around a courtyard, to the south terraced gardens. Originally the property boarded on the lake, but in the late 19th century the drainage and land improvements along the Aare River lowered the water level, so the direct access to the lake was lost. As the city grew, most of the land of the estate was taken over by new roads and buildings. What remains today is the *Hôtel Du Peyrou*, a gourmet restaurant in the former mansion. The original magnificent reception rooms on the first floor are used for weddings or conferences. With the baroque garden in front and the former stable at the back it is now under protection.

Du Peyrou had no children and the property changed hands several times after his death in 1794. The city of Neuchâtel bought the mansion in 1858 and had it restored to its former splendour. The old stable was enlarged in 1861 to house a museum of the animals living in the Swiss Alps. In 1895, when the exhibition was thought to be no longer attractive, the city council decided to lease the small building to the *Société Anglaise de Neuchâtel*. It was to be used as a chapel in order to attract more foreigners.



Neuchâtel around 1891; the Du Peyrou estate with its formal gardens can be seen on the right. („DuPeyrou, un homme et son hôtel “ by A.-L. Juillerat et al., Fleurier 2011)

The history of the Anglican Church in Neuchâtel goes farther back, however. In 1864 the Colonial and Continental Church Society granted the request of a group of residents to provide services in the summer months. At first these took place in various hotels, later in the *Salle des Pasteurs*, a hall belonging to the Neuchâtel Protestant Parish. Apart from local residents the congregation consisted mostly of students of private schools, plus some English and American tourists. As the numbers grew and resident chaplains were introduced, larger premises were needed. In January 1897 the Service of Consecration of the English Chapel at the Palais Du Peyrou took place, with 137 worshippers attending. "The Neuchâtel Anglican community was overjoyed", according to an unofficial history.

During the 57 years the chapel served as "English church", it witnessed two world wars. These were difficult times for the congregation as the foreign students left, and regular services had to be discontinued at times. Yet in 1915 the interior was renovated, the cost being shared by the Commune and the Parish of Neuchâtel. In 1919 and 1953 two special services for British sovereigns were held in the chapel: a memorial service for King Edward VII, with delegates from the cantonal government in attendance, and a service to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Among the many chaplains that served in Neuchâtel on a temporary or more permanent basis, the Reverend Gustavus Adolphus Bieneman deserves to be mentioned. He first arrived in 1902, was on leave during World War I to serve in the armed forces, returned in 1919, was then appointed as chaplain in Lausanne but still helped out in Neuchâtel until 1924. He returned to take regular services again in 1936 until he became seriously ill and died in 1940. With a total of 37 years he was the longest serving Anglican chaplain in Switzerland, Schniewind wrote in 1991. As if this were not enough, Bieneman also taught English language and literature at the University of Neuchâtel for 33 years! (In spite of all this I have not been able to find the dates of his birth and death in the internet. Who can help out?)

The end of the Du Peyrou chapel came in 1954, when the Commune of Neuchâtel needed the building for an art school. There have been many ups and downs for the congregation since then which they bravely weathered. If you would like to know more about the activities of the Neuchâtel church today, look them up at <https://neuchatel-english-church.org>.

- *Ruth Freiburghaus*

Thank you, Patricia Smith, for the "History of the English Church in Neuchâtel".

Garden work

Based on the EcoChurch project and thanks to the help of Brigit Baumberger and her association V Na as well as the full team engaged in that project, Martin Browne organized a Garden Cleaning day on 9 November.

It was a very productive day from 9.00 to 16.00, including a friendly coffee time (thanks to Mary) and a delicious lunch (thanks to Cecily for her delicious soup, cheese and yummy cookies).

The guidance of Brigit and her team with ProNatura values was very appreciated and made our day! Even



though we started with a small conflict of interest at the beginning of the day between Brigit and Werner Zitz (as Werner wanted absolutely to keep the nice flowers and Brigit not especially), we found a nice way of communicating together and working along the path nicely with the sun to set up an environmentally friendly garden.

With the nice church choir rehearsal in the background, it was hard work for everybody that day! But it was definitely a nice start. We even got a compliment from a neighbour reporting that it was such a pleasure to watch a nice team like ours working together a day long, with smiles, jokes, songs, garden stories and, of course, a last tea together outside.

If you could not join this time, feel free to come next time! Even for an hour or two, depending on your availability!

Again a huge thanks to Helen, Brigit and her team, Martin, Werner, Michael, Stephanie, Mary, Cecily, Rolf, Donna, Hans, Richard G. and Richard K. for participating and making this project feasible!

- Agnes Derory



Eco-Notes



A lot of tasks have gone on behind the scenes to help us become a greener church. The most complex of these has been taking a fresh look at our grounds. In England, “churchyard management” has been an important theme, both for the churches and for local wildlife trusts and groups for nature conservation. The aim has been to make churchyards

- attractive places for people to visit, to relax and to meditate
- havens for wildlife, from small insects to birds and mammals
- places offering a diverse and balanced habitat, with native and non-invasive plant species, which are both pleasing to the eye and useful to have in a church garden

We have been very lucky to have the advice of Pro Natura, and in particular of the Verein Natur in the person of Brigit Baumberger from Bremgarten bei Bern, who is skilled in identifying useful and alien species and who has many tips to improve our green footprint. We and she organized a work party on 9 November to make a starting attack on the process of removing plants we do not want, putting in plants we do want, and improving parts of our grounds. There is a draft plan on our new Eco Notice Board – with a space for meditation, with a plot of useful herbs, with a hedge made thicker by the use of living plants.

We are not doing all this to squeeze ourselves through the hoops needed to gain a bronze award as an eco-chaplaincy (though it certainly helps!) - we are doing it because we realize that we need to respect the world where God is in charge – and luckily we are not alone. Can we count on your support in helping to lighten our ecological footsteps on this fragile planet?

- *Hector Davie*

Treasurer's Report

Pledge Sunday was in October and I am happy to report that we had a couple of new pledgers join our list of regular givers. Currently we have 64 individuals or families supporting our Church and/or Association through regular giving outside of our collection. On average each gives around Fr165 per month, spanning from Fr12.50 to Fr1400, so as you can tell, each gives according to their means.

Some give one off donations, others give monthly, or annually, or two times per year, as they are able.

With the pledged income we are able to plan for next year, and I will be working on my complete budget 2020 in the next few weeks. As at the end of October the Church is running a large deficit, whereas the Charitable Association has a surplus that will go into our building fund. If you are thinking of giving, or increasing your giving, can I encourage you to consider giving to the Church rather than the Association, or perhaps increasing your giving in the collection which is used for the Church's work.



I will also issue a final reminder for magazine subscriptions at this point. Our magazine income is down 20% from this time last year, so if you have not yet paid your subscription, it is only Fr22 and the money can be used against the deficit on the Church accounts. Thank you. Postfinance Account: 30-4416-8.

At the time of writing we have not yet had the Christmas Bazaar, but as this is an important fundraiser for us, I am hopeful for a great success, which will have helped the Church towards a break-even position. It will certainly not be for the lack of trying as everyone is working very hard for this event. Thanks to all.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent time.

-Sue Higson

Safeguarding



Loving God,
we pray that this church may be a place of welcome,
security and compassion.
Keep us watchful yet caring,
trusting yet ready to question,
that all who worship here may do so
in safety and in the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Safeguarding is an essential part of a faithful Christian response to God's world. As such, it is a priority for our chaplaincy and is overseen by our Chaplain and safeguarding team. We do our best to ensure that we care properly for the safety of children and vulnerable adults by ensuring that those engaged in ministry in our chaplaincy have completed safeguarding checks and are adequately trained to identify and respond appropriately to potential safeguarding issues.

The Diocese in Europe promotes “Safe Churches” as part of our commitment to the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults. Online training is accessible to all, and we would encourage everyone who cares for our community to take advantage of this so that more people are able to identify and care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

But all at St Ursula's play a part in helping St Ursula's to be a ‘Safe Church’. Should you ever witness something at St Ursula's which gives you cause for concern regarding the safety or welfare of a vulnerable person, regardless of their age, then you should report it immediately to our safeguarding team or our chaplain Helen.

Just a reminder to parents that after church ends and during coffee time parents are responsible to keep an eye on their children. The hall is then a busy place with old and young being together, hot coffee and tea, etc. ... and we want to keep our little ones and our elderly safe!

All can also help by praying that St Ursula's can be a Safe Church.

- St Ursulas Safeguarding team (Cecily Klingler Safeguarding Officer and Maxine Wildhaber, Assistant Safeguarding Officer and Archdeaconry Safeguarding Trainer)

Junior Church News

Groups and Meeting Times

Junior Church meets on most Sundays during the 10.00 service. The children start the service with the congregation and then leave together after the welcome. We usually split into two classes, Sparklers (ages 3-8) and Pilots (ages 9-14). The second Sunday of the month is a more informal service and the older children (11 years and above) stay for the service and on these Sundays we just have one class.



Junior Church Charity

Tear Fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with our weekly collection - at the start of each Junior Church - going to the "Uganda Water and Sanitation" project.

Crèche

For children younger than three there is a supervised crèche. The crèche is in the lower hall. Parents can bring their children before the service. Pick up is immediately after the service or alternatively before communion where children are welcome to receive a blessing.

Junior Church Project

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 followed a different theme each week and the children received "Challenge Cards" about each week's theme. Junior Church presented the work we'd done during the All-Age Harvest Festival service on 20 October.

Nativity Play

This year's annual Nativity Service will take place on Sunday 8 December at 10.00. As always, it will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with carols - some old and some new.

This year we will again focus on the stories of the shepherds and the angels - although we expect Mary and the baby to be there too. The rehearsals will be during the Junior Church time on Sunday 24 November and Sunday 1 December – on Sunday 1 December we will continue for a short time in church after the service so that we can be sure of positions of people, props, microphones, etc.

As always, we need extra adults to help in many different ways - reading, helping us with the singing, directing children, sorting costumes, audio (microphones). Plenty to do!

If you would like to help or if your child(ren) would like to take part please contact Tricia, Françoise, another JC teacher or the church office.

- Jana Kutesko & Tricia Carrick

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in December and January

Elena Scherer 6 on 6 December

Annalise Patton 13 on 9 December

David Eze 11 on 12 December

Kai Lehmann 9 on 17 December

Amelie Coatalen-Hodgson 6 on 19 December

Aydon Kuruvilla 8 on 4 January

Adrielle Jacob 5 on 9 January

Kilian King 15 on 24 January



Services and Readings

December 2019

Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Sun 8 December Second Sunday of Advent

8.30 Said Communion

10.00 Nativity Service

Sun 15 December Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Sun 22 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30 Said Communion

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Tue 24 December Christmas Eve

16.00 Crib and Christingle Service

Isaiah 9:2,6

Luke 2: 8-16

22.00 First Eucharist of Christmas

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-4

John 1:1-14

Wed 25 December Christmas Day

09.00 Holy Communion

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

10.00 Christmas Carol Service

Isaiah 62:10-12

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:8-20

Sunday 29 December First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 63:7-9

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



Services and Readings

January 2020

Sunday 5 January Epiphany

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 12 January Baptism of Christ

8.30 Said Communion

10.00 Informal Eucharist

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday 19 January Epiphany 2

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday 26 January Epiphany 3

10.00 Ecumenical Service at the Münster

No services at St Ursula's

Sunday 2 February Presentation in the Temple (Candlemas)

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Malachi 3:1-5

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40



For Your Diary December 2019 & January 2020



Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	08.30 – 09.00	Morning Prayer - not on 30 December
	18.00 – 18.30	Evening Prayer - not on 30 December
Tuesdays	08.30 – 09.00	Morning Prayer - not on 24 and 31 December
	18.00 – 18.30	Evening Prayer - not on 24 and 31 December
Wednesdays	08.30 – 09.00	Morning Prayer - not on 25 December and 1 January
	09.15 – 11.15	Parents and Tots - not on 25 December and 1 January
Thursdays	10.30 – 11.30	Holy Communion & Fellowship - not on 26 December and 2 January
	11.30 – 12.00	Lectio Divina - not on 26 December and 2 January
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork - not on 20, 27 December and 3 January
	18.00 – 18.30	Evening Prayer - not on 20 and 27 December
Saturdays	09.30 – 11.30	Choir Practice - not on 28 December and 4 January

Other Events

Sunday 1 December	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.15	Nativity Service Rehearsals
Monday 2 December	12.30	Ecumenical service for the Opening of Parliament at the Münster
Tuesday 3 December	19.30	Church Council
Wednesday 4 December	19.00	Advent Quiet Evening
	19.30	Carol Service in Biel (Heilsarmee, Dufourstrasse 46, 2502 Biel)
Thursday 5 December	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 8 December	10.00	Nativity Service
	11.30	Advent Bible Study

Thursday 12 December	19.30	Carol Service at Heiliggeistkirche
Friday 13 December	18.00	Christmas Party
Sunday 15 December	11.30	Advent Bible Study
Thursday 19 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service (Chapelle Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22, 3600 Thun)
Sunday 22 December	11.30	Advent Bible Study
Christmas Eve	16.00	Christingle & Crib Service
	22.00	First Eucharist of Christmas
Christmas Day	09.00	Said Eucharist
	10.00	Family Carol Service
Sunday 5 January	08.30	Church Breakfast
	15.00	Church House Open Day
Tuesday 7 January	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 12 January		COPY DATE
Thursday 16 January	18.30	Thun Service
Thursday 23 January	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating
Saturday 25 January	09.00	Archdeaconry Synod
Sunday 26 January	10.00	Ecumenical Service at the Münster

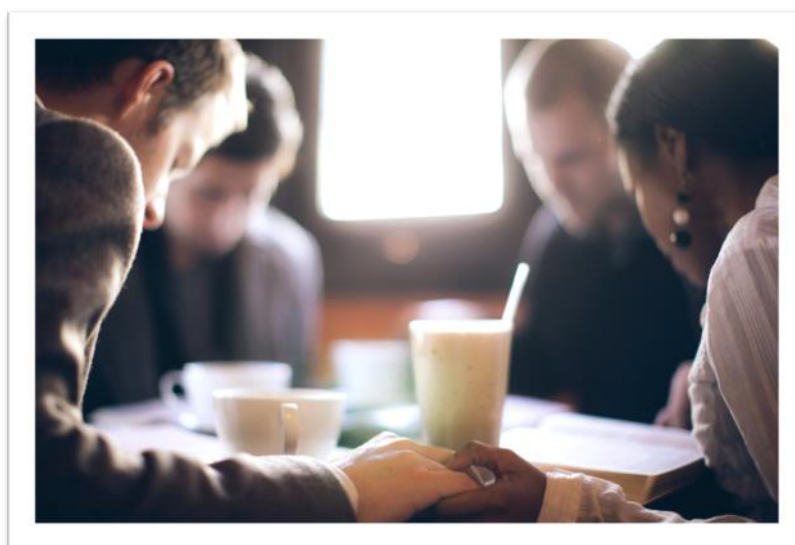
NO SERVICES AT ST URSULA'S

Future Dates

Friday 14 February	Afternoon Tea and Quiz
Tuesday 25 February	Pancake Evening
Saturday 7 March	Book and Food Sale
Friday 13 March	Afternoon Quiz
Saturday 21 March	Irish Night
Sunday 29 March	St Ursula's AGM

For Prayer and Reflection

Over the next few editions of the magazine, I will be recommending some short passages written by spiritual writers, past or present, which we can use for prayer and reflection. The following extract by Henri Nouwen encourages us to remember the importance of prayer in a busy world; this may offer a particular challenge to us in the midst of all our pre-Christmas busyness. Take time to ponder his words, and try to take them to heart and put them into practice!



Praying in a Busy World

In a society that seems to be filled with urgencies and emergencies, prayer appears to be an unnatural form of behaviour. Without fully realizing it, we have accepted the idea that ‘doing things’ is more important than prayer and have come to think of prayer as something for times when there is nothing urgent to do. While we might agree verbally, or even intellectually, with someone who stresses the importance of prayer, we have become children of an impatient world to such an extent that our behaviour often expresses the view that prayer is a waste of time.

This predicament shows how necessary it is to view prayer as a discipline. Concentrated human effort is necessary because prayer is not our most natural response to the world. Left to our own impulses, we will often want to do something else before we pray. Often what we want to do seems so unquestionably good – setting up a religious education program, helping with a soup kitchen, listening to people’s problems, visiting the sick - that it is hard to realise that even these things can be done with impatience and so become signs of our own needs rather than of God’s compassion.

Therefore, prayer is in many ways the criterion of Christian life. Prayer requires that we stand in God's presence with open hands, naked and vulnerable, proclaiming to ourselves and to others that without God we can do nothing.... Discipleship does not mean to use God when we can no longer function ourselves. On the contrary, it means to recognise that we can do nothing at all, but that God can do everything through us. As disciples, we find not some but all of our strength, hope, courage, and confidence in God. Therefore, prayer must be our first concern.

Henri Nouwen, *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*, (1982)

Henri Nouwen was a Dutch Roman Catholic priest who left his highly acclaimed academic career to share his life with people with mental disabilities, working as a pastor of the I'Arche Community in Toronto, Canada. He wrote several books on the spiritual life including 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' 'The Wounded Healer', 'The Way of the Heart,' 'In the Name of Jesus' and 'Bread for the Journey'. He died in September 1996.

- Helen Marshall



CROWDFUNDING FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

Council want to buy a defibrilator to have on our premises in case anyone using the Church suffers a heart attack. These automatic devices can save lives and are able to be used by any one of us (training will be available however.) We have decided to do a mini crowdfunding for this. If you would like to support the purchase of a defibrillator, please let the treasurer know the maximum you would like to donate. We aim only to raise what we need, so if we are oversubscribed, then all will pay a lower amount pro rata. For training in the use of the defibrillator, please contact the treasurer. Email: treasurer@stursula.ch

Report on Curry Quiz Night



The Curry Quiz night was an idea we had earlier in the year, when Abraham Koshy from the Bern Cricket club offered to do a fundraiser for us. Diccon Bewes was on board again, and offered to do the quiz. Yours truly thought this was going to be great and also pretty easy as it was being organised by somebody else. However the best laid plans of mice and men and all that, meant that in August Abraham informed me that he was to have shoulder surgery and could not therefore guarantee to do our curry night. Fortunately a friend of mine, Poorna, who is from Sri Lanka agreed to do the

cooking. She loves cooking, but had never done something like this before. We went ahead trusting in God that it would be fine on the night. We started advertising the event in the magazine, on the notice board, on Meetup, on Facebook, on Hello Switzerland, in the English Club, the International Club, on the international radio, various networking groups, the International School and the British School, Embassy and in Stauffacher's to name just a few places.



Well, the tickets sold like hot chapattis, and we quite quickly sold nearly all of them. Poorna was told to cater for 80 people. Fortunately the surgery on Abraham's arm had gone well and he came on board to be our catering advisor, bringing his vast experience of mass catering to bear in advising on quantities of rice, spices and ingredients. On the Wednesday before the event, the shopping was done, on Thursday a small team gathered to prepare all vegetables, and some more people asked for tickets. Diccon took to his bed with a sore throat, cancelling all other



engagements so he could be fit for the night. On Friday, the day of the event, Poorna with Agnes and yours truly prepared the curries, conjuring up gorgeous smells, and gaining some valuable tips on the way, like

what spices can be combined, and what not, plus never put your onions in the fridge.

Our table plan for the day was, even if I say so myself, pretty cool. Jana and I managed to get 16 tables in with space to spare for the bar and the food. Unfortunately I had missed a whole team of 6 who were not on the list, so then we were seriously overbooked. We squeezed in another table, and had to squash the English club of Murten up near the bar (sorry). Nobody complained, and all were in good form. Jana and Caroline were processing people at the door and soon the room was packed with around 100 people. We had helpers from the International School of Berne, without whom we could not have managed. The tech team in the guise of Hans and Rolf had set up the mike.



Diccon arrived, and even brought along his parents who were visiting. We also had two enormous rice cookers. Poorna plugged in the rice cookers so we



could cook the rice during the first quiz round and immediately the mike stopped working. The beer pump also did not run, but Dan and Chris kept up their good spirits and found another plug to run it from.

Luckily the tech team was still there and found that the rice cookers had blown a circuit. Reset with the cookers

plugged into the kitchen and we were back on track.

I think it is fair to say we did not have enough help in the kitchen, but Poorna and the students did a fab job. Seventy-seven meals were served, with constant top ups and rice only running out once, as well as delicious chocolate and coconut brownies for dessert. There was some controversy about Boris Becker and Daniel Craig, but the answer made no difference to who won and who came last picking up the wooden spoons, whereas the Wooden Spoons actually won first prize. Confused? Yes, me too.

All in all a great night, with good quiz questions, a great atmosphere and tasty food. Plus we raised around Fr2300 towards our eco church initiatives. Thanks to all who helped and all who came.

- Sue Higson





There are still lots of ways to contribute to the bazaar:

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.

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 put your donations into 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 cannot accept clothing or items of furniture - please put your donations into the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

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.

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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

AT THE BAZAAR!

- Jana Kutesko, Church Office

Thanks to the Christmas Bazaar raffle sponsors

This year, we thought it could be a good idea to encourage more prizes from local partners and others from Berne. I was surprised by the nice welcome received and by the number of positive answers showing support for the St Ursula's Christmas bazaar. Basically this year, we are able to give raffle prize items such as a flower bouquet, cosmetics products, shoe repair vouchers, bakery vouchers, English Garden shop vouchers, museum entrance vouchers, family activities vouchers, a hairdresser voucher, a restaurant voucher and, as in the past year, the remaining long term partners offering Jazz concert tickets and English books and games.

Thank you to the following partners sponsoring prizes in our Christmas Bazaar Raffle:

Note these are at time of press, the full list is on display in our hall.

Local Kirchenfelds shops:

Marsano Flower Shop
Trouvaille Kid & Living
Kirchenfeld Apotheke
Schuhmacherei Bozan
Cafe Vatter
Danieli Dolceforno Bakery

Region Berne partners:

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Stauffacher Bern
Migros
Aldi

Lidl

Coiffeur Modelhair Berne
Tibits Berne
Spa Oktogon Berne
Tourism Office
Museum of Communications
Ballenberg Museum
Kambly Biscuits
Garten Rosen Etter
Expodrom Murten
Zürich Insurance Company
Bucherhof Blumen &
Weihnachtsbäume

We hope you enjoy the Christmas Bazaar and perhaps win one of these prizes! It has been fun to collect these prizes for you.

IF YOU LIKE THIS...Perhaps you have a preferred shop in the Bern area which would be happy to benefit from free advertisement at St Ursula on our partners poster during our next Summer Fête or during our next Christmas Bazaar. If so, feel free to let us know and we will contact them on your behalf to explore the next raffle prize opportunities with them.

- Agnes Derory

Family Day Out at the St Beatus Caves

Lots of people joined us on this beautiful sunny day at the St Beatus Caves next to lake Thun. After a scenic hike to the entrance of the caves, with a beautiful view down onto the lake, we were delighted to discover a number of beautiful caves formed by the water and the natural erosion.



The caves go deep into the cliff and so there is a lot of walking. It is definitely worth a visit. The children took this occasion to run around and to be the first in and the first out!



Afterwards, we had a nice coffee and picnic time together before starting a beautiful lake path walk under the guidance of Sharon and Toni. It was a fabulous time together with sun, songs, good mood and motivation to arrive at the next social

stop at the Manor Farm campsite where Sharon and Toni have a caravan.

They had laid on very welcome snacks and drinks. Some brave souls even took a swim in the lake. Some took the bus back, some the train, and some the boat. It was a great day with good company and we all learned something new about each other.

Thanks to Sue, Sharon and Toni for the organisation of the trip and refreshments.

- Agnes Derory





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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2019

Anglican Communion Fund - Empowering Women

The Role and Work of the Anglican Communion Fund

My appeal for Advent 2019 is for the Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) – the only Fund I am aware of that specifically supports the mission and work of communities across the Anglican Communion, often in the poorest and most dangerous parts of the world.

In August 2019, Helen and I had the privilege of sharing in a pilgrimage in the Holy Land for bishops and their spouses from across the global Anglican Communion. That experience gave me a renewed vision for the huge potential of the Anglican Communion in a world where so many of our biggest problems, such as climate change, migration and human trafficking involve inter-relationships between people in different countries and continents.

Whilst not a big fund, the ACF tries to deliver maximum impact by working at three levels in the Anglican world:

- Resourcing local projects in line with the 5 marks of mission initiated by churches, and responding to crises;
- Strategic partnerships: working at the level of an Anglican Primate/ Archbishop to develop a strategic plan for an Anglican Province;
- Enabling the Anglican Church to be represented in the United Nations, the European Institutions and through the Anglican Centre in Rome.

My appeal focuses on the ACF's work with empowerment of women, because we know that women often both bear the heaviest costs of poverty or conflict and are also those whose empowerment can do the most to bring development that reaches grass roots and bring hope for the future. The appeal covers the first two levels of ACF's interests.

1. Tanzania Strategic Partnership

The Anglican Church of Tanzania has a vision for spiritual and socio-economic transformation across the country and, with the help of ACF funds, they are rolling out a Church and Community Mobilisation Programme (CCMP) in over 20 dioceses. CCMP uses Mothers Union Bible Study groups to help people bring positive change to their families and communities.

Village and Community Banks enable group members to contribute towards and receive micro-loans to help them create businesses.

Safiya Nyirongo CEO of the ACF writes:

‘Through CCMP women from Central Tanganyika [have not only become self-supporting but] are also helping others to meet their basic needs, providing food and contributing to school fees. Essentially, through participation in this programme, they have become their own group of charitable donors.’ (photos below)



2. Women on the Frontline

‘Women on the Frontline’ is a programme designed for senior Christian women, usually wives of bishops, in areas affected by violence, conflict and poverty, bringing them together on retreat and giving practical training in reconciliation. The programme is led by Mrs. Caroline Welby, wife to Archbishop Justin Welby, and by Mrs. Sarah Snyder, the Archbishop’s Advisor on Reconciliation.

In many parts of the Communion, bishops’ wives are thrust into an important role as the ‘Mother’ of the diocese and are expected to provide leadership to women in the church. Unlike their husbands, who will have had some training for their roles, these women are very often unskilled and undereducated for the role they find themselves in. They need encouragement and equipping to carry out their role with confidence.

Safiya Nyirongo:

‘Women sometimes come into the training worn down and burdened by the expectations placed on them, as well as their experiences of conflict. They may have been forced to leave their community or may be living alongside deeply traumatised women without knowing how to support them. They may be discouraged. However, they often come out of the programme full of hope and a sense of possibility, and sensing solidarity with other women. They feel they are loved and called into their role and that they can make a positive impact.’

Every ‘Women on the Frontline’ programme reaches about 20 women directly. Each of these women take their learning and experience back to their communities. If each reaches a further 10, then 200 women are impacted.

Four programmes have now been run – in South Sudan, Burundi, the Solomon Islands (pictures below), and DRC. Further programmes are planned in the Middle East and Pakistan.



The Lambeth Conference in July 2020 will bring together 500 or so bishops plus spouses from across the Anglican Communion. This is our diocese’s opportunity to strengthen mission work across the Communion and to make the Communion real for people (especially women) in other continents. We can make a difference both to senior Anglican women in conflict-stricken areas and to community groups in Tanzania. Advent is the season of hope, and we can share some of this delightful virtue with others.

Please do support my appeal.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

News from St Ursula's Charity and Missions Team

A Rocha International

St Ursula's made a decision this year to begin supporting A Rocha International, Conservation and Hope. You will have read about this in the last magazine issue.

We were very saddened to hear of the recent death in a tragic traffic accident in South Africa of Miranda Harris, Co-Founder of A Rocha and Chris Naylor CEO of A Rocha and his wife Susanna. Peter Harris, Co-Founder of A Rocha and husband of Miranda suffered serious injuries but is now on the way to recovery. Please keep these families and A Rocha in your prayers as they mourn the death of these much loved people.



Assistance to the homeless/needy in Bern

The *Kirchliche Passantenhilfe* is centrally situated in Bern and is a point of contact and assistance for people in difficult life situations or in an emergency. In particular, it is open to those for whom nobody else takes responsibility.

The *Kirchliche Passantenhilfe* provides the bare essentials, offering food products, various coupons for food, toiletries, clothing, help with overnight shelter and transport and where it makes sense, small amounts of cash.

A New Local Charity Project for St Ursula's

From 3 November, St Ursula's Charity team is setting up church collection points at the back of the church and in the hall for food and toiletries for the *Passantenhilfe*. Anyone can help – just bring along items when you come to church – every little bit helps. Maybe there is something on a special offer at your supermarket and you can put aside a packet or tin of something to bring along.

What we are collecting at present (please just keep to these items!):

Non perishable Food (must be within date)

- In general, tinned food
- Rice
- Bouillon cubes
- Tea
- Pasta
- Packets of soup
- Instant coffee
- Biscuits

Toiletries

- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo

Clothing (can be second hand but must be in good and clean condition)

- Winter hats
- Winter gloves
- Scarves

The Charity and Missions team were delighted at the encouraging response of our congregation on the first Sunday, November 3 when we started up the collection.

The response was so good that we could bring our first collection directly to the *Passantenhilfe Bern* this week. Esther Käufeler from the *Passantenhilfe* (see photo) was very grateful for our support and said that we provided just what they needed! Please keep up the good work and do keep on bringing along food or items as listed above!



- Cecily Klingler on behalf of St Ursula's Charity and Missions team

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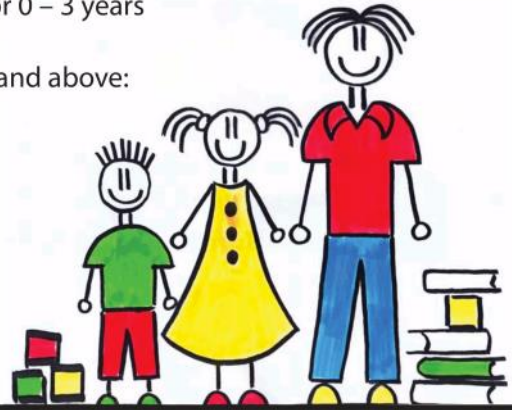


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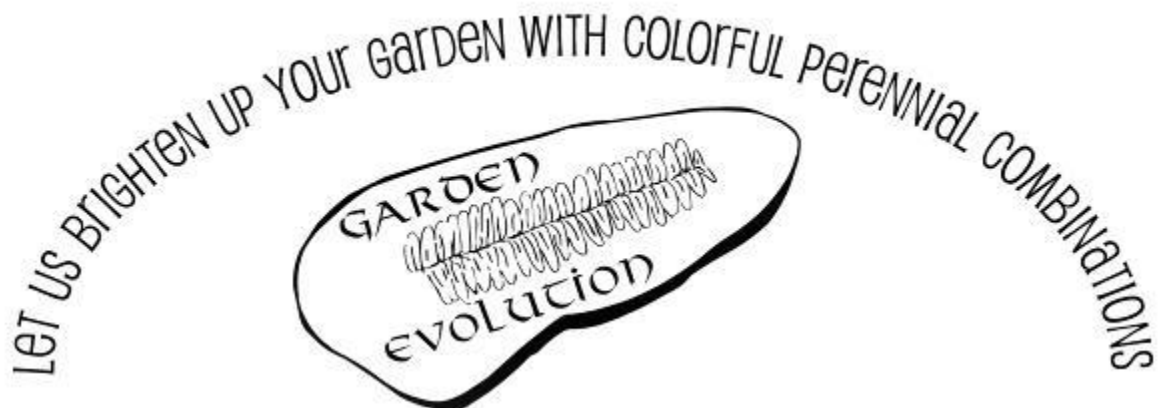
We are looking forward to meeting you

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

Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count 140 members (including families) from some 30 nations. Our common language is English, but among our members many other languages can be heard. We hold a monthly meeting with guest speakers and presentations on a wide range of topics, and publish a monthly Newsletter. In 2016 the club 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
International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, www: icberne.ch
Annual membership: CHF 50 for singles, CHF 60 for families.



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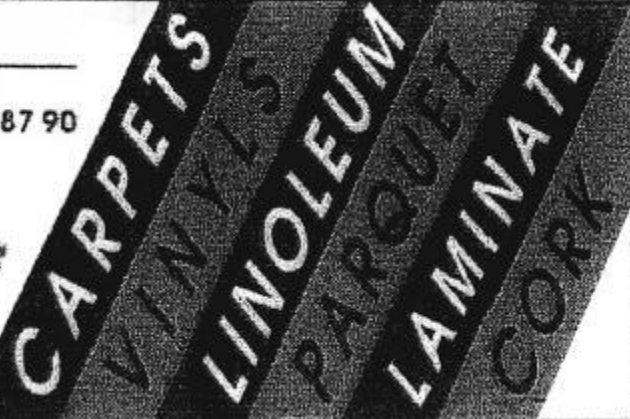
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The Swiss British Society, Berne organises a number of cultural events including visits to exhibitions, concerts, a Christmas dinner, Burns supper and musical evenings. We also invite guest speakers to address our members on a range of literary, musical 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

Are you a theatre fan with a good command of English?
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VESTRY

Käthy Hoag 032 377 32 02

WEBMASTER

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

At Christmas time we sing carols, and carols are joyful songs of thanksgiving and adoration, with catchy, vigorous tunes and a general air of happiness. The composition on our back cover is not quite in this class. Some find it rather dull and pedantic, and find its six verses rather too long for the season.

It was written by the son of an Irish cleric. The father went by the good Puritan name of Faithful Teate, and lectured at Trinity College, Dublin, but the family was forced to flee to England during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. Faithful became vicar of Greenwich, and sent his son Nahum back to Ireland, to Trinity College. Nahum dropped the second letter from his surname and developed a taste for poetry and drama. He became known as a playwright, but also wrote hymns – which at that time meant metrical settings of the psalms.

At the end of the 17th century, Nahum Tate was appointed Poet Laureate (to William III and Mary II). He also collaborated with another poet, Nicholas Brady, in publishing *A New Version of the Psalms of David* in 1696. Many of these psalms became favourite hymns. A metrical version of the story of the shepherds and the angels in Luke 2:8-14, was added in a supplement issued in 1703, making this the first carol to be generally approved for singing during church services in the Church of England.

The language is rather stiff and wooden. Tate has added a few decorative details to give a more vivid picture - “seated on the ground”, “meanly wrapped in swaddling bands”, but keeps closely to Luke’s original wording. This faithfulness to the Bible narrative is one of the reasons the carol remains popular today – it is a good way of familiarizing people with the story.

In England, we sing it to the tune known as Winchester Old. This was composed around 1550 by Christopher Tye as part of a monumental project to present the Acts of the Apostles as an oratorio before Henry VIII’s son, Edward VI. The project was not a great success, but the tune survived. In America, a tune based on an aria by Handel is more popular. People have sung it to a wide variety of other tunes as well, but whatever the tune, the message is the same:

*Good will henceforth from heaven to earth
Begin and never cease!*

- *Hector Davie*

Song of the Angels at the Nativity of our Blessed Saviour

Whilst shepherds watched their flocks by
night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.

Fear not, said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind.
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a heavenly throng
Of Angels praising God and thus,
Addressed their joyful song.

To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.

All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to earth
Begin and never cease!



Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

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