

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



August - September 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

archana@stursula.ch

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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August - September 2020

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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

During the current pandemic, some of the events scheduled here may be postponed or cancelled. Please check with the Church Office (031 352 85 67) or on the Church website (www.stursula.ch) for recent information.

COPY DATE

for the October - November 2020 magazine is

13 September 2020

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: Thursday 24 September 2020

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are gradually moving out of lockdown and hoping that we will not experience a second wave of the virus. It is wonderful to be able to worship together in church once more and especially to share communion again after several months.

We look forward, but we also look back, as we reflect on what we may have learned through this experience of lockdown. We are currently compiling a magazine of reflections which consists of poems, photos, pictures, prayers and other meditations. We hope this will be available in the next month or so.

Many of us during the lockdown have been thankful to be able to enjoy sitting in our gardens or going for a walk along the river or in a nearby wood. The threat of the virus and the restrictions of the lockdown did not prevent the life, colour and beauty of spring blossoming around us and we may have been drawn into a deeper appreciation of the wonders of the world God has created. I am very thankful for the Eco group and the gardening team for all their hard work on the church grounds and the Church House garden during this time. I hope that when you come to the church you will take time to enjoy the grounds and give thanks to God for the beauty of creation.

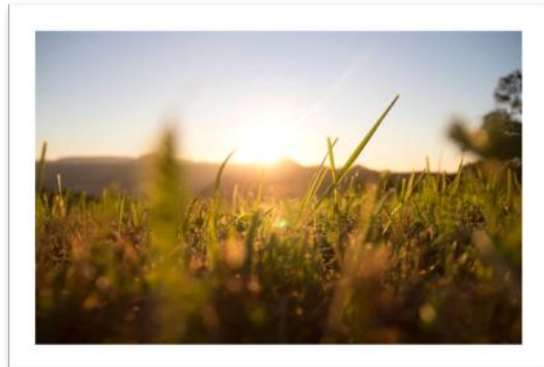
September 1st is Creation Day when churches all over the world give thanks to God for all he has made, and reflect on the call to be good stewards and to care for our planet. There will be a special ecumenical celebration that day, at 6pm at Holy Trinity Church (Dreifältigkeitskirche).

The period from 1st September to 4th October is set aside as Creation Season. As last year, we will observe this season in church through our hymns, intercessions and sermons. The crisis over climate change, environmental degradation, and injustice in the distribution of the world's resources, has not gone away while we have been preoccupied with the effects of the Covid-19 virus. At the same time, during the lockdown, people all over the world have appreciated cleaner air and skies due to the drastic reduction in air travel. Governments and individuals now have the opportunity to learn something positive from this lockdown period. Will we change our policies and adapt our lifestyles to care better for our planet and protect the vulnerable?

On Sunday 20th September, we have invited Sarah French, an executive of the Christian conservation charity, Arocha, to give a talk after church about Arocha's work. I hope you will be able to come and listen to Sarah.

Let us pray for thankful hearts that we might truly appreciate the wonders of God's creation, and for wise, compassionate and generous hearts that we might care for our planet and share its good gifts with others.

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
for the wide sky and the blessed sun,
for the salt sea and the running water,
for the everlasting hills
and the never-resting winds,
for trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses
by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendour of the summer fields,
and taste the autumn fruits,
and rejoice in the feel of the snow,
and smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty,
and save our souls from being so blind
that we pass unseeing
when even the common thorn bush
is aflame with your glory,
O God our Creator,
who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen
(Walter Rauschenbusch)



Loving God, you have made us in your image.
Forgive us when we fail to see your image in each other;
when we give in to greed and indifference
and when we do not question the systems that are life-denying.
As we are made in your image,
let us live in your image
and be Christ-like
in service, endurance and love.
Amen
(prayer from Christian Aid)

With my love in Christ,

Helen

A House for Garbage Collectors



The world has been shocked by the death of George Floyd, in a dispute over payment for a packet of cigarettes at a grocery store in Minneapolis. The manner of his death has brought out issues about prejudice at the heart of society – in this specific case, about attitudes held by American police officers to people perceived to be of African slave descent, but this instance is one of many.

We as 21st century Christians ought to find any kind of prejudice abhorrent. Pre-judging and excluding anyone on any basis is the complete opposite of what the Good News is about. “There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him” (Romans 10:12). “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28). “In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Black lives matter. The Gospels make it clear that every life matters. The lives of the poor and the insignificant matter. “He has put down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly” (Luke 1:52). We have heard so often that Jesus was a friend of tax collectors and sinners, lepers and Samaritans that we have almost stopped believing it – like Peter in the Acts of the Apostles, unsure whether he should visit the house of Cornelius, a Roman, and needing a dream to convince him.

Peter’s words to Cornelius are interesting. “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I

came without objection.” (Acts 10:28-29) And later: “God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Fine words, but are they a bit condescending? And what is Jesus saying about race relations when he tells the Canaanite woman, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs” (Matthew 15:26)? Paul may well tell the Romans that there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, but then in the same letter he writes of “salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16). “It’s our church, but you can join it”? Yes, let us build a house where love can dwell. But it’s our house. Stay away. We like you, but you don’t speak our language.

That is why race is still an issue. And gender. And disability. And social class. And age, and education, and background, and anything that makes it difficult for people to meet on an equal basis. Too often the condition for accepting other people is that they become like us, that they speak our language, that they share our values, that they like the things we like, that they do the things we do, that they react in the way we expect them to react, that they are grateful for the crumbs that fall from our table.

The only way to conquer prejudice is to face up to it – to recognize its presence and to take action to remove it. This is the hardest task we all face – we all have our stereotypes of what other people are like. Some of these are caricatures, some have a grain of truth. Other people have their stereotypes of us, and some of these have a grain of truth. Often we are unwilling to admit that the grain of truth has some foundation, and just as often we are unwilling to admit that our own preconceptions are wrong. Sometimes we need someone in a third category to help us see our prejudices – a mediator. But what if there is no third category?

Martin Luther King’s much-quoted remark “I think it is one of the tragedies of our nation, one of the shameful tragedies, that eleven o’clock on Sunday morning is one of the most segregated hours, if not the most segregated hour, in Christian America” points a finger at us, as does any doctrine preaching “separate but equal”. We live together, and we should rejoice in the company of all. Why hesitate?

- *Hector Davie*

A Word for the Month – Wormwood

There are no potatoes in the Bible. As any schoolchild learns, they were unknown on this side of the Atlantic until the Spanish brought them back from South America in the sixteenth century. And anyway, the Bible isn't about potatoes – it's about God.

Apart from a few common food crops, such as corn, grapes or dates, vegetables get little mention in scripture, and then only as symbols for something else – mustard for its capacity to grow abundantly, figs for their ability to grow wild, small and tastelessly, grass for its tendency to wither if not watered. And in five places, the wormwood shrub, *Artemisia absinthium*, a dull and rather uninteresting weed, for its bitterness – not just a bitter taste,



but one so bitter that anyone tasting it feels under a curse – the bitterness which the Jews felt in the empty waste of exile – “God has shot into my vitals the arrows of his quiver; I have become the laughingstock of all my people, the object of their taunt-songs all day long. He has filled me with bitterness, he has sated me with wormwood.” (Lamentations 3:15)

Wormwood is not a common English word. Its name comes from the German *Wermut* – itself of unknown origins – did it yield a psychedelic drug that gave people courage? In Middle Age England it was thought to be an effective drug against worms. (It was also said to be good against clothes moths!) If there was a shortage of hops, it might be used in brewing beer. At the end of the 18th century, it became popular in Italy for flavouring medicinal wine, from which we have the drink vermouth.

However, as its scientific name suggests, it became most widely used in distilling absinthe – the strong, green, bitter alcoholic spirit known as “the green fairy”, the drug which brought misery to so many people at the end of the 19th century, and which was banned in many countries until recently.

It's the sort of word which makes the Bible seem remote from modern life. Only the occasional botanist has any idea what the plant looks like. Very few people come into contact with absinthe, and even fewer would recognize the plant as an active ingredient in James Bond's vodka martinis, "shaken not stirred." We make our scriptures inaccessible by using difficult concepts like sin, grace and redemption, but we also illustrate these concepts with obscure parables – farmers losing sheep, people wounded by robbers and rescued by foreigners, slaves organizing investments.

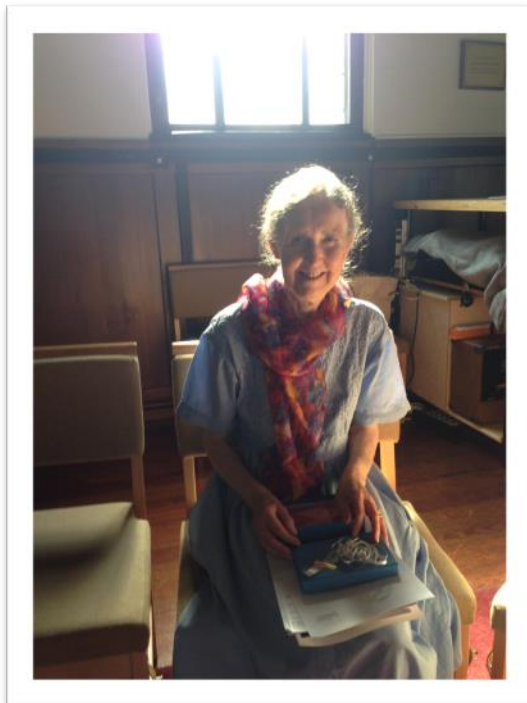
Yet who does not know what pain is, what grief is? And who cannot imagine pain that is so intense that it is agony? In taking wormwood as their image, the Bible writers were trying to express something that was so bitter that it was beyond bitterness – the feeling that God had deserted them.

This was part of the vision in Revelation. At the end of time a mixture of victory and chaos would come, and people would be exposed to all sorts of nastiness. Chapters 8 and 9 describe some of these. In one, a star named Wormwood crashes to earth, and every stream becomes bitter. But the point of the vision is that in spite of these sufferings, the people who are God's are safe. Let us take courage, then, that no amount of bitterness and grief is too great to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We will overcome!

- *Hector Davie*

Requiescant in pace

The church mourns the deaths of



Shareene Potter



Kathy Hoag



Jean Charlton White



Treasurer's report

We are now over halfway through this very strange year. Financially the giving from our community is in line with our budget.

INCOME	current	Prior year	Budget 20
Income from Community	83,285	68,705	83,875
<i>Pledged giving</i>	67,965	50,105	66,500
<i>Donations</i>	9,225	9,384	10,500
<i>Collections</i>	6,095	9,216	6,875

Thank you all so much. We also had a good response to our fall in collection income with people giving extra to cover the shortfall.

Income from our events is currently around Fr3,500 below our prior year levels due to not being able to hold the summer fête. However we did do our online selling of food orders, which Agnes reports on in this magazine. Thank you to all who supported that. We also hope that our September book sale will take place.

Our income from hall rental is less than half of the prior year level, with a loss of Fr5,700 on income that of course we will not be able to make up now. We are slowly able to rent out our premises again, but it comes with extra cleaning costs, that not all groups are able to pay. In 2019 we raised Fr24,500 from our halls. I expect for the rest of the year we might be able to recover a further Fr7,000, which in total will give us around Fr12,000, but with the increased costs, the real impact will be maybe Fr9,000. At present we also have the chairs from the church stacked in the lower hall, which means we cannot use the lower hall for any activities, including junior church.

If anyone has any suggestions where the chairs can be stored while we cannot use them, please get in contact.



Overall we are currently running a deficit of Fr23,101 which is Fr10,000 more than at the same time in 2019. This figure includes the provision of Fr10,500 in the Association for charity being 50% of the annual charity budget. The Association has nevertheless a surplus of Fr17,000 whereas the church has a deficit of nearly Fr40,000. At the end of June 2019 our church had a deficit of only Fr13,000 and the Association was at breakeven when charity allocations are considered.

If you are thinking of making any extra payments at this time, please consider the church for this.

On the expenditure side, we are in line with budget. Outside of our normal expenditure we have now purchased the defibrillator and it is installed. This cost around Fr3,953 against which we received Fr2,277 in donations including the proceeds of the online quiz. The eco garden is still being worked on. Some of the items in the garden are donated, or were bought second hand inexpensively. Therefore currently we are still below budget in the garden and have not yet spent all that has been donated or budgeted for this.

The accounts are available on the website as well as in the main hall.

Yours in Christ,

- Sue Higson

Electoral Roll

Because of the special circumstances, our AGM has been postponed to **Sunday 13 September**. Consequently, it is still now possible for you to join the Electoral Roll before the AGM. You can find more information about the AGM elsewhere in the magazine.

At the AGM we elect representatives to the church council and also the churchwardens. And this year we will also be electing representatives to the Archdeaconry Synod.

In order to vote at these elections, you **must** be on the Electoral Roll. You must also be on the Electoral Roll if you would like to stand for election yourself or nominate someone else. You can see the current list of members of the Electoral Roll in the church hall.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, may I encourage you to consider joining. You can find an application form in the church hall and on our website, or you can contact the church office to get one sent to you. Please fill in this form and return it to me. The **closing date** for the receipt of applications is **Sunday 16 August**.

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

- Electoral Roll Officer (Tricia Carrick)

Food Sales

Even though the summer fête could not take place at the end of June as planned, we decided to provide a home delivery and pickup service at St Ursula's instead.

What a pleasure it was for our team to prepare your favourite dishes and to prepare almost 30 orders of your favourite English products! This generated a turnover of about Fr2,000 with a profit of around half of that.

Everything was organized so that people could maintain all the necessary social distancing required in these Covid times. From 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m many people came to St. Ursula's, happy to see familiar faces again and to tell us how they were doing.

A big thanks to Jana for cooking the different pies (veg, chicken and beef pies), to Sharon for the chilli and shepherd's pies, and to Jane, Sue, Sharon, Caroline and Tricia for producing a range of delicious cakes and scones. Thanks also to Andrée for the fuchsia plants that we also put in the Church garden.

On 12 and 19 July, Tricia initiated a second cake sale at church, thanks again to the talented bakers (Tricia, Jane, Caroline and Sue) and to all who ordered.

Our food stall stayed open throughout July for Sunday browsing. Many products were very successful such as mint sauce, tea, Marmite, custard powder to name a few and we sold out of several items. Our order of products arrived from England within a reasonable time and the choice of the different products was good because you ordered most of them! We will be making a new order before the next sale in September, and hope to be able to surprise you with some new items.

We would like to give a special mention to Jean Charlton White who came to pick up her order at church a few days before she passed away. She was particularly happy to get her order and to see all of us! We even took time together with Judy for a socially distanced chat on the patio.



The income from this initiative is very important to us in this strange year, and the service it provides to our church members as well as to people outside our church helps bring us together at this time. Thank you very much for all your encouragement and your support, it was good team work and we were happy to do it.

- Agnes and team

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Postponed

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, our AGM has had to be postponed and the Diocese has decided (by a Bishop's Instrument) that: "The time for holding an annual chaplaincy meeting, as required by paragraph 29 of the Constitution, ("annual meeting") in the year 2020 is extended to 31 October 2020 (and accordingly, the time for electing churchwardens, representatives of the laity to the archdeaconry or deanery synod, and representatives of the laity to the chaplaincy church council, and for transacting the other business of the meeting, is extended to that date)."

Our Church Council has decided that the AGM will now be held on

Sunday 13 September 2020 at 12.00

Please reserve this date and plan to come to this important church meeting where we will hear about various church topics and elect representatives to the church council, to the Archdeaconry Synod and also the churchwardens.

The agenda for the meeting was included in the February - March magazine. If you cannot find this, a copy of the agenda may be obtained from the church office (or by email from me).

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

Annual reports of the various groups and activities in St Ursula's are available in the hall or from the church office and on-line. Please collect your copy.

- *Tricia Carrick (Electoral Roll Officer)*

Eco-Notes



The current pandemic has made us all rethink our priorities, but have we all rethought our relationship with the world around us? All that hand-washing, all those disposable face-masks, all those germicides have placed a strain on the environment, but all that isolation, all that distancing and inactivity have reduced the pollution on our roads and in our factories. Has the effect on the planet even entered our mind?

As another article describes, the lockdown has given us all time for gardening, the church included. Taking an inert, seemingly dead thing and burying it in the ground is a very practical act of hope! We all need hope right now. We have time, too, for looking at the life around us – why not learn the names of some of those plants in our neighbourhood, or some of the birds, or the insects? Not just their names, but something about them – where they come from, what they need to live, what they can do.

While you have time, stop and look at the sunset (or sunrise, if that's the way your metabolism works). Research has shown that a regular five minutes outside watching the dawn or the dusk improves your sleep patterns and reduces liability to depression. Stargazing works too. Do you know the names of the constellations? With even more time, you can reflect on the nature around you – a sort of *visio divina*. But we'll look at that another time.

- *Hector Davie*

Jam Jars!



I'm in the midst of jam making **but** I've got very few jars left, so a special plea for lots of jam jars so that we don't have a shortage of preserves at our sales.

The jars should be no bigger than 450g size, have all their labels removed, be totally clean inside & out and have their lids with them.

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

THANK YOU!

- *Jana Kutesko*

St Ursula's Church Garden during May, June and July 2020

As mentioned by Hector in the last magazine, the lockdown earlier this spring gave us the incentive to make a real start on rejuvenating the church garden. Agnes started the ball rolling by using Martin's high pressure hose to clean all the church paths. The water taps, connections and hoses were inspected and put into good working order too.



Brigit Baumberger, *V Na - Verein Natur*, had previously outlined an idea for a biodiverse and sustainable church garden which we basically decided to follow using endemic plants. But plants need good growing conditions and so on 29 May a small but enthusiastic team comprising Sue and Graeme, Agnes, Alison and Gerhard, Michael, Richard, Beat, Art and our two most valuable pickaxe-wielding assistants from Brigit's *Verein*, Habib and Yeman started work on the church house patio garden, the flower beds at the hall entrance and each side of the church main door by digging and removing roots (and a little hedge trimming). It was amazing how much Grünabfall was collected! In the afternoon Gerhard returned with over a tonne of earth from the Biomassezentrum Spiez having been able to borrow a truck. This was then distributed throughout the garden on the weeded flower beds. Thereafter the old concrete grill, and other rubbish weighing 520 kilos was loaded onto the truck and taken to the AVAG Entsorgung.

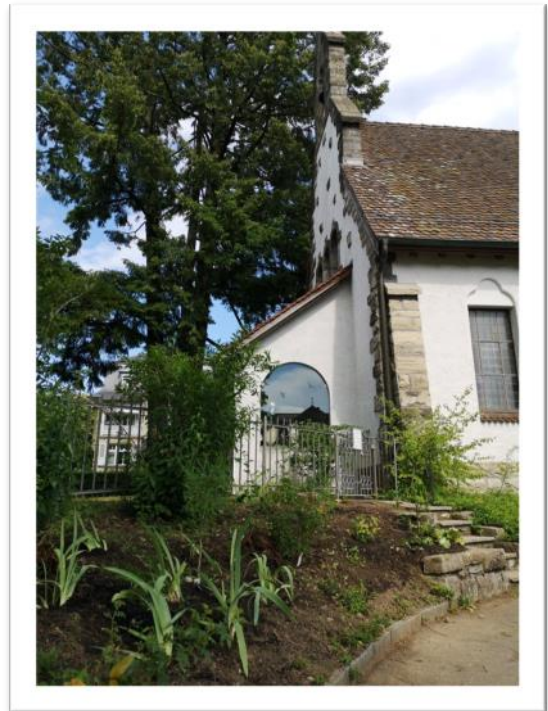


The team met again on 3 June to plant shrubs that Agnes and Alison had purchased from Kader Aeberli (they generously offered the church a discount) and plants received from private gardens. The hazelnut at the church door is underplanted with geranium rozanne and catmint, and on the other side a new amelanchier (serviceberry) is underplanted with hart's tongue fern and epimediums. The church house patio garden was stocked with a variety of herbs and a couple of lavenders. We also planted a number of potentilla and spirea plants, a palabin, and a hosta halcyon along the church hall window.

3 July was the next gardening day when we were joined by Suzy and made a start on clearing the roots of rose of Sharon from the flower beds lining the church car park. Once again pickaxes were the order of the long and hot day. A couple of dead tree stumps were also removed and much of the rose of Sharon roots, but there is still work to be done there (at the time of going to press) before we can replant. We also installed a leaf ONLY compost and have started a stumpery under the magnolia tree.

We feel we are making progress. A special thank you to Hans for repairing the old irrigation system which runs along the flower bed next to the church hall window and to the people who volunteered to assist with a watering rota (Mary, Agnes, Johannes, Lynn, Marc and Art) to help the new plants become established during this hot dry summer. We also hope to install a water butt (or two) in order to harness the rain water from the massive church roof.

- Agnes Derory, Sue Higson and Alison Beindorff



Summer Fête

Our Summer Fête was supposed to take place on Saturday 27 June and I know we were all looking forward to it. It would have been a great chance for all of us to celebrate the end of our confinement, meet each other and have a fun day. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to cancel one of our most popular events. At least, with the much appreciated effort from the British Food Corner Team, St Ursula's managed to offer and sell online a great collection of British Food, raising a substantial amount of money for the Church.

Let's all hope and pray that by next summer, Covid-19 will have faded and remain only as another past bad memory.

- Maria Avdikou, Church Office

Services and Readings August and September 2020



Sunday 2 August – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 55:1-5
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday 9 August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8:30 Said Communion
10:00 Eucharist
1 Kings 19:9-18
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 16 August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 56:1,6-8
Romans 11.1-2a,29-32
Matthew 15.10-28

Sunday 23 August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8:30 Said Communion
10:00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 51.1-6
Romans 12.1-8
Matthew 16.13-20

Sunday 30 August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Sung Eucharist
Jeremiah 15.15-21
Romans 12.9-21
Matthew 16.21-28

Sunday 6 September – Creation Sunday

10:00 Sung Eucharist
Psalm 8
Acts 17.22-28
Luke 12.22-31

Sunday 13 September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8:30 Said Communion
10:00 Eucharist
Genesis 50.15-21
Romans 14.1-12
Matthew 18.21-35

Sunday 20 September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Sung Eucharist
Jonah 3.10 - 4.11
Philippians 1.21-30
Matthew 20.1-16

Sunday 27 September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8:30 Said Communion
10:00 Sung Eucharist
Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32
Philippians 2.1-13
Matthew 21.23-32

Sunday 4 October – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 5.1-7
Philippians 3.4b-14
Matthew 21.33-46

For Your Diary August & September 2020

Our Regular Weekly Events are not taking place until further notice

Mondays	08.30	Morning Prayer
	18.00	Evening Prayer
Tuesdays	08.30	Morning Prayer
	18.00	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	08.30	Morning Prayer
	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots
Thursdays	10.30	Holy Communion & Fellowship
	10.30	Lectio Divina by Zoom
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
	18.00 - 18.30	Evening Prayer
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice

Other Events (all events are provisional and may not take place - please check with the church office)

Sunday 16 August		Closing Date for Electoral Roll Applications
Tuesday 18 August	19.00	Council Meeting
Friday 21 August	09.00 - 12.30	Book sorting
Saturday 29 August - Sunday 30 August		Barbecue at the Gugelmanns' Junior Church Sleepover
Friday 4 September	09.00 - 12.30	Book sorting
Saturday 5 September		Autumn Sale
Tuesday 1 September	19.00	Council Meeting
Sunday 13 September		Annual General Meeting (AGM)
		COPY DATE
Thursday 17 September	18.30	Thun Service
Friday 18 September		Afternoon Tea & Quiz

Sunday 20 September

Talk by Sarah French from A Rocha
after the service

Thursday 24 September

Magazine Collating

Future Dates

Wednesday 21 October

Christmas Cake Baking

Friday 13 November

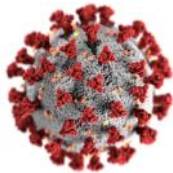
Pub Quiz

Sunday 15 November

Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch

Friday 27 & Saturday 28 November

Christmas Bazaar



Coming soon!

Lockdown Reflections

booklet by members of St Ursula's.

Poems. Stories. Drawings. Photographs.

Autumn Book and Food Sale



Our next Book and Food Sale is programmed to take place on Saturday 5 September. Delicious food along with second-hand books will be on sale, if everything goes according to plan.

At the time this text is written, it is still quite early and we are not sure yet if this event will take place.

For more updates and additional information please stay tuned to St Ursula's website www.stursula.ch and Facebook page. Moreover, Helen with her weekly emails will send you more details closer to the date.

Stay healthy and take care of yourselves!

- *Maria Avdikou, Church Office*

Junior Church News

As is probably no surprise we are not able to have Junior Church meetings due to the current restrictions. Hopefully, by the time this is in print or shortly after, we will be able to meet again during the service. However, for now we must wait to see what will be possible and how the situation develops.

In the meantime, we may be able to take the time we can't spend together as a church to share our faith together as a family. Maybe by sharing our favourite Bible stories and reading them to each other, by asking and trying to answer questions we all have about the Sunday readings or by doing crafts or drawing together.

Our Junior Church teachers use "Roots" (Worship and learning resources for the whole Church). Currently these materials are free for everyone to use. <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/>

Until we can meet again in person, let us keep each other, families, loved ones, communities and the world in our prayers.

- John Hutchison

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in August and September:



Andrin Zimmer 15 on 4 August

Finn Hofer 12 on 6 August

Aila Müller 12 on 8 August

Lilly Marthaler 9 on 9 August

Katelyn Blevins 11 on 31 August

Lele Yan 13 on 6 September

Romain Crettaz 16 on 13 September

Svenja Tomczak 13 on 30 September

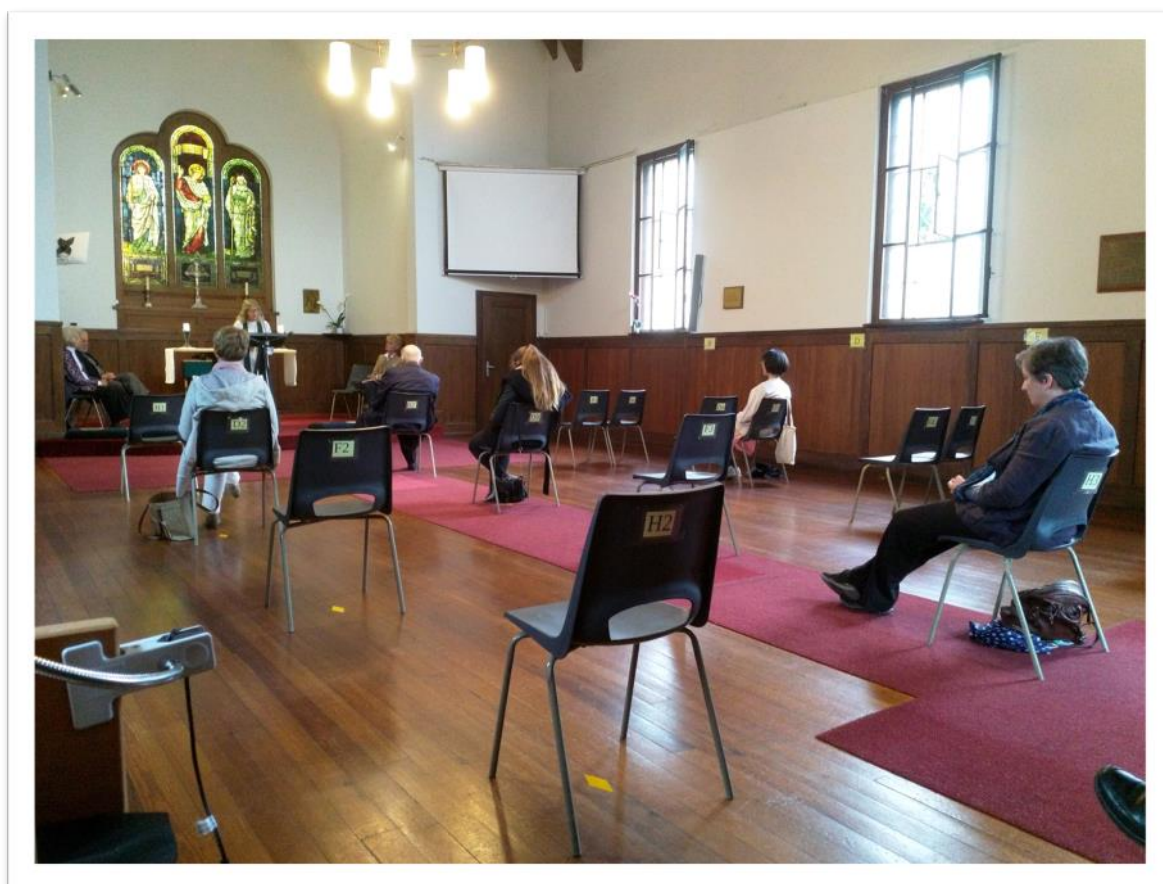
Youth Confirmation Class

The youth confirmation class has continued to meet – even twice at church. It was really good to see people face to face (at a distance, of course). And we were very fortunate to have visitors who talked about their faith and Christian journey. I would like to invite any of you who feel able to come and meet our amazing young people to join us from the end of August – just get in touch with me, or Helen, or the church office.

As I wrote in the last magazine, the focus of the last part of the confirmation course is “living as a Christian”. In the past we have been very privileged that several members of our congregation agreed to come and talk to the group about some aspect of their Christian life. This was a special time for both the members of the group and also for those who came to meet the young people.

As I am sure you all know, the confirmation service (originally planned for 7 June) has been postponed indefinitely. The bishop could not come to Berne, and with a very full diary he does not know when he will be able to do so.

-Tricia Carrick



Services resumed in the church on 14 June — with appropriate social distancing measures

Charity of the Month: The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

A place of hope and respect for deaf and deaf-blind children

"But now faith, hope, love, these three remain; but love is the greatest of these." 1. Corinthians 13:13

St Ursula's Church supports the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in its mission to enable deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind children, for inclusion and participation in their families and communities in a meaningful way, and to make their valuable contribution to civic society – in the Middle East.



Background

A safe haven of peace and loving care for 150 children and young people, HLID was founded in 1964 as a small deaf school on the site of a former missionary hospital in Salt, Jordan. The school is the only school for the deaf in Jordan that serves deaf-blind children and provides vocational training. It is considered as a model school for deaf people in the Middle East.

Church network

As part of the local Church (the Arab Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East), the Institute and its local and international partners represent one of the diaconal activities of the Christian communities worldwide.

Holy Land Institute for the Deaf- Key facts:

- Archdeacon Luay Haddad, Director
- Founded in 1964, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf is the first school for deaf children in Jordan
- When 1 million Syrian refugees poured into Jordan at the onset of the civil war, HLID sent an evaluation team, audiologists, therapists and hearing aid technicians to address the needs of the displaced.
- HLID clinics continue to serve refugees in the Zaatari and Azrak camps. In 2019, 4,047 children and adults received evaluation, treatment, training, and education.

Life-changing effect on Students

Given the high rate of hearing-impairment found in the Jordanian population, at 6 to 10 percent, the need for this work among affected children is vital and the effect it has on students is life-changing. The leaders and teachers at HLID and its outreach ministries depend on the support from donors to offer a door to a bright, productive future for those they serve.

Vocational Training

Like Switzerland, HLID has realised the importance of a strong focus on vocational training to equip students for employment and to cope in the



Vocational training at HLID helps students with life skills

world. In the Vocational Training department, young people with disabilities learn skills that will enable them to participate in gainful employment.

Vocational training was also a focus in 2017 when Gerhard Tschanz presented his experiences at HLID, Jordan at St Ursula's in

February, which combined well with a country study focus by the Junior Church on the country of Jordan (see picture below).

Covid Challenges in 2020

Just like our schools in Switzerland and other parts of Europe, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf School has been challenged by the coronavirus pandemic. The staff are trying to deal with the restrictions as best they can.

In May 2020, Archdeacon Fr. Luay R. Haddad wrote from Jordan that government restrictions had forced the school to send the students home.

Nevertheless, thanks to the hard work of their teachers, and the dedication of the Institute's administration team, they were subsequently able to reach all



Flashback to 2017 with Gerhard Tschanz and the Junior Church's insights into Jordan.

students and follow up with them to ensure that they were still able to receive their education, even during these hard times.

Thanks be to God that all the students in all the different places in Jordan could be reached. Despite the difficulties and challenges, HLID has also set up special programmes for their students in Outreach Centres and the Refugee Camps, and are following up with them. Moreover, they have set a special programme for their students in the Deaf-Blind department as well with a subsequent offering of remote education.

Despite an abrupt end to the school year, since there was no ceremonial close, we give thanks that students are doing well under the circumstances. The children and parents took turns to pick up their certificates and personal belongings.

We hope that they will all be able to return to HLID after the summer holidays and that they can look forward to a normal school life.

Thank the Lord for:

- all the friends of HLID, both local and international, and those who support God's ministry
- the relationships with different organizations and churches both local and international.

Please Pray for:

the future projects that are on the way with several of HLID's partners overseas;

the success of the courses being offered in the Institute;

Archdeacon Luay Haddad and his staff, and for the children who attend – some preparing for university education.

a return to a normal school life after the summer holidays

Gerhard Tschanz here in Switzerland for his tireless efforts to support HLID.

Find out more about the HLID from these websites:

HLID Website: <http://www.holyland-deaf.org/en/home/>

HLID on the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem website: <http://www.j-diocese.org/index.php?page=129666024424&sub=129698352822>

The Jofeh Center: <http://www.jofehcenter.org/index.php/our-work/>

- Pieter Perrett for the Charity and Missions Team

My Journey

The palpable anticipation as we drove into the sunset after arriving in America held us in a tension and quietude that didn't break until we arrived in Redding. Dusk was just settling on this place that was to be home for next eight months, the scarring of the previous year's fires visible in the twilight. Here we were.

After a short night we set off next morning with bated breath in the direction of the school. We walked through the various tasks in order to actually enter the school before we found ourselves in our allocated Revival Group.

A cacophony of noise, laughter, yelling, crying came to meet us as we opened the door. Immediately struck by the variety of nations represented in that room, I knew that this was going to be good.

And we launched into a totally new, incredibly exciting environment of discovering God in a deeper and more personal way.

Worship was an integral part of school, and the dedication of the worship bands was awe-inspiring.

Our first teachings came hot on the heels of Revival Group and we had our first taste of being taught in a room with approximately 1400 students! But the quality of teaching was extraordinary. I loved the teaching on the Bible, and challenging assignments, revealing a God to me who had always felt so distant in a new and approachable way. Something I had so longed for.

We covered a variety of teachings, learning not only about God but also about ourselves. However, to describe our journey in more detail goes beyond the scope of this of this brief reflection.

Advanced Ministry Training added delightful insights into ourselves. I discovered that Prophecy was slumbering inside of me. And the Holy Spirit could move me in ways previously unbeknownst to me!

We were walked through discovering and sharing our own vulnerability. Not necessarily a walk in the park but for me personally an incredibly powerful inner journey to freedom in Christ.

I needed some time to adjust to the culture I was now living in, but by Christmas time I felt very much a part of Redding. We immensely enjoyed the trails in and around Redding, watching the wildlife, meeting others out walking. Even Lockdown could not take away my joy of walking along the Sacramento River!

As I navigate the transition back here, I know I can lean into that which has been planted in me. This includes an increase in my confidence to speak out the Gospel and to share it with others as I seek out a way to do this. It is my task to nourish that by abiding in the Word of God.

- Lynn Morgan

Flat to let

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Warm regards
Dominic Roser
076 546 80 85



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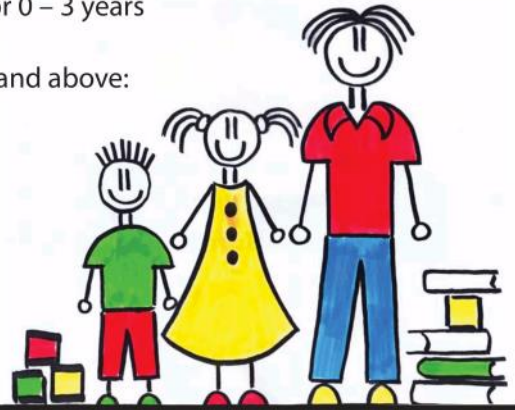


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English Speaking Club of Bern

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We are looking forward to meeting you

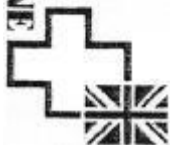
Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | www.englishclub.ch

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](http://www.icberne.ch)
Annual membership: CHF 50 for singles, CHF 60 for families.

SWISS-BRITISH
SOCIETY BERNE



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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Carl Gustav Boberg

So many people find this hymn special that it has often been ranked among Britain's top three favourite hymns. Its history is also special – written in Swedish, translated into Russian, heard by a missionary in Ukraine, rewritten and brought to the English-speaking world.

Carl Boberg was a journalist, the son of a Swedish shipyard worker. After an intense conversion experience at the end of the 1870s he went to Bible school and returned home as a preacher. He was also a member of the Swedish parliament. One summer evening in 1885 he had returned from church. There had been a violent storm, and he stood at his window looking at the rainbow and listening to a bird singing in the woods across Mönsterås Bay. That evening, he penned nine verses reflecting on what he had seen and felt, inspired by Psalm 8.

Boberg published his poem in the local newspaper, and later a nearby church sang it to a local folk tune. It found its way into Swedish missionary hymn-books, but was soon forgotten. On the other hand it was translated into German and became popular among the German Baptist community. In 1912, Ivan Prokanov, "the Martin Luther of Russia", made a Russian version for the Protestant churches there, and it was this version that the British Methodist missionary Stuart Hine heard when preaching in Ukraine in 1931.

Hine translated the hymn into English and added several verses, in English and in Russian. Going to visit a couple where the wife had taught herself to read from a Bible a soldier had left behind, he heard her inside reading the Crucifixion story to a houseful of guests. Her visitors were in the act of repenting – which Ukrainians do very loudly. Hine stayed outside and listened, writing down the phrases he heard. This became the third verse that we know today: "And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in."

Famine and Stalin's purges drove Stuart Hine out of Ukraine. He continued his missionary work in Poland. During and after World War II he worked in Britain with Polish and Russian refugees. The fourth verse was inspired by the loss felt by the displaced, who looked forward to seeing their loved ones again in heaven – the joy when Christ shall come with shout of acclamation. "What better message for the homeless," wrote Hine, "than that of the One who went to prepare a place for 'the displaced' – the God who invites into his own home those who will come to him through Christ."

The version we all know was published in 1949 and quickly spread through Britain, Africa, India and America. It was a favourite of the American evangelist, Billy Graham, who wrote "The reason I liked it was because it glorified God – it turned a Christian's eyes toward God rather than upon himself as so many songs do." And we too can look to God and join in the refrain of Psalm 8: "O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

- Hector Davie

O Store Gud

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed,

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art.**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze,
And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Stuart Hine (1899-1989)

based on Carl Boberg (1859-1940)

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