

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



October - November 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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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 December 2020 - January 2021 magazine is

15 November 2020

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: Thursday 26 November 2020

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends

I wonder if you have a favourite saint? For many people this might be Francis of Assisi, whom we particularly remember on 4 October. This year, this date falls on a Sunday and we will be focusing on Francis of Assisi in our Sunday service that day. This will also be the final Sunday of Creationtide. Francis of Assisi was, of course, known for his love of the created world and we will sing the hymn 'All creatures of our God and King' which is based on his canticle in praise of God's creation.

But Francis did not only love the created world he also cared deeply for the poor and, though he was the son of a rich merchant, he gave away all he had to live in simplicity and care for others. His simplicity of life was marked by a deep joy and those who knew Francis often spoke of his joyfulness of spirit. At the same time he shared in the pain and woundedness of the world and shared in the wounds of Christ. He is an example to us in his obedience to Christ, his love for the poor, his delight in creation, and his joyful simplicity of life. He not only founded the Franciscan Order (which has now spread all over the world) but he has also, over the years, inspired many ordinary Christians as well as people of other faiths and no faith.

It may be that we have been particularly influenced by some other well known Christian saint through their life and their teaching. On 1 November we will celebrate All Saints Day when we remember all those faithful Christians who have gone before us. Some of them are well known figures who lived striking and unusual lives and died for their faith in Christ, but other 'saints' are ordinary people who lived ordinary, quiet lives, yet inspired others by their trust in God, their faithfulness of life and their love. We may have known several such 'saints' in our own lives. These people have encouraged us along the Christian way and indeed may continue to do so. Some of these people may be close friends or members of our own families.

We say in the creed every week 'I believe in the communion of saints'; we believe that all those who put their trust in Christ are united in his body,



whether they are living or dead. The community of Christians transcends time and space, life and death, and we all belong together. One day we will all rejoice together in the new life and love of his kingdom.

All Saintstide which includes All Saints Day on 1 November, and All Souls day on 2 November (when we remember all our loved ones who have died) can be an emotional time when we are touched again by grief for those we love but see no longer. But it is also a time of celebration that God's love is stronger than death and that one day we will rejoice together with all the saints. Please join us for our special service on Sunday 1 November.

The poem below, by Malcolm Guite, describes the saints as being, each one, like a shard of glass. The poem celebrates the light of Christ reflected in the saints, living and departed, who surround and inspire us even in our present darkness.

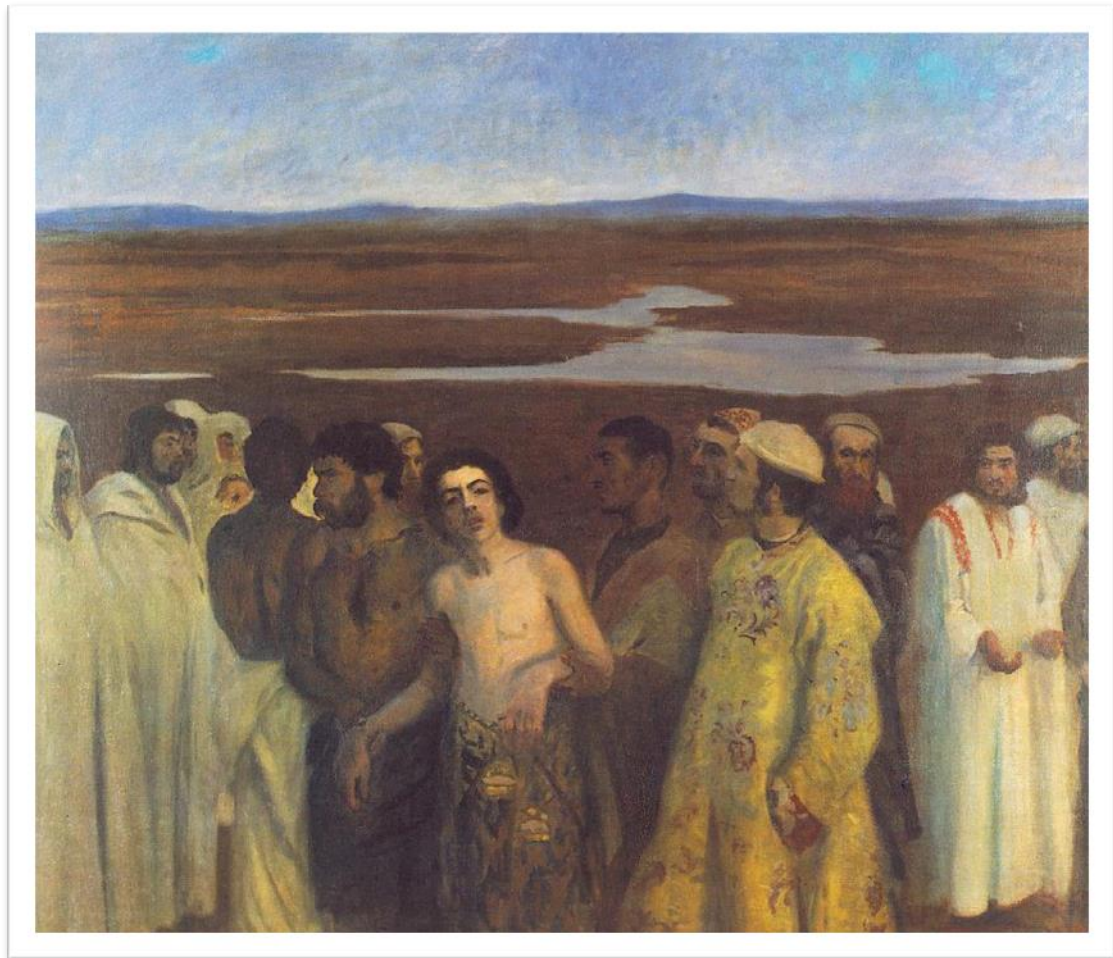
The Gathered Glories

Though Satan breaks our dark glass into shards,
each shard still shines with Christ's reflected light,
it glances from the eyes, kindles the words
of all his unknown saints. The dark is bright
with quiet lives and steady lights undimmed,
the witness of the ones we shunned and shamed.
Plain in our sight and far beyond our seeing,
He weaves their threads into the web of being.
They stand beside us even as we grieve,
the lone and left behind whom no one claimed,
unnumbered multitudes, he lifts above
the shadow of the gibbet and the grave,
to triumph where all saints are known and named;
the gathered glories of his wounded love.

With my love in Christ,

Helen

Serfs, slaves and servants



Joseph Sold into Slavery by his Brothers, 1900 by Károly Ferenczy

Slavery is an abomination. If you believe this, you are in good company. No good person could possibly condone the capture of other human beings, men, women, children, selling their living bodies and minds, transporting them around the globe, forcing them against their will to do work that normal people would find unpleasant, dangerous or unfulfilling. We stand by Article 3 of the the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”, and by Article 4: “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”

In today’s world, we are still living with some of the consequences of slavery and the slave trade, even though they were formally abolished in the nineteenth century. But worse than that, we are still living with all the ingredients of slavery, but under other names. Vulnerable people are still

tricked or forced into drug carrying, sex work, arms smuggling, theft and extortion, often by people operating outside or on the fringe of the law. And with the law's protection, unethical businesses can exploit the weak by offering dangerous working conditions, starvation wages, or simply by damaging their surroundings.

As Christians, we each need to use our voice and our influence to be aware of all forms of exploitation and to halt them, whether by using our vote at a political level, by using our purse to buy fairly traded goods or by using our voice to warn people not to take advantage of others. Nowadays we talk about educating the weak and empowering the disadvantaged. In Jesus' days, it was called preaching good news to the poor.

Behind the Declaration's assertion, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," lie eighteenth-century thoughts from the Enlightenment. Before this time, the Bible talks of freedom and neighbourly love, but less of dignity and rights. The early Church included both slave-owners and slaves, and Paul in his letters encourages kindness between master and slave, the opposite of exploitation. Freedom was the opposite of slavery, but it was freedom from the slavery to sin. Words we use today, like 'redemption' and 'ransom' come from the Roman law of slavery.

The word "slave" is modern (it comes from the Slavic nations that provided numerous slaves to the Romans) – the Latin word is *servus*, a servant. When we come to the Sunday service in church, slavery is far from our mind. When we hear the name Obadiah (or its Arabic equivalent, Abdullah) we can recall its meaning "servant of God". Yet the servant of the Lord is also the slave of the Lord – one whose whole life revolves around giving homage and respect to a higher being, one whose delight is in being like Jesus – in doing the will of a master who is both friend and father, of a mistress who is both companion and mother, of God, whose service is perfect freedom.

- *Hector Davie*

A Word for the Month – Miracle

At the end of the story, the princess kisses the frog, and the frog turns into a prince, and everyone lives happily ever after (or if you want a Hollywood sequel, everyone except the wicked witch).

Atheists sometimes claim that the Bible is a sort of fairy tale, full of magic tricks and impossible stories. Christians know that nothing is further from the truth – apart from the ending, and even that is different, for there is nothing evil left at the end, so no sequel possible! The Bible may contain stories – the tale of the Prodigal Son, for example, but we all know that these are stories with another meaning – parables, as we call them, just as other stories, like John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* or C.S. Lewis' tales of Narnia, carry a deeper meaning.

If you search through an English version of the Bible, you will hardly find the word "miracle" – in the version we use at St Ursula's it comes five times in the Old Testament and six times in the New. There is a good reason for this. There are many events in scripture which we would regard as miracles, but the writers who recorded these events did not call them miracles. They called them signs, or acts of power. Although the people who experienced these events felt wonder or amazement, the purpose of them was to show God at work, not to astonish people in the way a conjurer on a stage or at a party performs tricks to astonish people.

In Acts 8, there is a rather sad story about Simon from Samaria, who was a professional conjurer. He heard the apostle Philip preaching, and was converted to Christ, but got the wrong idea about the signs and cures that came with the preaching, so that when Peter and John came from Jerusalem and laid hands on the new Christians in Samaria, and gave them "the gift of the Holy Spirit", Simon offered to pay them so that he could have this magic power too. How wrong he was! God's power indeed works wonders, but there are wonders money (or power, or influence, or contacts in the right places) can't buy.

The Oxford Dictionary takes over fifty words to define "miracle". It is an event for which there is no natural explanation, suggesting that God is at work. We can add that the end result of a miracle is always something good. In the Old Testament, miracles frequently show God's power, and "good" needs to be seen in the context of God's choice of a particular people to cherish – the plagues sent on the Egyptians and the waters of the Red Sea closing in on them were "good" for the chosen few, but not for the people who sought to

enslave them. In the New Testament, miracles still show God's power – Jesus stilling the storm (Mark 4), for example. But much more they are signs, acted-out parables. Mary becomes pregnant while still a virgin. God is at work. Jesus turns water into wine. Something new and vibrant is coming into being. Five thousand men, and God knows how many women and children, are fed from five loaves and two fishes, with more left over to spare. What God provides is enough to satisfy the hungriest soul. Jesus rises from the tomb. Death and sin are henceforth powerless.

So when Jesus, or his apostles, heals the blind, cures the deaf, cleanses the lepers or even raises the dead, our response is not simply “what a powerful wonder-worker” but “here is someone fulfilling Isaiah 35”, and we should recall that “ the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” That is what miracles are all about.

- Hector Davie



No - not a magic wand, but a reminder of Moses' staff. An early painting of Jesus at the feeding of the five thousand

Garden working party

Saturday 24 October, 10.00 - 16.00

Help us get the garden ready for winter.

Please let us know you are coming by sending a mail to the office: office@stursula.ch



Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope.

This year's Season for Creation theme of "Jubilee for the Earth" was chosen long before the COVID-19 pandemic changed our world, but it feels even more relevant now. The shock of this pandemic, and the terrible suffering it has brought, have in a strange way given us an opportunity to have time to look anew at our relationship with the earth, with each other, and with God.



Environmental destruction, biodiversity loss and climate chaos are issues we are all familiar with. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa - and now the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic- demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist. We know that the health of people and that of our planet are increasingly intertwined.

This year there are stark facts being published all the time. The WWF Living Planet Report¹ states that populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles have collapsed by an extraordinary 68 per cent on average globally since 1970 - more than two thirds in less than 50 years. And the UN



Convention on Biodiversity Diversity report states that humanity is at a "crossroads" and that "the natural world was deteriorating and failure to act could undermine the goals of the Paris agreement on the climate crisis and the sustainable development goals"² It is clear that "our relationship with nature is broken"³.

Our way of life is pushing the planet beyond its limits⁴. We currently use the equivalent of 1.7 planets to support our activities. *The whole creation, as described by Paul in Romans 8:18-21, is in deep groaning* One positive in this is that we can see how the earth can recover if we allow it to rest: Earth

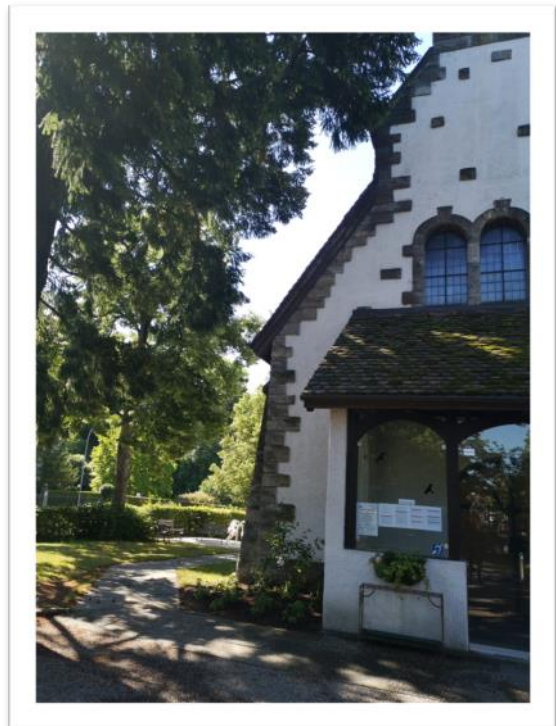
Overshoot Day⁵ 2020 was delayed three weeks by COVID-19. This year's Earth Overshoot Day was reached on August 22, largely due to temporary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. However "true sustainability that allows all to thrive on earth can only be achieved by design not disaster"⁶.

A Rocha International incoming Executive Director, Simon Stuart, in accepting the 2020 Blue Planet prize (the 'Nobel Prize' of conservation) stated, 'We stand at a critical moment in history – will we listen to the evidence and start living within the limits set by nature?' Simon has also said, 'The pain and sadness we feel over the

decline and disappearance of some remarkable species mirrors God's pain which arises from his own deep love and care for all that he has made.' For Christians, tackling biodiversity loss is not an optional extra, or only a response to the threats to human thriving. It stems directly from believing that Jesus is Lord of all creation, and that following him means caring for his world.

Perhaps one of the things that God is saying to us most clearly for this time is that we need to change our ways. The biblical concept of jubilee for our Earth, can be seen as "a radical reset every 50 years, a social, economic and ecological world rebooted."⁷ This is a time to switch our spiritual lens onto new ways of living with creation. This means that we need to "end our superfluous and destructive goals and activities, and to cultivate values, connections and activities that are life-giving."⁸

We can all make a difference individually, at church, at home and at work. Looking into our habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and food is a great starting point. For everyone to live more lightly on this earth to safeguard our common home, there is a range of actions one can take - from simple things to do straight away to more demanding challenges. (Do look at the A Rocha webpage⁹ living lightly- take action) At St Ursula's, as a bronze award Ecochurch, you have a very active eco group and that as one of your activities you have contributed to biodiversity and climate restoration by transforming the church garden to being a more biodiversity friendly beautiful peaceful place.



Perhaps one of the things that God is saying to us most clearly from this time is that we need to change our ways, take up radically new ways of living with creation. And in doing so, discover new hope, rooted in the good God who creates so abundantly, gives so generously, and redeems so radically.¹⁰

- Sarah French, Director for Operations, A Rocha International. (A Rocha is a Christian conservation charity working around the world)

¹<https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-us/>

²<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

³<https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-us/>

⁴http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html

⁵Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year: <https://www.overshootday.org/about/>

⁶www.overshootday.org

⁷<https://blog.arocha.org/en/jubilee-for-the-earth-new-rhythms-new-hopes/>

⁸WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION 1 SEPTEMBER 2020 http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html

⁹<https://arocha.org.uk/our-activities/living-lightly-take-action/>

¹⁰<https://blog.arocha.org/en/jubilee-for-the-earth-new-rhythms-new-hopes/>



HELP NEEDED!

We are looking to rebuild a team to arrange church flowers.

We very sadly lost Vreni, Kathy and Jean recently. Judith Josi and Rosemary Schelker, who have served for many years are retiring.

We need to be 4 - 6 persons to fill a rota.

Flower lovers:

for more details please call Chloë on 031 951 4057 or 078 754 26 26

- Yojena, Annemarie & Chloë



Join us for Homemade Soups
Delicious Cake and Fellowship

PUMPKIN SOUP *Dinner*

*Thanks for your
great support!*



FUNDRAISING EVENT
to support the education of Aids orphans

Sunday, 15 NOVEMBER 2020, 11.30 a.m.
St Ursula's, Church

Prayer of Comfort for Those Orphaned or Abandoned

Lord Jesus, there are so many millions of children that have been orphaned or abandoned around the world, and we grieve for them in a world that seems to have lost its ability to care for the weak and help the defenceless.

Raise up orphanages and ministries that will actively seek out and help those that are alone in the world. I pray for any outreach missions that actively seek to rescue those who have been abandoned to a life when they have to fend for themselves and are facing severe hardships.

Provide the funds and food, the people and the amenities, the education and the equipment needed to keep the orphanages and ministries functioning. And heal the hearts of those that have been damaged by the experience of finding themselves alone in the world.

Into Your hands Lord, I place all children and young people who are alone in the world. May each one find the security for which they yearn, and the opportunity to learn about the Lord Jesus and His love for each of them. In Jesus' name,

Amen

- *Yvonne Bomonti*

St Ursula's Christmas Bazaar

Friday 27 November 17.00 –19.30

Saturday 28 November 10.00 –15.00



It is no secret that St Ursula's Christmas Bazaar is one of our most popular holiday traditions and fundraising events; a firm favourite with all age groups.

A great resource for shopping for everyone on your list since you will find a select mix of everything from fine gifts, homemade goodies and second-hand books to Christmas wreaths and decorations, while you enjoy our delicious dishes, snacks and drinks.

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and at the time this text is written, it is still quite early and we are not sure about how the Christmas Bazaar will be organised. Nonetheless, if everything goes according to plan, we are going to have stalls with Christmas cakes, tombola and raffle along with the British food corner and the second hand books.

Would you like to help?

We are constantly impressed with the creative and unique ideas our volunteers come up with, and the amazing amount of effort they put into those ideas. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful team, please contact the Church Office for further details.

Donations

Gifts you didn't quite love? Books collecting dust on your shelves? New or second hand toys in excellent condition your kids do not want anymore? Overstocked food items or some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate? Crockery, ornaments and china looking for a new home? Donations for our stalls are welcome and will be much appreciated. Please bring them into church and put them in the red tombola box in the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office for more information.

Flyers

Please use the flyer with this magazine to help advertise the bazaar. If you'd like more flyers, please either pick them up from the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office: office@stursula.ch or 031 352 8567.

Updates

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 of our Bazaar.

- *Maria Avdikou, Church Office*



Treasurer's report

Dear all,

Those who were at the AGM were able to view and hear my presentation on the results for 2019 as well as the outlook for this year. It does now look as if we have a good chance of breaking even again this year, assuming that we can have the Christmas Bazaar in some form or other and manage to raise enough at that event. We have been blessed with a legacy from the estate of Tom Turnbull which came at just the right time for us, and many of you have responded to the lockdown situation by giving a little extra this year. Thank you.

The sale on 5 September was a big success. The weather was fantastic, and we were able to test out our COVID-19 distancing measures which worked really well. We feel confident now to do the Christmas Bazaar, although it might look a bit different from what you are used to. The funds from events make around 15% of our income so are very important, and could not be achieved without the dedicated team behind them.

Great things in Church are never done by just one person; they are done by a team of people.

Pledge Sunday is in October. We are very grateful to all who support our work with a regular pledge. Although it is our Christian duty, it is also something that I never take for granted. There are different reasons why people pledge, and how much they can afford to give varies due to circumstances. We are grateful for all we receive, without it we really could not function. Our expenditure each year is around Fr230,000, of which Fr21,000 goes to charity, and 80% of our expenditure is for our personnel costs and running the premises. If you need more information about the pledge scheme please feel free to contact me.

Finally, I am honoured to be selected as a warden. The Treasurer function will probably stay in my hands, but Ruby Wildhaber will be assistant Treasurer which will remove a lot of the day to day work from me for that role, so I am confident that this will work, and actually probably allow more time to give more detailed analysis and reports to council

- Sue Higson

Konzernverantwortungsinitiative/ Responsible Business Initiative



For those who have a vote in Switzerland, the vote on the above will take place in November. All Churches in Switzerland are supporting a yes vote on this. We have some banners hanging on our fence to support this initiative. Below is an overview in English taken from <https://corporatejustice.ch/about-the-initiative>. This also helps those who do not have a vote, who may wish to discuss the initiative with their Swiss neighbours:

The Responsible Business Initiative wants Swiss based multinationals to respect human rights and the environment in their activities abroad.

How the initiative works

Under the Responsible Business Initiative, companies will be legally obliged to incorporate respect for human rights and the environment in all their business activities. This mandatory due diligence will also be applied to Swiss based companies' activities abroad.

The mandatory due diligence instrument is based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. According to these principles, companies must first review all their business relationships and activities with a view to identifying potential risks to people and the environment. They must then take effective measures to address the potentially negative impacts identified and report in a transparent manner on the risks identified and the measures taken.

Implementation through the liability provision

If the initiative succeeds, how will companies' application of mandatory due diligence be guaranteed?

In order to ensure that all companies carry out their due diligence obligations, Swiss based firms will be liable for human rights abuses and environmental violations caused abroad by companies under their control. This provision will enable victims of human rights violations and environmental damage to seek redress in Switzerland.

Moreover, when a company can credibly demonstrate to the court that it carried out adequate due diligence and that it took all necessary measures to prevent the violations, it will be exempted from liability. The initiative therefore has a preventive effect as it provides companies with an actual incentive to comply with their obligations.

There is more information under this link: <https://corporatejustice.ch/>

- *Sue Higson*

Our AGM

To give it its formal name, our Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 13 September, with our clergy and some 40 lay church members present, of whom 35 were on our electoral roll. The pandemic had prevented us from coming together in March and we had taken advantage of special regulations allowing us to meet in the autumn.

This meant that our reports on church life in 2019 were seriously out of date. Fortunately, Sue our Treasurer and Helen our Chaplain brought us up to speed on the effects of COVID-19 and hopes for the future – where we have successfully adapted financially and spiritually to changed circumstances. Our outreach events now take a new form and our prayer, worship and study often take place on line. Yet outreach and worship and pastoral growth remain real components of life at St Ursula's.

The lay people representing the congregation will also serve for a shorter period. The meeting approved Martin Browne and Sue Higson as Churchwardens. Hector Davie and Maxine Wildhaber will represent the lay people of the church at the Swiss Archdeaconry level. Together with the elected lay Council members – Michael Agoba, Tricia Carrick, Johannes Hewel, Lynn Morgan, Belle Täuber and Ruby Wildhaber – they will work together with Helen “in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”. Please remember them in your prayers.

- *Hector Davie*

Save the Date!



Put a little
LOVE
in your heart



Benefit Concert
of great classical music
to benefit Cecily's Fund



Educating Zambian children
for a better future



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

Heiliggeist Kirche, Berne
Spitalgasse 44, 3011 Berne

featuring the extraordinary music of

Marc Fitze, Alexandre Dubach & Charlotte Dentan

The situation for orphans in Zambia: the need for intervention

The stark need for our holistic circle of support among individuals, families and communities is due to the culmination of a number of factors:

- Zambia is one of the countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS (CIA). Before COVID-19 there were estimated to be 1.2 million orphans in Zambia, 800,000 of whom were affected by the disease (UNICEF). The Copperbelt province has the highest proportion of orphans in Zambia (ZDHS).
- Orphans and vulnerable children are at high risk of school dropout (UNESCO).
- Lusaka and the Copperbelt province have the highest HIV prevalence rates in Zambia (ZDHS).
- Among the 15-24 age groups in Zambia, the rate of comprehensive knowledge of HIV only stands at 39.2% (UNICEF).
- Poverty is widespread: 57.3% of Zambia's population live below the poverty line (World Bank, 2016).

Programme Objective 1: Access to Education

The core programme is focused on educational support, i.e. paying school fees and motivating girls in particular to perform better. However, In Zambia the low number of children progressing to secondary school is clearly linked to the inability to pay school fees caused by poverty, lack of food, inadequate housing, welfare provision and basic infra structure services. As a result, many

families place a low value on education as survival takes over without heed of the long-term consequences.

Women and girls in Zambia continue to experience hardship and poverty due to unequal access to education, health information and welfare services that prevent them from growing as individuals and leading healthy, productive lives. The biggest



challenge for adolescent girls in our target communities is transitioning to secondary school and being resilient and sufficiently motivated to complete their education. This is underpinned by a lack of accurate and reliable age appropriate information regarding sexual reproductive health matters.

Keeping girls in school positively affects their life chances and benefits future generations. Girls' attendance in school during adolescence is correlated with delayed sexual debut, later marriage and childbirth, lower risk of domestic violence and incidence of HIV/AIDS.

Programme Objective 2: Peer Health Education supporting children to succeed at school

We have worked with our partner Copperbelt Health Education Programme (CHEP) since 2001 pioneering Peer Health Education in Zambia's Copperbelt. CHEP has been instrumental in changing attitudes and behaviours relating to HIV in young people in Kitwe. They are experts in training orphans supported by Cecily's Fund to be active citizens and role models for younger children to emulate.

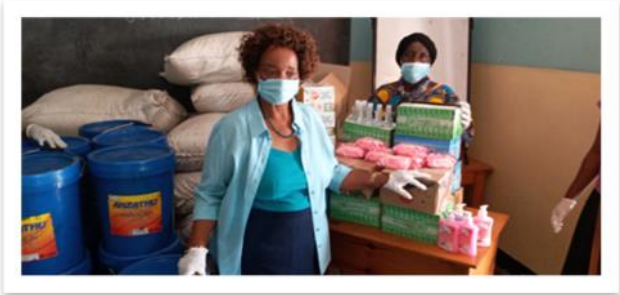
The 30 young people who are recruited each year as Peer Health Educators (PHE) are outstanding. In a country where only 20% of young people study to Grade 12, our PHEs, all orphans/vulnerable children, have passed Grade 12 at secondary school having been supported by Cecily's Fund through their education. They are trained by CHEP to deliver age appropriate sexual reproductive health lessons in schools across Kitwe from Grade 7 – 12. A new development for us is pioneering our PHE programme in Lusaka 2019.



Peer Health Education sessions reached approximately 3,000 adolescents in Kitwe last year. After attending sessions and speaking to Peer Educators it was estimated up to 61% of adolescents self-referred for further support and advice on family planning, voluntary counselling and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

Switching from Programme Delivery to Humanitarian Aid during the COVID-19 crisis in Zambia

In April we had to suspend activities whilst the schools closed and instead diverted our programme delivery to humanitarian aid, distributing food parcels to the thousand plus families we are supporting in Lusaka and Kitwe. One parcel can last a family for up to four weeks or more containing maize, rice, beans etc. but also containing soap and vital information about social distancing and the need to wash hands and wear a mask in public.

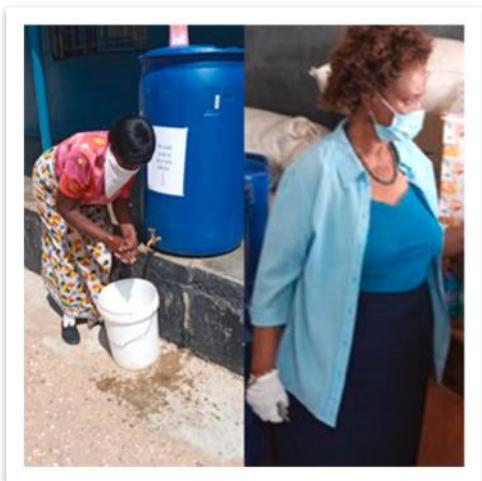


The concept of family in Zambia with regard to the communities where we work is a little different to our idea of a family here in Europe. The HIV/AIDS pandemic left a nation of young people without parents, lacking adult guidance to provide the financial and psychosocial support needed to go to school and succeed. So, the extended families we support today are often headed up by a grandmother or aunty or are child headed families. We do know that they were overwhelmed with gratitude at receiving a food parcel.

We also know that school children in Grades 7, 9 and 11 were expected to return to school on June 2nd to complete their study to take these all-important exams. Slowly the country will return to some kind of normality and our education programmes can take up where they were interrupted by the corona virus in early April.

Your contribution is very valuable to us and as you can read above extremely worthwhile.

- Anne Cooper, Senior Fundraiser Cecily's Fund UK



Services and Readings

October and November 2020

Sunday 4 October – St Francis of Assisi

10:00 Eucharist

Micah 6.6-8

Galatians 6.14-18

Luke 12.22-34

Sunday 11 October – Harvest Festival and Pledge Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Deuteronomy 8.7-18

2 Corinthians 9.6-15

Luke 17.11-19:

Sunday 18 October – Luke the Evangelist

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 35.3-6

2 Timothy 4. 5-17

Luke 10. 1-9

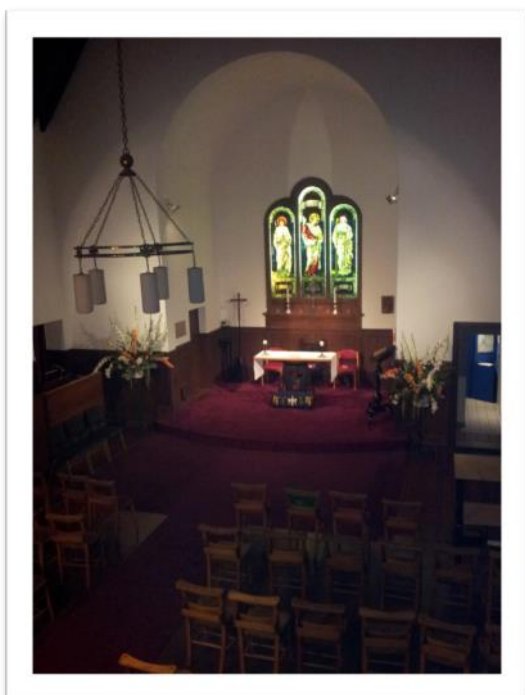
Sunday 25 October – Bible Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Nehemiah 8.1-4a,8-12

Colossians 3.12-17

Matthew 24.30-35



Sunday 1 November – All Saints and All Souls

10:00 Eucharist

Revelation 7.7-9

1 John 3.1-3

Matthew 5.1-12

Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Micah 4:1-8

Romans 8:31-39

John 15:9-17)

Sunday 15 November – Second Sunday before Advent

10:00 Eucharist

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

Sunday 22 November – Christ the King

10:00 Eucharist

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

Ephesians 1.15-23

Matthew 25.31-46

Sunday 29 November – Advent Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 64.1-9

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Mark 13.24-37

Sunday 6 December – Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 40.1-11

2 Peter 3.8-15a

Mark 1.1-8

For Your Diary October & November 2020

Our Regular Weekly Events are not taking place until further notice

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY: Twice a month, on 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 19:00 (via Zoom).

LECTIO DIVINA: Thursdays 10.30 (via Zoom).



Other Events

Thursday 1 October	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 4 October	11.15 - 12.00	Confirmation Group meeting
Tuesday 6 October	19.00	Council meeting (via Zoom)
Wednesday 7 October	10.30	Wednesday Eucharist
Thursday 15 October	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 18 October	11.15 - 12.00	Confirmation Group meeting
Wednesday 21 October	09.00	Christmas Cake Baking
Wednesday 21 October	10.30	Wednesday Eucharist
Sunday 31 October	11.15 - 12.00	Confirmation Group meeting





Sunday 1 November	11.15 - 12.00	Confirmation Group meeting
Tuesday 3 November	19.00	Council meeting (via Zoom)
Thursday 5 November	18.30	Thun Service
Wednesday 11 November	10.30	Wednesday Eucharist
Friday 13 November		Pub Quiz (possibly via Zoom)
Sunday 15 November	11.30	Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch (see page 11)
	11.15 - 12.00	Confirmation Group meeting
Thursday 19 November	18.30	Thun Service
Wednesday 25 November	10.30	Wednesday Eucharist
Friday 27 & Saturday 28 November		Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 29 November	11.15 - 12.00	Confirmation Group meeting

Future Dates

Tuesday 1 December	Council Meeting TBC
Thursday 3 December	Thun Service at 18.30
Friday 11 December	Christmas Party
Sunday 13 December	Nativity Service
Thursday 24 December	Christmas Services
Friday 25 December	Christmas Services

Junior Church News

For several months we have neither been able to meet face to face nor to learn and be together with the younger generation.

Schools have opened again and so we shall also try to start Junior Church. For now, we have decided to begin with an all age Junior Church once a month. Every first Sunday of the month we meet for fellowship and creation time. To

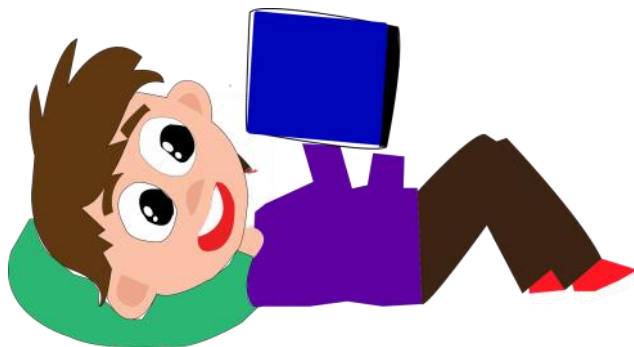
protect our vulnerable congregation, we start and end the Junior Church in the Lower Hall. Helen will come out to give a blessing to the children during the service. Please pick your children up after the service.

The first date will be 04.10.2020.

We shall keep you updated on the website as well as on the Notice sheets on Sunday. We hope to see several families back to church very soon.

Teachers needed

At the moment we lack a few teachers – because of COVID-19 timetables and lives have changed. Please keep us in your prayers. If you feel that God is calling you to help the Junior Church, please do contact the Church Office or a Junior Church teacher.



Resources

Our Junior Church teachers use “Roots” (Worship and learning resources for the whole Church). Currently it is free for everyone to use. <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/>

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

- Ruby Wildhaber

Youth Confirmation Class

After the long summer break, we have met again. On 6 September, we welcomed Rachel who talked about her childhood in China and how she became a Christian.

We hope to hear more interesting stories over the next few months, so if you feel able to come and meet our amazing young people please do get in touch with me or with Helen. It's not only the young people who benefit – as adults, we also keep on learning.

The group plans to meet up until the end of November – then we hope to take part in the Nativity Play. After that, we will decide what to do in 2021.

-Tricia Carrick

Nativity Service

As you are all aware, this year things are very different. We still hope to hold our annual Nativity Service on Sunday 13 December.

We want to try to keep everyone safe, so we are currently planning to have a “virtual” play with all the parts recorded beforehand and projected during the service. This will also be available on line for those who cannot be in church that Sunday.



So we would like to invite children and adults who are willing to take part to contact me or Ruby. We might also be able to get some (small) groups of shepherds or angels together beforehand and take some pictures.

- Tricia Carrick

Safeguarding: You will be asked to complete a form to say that your child / children can take part in this event. Their picture (without their name) will be on St Ursula's website.

Charity of the Month: Child Development Centre, Talagolla, Ragama, Sri Lanka

The Child Development Centre (previously called the Children's Convalescent Home) is an approved charity in Sri Lanka under the Inland Revenue Act and is also under the supervision of the Child and Probation services of Sri Lanka.



St Ursula's has supported the Home in Talagolla for many years. The setting up of the Home was the brainchild of the late Professor C.C.de Silva and the late Dr Lloyd Abeyratne. The Appeal for Children's Committee of Ceylon was formed in 1951 in order to establish a Convalescent Home for poor, destitute and sick children who were in need of post medical and surgical recuperation. The Home was built with money donated by the United Nations Appeal for Children. Situated on four acres of ground, it provides an ideal environment for children. For almost 70 years, it has provided an invaluable service to sick and undernourished children from low income homes. Children are taken in irrespective of race, creed or caste.

The home accommodates at present around 20 children and has a staff of five. The majority of the children are sent there from the Lady Ridgeway Paediatric Hospital in Colombo or from the Ragama General Hospital as well as from the Henamulla Refugee Camp. In the hospitals, owing to the shortage of beds,



many of the children would be sent back home prematurely only to return again and again to hospital. Over a number of months, or years, they are given love and encouragement as well as a balanced diet that enables a rapid return to normal growth and raises their strength and resistance to overcome infections.



The majority of the children have been suffering from malnutrition or anaemia, some are physically handicapped, or have speech, visual and hearing defects or suffer from other illnesses. Some of the children are sent to the home by the Probation Department because of family issues or because one or both parents are drug addicts.

If the children have family members or relatives, contact with them is encouraged through regular visits to the children if this is possible. In addition, if a child is to return home, next of kin are instructed on matters of health and nutrition for children, taking into account the family's limited financial support and resources.

A pre-school and educational program is run at the home and the older children are sent to the village government school. Two Montessori trained teachers are employed to teach and special tuition classes are conducted in the afternoons and at the weekend.

The children can enjoy and take part in various gala and festival days, including a Christmas party each year, Independence Day celebrations, Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations, in song and dance recitals, games and other activities.

Every year we get detailed monthly reports from Mrs Sheryll Jinasena, Hon. Secretary/Warden on what has been happening at the Home and giving a glimpse of the work that is done on a daily basis. The home has also had to cope with the COVID-19 virus crisis with local curfews, hence having to create a daily program for the children and having to supervise the online schooling for the school children. We are often sent colourful drawings from the children



and photos of the children and their activities at the centre and the Board of Trustees.

In more recent years, some of the longer term residents who have had no families to return to, have approached adulthood. Mrs Sheryll Jinasena and other members of the Board of Trustees have worked hard to find alternative accommodation for these young people, where they will receive support, care and further training until they can become fully independent.



Please pray for the Child Development Centre in Talagolla:

- Give thanks for the dedication of Mrs Jinasena, the Board of Trustees and her staff and the doctors, who faithfully take care of the needs of the children.
- Pray for the children, that they would be nourished in body, soul and mind.
- Pray for the families of the children, that they find help to overcome poverty and the difficult circumstances they are in.
- Pray that the home will continue to have the needed personal and resources to serve the children.

- Cecily Klingler for the Charity and Missions Team

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 on responsibility.

The Kirchliche Passantenhilfe provide 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.

An Ongoing Local Charity Project for St Ursula's

As an ongoing project, St Ursula's Charity team has set up a collection box (blue crate) at the entry porch to the church for food and toiletries for the Passantenhilfe. Anyone can help – just bring along items when you come to church on Sunday – 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....

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, we have been able to bring boxes of foodstuffs and clothing several times to the Passantenhilfe office in Bern. The Passantenhilfe team is very grateful for all you have offered. The need for this service has risen with the present COVID-19 virus crisis. Since our Sunday services began after the COVID-19 Lock Down, we have been able to start up the food collection again. Please continue to bring along food or toiletry items.

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

Please note that at present, no clothing should be brought along.

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in October and November:

Jonah Aakervik 3 on 10 October

Daniela Cintron 7 on 19 October

Ayla Carnell 8 on 22 October

Louis Carnell 8 on 22 October

Marvin Carnell 8 on 22 October

Emmanuel Lehmann 14 on 22 October

Carlos Mendoza 13 on 22 October

Takura Wyder 17 on 11 November

Joana Agoba 17 on 13 November

Gabriela Cintron 12 on 19 November

Gabriela Matthews 6 on 26 November

Karl Gertsch 13 on 26 November

Lorelei Dörig 12 on 26 November

James John JJ Coatalen-Hodgson 5 on 27 November

Samuel Wienand 6 on 28 November

Albert Gertsch 9 on 28 November



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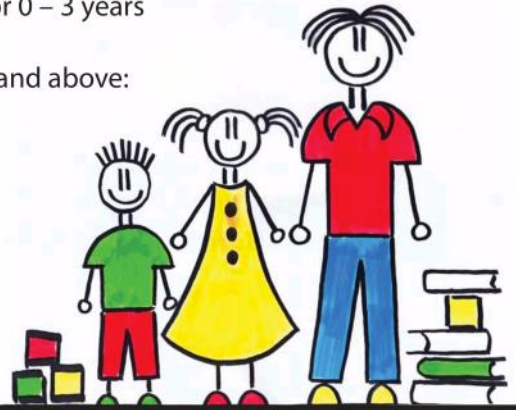


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English Speaking Club of Bern

Official Invitation

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

We are looking forward to meeting you

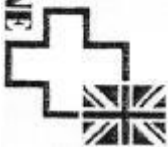
Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | www.englishclub.ch

Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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

Nazanin Kupferschmid, President
Tel. 078 905 5743, email nkschmid@gmx.net
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

Andy Prior

Hinterdorf 72, 3647 Reutigen
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Andy Prior is retiring at the end of this year, and we are grateful to him for the many years he has supported this magazine. We wish him and Ursula all the best in the future.

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Tricia Carrick	031 971 27 71
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Sue Higson	076 690 50 88
Lynn Morgan	031 971 13 36
Belle Täuber	079 369 94 26
Ruby Wildhaber	078 808 75 15

Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:

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Maxine Wildhaber	076 349 40 42

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ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

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Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

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Tony Read 033 243 34 32

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Adorée Weibel 031 879 01 31

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Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

“God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” So wrote Paul to the Philippians (2:9-11). Paul’s words, together with the thoughts at the beginning of the Gospel of John, moved Caroline Noel, a vicar’s daughter, to write this stirring hymn, which she published in 1870, some seven years before she died.



Reviewers often note that the hymn’s words are “theological rather than personal”, and express surprise that the writer was a strong evangelical Christian, and a woman – a view which is not only sectarian and sexist, but also unjust, for behind the proclamation of praise, there is also a reminder that we who bring the praise are all sinners, and that we need to “worship, trust and adore” Jesus the servant and cast out of our hearts “all that is not holy”.

Caroline had been brought up in Romsey in English Hampshire, where her father was vicar. Her father died when she was forty and still unmarried, and she had to move with her mother to London. Around the same time, she fell ill and was in almost constant pain for the last 25 years of her life. She turned to hymn-writing, publishing some of them in a book, *The Name of Jesus and other Verses for the Sick and Lonely*, which she revised several times.

The hymn reminds us of Christ’s majesty, and this is appropriate, as it was written for an Ascension Day procession. This also explains its length. (The sharp-eyed will notice that I have omitted verse 2, which we rarely sing!). Several composers have found rousing tunes for it. Here we sometimes sing it to Evelyngs, composed in 1875 by William Henry Monk, and sometimes to a swinging modern tune, Camberwell, written by Michael Brierley. This tune formed part of the Twentieth-Century Hymn Tunes movement of the early 1960s which brought new life to church music. It may sound a bit dated now, but at the time it was both modern and controversial.

Another attempt to bring the hymn up to date failed to last more than a decade or two. Keen scholars working at the end of the 19th century to revise and correct the “authorized” translation of the Bible, which had been published in 1611, felt that the proper wording of Philippians 2:10 should be “*in* the name of Jesus”, and the hymnbooks followed suit. But the revised words never caught on, and traditional usage prevailed. Yet whichever words or tune we use, the thoughts are completely up to date, for the last word of the hymn is “now”!

- *Hector Davie*

¹At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now:
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

³At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders,
in their great array.

⁴Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,

faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he
passed:

⁵Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of
creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

⁶Name him, brothers,
name him,
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder
and with bated breath:
he is God the Saviour,

he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted, and adored.

⁷In your hearts enthrone
him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true:
crown him as your Captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

⁸Brothers, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

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