

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



February - March 2021

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

**Chaplain:** Revd Helen Marshall

chaplain@stursula.ch

031 351 03 43

Day off: Friday

### **Lay Reader**

Archana Jacob

archana@stursula.ch

**Church Office:** 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

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### **Normal pattern of Sunday services:**

8.30 Said Eucharist (2nd and 4th Sundays)

10.00 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church and Crèche

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

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

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

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

Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

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### **ST URSULA'S BERNE**

The church is one of the nine Swiss chaplaincies that have a resident chaplain (minister) and together form the Archdeaconry of Switzerland. This is part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe which stretches from the Canary Islands to Ankara, from Moscow to Morocco.

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land 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](http://www.stursula.ch)**

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



# St Ursula's Church Magazine

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February - March 2021

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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](http://www.stursula.ch)) for recent information.

### **COPY DATE**

for the April - May 2021 magazine is

**14 March 2021**

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

**COLLATING DATE: Thursday 25 March 2021**

# From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

These days are very challenging for us all as we continue to live with the threat of Covid-19 and the impact it has on our lives, our work, our families and relationships and our wider society. It is hard to take on board the suffering of so many people, the pain of bereavement and the sheer exhaustion and desperation of medical professionals across the world. Many people are also suffering from weariness and depression because of the ongoing anxiety and uncertainty.

At such times, we need to remind ourselves, again and again, that God holds all things in his powerful love. Even when we feel the ground is constantly shifting beneath our feet and everything feels insecure, let us remember that God, in his constancy, remains the same. Our security lies in him.

In these coming days, we may find it helpful to meditate regularly on words of scripture or words of hymns to remind us of the bigger perspective. This can help us to look beyond our own fears and insecurities, and the desperate circumstances engulfing the world, to fix our minds and hearts on God, our Creator and Redeemer.

God cares for the whole world and holds all things in his hands; he also cares for each one of us as an individual.

As we think about the world, we might want to reflect on the following scriptures:

‘Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.’  
(*Psalm 90.1-2*)

‘Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.’  
(*Colossians 1.15-17*)

When we are tempted to feel, as in Yeats' poem, that 'things fall apart' we need to remind ourselves instead that 'in him all things hold together'.

God holds the whole world in his hands and even in the midst of the 'groaning of creation' we can have confidence in his good purposes, that in the end there will be a 'new heaven and a new earth' and 'all things will be made new'.  
(*Revelation 21.1,5*)



Sometimes it is not the big picture that worries us, but the struggles, weariness and uncertainty of our own little lives. We need then to remind ourselves of God's knowledge and love for each one of us. We might find it helpful to meditate on Psalm 139 which opens:

'Lord, you have searched me and known me,  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
You discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.' (v1-3)

The Psalmist goes on to wonder at God as his creator:  
'For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
You knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...' (v13-14)

In recent sermons, we have reflected on God's knowledge and love for particular individuals, like Nathanael, Peter, the Samaritan woman, and the rich young man. He sees our weaknesses and our potential, yet he holds us in his love. We are his beloved children.

Whenever we feel downcast or overwhelmed, let us take time to meditate on scripture and look to God and his grace.

Hymns and songs can also encourage us. Let me end with the words of a Charles Wesley hymn which I always find brings fresh light and hope especially in times of gloom or despondency:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and joyless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiance divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

With my love in Christ,

*Helen*



# It's All Propaganda

Every gardening book tells how to grow plants. You can plant seeds. You can divide a plant into parts, each of which will grow by itself. With many plants, you can take cuttings, and with some you need to graft old tissue on to fresh growth to produce the ideal vine, or rose, or apple. All these are ways of propagation – making more of something and establishing it firmly.

In 1622, the Catholic Church realized that the nations of Western Europe were expanding overseas, and that the English and the Dutch were establishing powerful trading empires in Asia, Africa and America – and taking their religion with them. They felt that their own

missionary work should be better planned and more systematic, and set up a formal body to train and finance missionaries and to direct their work. It was called the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith – in Latin, *Congregatio de Propaganda Fide*.

Today's meaning of propaganda is something different. It grew out of social change, in particular the French Revolution and the political movements of the 19th century, and began as a way of presenting new ideas to people's minds. The ideas could be good or bad – the important thing was that they should make sense. Propaganda did not have to be untrue – but it helped! The belief that “people will believe anything, provided they are told it often enough and emphatically enough” led to new techniques of persuasion and new forms of influence which are very much part of today's world.

What has this to do with us? The coming of God's rule, when it happens, is very much a new idea. The Bible is full of people who couldn't get their heads around it, from old Abraham, who couldn't grasp that his descendants would be “as numerous as grains of sand on the seashore”, through the children of Israel, who had to learn kindness to “the strangers within their gates” while at the same time having nothing to do with their heathen beliefs, to the Pharisees and the Sadducees whose ears were deaf to Jesus' own propaganda, taught in simple sermons and parables.





Most importantly, though, we must find our own way of presenting God's love to the people around us. For many people, the contents of the Bible make no sense, and what goes on in a church is a closed book. At the most, the Bible is a string of disconnected stories – Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, Joseph and his dreams, Moses and the escape from Egypt, Daniel and the lions. People know the Christmas stories and perhaps a little about Pontius Pilate and the Crucifixion – even the tale of the empty tomb, but what comes in between is a set of confused memories – maybe a parable or a miracle story, even a verse or two from the Sermon on the Mount. In church, people sing hymns, say prayers and listen to sermons – for many people scarcely relevant to daily life. Even the ideas people talk about are confusing – what is a sin, what is a blessing, how does one “walk in the paths of righteousness”?

This is a bit of an exaggeration, and God can speak into our hearts without the paraphernalia of the tale of Balaam and his ass, without Wesley's hymns and without obscure jargon. A sign of hope is a steady stream of ordinary people in everyday jobs sharing their stories, bringing their own insights to daily living. These are the propagandists just as much as the preachers, just as much as the writers of tracts and commentaries – for they are well placed to plant the seed.

*- Hector Davie*

## **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

All being well, our AGM will be held on

**Sunday 25 April 2021 at 12.00**  
**in the church**

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 and the churchwardens.

The agenda for the meeting and more information will be included in the next magazine.

*- Tricia Carrick (on behalf of the church council)*



# A Word for the Month – City

What makes us civilized? Moralists, anthropologists, philosophers, politicians – even theologians – argue over a definition. You might like to think of one yourself, and then ask yourself what sort of people are uncivilized. But the normal answer (perhaps a wrong one!) is that people are civilized if they can live together in a city.

This is interesting, because the Bible tells us that when Adam and Eve were created, God put them in a garden. After they misbehaved, their descendants led a largely nomadic life tending sheep. Cities get a bad press.

Cain's son Enoch has the first city built (Gen. 4:17), and the next report the Bible brings us of city-building is the ill-advised Babel in Genesis 11, whose builders said: "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves."

When Joseph is sold to the Midianites, they take him down to Egypt, to the richest city known at the time. But after a generation or so city life is less appealing. Joseph is forgotten, and Jacob's children are enslaved. The slavery only ends when Moses leads them across the Red Sea and into the desert – for forty years in a citiless waste.

When they reach their promised land, they find other nations have already built cities, like Jericho and Jerusalem, which they need to conquer. They do not at once become city-dwellers. For a long time they were ruled by judges, not a monarch, and had no fixed temple for worship – for had not God accompanied them through the desert housed in a tent?



*Building More Stately Mansions* by Aaron Douglas, 1944

But then from the time of David onwards the Jews embraced city life, with many of the ills that city-dwellers are prone to – greed, injustice, exploitation, self-interest. Jerusalem became a centre of hope, the place where God’s glory dwelt, but as the prophets continually pointed out, the reality fell far short of the ideal. When the city was overrun at the beginning of the sixth century BC by another and more powerful city, Babylon, the Jerusalemites were hauled off into exile, and over the next seventy years developed an even more ideal image of their city.

Yet when God came to live among us in Jesus, he slept in a manger. The magi made the mistake of assuming they would find him in a city, but Bethlehem, “royal David’s city”, was no more than a rural settlement, and Galilee, the focus of his ministry, was just a scattering of fishing-villages. At the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus came to Jerusalem, and they killed him there.

From then on, cities became an aid to the spread of the Gospel. We hear of Paul’s missionary journeys, always to centres with an established community of Jewish expatriates and their own synagogue – to places like Ephesus, Corinth, Athens and Rome. Later missionaries targeted rulers and leaders – even in countries where there were no complex settlements. The news of the good shepherd, the water of life, the plentiful harvest, often came to lands where streets were crowded, work was limited and life was tense.

Despite the bad press cities receive in the Bible, we still liken Heaven to a city and ourselves to its citizens. The Book of Revelation ends with vision of an ideal Jerusalem, welcoming Jew and non-Jew alike, a place of peace, joy and harmony, where sorrow and enmity are no more. Are we ready to translate our earthly cities into God’s heavenly city? Let us try!

- *Hector Davie*



## Save the Date; spring is coming!

It may be hard to dream of sunny spring days while we are still in the middle of winter with very low temperatures and limited sunlight, but no winter lasts forever.

Soon spring will be here greeting us with hope and bringing colour to our lives. Hopefully this spring will be different from last year's. Here in St Ursula's we are looking forward to leaving behind the anxiety and the confinement of these past months and welcoming everyone back when the time is right.

Our first sale of the year will take place on Saturday 6 March so **Save the Date!** Sadly, the guidelines on hygiene and social distancing requirements to combat the spread of COVID-19 do not permit us to hold our Spring Sale this year in physical form. However, while it may be impossible to meet in person and celebrate together, we found no reason to cancel our event completely. Delicious food along with second-hand books will be on sale **online**. Our volunteers work hard to prepare everything for the sale and our new website will be launched soon for your online orders.

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

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy!

- *Maria Avdikou, Church Office*

The design used for our Spring Sale flyer and the respective article was by Pikisuperstar – Freepik.com.

# Advent Prayer and Fasting Day



## Introduction from Helen

During Advent, I invited people to join me for a prayer and fasting day. Nine people participated. I sent out material for those participating to use during the day at home; suggestions for prayer, Bible reading and reflection. We also met together three times during the day, via Zoom, to share our reflections, pray together and encourage one another to keep going! Fasting can help us become more aware of our need of God and our hunger for his word; it can also deepen our compassion for others in need.

Afterwards, some of the participants wrote some reflections on how they found the day and I quote them below.

## Dominic Roser:

I really liked the fasting day in Advent. Zoom made it possible for us to check in with each other several times a day. And at the end of this one single day it already felt like we were a little community who went through an adventure together. I felt quite connected to everyone. Despite the fact that I had to work this day in between the prayer meetings, it allowed me to go much deeper on the path through Advent than on any other day in the lead-up to Christmas. Foregoing food posed a surprisingly small challenge.

## Wendy Martinek:

This was a day of peace and spiritual nourishment, which almost made one forget the simple fast.

The words 'for God alone my soul waits,' (with which Helen began) brought with them that special thrill of Advent, with the anticipation of the birth of Jesus, and the need for the inner preparation which this day offered us. Times of reading, prayer and silent meditation, fitted surprisingly into a modified daily routine, in a way which could become a valuable spiritual habit.

We met three times on line with Helen, the hostess, whose wise guidance would steer us through the sharing and prayer of the day, and made me forget my prejudice of the very idea of zooming (my on line skills being of the more primitive sort!). We considered the gift of space for silence. Our prayers were for the church communities of St Ursula's and of the Swiss Archdeaconry. Other prayers included the offering of personal needs, and thoughts, wounds or memories together with those of our troubled world.

Those of us who shared in this day would welcome and recommend such another. Thank you Helen!

### **Janet Wenger:**

Wake up!

Get up!

COME TO ME

Stay awake!

Keep alert!

Watch!

Wait!

Pray and stay

with ME.

Night and day

with ME.

Know Me.

Love Me.

Obey Me.

Walk My Way

with ME.

Take root,

Bear fruit

In Me.

Child of God,

Follow Me

In humility,

In submission,

In purity,

In unity.

Confess.

Repent.

I AM saving you,

Making a way for you.

COME TO ME!

Follow Me!

I AM the WAY

I AM the LIGHT of the WORLD

You are the Light of the world....

IN ME

AWAKE!

ARISE!

SHINE!

Declare MY PRAISE!!

## **Brian and Lynn Morgan:**

As a certain first in the history of St Ursula's, in December 2020 Chaplain Helen hosted a Zoom fasting. No, not a fast from Zoom - which many may even welcome! – but a day's fasting with instructions and intermittent prayer over Zoom.

The event was advertised and participants were instructed to restrain from taking breakfast and “warned” that the fast would last until evening, when a meal could be taken. Ideally this should have been a day when the participants did not have any particular social event or otherwise going on at the same time.

9 am. A group of potential fasters met for the first Zoom meeting when Helen introduced us to the spiritual principles of fasting. It became clear from the discussion between the participants that, although fasting is a traditional discipline of the church, it is not so often practised these days. As a group we realised, that with the exception of “Lenten Fasts”, we had had little experience of fasting. Helen encouraged us to pray, to read the bible and to concentrate our minds on God's presence during the day's fasting.

During this first session of fasting, Lynn and I remembered that in the wake of both lockdowns in the UK, our Archbishops had encouraged the people of the Church to fast in an appropriate way to pray for the nation, its leaders and for health workers and all who suffer. This became our prayer for the morning, also including Switzerland.

1pm. We met again on Zoom. Feedback on the spiritual discipline was encouraging and nobody was feeling faint from hunger. With further instruction and prayers, Helen launched us into the afternoon.

In the afternoon Lynn and I focused on Simeon and Hannah who perceived Jesus as the Messiah as Jesus' parents brought him to the temple to offer him to God. We meditated especially on Hannah, a widow of the age of eighty-four. It is written that she did not leave the temple grounds, serving night and day with fasts and prayers. Such dedication to God!

5pm. This was our final Zoom meeting of the day. Lynn and I both felt spiritually uplifted by the day with a feeling of peace. The general consensus of the group was that the discipline of fasting should gain a greater awareness in our lives and the desire was raised for more teaching and practice in this discipline.

*- Helen*



# Nativity Service



Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus



The Wise Men

Our Nativity Service last year took place virtually on 13 December. Unfortunately, we couldn't meet in church, so we had to come up with a different idea. This service included readings and pictures from around 28 children (which means about 60 people if you count their parents and other adults who contributed).

The recording was put together by Kathy, Marc and Jillian – many thanks to them. It is very special, so if you haven't seen it yet do go and have a look (<http://www.stursula.ch/Services/20201213.html>).

It was a simple account of the birth of Jesus – starting with creation and ending with the birth of Christ. It included the traditional carols and readings, some recorded by the children. And illustrated with drawings they prepared. Many people were involved in the preparation. I hope it will remain in many people's memories for a long time. But I also hope and pray we can celebrate in church the next time.

- Tricia Carrick



John the Baptist



# Treasurer's report 2020

2020 has come to a close, and thanks to our congregation, supporters and fundraisers we have managed to close the year with a small excess. This is wonderful news in a year like 2020, when so much of the time we were online only, and our premises were closed. I wish to thank all who supported us last year, in whatever way. We were truly blessed.

The income from the community was in line with that of 2019, with the loss of collection income made up for by extra donations. We also received an unexpected legacy of Fr12,413 which meant that the church also ended up with a small excess.

INCOME	current	Prior year	Budget 20
<b>Income from Community</b>	<b>174,965</b>	<b>175,253</b>	<b>167,750</b>
<i>Pledged giving</i>	<i>134,685</i>	<i>135,250</i>	<i>133,000</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>28,849</i>	<i>21,818</i>	<i>21,000</i>
<i>Collections</i>	<i>11,431</i>	<i>18,185</i>	<i>13,750</i>
<b>Legacy</b>	<b>12,413</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>Income from Thun</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,120</b>

Our events income is around Fr11,350 below that of 2019, but considering all the challenges we had, and that two main sales were online, this is still a great result.

Income from Events	2020	2019	2018	2017
Book Sales	4,772	6,493	7,348	6,343
Bazaar	6,871	10,485	9,699	10,584
Food Stall	9,244	12,686	13,088	13,935
Other events	1,410	3,998	2,243	43
	<b>22,297</b>	<b>33,662</b>	<b>32,378</b>	<b>30,904</b>
Other events includes pub quizzes, curry evenings, afternoon tea etc				

Our online pub quizzes have proved to be very popular. We have had three now. The last one between Christmas and New Year was free of charge to say thank you to our supporters, but it did still raise some money for our charity appeal for Passentenhilfe and Villa Maria. The food stall figures above are after food costs, which in 2020 were direct imports from the UK with duty and VAT paid on import. Book sales were

badly hit with the move to our online sales, but still made a good result. The bazaar figures exclude the food stall, so this is purely due to our patchwork, baking and catering and some books sold during the bazaar.

The closure of our premises reduced the income from renting out our premises, but also had the knock on effect of reducing the running costs of the buildings.

INCOME	current	Prior year	Budget 20
<b>Income from other sources</b>	18,970	24,888	20,500
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	18,014	24,548	20,000
<i>Other</i>	956	340	500

At the time of writing we have an excess of around Fr4,500 on the Church side, which is after an extra donation of Fr2,000 to Tear Fund to make up for the fact that junior church could not support them in 2020 as they would normally have done. We also plan to give an extra Fr2,000 to the Diocese Hardship fund to assist those chaplaincies that have not been as blessed as us, so that will leave around Fr2,500 for our general reserves.

On the Association side we are able to transfer Fr20,000 to our building fund, and we still have a little left over, around Fr2,500 that will go to the Association general reserves. The building fund will be at around Fr106,000 after this transfer. The technical committee have a list of planned tasks to maintain our buildings, and we will work together to ensure the best use of the money in the short term and the long term.

EXPENDITURE	current	Prior year	Budget 20
<b>Running costs</b>	<b>29,833</b>	<b>53,675</b>	<b>41,620</b>
<i>Premises</i>	21,567	45,792	34,000
<i>Office</i>	1,017	659	900
<i>Telephone and Internet</i>	872	1,106	800
<i>Insurance</i>	2,309	1,800	2,310
<i>Property tax</i>	1,607	1,607	1,610
<i>Vestry</i>	1,785	1,148	1,000
<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	164	1,035	500
<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	512	530	500

- Sue Higson, Treasurer

# Services and Readings February and March 2021

## Sunday 7 February – Mission Sunday (Second Sunday before Lent)

10:00 Eucharist  
*Proverbs 8:1,22-31*  
*Colossians 1:15-20*  
*John 1:1-14*



## Sunday 14 February - Sunday Before Lent

10:00 Informal Eucharist  
*2 Kings 2:1-12*  
*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*  
*Mark 9:2-9*

## Wednesday 17 February - Ash Wednesday

18:30 Eucharist with Imposition of  
Ashes  
*Isaiah 58:1-12*  
*Psalms 51:1-18*  
*2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10*  
*John 8: 1-11*

## Sunday 21 February - First Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist  
*Genesis 9:8-17*  
*1 Peter 3:18-22*  
*Mark 1:9-15*

## Sunday 28 February - Second Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist  
*Genesis 17:1-16*  
*Romans 4:13-25*  
*Mark 8:31-38*

## Sunday 7 March - Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist  
*Exodus 20:1-17*  
*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*  
*John 2:13-22*

## Sunday 14 March - Fourth Sunday of Lent (and Mothering Sunday)

10:00 Informal Eucharist  
*Numbers 21:4-9*  
*Ephesians 2:1-10*  
*John 3:14-21*

## Sunday 21 March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist  
*Jeremiah 31:31-34*  
*Hebrews 5:5-10*  
*John 12:20-33*

## Sunday 28 March - Palm Sunday

10:00 Procession of Palms and  
Eucharist  
*Mark 11:1-11*  
*Isaiah 50:4-9a*  
*Philippians 2:5-11*  
*Mark 15:1-39*

### **Thursday 1 April - Maundy**

#### **Thursday**

18:30 Eucharist

*Exodus 12:1-14*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

*John 13:1-17,31b-35*

*Gospel of the Watch: Matthew 26.30-75*

### **Friday 2 April - Good Friday**

10:00 Family Service

14:00 Liturgy of the Last Hour

*Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12*

*Psalms 22*

*Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

*John 18:1 - 19:42*

### **Sunday 4 April - Easter Sunday**

10:00 Proclamation of the Resurrection

and First Eucharist of Easter

*Acts 10:34-43*

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

*Mark 16:1-8*

### **Sunday 11 April - Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)**

10:00 Informal Eucharist

*Acts 4:32-35*

*1 John 1:1 - 2:2*

*John 20:19-31*

## **Electoral Roll Revision**

Each year our Electoral Roll is revised just before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) – you will find more information about the AGM elsewhere in this magazine.

At the AGM we elect representatives to the church council and also the churchwardens.

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. The current list of members of the Electoral Roll will be displayed in the church hall from the start of March. However, if you are not able to go to the church hall and want to know whether your name is on the list, you can email or phone me and I will check.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, may I encourage you to consider joining – it costs nothing and gives you the chance of being more involved in the life of our church. 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 4 April**.

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)*

# For Your Diary February and March 2021

## Regular Events (all held via Zoom)

Sundays	11.00 Coffee Time
Sundays	10.45 Men's Group
Tuesdays	19.00 Bible Study
Thursdays	10:30 Lectio Divina

## Other Events

Tuesday 2 February	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 4 February	Thun Service
Sunday 7 February	MISSION SUNDAY
Sunday 14 February	Confirmation Class
Wednesday 17 February	ASH WEDNESDAY
Thursday 18 February	Thun Service
Saturday 20 February	Archdeaconry Synod Meeting
Sunday 28 February	Confirmation Class
Tuesday 2 March	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 4 March	Thun Service
Saturday 6 March	Online Spring Sale
Sunday 14 March	MOTHERING SUNDAY
	Confirmation Class
	Magazine Copy Date
	Last date for receipt of AGM reports
Thursday 18 March	Thun Service
Sunday 28 March	PALM SUNDAY
	Confirmation Class

## Future Dates

Thursday 1 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY
Friday 2 April	GOOD FRIDAY
Sunday 4 April	EASTER DAY
Sunday 25 April	St Ursula's AGM
Thursday 13 May	ASCENSION DAY
Sunday 23 May	PENTECOST
Sunday 30 May	TRINITY SUNDAY
Saturday 5 June	Summer Fête

## Christingle Service

We held a Christingle service by Zoom on Christmas Eve. 11 families attended – fewer than in former years, but hopefully things will be different again this year. Still it was good to share making Christingles together and to see what the various parts mean. For those who don't know, here is a quick guide:

The word Christingle comes from the German "Christkindl" meaning "Little Christ Child". The Christingle celebrates Jesus as the "Light of the World".

A Christingle usually consists of:

- An orange, representing the world
- A candle pushed into the centre of the orange, then lit, representing Jesus Christ as [Light of the World](#)
- A red ribbon wrapped around the orange representing the [blood of Christ](#)
- Dried fruits and/or sweets skewered on cocktail sticks pushed into the orange, representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.

- *Tricia Carrick*





# Junior Church News

At the moment, we are not able to meet at church. We hope and pray that this will change soon.

In the meantime, there are many resources on the web. The Junior Church teachers use "Roots" (<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/>) which are currently available to all. If you have questions about how to access these, please contact me or another Junior Church teacher.



Despite all the difficulties, we are trying to keep in touch with our Junior Church families (by email and by phone) and together we produced a "virtual" Nativity Service for 13 December - see separate article. There was also a Christingle service on Christmas Eve using Zoom – see page 19.

We hope to have another "virtual" project very soon.

Please continue to pray for the children, their families and the teachers during this strange time.

- *Tricia Carrick*

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in February and March:

Evan Gantenbein 4 on 1 February

Cara Hofer 15 on 7 February

Lillian Hamming 9 on 12 February

Janice Mensah 13 on 18 February

Christopher Shergold 13 on 12 March

Lydia Shergold 11 on 12 March

Edem-David Agoba 14 on 28 March



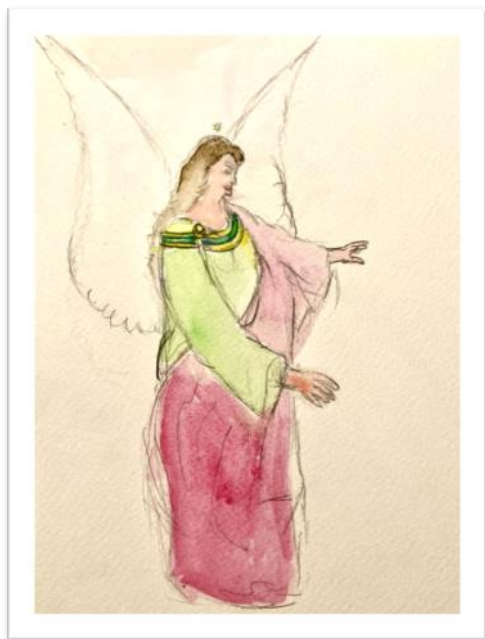


# Youth Confirmation Class

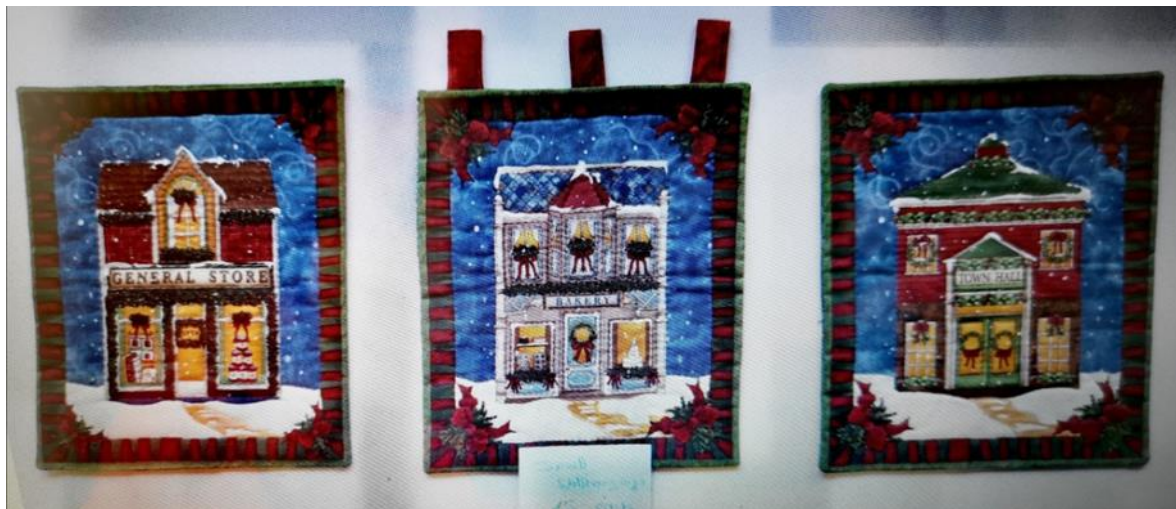
The Youth Confirmation Class continues to meet approximately twice a month via Zoom – until we can meet in the church hall again. Our current topic is “Being a Christian”. As well as keeping in touch with one another, we do a short Bible study, based on the early church – so from Acts or one of the letters. Then someone from our congregation talks about some aspect of their Christian life. We already had six people talk to the group. If you would like to do this, please contact me as we still need a few volunteers for the first part of 2021.

We still have no idea whether a confirmation can take place this year – so we just have to keep hoping and praying. Please keep on praying for the five young people.

*-Tricia Carrick*



# Online Christmas Bazaar 27-28 November 2020



2020 was a year of firsts for us at St Ursula's. We launched online services, online coffee meetings, online Bible study, online nativity services and online quizzes. Our congregation learned to love Zoom, and our chaplain learnt how to get the best use out of her smart phone with recording functions, and also what a breakout room is. We also learnt how to make an online virtual bazaar work. The experience we gained at the Summer Fête was invaluable in helping us run the bazaar, which was way bigger than just offering foodstuffs. The whole fundraising team got on board with offering cooked dinners, mince pies, crumpets, scones, the Christmas cakes of course, savoury pies, fresh wreaths, glass wreaths and patchwork items as well as COVID-19 masks.

Although switching online was safer and still allowed us to offer all the goodies associated with Christmas in a COVID-19 appropriate manner, we faced a lot of challenges on the way. We had to organise Zoom meetings in order to coordinate our fabulous volunteers, we had to deal with delayed postal deliveries and missing crackers, as well as update the order form and stock levels on a continuous basis, take photos and catalogue all items, and arrange time slots for order pickups over two days and also deliver the orders to the most vulnerable.

In advance of the sale Jane and Jana baked over 70 Christmas cakes, and arranged icing with help from the International School and other volunteers. Chloé organised a wreath workshop and Sue and Agnes tried their hand at being creative with glass arrangements, another first.

Caroline did a fabulous job processing 105 orders, acknowledgements and time slots, whilst also managing to find time to make cookies to sell and to ensure her son's birthday was fun on the 27th. Agnes took

charge of marketing, producing our brochure and keeping all our customers informed. Jackie baked 150 mince pies, Tricia baked a similar number of scones, Georgina managed 350 crumpets over several days. On the food stall there were 134 different products including 18 different sorts of jams and marmalades of which 126 jars of jam were sold. One customer mailed us later to say they had enjoyed their jam so much, they had gone out for extra bread to continue eating it.

Sharon, Toni, Lynn and Tricia conjured up 71 Christmas dinners and 40 Christmas puddings. Jana baked and packaged 42 of her pies, as well as cheese straws.

Our Book team sorted books and were open for a limited number of visitors not only on the bazaar weekend, but also two weekends after that. It was truly a team effort. On the pickup days a few of us took it in turns to greet the people and hand out the orders that had been prepared for them. You may not have seen our smiles behind our masks, but they were broad and genuine. We were all happy we made it happen and delighted to see you all even for a few minutes and wish you Merry Christmas in person. Many of our customers gave great feedback, especially those who would normally have gone to the UK for the Christmas period, and could not. We helped them to experience a little bit of a British Christmas.

Our next sale in March will also be online, but we have taken some lessons from November and plan to make it easier for you to order, and also easier for us to track the stock and produce acknowledgements. Excel might be great, but it has its limits, and so for the next sale you will be able to order online via our sale web-page. This will look like a shop and you can place an order online. The stock will be continuously monitored, and assigned to you on placing the order, the acknowledgement will be automatically generated and you can also pick your own pickup slot, although that might get changed by us if too many pick the same time. Payment will be still on pickup or via bank transfer and no bank information will be needed on the site, not even a login. We are very excited about this. The site will open a short time before the sale, and close again afterwards. Currently we are uploading pictures of all our products, but once we are up the link is:

[www.sale-stursula.ch](http://www.sale-stursula.ch)

You can find lots of photos from our Christmas bazaar under this link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/r3N36TRSJFt9azqu5>

The amount raised is detailed in the Treasurer's report on page 10 of this magazine.

- *Sue, Maria and the events team.*

# St Ursula's Charity and Missions

## General Overview January 2020

The task of the Charity and Missions Team is fourfold:

- To draw up a proposal towards the end of the year for Council on how to allocate the charity giving
- To keep in contact with the organisations we are supporting
- To pass on news about the organisations to the congregation through articles in the magazine, displays in the church hall, by direct contact and by having speakers, e.g. on Mission Sunday
- To help our church family pray faithfully for the people we support with our gifts.

For many years St Ursula's Church has set aside 10% of the pledged giving for charitable and missionary work. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organisations supported in previous years the funds were distributed at the end of 2020 as follows:

### Charity and Missions - List of payments 2020

<b>Local</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Discretionary (to be used locally)	700.00
AKiB Passantenhilfe	1400.00
AKiB Zentrum 5	1400.00
<b>Regional</b>	
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Mumias, Kryna, classroom building)	1000.00
Bishop's Advent Appeal (Covid-19 Support to the Anglican Communion)	1000.00
<b>International</b>	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3500.00
A Rocha International	2000.00
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	2000.00
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	2000.00
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	2000.00
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2000.00
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	2000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>21000.00</b>



We are continuing to support A Rocha International, an international charity focussing on environmental issues around the globe. This is also in connection with our efforts at St Ursula's to become an Eco Church, a scheme coming through A Rocha. St Ursula's has achieved the Bronze Award. We were grateful that a group of interested St Ursula's members could meet with Sarah French on a Zoom meeting on 14 September and learn more about Eco Church and the work of A Rocha International.

The Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund is faithfully supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of helpers who organise various fundraising events at St Ursula's such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup lunches and the Lent Soup Lunch as well as concerts and events.

Our Mission Sunday for 2020 took place on 16 February. The Mission focus was on the work of Zentrum5 in Bern with Mr Jürg Trefzer, who was accompanied by two of his co-workers, as guest speaker. The Junior Church worked hard with a project to make new posters for our charities and so were also involved in the Mission Sunday. This year's Mission Sunday will be an online service on 7 February.

The Junior Church supports the Tear Fund Schweiz Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda. Normally proceeds from the Junior Church collections as well as Junior Church Bake Sales go to this project but due to the COVID crisis no bake sales were possible and for many weeks there was no Junior Church. Proceeds from the Harvest Festival Auction would normally also go to TearFund Schweiz. This year, however, the Harvest Festival service in church was only possible with restricted numbers and no auction could be held. Instead we were able to bring all the produce from the Harvest Festival service to the Passantenhilfe office. They were very grateful for all the generous gifts from St Ursula's. The Charity and Missions team are concerned that for the above reasons, our support the the TearFund Schweiz Diocese of Kigezi Water & Sanitation Project is considerably down.

We thank our church family for its continuing support for our charities. We encourage all of you to keep the institutions we support in your prayers. Please check the board in the church hall for our charity focus displays and information about other charities and missions as well as our regular charity and missions focus article in the magazine.

### **The Charity and Missions Team:**

Our Chaplain Helen, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Esther Hutchison, Cecily Klingler (Contact person), and Pieter Perrett

## **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.

## **Our Ongoing Local Charity Project at St Ursula's**

At present due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we can no longer have Sunday services in church and hence we cannot collect food and toiletry items for the Passantenhilfe at church. The charity team was concerned about this since we know that as the COVID-19 crisis continues there has been a rise in the number of people in Bern in need of this Passantenhilfe service. We have been in touch with Mrs Ursula Käufeler at the Passantenhilfe (some of you will remember her speaking at our Mission Sunday 2019) and she has confirmed this need. So the Charity team is suggesting that our church members bring food items directly to the Passantenhilfe Office at Gartenstrasse 8 in Bern. It would be wonderful if you could manage to continue to support in this way. You can see the address and contact details and opening times below:

### **AKiB Passantenhilfe und Sozialberatung Bern**

Büro +41 31 380 75 40

Gartenstrasse 8, 3007 Bern

[passantenhilfe-bern.ch](http://passantenhilfe-bern.ch) [heilsarmee.ch](http://heilsarmee.ch)

#### Opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00-11.30 14.00-16.00

Wednesday 14.00-16.00

The Passantenhilfe are grateful for packaged or tinned processed foodstuffs within the expiry date (e.g. tinned foods, pasta, rice, packets of soup, tea, coffee, oil) and toiletry items (e.g. shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes)

*-Cecily Klingler*



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***Beratungen***

**Toni Bachmann**

Brunngasse 20

**CH-3806 Bönigen b. I**

**Tel: +41 (0)33 336 9394**

**Mob: +41 (0)79 652 6619**

[toni.bachmann@quicknet.ch](mailto:toni.bachmann@quicknet.ch)

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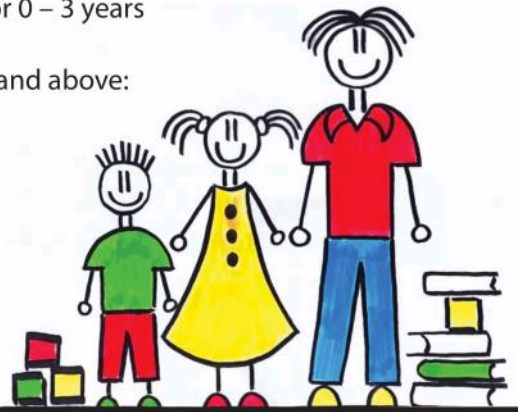


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www.esp-bern.ch

Tel: 031 332 9292  
info@esp-bern.ch

  
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Or email: [bradyeviota@gmail.com](mailto:bradyeviota@gmail.com)



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tel: +41 31 952 75 55

[info@britishschool.ch](mailto:info@britishschool.ch)

[www.britishschool.ch](http://www.britishschool.ch)

<https://www.facebook.com/britishschoolbern/>

**Early registration is recommended!**

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\*Enviably student to teacher ratio

\*promotion of close partnerships between parent, teacher and child



English Speaking Club of Bern

## Official Invitation

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We are looking forward to meeting you

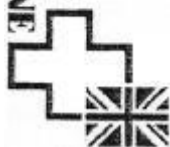
Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | [www.englishclub.ch](http://www.englishclub.ch)

## Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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

Nazanin Kupferschmid, President  
Tel. 078 905 5743, email [nkschmid@gmx.net](mailto: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](http://www.angloswissclubs.ch)

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: [cuwarren@zapp.ch](mailto:cuwarren@zapp.ch)





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[www.upstage.ch](http://www.upstage.ch)  
[www.facebook.com/upstage.bern](http://www.facebook.com/upstage.bern)

# Here to help you

## **CATERING COORDINATOR**

vacant

## **CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM**

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

### **Church Council**

#### *Lay Members:*

Michael Agoba	078 811 19 46
Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Tricia Carrick	031 971 27 71
Johannes Hewel (secretary)	078 949 39 86
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:*

Hector Davie (vice chair)	031 971 27 71
Maxine Wildhaber	076 349 40 42

## **CHURCH OFFICE** 031 352 85 67

*Administration:* Maria Avdikou

**Normally open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings**

Church Hall 032 510 22 12

## **CHURCHWARDENS**

Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88

## **CRÈCHE**

Dominic Roser 076 546 80 85

## **ECUMENICAL CONTACT**

Esther Hutchison Funkhouser 031 351 73 47

## **ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**

Patricia Carrick 031 971 27 71

## **ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

## **FLOWERS**

Chloë Hodler 031 951 40 57

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Ruby Wildhaber 078 808 75 15

## **LAY READER**

Archana Jacob 031 859 64 12

## **MAGAZINE COLLATION**

Annemarie Walthert 031 331 03 72

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Querida Long 079 816 86 55

## **MUSIC**

### **Organist**

Hans-Karl Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

### **Choir**

Elisabeth Pfyffer 026 492 03 26

### **Music Group**

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

## **PARENTS AND TOTS**

Ashleigh Rae 078 420 91 76  
chandler.ashleigh@gmail.com

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Archana Jacob 031 859 64 12

## **ROTA COORDINATOR**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Chalice Bearers:**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Intercessions:**

Esther Hutchison Funkhouser 031 351 73 47

### **Readers:**

Adorée Weibel 031 879 01 31

### **Servers:**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Sidespersons:**

vacant

### **Audio and Video:**

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Deputy: Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

## **TEA AND COFFEE**

Mary Mead 031 982 00 37

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Hans Goepfert 077 472 20 60

## **THUN CONTACT**

Alison Beindorff 033 243 41 30

## **TREASURER**

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

## **VESTRY**

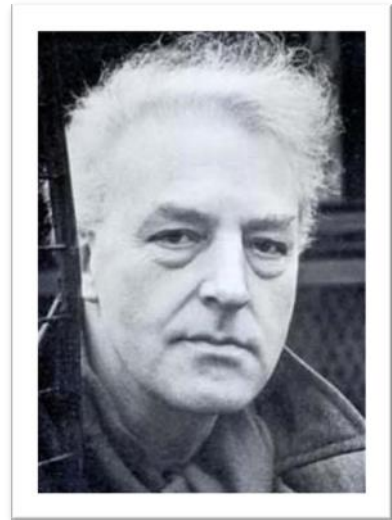
vacant

## **WEBMASTER**

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

The 1960s were a time of questioning. The social order had started to crumble with the Great War, and then had been challenged by the events of 1939-45. Old values were no longer taken for granted, and a wind of change swept through society, though politics, through the arts, even through theology.

Within the church, there was a desire to make “God-talk” more contemporary – to get rid of jargon that could be seen as mumbo-jumbo. There was a wish to make worship simpler and more understandable. There was a movement to bring music, which had struggled from the madrigal and the chorale into the era of the brass band, still further into the then-modern day of folk music and of protest songs. A number of talented composers brought a new sound into singing in church.



Sydney Bertram Carter

Other writers wrote songs, made gramophone records, gave concerts. Many are remembered more for their humorous songs than their religious ones – we remember Donald Swann more for Michael Flanders and *The Gnu Song* or *A Transport of Delight* than for *Songs of Faith and Doubt*. Yet another of Swann’s collaborators was a history teacher and pacifist, Sydney Carter, who had been an ambulance driver with the Quakers during the war.

Carter was keenly involved in the folk-singing movement, but unlike many of his contemporaries he blended political commentary with religious themes. He wrote that “the religious ballad or carol is as traditional as any song of protest. The outward form of my own faith and doubt is religious rather than political.” The issues of the 1960s – the Cold War, colonialism, racism, influenced many of his songs, but he found time to compose songs which were universal in appeal – *Lord of the Dance*, *One more step along the world I go* and *Every Star shall sing a Carol* are examples. These songs came to be sung in schools and churches, and even to find their way into hymnbooks.

In 1965, the charity Christian Aid commissioned Sydney Carter to write a song for its Beat and Folk Festival during Christian Aid Week. The result was *When I Needed a Neighbour*. Carter stressed that it was a song, not a hymn, meant for both Christians and non-Christians.

Space prevents printing all six verses – verses two to five continue “I was hungry and thirsty” – “I was cold, I was naked” – “When I needed a shelter” – “When I needed a healer”. Carter encouraged singers to make up their own words to suit their own situations. It was a call for compassion, based on the words of Jesus in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25: 35-46). ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

The song struck the mood of its time, and soon found its way into hymnbooks. Unlike some of Carter’s songs, which are firmly rooted in the 1960s, it deals with a universal theme – the need to open our hearts in compassion to the needs of our neighbour. Everybody is our neighbour. The creed and the colour and the name really do not matter!

- Hector Davie



# When I needed a neighbour

When I needed a neighbour  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

Wherever you travel  
I'll be there, I'll be there  
Wherever you travel I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.

*Sydney Bertram Carter (1915-2004)*

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