

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



December 2021 - January 2022

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: 19.00 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.

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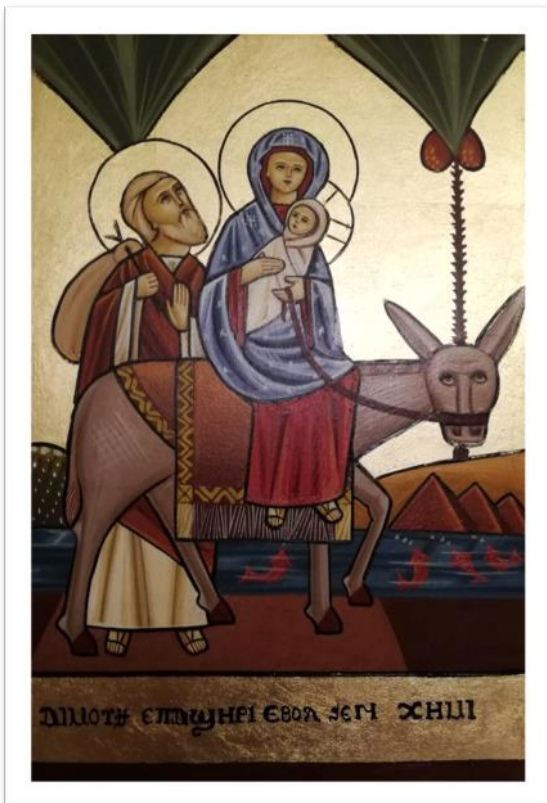
COLLATING DATE: Thursday 27 January 2022

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

I am sure many of us are looking ahead to Christmas; we may look forward to spending time with family and friends after a long time apart. It is certainly a time of joyful celebration in the church family as we rejoice afresh in the mystery that God has come among us in Christ. In our carols, we tell of the song of the angels: 'Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new born King'; and we come ourselves to worship: 'O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.'

The Christmas story is a story of light and hope, wonder and glory, but it is a story which also includes darkness, struggle, poverty and violence. God comes among us in Christ as a vulnerable baby. All babies are vulnerable, but Jesus is particularly vulnerable; he is born in insecurity and poverty, and, soon after his birth he becomes a refugee as Mary and Joseph flee with him to Egypt to escape the violent persecution of Herod.



We may not often think of the baby Jesus as a refugee, but perhaps it is especially pertinent to do so at the moment when there are so many refugee crises in our world. We will all have been shocked by the tragic events in Afghanistan over recent months with thousands of people fleeing for their lives in misery and terror, seeking asylum in other parts of the world. Currently an appalling situation is developing in Belarus where many people are dying in freezing conditions at the border with Poland.

According to UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency), there are over 84 million forcibly displaced people in the world; some of these are displaced within their own home countries, others are refugees who have fled to

another country due to war or persecution. 35 million of these displaced people are children, and between 2018 – 2020, 1 million children were born to a refugee life every year.

Jesus was a refugee in Egypt with his parents. There are still many refugees in Egypt today. One of the charities we support as a church is Refuge Egypt which serves refugees, migrants and asylum seekers living in Egypt who have fled their home country due to war or disaster, and who fear to return home due to persecution or loss of rights. Refuge Egypt provides humanitarian assistance, spiritual guidance and opportunities for training and work.



So as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas story, let us remember too that the Christmas message speaks directly into the darkness and pain of our world. God takes on our flesh in Jesus; he becomes a human being. Not a privileged human being, living in comfort with power and influence, but one who suffers deprivation and persecution even as a child, and later in his life faces betrayal, torture and execution. God is certainly not out of touch with the depth of human suffering.

Yet, the Christmas story *is* still one of light and hope. God in Christ comes in the midst of pain and suffering *in order* ultimately to bring transformation, healing and new life. This encourages us in the face of any suffering and darkness we may face in our own lives; it also challenges us to share the light and hope of Christ in practical and spiritual ways, through word and deed, with a needy world. Perhaps this year we can particularly pray for the many refugees in our world and support charities and campaigns that seek to help them.



Let us take to heart words we hear read every Christmas Eve:

‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.’ (John 1: 5)

With love in Christ,

Helen

The Word and the Baby



Adoration of the Shepherds by Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich (1712 – April 23, 1774).

Our Gospel stories each introduce Jesus in their own way. Matthew tells us that Mary was found to be “with child from the Holy Spirit”. Joseph planned to “dismiss her privately”, but as the result of a dream learns that the child was the fulfilment of a prophecy: God will be with us. He goes ahead with the marriage and names the child Jesus. There follow some spectacular events – wise sages, a star as a sign, a jealous king, an escape into exile, and a move to Nazareth.

Luke gives a long account of Mary’s cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zephaniah, his meeting with the angel Gabriel in the Temple in Jerusalem, and Gabriel’s meeting with Mary in Nazareth six months later. We learn from poetry and song how Elizabeth’s child, John the Baptist, will “prepare God’s way and give knowledge of salvation”, and how Mary’s child, Jesus, will “fill the hungry and lift up the lowly.” We hear of the baby’s birth, the cramped accommodation, the humble shepherds and the heavenly beings singing their song of glory and peace.

Mark prepares his account with Jesus already fully grown, with a reminder of prophecy and with a tale of temptation resisted. Jesus is already at work, the signs of the Kingdom are tumbling forth for all to see.

And John? John tells us nothing of babies, nothing of mangers, but a lot about glory – and even more if we read through the Gospel’s account of

Jesus' life. For John, Jesus is God's word, the expression of God's purpose, what God from the beginning of time has planned for Creation. It is important to realize how close this relationship was – in the beginning, God spoke, and the world was. We were not ruled by the sun or the planets, by mythical creatures or chance or fortune, but by a God who loved us and who wanted our well-being. The Word was God in action. And the Word became flesh and made a home with us, and we saw its glory.

We understand babies. They are not totally predictable, either in their conception or in their subsequent behaviour, as Joseph and Mary discovered twelve years later, when they returned from Jerusalem at the Passover and discovered that the young Jesus was not with them. But we are at home with them. It is far harder for us to grasp the idea of God's word, "through whose agency all things came to be, and apart from which nothing has come to be." What came into being in this word was life, and John's Gospel tells us that this life "was the light of all of us", and could not be put out.

However we describe it, the good news is that in Jesus, God shared in our human life, our joys and our sorrows. Matthew reminds us that Christ lived for part of his early life as a refugee. Luke tells us that he began life sleeping in a feeding trough, visited and worshipped by simple shepherds. John tells us that he met with rejection, but he gave to those who accepted him "the right to become children of God." This is what incarnation is, this is what we believe, and just as Christ shared our life, so we may share his.

- Hector Davie

A Word for the Month – Favour

In Bible stories, angels often act as God’s messengers or ambassadors. They may have a special task in looking after someone, or in carrying out God’s judgement on a nation or a group of people. They may cause people to dream dreams. Or they may help to interpret them. They may put words into the mouths of prophets. The angel Gabriel – the name means “God is my strength” – was thought of as the protector of Israel, but also as its punisher if it went too far off the rails.

In Luke’s gospel. Gabriel tells the old man, Zechariah, that his wife will have a son, John the Baptist. Zechariah asks how he knows this. “I am Gabriel,” he replies. “I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.” And six months later, Gabriel pays a visit to Mary in Nazareth, and greets her as “favoured one.” He doesn’t reveal straight away what this means, and as a result we are told that “Mary was much perplexed by his words, and wondered what sort of greeting this might be.”

The Gospel narrative tells us very little about Mary. We can guess that she is young, engaged to marry a carpenter – scarcely an influential occupation, but a respectable one. She and her cousin Elizabeth were related to the Old Testament priest Aaron, but did not enjoy any great



The Annunciation, John William Waterhouse, 1914

social status because of it. The Latin Bible translated the word rendered as “favoured one” as “full of grace”, but this gives a wrong impression. There was nothing outstanding or remarkable about Mary in the sense in which Jesus the incarnate word was “full of grace and truth”, or Stephen the first martyr faced death “full of grace and of the Holy Spirit” – Mary’s favour with God came not from anything she had done, but from God’s own generosity. It was God who had shown favour to her.

The Old and New Testaments all tell numerous stories about people seeking the favour of others – getting themselves into other people’s good books. The Psalms are a good place to read about favour – they repeatedly stress God’s steadfast lovingkindness. God’s anger lasts only for a moment, while God’s favour is for a lifetime (30:5). God’s favour is a gift, and in Luke’s story Mary’s perplexity at Gabriel’s words stems from her inability to see what she has done to earn this favour. She only finds out when Gabriel tells her more about the child she is to bear, and then she accepts the favour completely – “Here am I. the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.”

God has no favourites (Romans 2:11), and we cannot earn God’s favour in a mechanical sense. But Jesus talks about receiving his message, receiving salvation and accepting God’s gifts. There are favours there for the asking. We have only to ask!

- *Hector Davie*



STILL VERY MUCH NEEDED FOOD AND TOILETRIES FOR PASSANTENHILFE

Please fill the basket at the church entry with

- **non-perishable food** (must be within date) such as tinned food, pasta, rice, packets of soup, bouillon cubes, oil, instant coffee, tea and biscuits.
- **toiletries** such as deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel

Winter hats and gloves are also appreciated!

Our Garden

Where has the year gone, I wonder. Time to recapitulate and plan ahead.

We were so happy to have a water butt installed in early summer, enabling it to be used over the subsequent months. The Church Hall entrance bed was thoroughly dug over in spring, compost added, weeds extracted, and replanted, and



has flowered nicely since then. Two new privets (*ligustrum vulgare*) and a yew bush were planted to screen the new water butt area near the vestry door, as well as a *Philadelphus Belle Etoile*. The garden was tended by the team over the summer. Firstly during early autumn we added a three grasses and four creeping junipers to the 'Löffelstein' outside the lower Church Hall, and more recently a bushy rowan, a small wild cherry and a *Spiraea vanhouttei* to the main garden. By additional planting, and creating another layer, we hope to attract more wildlife into the garden, which brings me on to another subject.

The Queen's Garden Canopy (QGC)

The Queen's Garden Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative that began this October to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, designed to encourage everyone to plant a tree and nurture it for the future. More information at queensgreencanopy.org.

The Gardening Team is a small part of St Ursula's as a whole, and we would like to ask if you would contribute something to the costs of planting a couple of new trees as part of the QGC scheme. Our preference are maples (*Acer Palmatum*) for their growing requirements and eventual size.

Having followed some of the COP26 discussions in Glasgow recently, it is now a good time to invest in our garden's environmental future. We welcome all feedback.

- Alison Beindorff and the Gardening Team

Al-Anon family groups for families and friends of alcoholics



I never thought that I had a problem. My mother was the alcoholic and my older brothers were trouble makers. I was the one taking care of everything: finances, my little brother and my mother. Whenever there was a problem everyone counted on me. It never occurred to me that growing up like this had any influence on me. I managed to get a degree and start a successful career. I've never realized how irrationally I behaved, how crazy my relationships were or how distorted my thinking was. I thought that these constant feelings of stress, sadness and not being good enough were normal.

The first time I started to realise that I might have a little problem was, when I had a nervous break-down. Getting out of the hospital being very overweight and having a very high blood pressure made me start thinking that something might be a bit off. Still, it didn't occur to me that my problems and health issues were in any way related to my upbringing.

It took four years, a friend being diagnosed with cancer and a relationship crisis until I found my way to my first Al-Anon meeting. I still remember it vividly. I listened to the people in the room sharing about their lives and I couldn't believe it, all of them were telling not only their but also my story. Then it was my turn to speak and I immediately started to cry. Later in that meeting a member shared that relatives of alcoholics often died before the alcoholics. This was the moment I decided to come back.

For three years now I have been working the program. I attend meetings weekly and work the steps with someone who has already done them. A lot of serenity and joy have entered my life and I am very thankful for it. Although I am nowhere near the end of my recovery, my life has improved so much that I wish that everyone suffering from the effects of alcoholism will be able to find a program that helps them the same way it has helped me.

This is why I joined the Al-Anon group at St Ursula's. If you feel like you have been affected by someone else's drinking you are very welcome to join our meetings on Wednesdays at 19.00.

E-mail: afg_wednesday_bern@bluewin.ch

- M. H. a grateful member of Al-Anon

Services and Readings

December 2021 and January 2022

Sunday 5 December – Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 Eucharist

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Sunday 12 December – Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 Nativity Play

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Sunday 19 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 Eucharist

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

Friday 24 December – Christmas Eve

16:00 Christingle Service

21:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-4

John 1:1-14

Saturday 25 December – Christmas Day

10:00 Eucharist with All Age talk

Isaiah 62:6-end

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday 26 December

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

John 1:1-14

Sunday 2 January – Epiphany

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 9 January – The Baptism of Christ

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 43:1-7

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:5-17,21,22

Sunday 16 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Sunday 23 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany *Ecumenical Service at the Münster*

10.00

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Sunday 30 January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 Eucharist

Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 2:22-40

For Your Diary December 2021 and January 2022

**Our Regular Weekly Events are NOT taking place
IN CHURCH until further notice.
(Many of them continue on Zoom.)**

Other Events

December

Sunday 5 December	10.00 Junior Church
Sunday 12 December	10.00 Nativity Service
Thursday 16 December	19.00 Carol Service, in Thun with Glühwein and mince pies outside after the service
Saturday 18 December	16.00 Carol Service in St Ursula Church Grounds followed by Glühwein and mince pies
Tuesday 21 December	14.00-16.00 Tuesday Gathering
Friday 24 December	16.00 Christingle and Crib Service
Friday 24 December	21.00 Christmas Eve Eucharist
Saturday 25 December	10.00 Christmas Day Family Eucharist
Sunday 26 December	10.00 Christmas Eucharist

January

Sunday 2 January	10.00 Junior Church
Tuesday 11 January	19.00 Church Council Meeting
Sunday 16 January	COPY DATE
Sunday 16 January	10.00 Junior Church

'Tis the season to be jolly

Writing this text on a cold, yet sunny, November morning I can't stop dreaming of Christmas. Berne is getting ready for the most wonderful time of the year and so are we here in St Ursula's. Recipes are tested, beautiful wreaths and Christmas decorations bring colour to our halls and impressive prizes and gifts are waiting for the lucky winners to take them home.

This year we had a hybrid Christmas Bazaar. Meaning that the website sale-stursula.ch was live again so that everyone could pre-order their hard-to-resist goodies and also the actual Christmas Bazaar took place at St Ursula's. A few adjustments had to be made in order to comply with the latest Covid-related regulations (e.g. entrance only with the Covid Certificate) but with the much-appreciated effort from the British Food Corner Team, the Flower Team, the Catering Team, the Books Team and all our awesome and generous volunteers we managed to offer a magnificent range of delicious food, handmade gifts and books.

This magazine was printed just few days before our Christmas Bazaar took place so we cannot know at the time of writing if it was a financial success or not. One thing we know for sure is that all our volunteers worked really hard and dedicated lots of hours of their personal time for it. So a big THANK YOU to all of them for their help.

I hope everyone who attended the Bazaar had a great time and that we were able to bring joy and the Christmas spirit into everyone's homes.

Stay healthy and take care of yourselves!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

- *Maria Avdikou, Church Office*

PS: A full report of the Bazaar with photographs will be in our next February/March magazine.



Christmas cakes

On Saturday 13 November, we once again enjoyed a very successful, fun Christmas Cake Decorating Workshop. Special thanks to Jana and Georgina for setting everything up for us. A delightful group from the International School, together with Jane, Catie, Noah and Maggie did a marvellous job of decorating some 100 cakes. This is a joint venture and always enjoyed by all who participate. Thank you everyone.

- Libby Stewardson



Nativity Service



Our annual Nativity Service will be on Sunday 12 December at 10:00. As always, it will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with (a few) carols. Please come along - and invite other people to come to this special service.

We need lots of people, young and old (it is not just “for the children”), to be involved. So if you would like to take part – we mainly need readers, musicians and people to look after the children – please speak to me, Ruby or Helen.

We hope you will be able to join us.

- *Tricia Carrick*

Junior Church News

After a long time of not seeing each other, we enjoyed meeting again in person. This year Junior Church events were the cross painting (for our older youth) and the pinecone



hunt (for our young ones). These were great opportunities to reconnect and to get to know each other better.

For Creation Time we had a small project with the children, but our next more extensive project is going to be our Nativity Play. Rehearsals will be during Junior Church time. We would love to have many families joining for this event which is going to be on Sunday 12 December 2021.

At the moment, we can only offer Junior Church twice a month since there is a teacher shortage. It would be great to encourage more people to support the growth of our young generation in this church and to join us in this very important ministry. If you would like to have more information on how to give the Junior Church team a helping hand, please contact Helen or one of the Junior Church team (you should be able to find at least one teacher in the hall before or after the service on the first and third Sundays).

Thank you for your commitment.

- *Ruby Wildhaber*



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in December and January:



Elena Scherer 8 on 6 December

Giorgio Pagano 14 on 10 December

David Eze 13 on 12 December

Lionel Hemming 8 on 12 December

Kai Lehmann 11 on 17 December

Tabea Aeberli 16 on 17 December

Amelie Coatalen-Hodgson 8 on 19 December

Dimitris Efthimiou 7 on 19 December

Johann Underwood 8 on 31 December

Aydon Kuruvilla 10 on 4 January

Adriele Jacob 7 on 9 January

Alyssa Buschang 10 on 13 January

Oliver Davie 3 on 24 January



19 October 2021

Bishop's Advent Appeal for European Climate Disaster Relief 2021

Climate change is probably the biggest single issue facing humanity at present and into the future. When I speak to Anglican colleagues from around the world, I hear of its impacts in everything from threatened islands in Polynesia to desertification in sub-Saharan Africa. But this last summer, we have been forcibly reminded that climate change is a global phenomenon that visits our own doorstep in Europe: fires have taken hold in Greece, Spain and Turkey; there has been severe and fatal flooding in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Our chaplain in Liège, Revd Guy Diakiese, was among those pushing water and mud out of the living-rooms of neighbours.

The root causes of climate change are now generally acknowledged to be the increase in greenhouse gases generated mainly by the human



Fires on Evia

burning of carbon. There is pressure worldwide to reduce use of fossil fuels and stabilise temperature rises, and this is what COP26 in Glasgow is about. But as well as addressing the causes we also need to address the effects of rising temperature, as seen in more and more extreme weather events.



Floods at Bad Neuenahr

Very high rates of rainfall and very high temperatures have a devastating impact on the wellbeing of people and property, as we have seen in our corner of the world. The image is of the town of Bad Neuenahr in the Rhineland.

So my Advent Appeal this year will be focused on assisting agencies that are working in these parts of Europe, as they bring support to those who are affected by man-made climate change.

Many of us will know the work of Caritas International, the Roman Catholic agency that sustains many varieties of Christian relief and support across the world; their national agencies in Spain and Italy will assist with disaster relief.

Apostoli is an agency of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Athens. They want to help with the schooling of children displaced by the fires in Greece. Our picture shows the island of Evia, the first to be impacted. Thank you to Revd Christine Saccali, from the Athens chaplaincy, who was nearby.

The “Churchhelp” arm of the Evangelical Church in Germany was amongst the first on the scene in the clearing-up after the terrible flooding in that country. This is from a documentary of their work in Bad Neuenahr, in the Rhineland-Palatinate.

“First Hope” is a Protestant agency working in Turkey to support those displaced by conflict, migration and (this summer) the forest fires.

Imaginatively, they provide “hygiene trailers”, so that those who no longer have a home have places to wash, shower and clean clothes.

Funds raised will be divided between the different agencies. As usual, we invite each chaplaincy to make its own arrangements for collection of money towards the Bishop’s Appeal and then for the local church treasurer to forward collections to Nick Wraight at the diocesan office (see below). Please remember to send an email to nick.wraight@churchofengland.org alerting him to the kind donation.

This is a very practical way in which the whole diocese can contribute towards the needs of those who have become the most vulnerable people on our continent. Please do encourage your people to give generously.

Yours sincerely,



+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe’s Advent Appeal 2021:

By cheque made out to:

Diocese in Europe (Advent Appeal 2021)

send to :

Nick Wraight

Diocese in Europe

14 Tufton Street

By bank transfer to:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39

Swiftbic: BUKBGB22

London SW1P 3QZ

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

Charity of the Month: Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project (KDWSP)

St Ursula's supports KDWSP through Junior Church collections, events and dedicated church collections. Bishop George Bagamuhunda and the Rev Reuben Byomuhangi have visited us on several occasions at St Ursula's. Rev Reuben recently sent us the following report:

Church Ministry continues amidst COVID-19.

Greetings to our dear friends and partners in mission at St Ursula's Church.

Thank you for the prayers and support over the years. Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Programme (KDWSP) has not stopped its advocacy for the poorer to attain equity and inclusion in their access to services, but gatherings have been restricted amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, so most of the outreach has been conducted over local radio stations.

KDWSP has worked with communities to improve access to clean water and to provide community training aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene practices in homes, schools and in the general community.

For the current financial year April-March, 7 out of 10 institutional tanks (20,000 litre capacity) for schools, health centres, and churches have been constructed so far. To ensure nobody is left behind, local leaders are engaged to identify key service delivery gaps to fill so that all people can access safe water and sanitation services.

KDWSP has earmarked 50 household tanks for individuals who are lame, blind, terminally ill, child-headed families and elderly. 28 of these 50 ferro-cement tanks (4,000 litre capacity) are complete.

John's family is one of those which have already benefited from this noble cause. John is a father of 11 young children who, together with his wife, works hard to ensure the basic essentials of life. In addition to being blind, John's health is weak because he suffers from asthma attacks.

John had heard that KDWSP has special consideration for the disadvantaged members of the community, so he walked for over 17 kilometres to the KDWSP office to seek help accessing water for his family. The nearest source in his water-scarce community is Lake Bunyonyi (1973 metres above sea level), which is a round trip of 4 kilometres down a steep slope from John's home in a hilltop community at the elevation of 2197 metres above sea level. People settled on the hilltop, far from the valley bottoms with the lake and springs, because of

the mudslides and the floods that used to submerge the valleys. In search of safety and social amenities, such as roads, telecommunication, schools and medical services, communities formed on the top of the hills where water became a challenge people still grapple with.

While KDWSP worked with family members to ensure a water facility, there is more need to engage such households in income generation projects to help to fight poverty.



John and family with a rainwater jar (420 litres) constructed by KDWSP about 15 years ago.

John and family are happily grateful to the kind people who raised resources to help them get a tank. “The burden of having to walk for a long distance to get water is now history. My children and their mother are saved from this burden. Having water in my compound is a great blessing that will ensure many improvements in our wellbeing.”

John and his family also expressed gratitude to Mrs. Vanice Rwomushana, who constructed their tank. The KDWSP team trained Vanice in rainwater tank construction in the year 2004 and she can use the skill to help the community and earn money.

KDWSP has also been active in supporting communities to conserve their environment through conservation farming methods and sustainable land management practices and technologies. Using the Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risks (PACDR) tool (<https://pacdr.net/>), heavily degraded hotspots have been restored through the use of bench terraces, soil and water conservation channels, percolation pits and gabion walls.

For some months, churches and schools have been closed. Sunday services, pastoral visits and various group meetings have been limited. Tailored trainings and worship services were conducted over radio stations. The most challenging moments have been pastoral visits to people battling COVID-19 and the burial of those who succumbed to the disease. Parenting has not been easy for many homes and some children were last in school in March 2020!

Covid-19 is still a threat and many people do not find it easy to get involved in community activities. The wet season has started, many roads are not good and we still use vehicles which are more than 15 years old and on the road 3-4 days per week.

Please pray with us that

- KDWSP will continue to share the Love of Christ with those who are less fortunate
- KDWSP will find collaborators in the government who have a passion to serve the marginalized
- the many resources needed for the tasks ahead will be provided
- there will be local management structures with committed community leaders who are willing to make sacrifices and join the KDWSP team
- the hand of the Lord will cover KDWSP as He has always done.



John and his wife appreciate the support of a 4000 litre rainwater tank.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO LIVE

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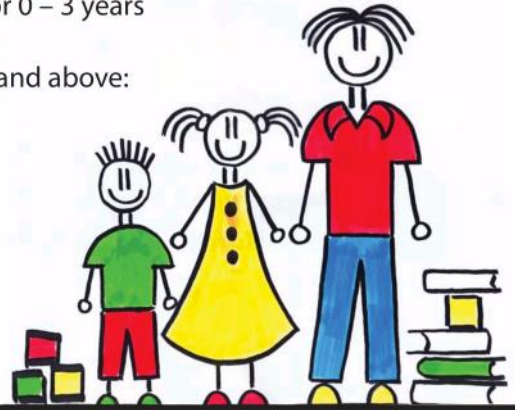


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English Speaking Club of Bern

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

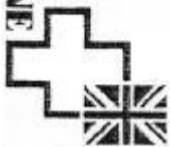
Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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 100 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 2021 the club celebrates its 30th anniversary. We are waiting to welcome you !

President Graham Tritt,
tel. 078 684 2473, email g.tritt@gmx.net
Website www.icberne.org

International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, [www: icberne.ch](http://www.icberne.ch)
Annual membership: CHF 50 for singles, CHF 60 for families.

SWISS-BRITISH
SOCIETY BERNE



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

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch



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Lynn Morgan	031 971 13 36
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Tony Read 033 243 34 32

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

PASTORAL CARE

contact the Chaplain

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Chalice Bearers:

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Intercessions:

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VESTRY

Vacant

WEBMASTER

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

This carol puts me in mind of Martin Luther's words, "*Remissio peccatorum soll dich fröhlich machen*" (The forgiveness of sins should make you joyful). It is a song about Christmas, and a song of pure joy. It does not try to evoke deep theological thoughts – it evokes happiness.

It brings to mind a picture of mediaeval life – in fourteenth-century Italy, Francis of Assisi encouraged the writing of Christmas songs in local dialects, and in England, groups of "wassailers" would go from house to house singing and wishing good health to people in the darkest and coldest season of the year. It comes as a surprise, then, to learn that the carol was published in 1924 by an English composer [George Ratcliffe Woodward](#) (1848–1934), in *The Cambridge Carol-Book: Being Fifty-two Songs for Christmas, Easter, And Other Seasons*.



George Ratcliffe Woodward

The tune is definitely more ancient. It appears in a book of French dance tunes written in the 1580s by a French clergyman, Jehan Tabourot (1519-1593). It allows the singers to extend the refrain, *Gloria, hosanna in excelsis* over 33 syllables.

The words have no deep theological message. They were written to give an impression of archaic language. Woodward was a bell-ringer, and wanted to give the impression of the bells in heaven ringing out at the time of the angels' message to the shepherds – Glory in the highest! (The "Hosanna" has crept in from Palm Sunday and from the Eucharist, and was a further interjection of praise and joy). In the same way, earth below would rejoice with bell-ringing and song. There is no point in analysing the language any further – there is no meaning hidden in "io, io, io", singing is just as beautiful in the evening as in the morning, and so are bells. The message is very simple – Christ's birth makes us happy. Amen!

- *Hector Davie*

¹ Ding dong! merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riven with angel singing.

*Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*



² E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.

³ Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.

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