

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



February - March 2022

G. Arnold 1/22

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.

COPY DATE

for the April - May 2022 magazine is

13 March 2022

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: Thursday 24 March 2022

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

On 13 February, we will be holding our annual Mission Sunday. Last year (if you can remember) David talked about the five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Since Mission Sunday last year, a small group from the congregation has met to discuss how we could better fulfil the fourth Mark of Mission: 'To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.' The group proposed different awareness-raising events during the year with a hope that these would lead to some kind of action. In October last year, Dominic Roser spoke about how our lifestyles and our money could contribute effectively to reducing the impact of climate change. We would now like to focus on *refugees*. As we think about our response to the needs of refugees, we may hope to live out both Mark of Mission 4 above: 'to transform unjust structures', but also Mark of Mission 3 at the same time: 'to respond to human need by loving service.'

Caring for refugees will be the theme of our service on Mission Sunday, this year. There is frequent teaching in the Bible about welcoming the stranger and caring for those in need. The people of Israel are told: '*You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt*' (Deuteronomy 10:19), and '*The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God*'. (Leviticus 19:34). As we were reminded at Epiphany, Jesus and his parents were refugees in Egypt after fleeing from the violent persecution of Herod (Matthew 2:13-15). Christians are encouraged: '*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*' (Hebrews 13:2).

After the service on Mission Sunday, we will have opportunity to find out more of the experience of refugees in Switzerland. Manuel Sager will

interview the Aghasharif family who are refugees here from Iran. I hope you will come and listen to their experience and the challenges they have faced over the last 6 or so years. Following this event on Mission Sunday, we will think of possible next steps to help us find out what we might be able to do as a church to help support refugees who have found their way to Berne.

Of course, I am aware that some individuals in the church are already showing practical care to refugees and giving of themselves, their time and resources in a very generous way. But there may be more we could do as a church.

We hear about so many overwhelming needs in the world, not least terrible stories about refugees, that we can feel paralyzed and wonder if we can do anything at all helpful by way of response. But I am sure that, as a church community, we can together pray, learn, and reflect on what steps we can take, however modest they may seem, to seek to be faithful to the mission of Jesus Christ, who calls us to love our neighbour as ourself.

Let me conclude with some prayers.

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.
Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Loving Father,
open our hearts to migrants and refugees in need,
so that we might see in them
your own migrant Son.
Give us courage to stand up in their defence
against those who would do them harm,
and compassion to serve them in practical ways,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

With love in Christ,
Helen

Stop before you Think



Words have a fascination for me, and a recent discussion involving the large tree in front of the church set me thinking. Is it a fir or a pine? Or maybe a spruce or even a hemlock? Is it a native tree – and perhaps these days it might be more correct to ask if it is indigenous? Does the glass door near it lead into the west porch, or is it the north porch? Maybe it's not a porch but a vestibule?

Jesus was impatient with people who insisted on splitting hairs in this way, the hypocrites who paid their tax on mint and cumin but had no interest in justice, mercy or faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). And the archetypal bore is one who begins a

conversation in the manner of “Professor” Joad (of the BBC’s programme of the 1940s *The Brains Trust*): “It all depends on what you mean by...”

But words change their meaning. Today redemption is something we do with our Cumulus points. In Jesus’ day it was a legal expression from the law of slavery. Five hundred years ago “prevent us” used to mean “go before us” - people who worried whether God leads people into wickedness were referred to by our sixteenth-century Articles of Religion as “curious and carnal persons”. Until the last century, the old *Book of Common Prayer* had us pray that the government might “indifferently” minister justice, and fortified us with “comfortable” words – in today’s English we would say “impartially” and “strengthening”.

This could be merely quaint, but it has led to misunderstandings, sometimes serious. Any discussion between people must assume that they are talking about the same thing, not talking at cross purposes. A person who thinks “man” is the opposite of “woman” may not understand someone who uses the word as the opposite of “child”, or of “beast”, or of “angel”. Their talk could become “a dialogue of the deaf.” Some of the great rifts in the Church are said to have been caused in part by losses in translation. For some, whether the Holy Spirit proceeds “from the Father” or “from the Father and the Son” depends on whether one uses the Greek or the Latin word for “proceed”, and the idea of one God in three Persons takes on new meaning for those who realize that in Latin, *persona* can mean an actor’s mask. We believe in Jesus as God “made flesh”, not God “holding up a mask”!

(And while we're on the subject, the flesh was human flesh, even if the Greek word *sarx* can also mean the flesh of sheep, or dogs, or even bananas.)

The New Testament tells us that Jesus was often misunderstood – he saw it as an inevitable fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 6:9-10 “Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand. Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.”

At Christmas and Epiphany, we see Jesus as King – but not as the Pharisees or Herod thought. At Easter we see him as King, but not as Pilate thought, as raised to new life, but not as many thought, as Paul spent much of 1 Corinthians 15 explaining. Yes, we need not just to hear but to listen. We need to think before we speak, and to stop before we think – stop our ears to our own preconceived ideas of what others may be saying to us!

- *Hector Davie*

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All being well, our AGM will be held on

Sunday 27 March 2022 at 11.30

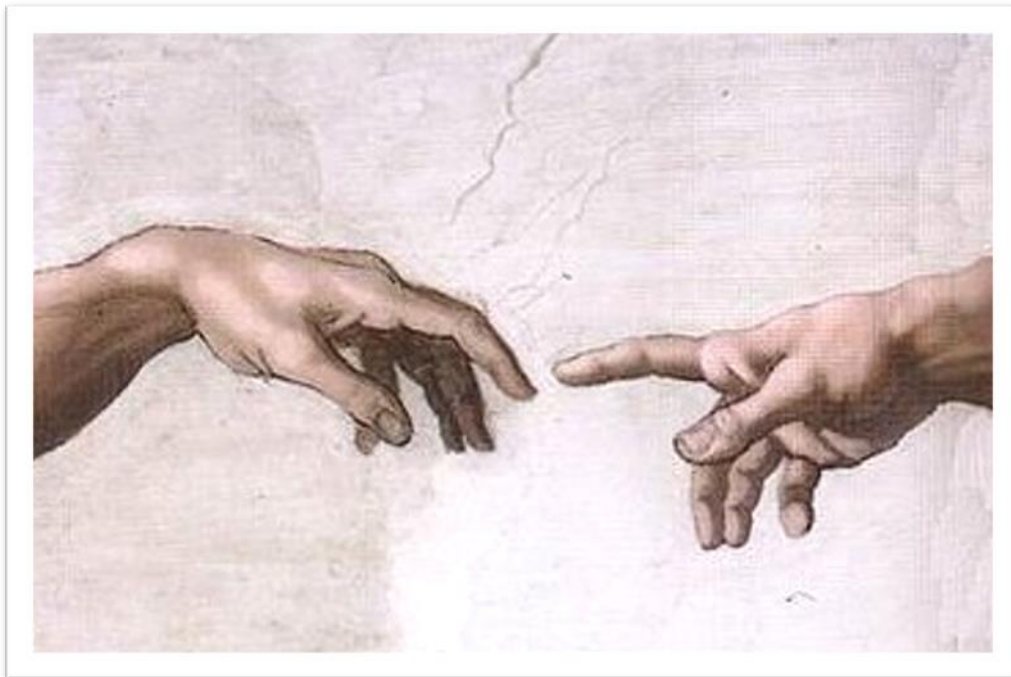
in the church

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 can be found on page 10 of this magazine.

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

A Word for the Month – Finger



“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” This is the way the bible we use in church, the New Revised Standard Version, translates Genesis 1:27, adding two footnotes. For the word translated as ‘humankind’ is the Hebrew word *adam* – the same word that appears in the next chapter in a less dignified story; and the expression for ‘them’ is used only the second time – the first time it is ‘him’.

All this grammatical contortion is needed to make a simple point. God is like us. God understands our joys and sorrows. This is a point that should not be stretched too far. God can share grief and pain, but cannot be damaged. When the Bible refers to God as angry, or jealous, or rejoicing, we need to be careful not to think in terms of our own, selfish way of thinking.

Someone (thank you!) recently gave me a book called *God – An Anatomy*. But God cannot be anatomized, because anatomy implies cutting. The writers of the Bible referred to God’s hands, feet, legs, face, eyes and ears, and God’s voice. But these were indirect ways of referring to functions – few people joining in Psalm 17:8, ‘Hide me In the shadow of your wings’, imagine God as having feathers. The stress is on the abstract quality, in this case protection, and not on the concrete appearance. God is not an old man with a long beard – nor a large bird with a hooked beak, nor a woolly bleating quadruped. Yet God is wise, keen-sighted and seeks no harm.

So what of God's finger? To begin with, we use fingers to hold pens, knives, tools for making things. God is a copious Creator, and surprisingly the Bible only refers to God's fingers once in this sense. A single finger, though, can be used to point, either to show the way, or to warn.

Thus at the end of Exodus 31, Moses receives two stone tablets, "written by the finger of God," recording the promises between them. We need to remember that even the Ten Commandments are not a list of Things We Must Not Do, but guidance in how to do things the right way, God's way.

And earlier in Exodus 8, when Aaron with his staff brings a plague which Pharaoh's magicians cannot emulate, they exclaim, "This is the finger of God!" (a phrase recalled in the report of Jesus' words about "casting out devils" in Luke 11). This is a warning finger, too!

God's fingers are not like the fleshy, bony appendages of the giant of Gath in the Book of Chronicles who "had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number." We could do well to recall the children's hymn, *Jesus' hands were kind hands*, and use our fingers to create, to construct, to point and to guide – so that we too may be led to "do good to all."

- *Hector Davie*

Francis of Assisi Icon

I am sure you will all have noticed the beautiful icon of St Francis, kindly given to the church by the Hawker family in memory of our beloved Vreni. If you have not yet looked closely at the icon, I encourage you to do so. It is hanging in the sanctuary, on the right-hand side of the altar.

Peter has written a few words below about why the Hawker family chose to donate an icon of St Francis, something about the icon itself, and about the painter.

I want to express my warmest thanks to Peter and to the wider Hawker family for their generosity.

- Helen



Francis of Assisi – the Icon – the Painter



Francis was Vreni’s favourite saint. That came about when I departed Muri bei Berne for Wycliffe Hall, Oxford to train for ministry in the Church of England. My school kept my job open, paid a substitute, with Vreni and the children living off the difference, about Fr400 per month: Franciscan simplicity had entered her and the family’s soul.

The real meeting with Francis came about when St Andrew’s Zurich organised a wonderful visit to the Vatican, the last days of which were spent at Assisi where the frescos of Giotto sealed the love affair.

Books on Francis followed. The last summer holiday we took in the

UK saw a visit to the mother house of the Anglican Franciscans at Hillfield where we raided their little shop.

For those who would like to refresh their knowledge of St Francis, I recommend turning to an excellent sermon by David Marshall on Francis which can be found on the 17th Sunday after Trinity, 2020, in the sermon archive.



Looking at the icon you will see

1. The stigmata, the marks of the wounds that Christ bore on the cross (hands and side)
2. Francis' original hermitage
3. Many flowers (Vreni shared the flower rota with Kathy Hoag) and of course birds.

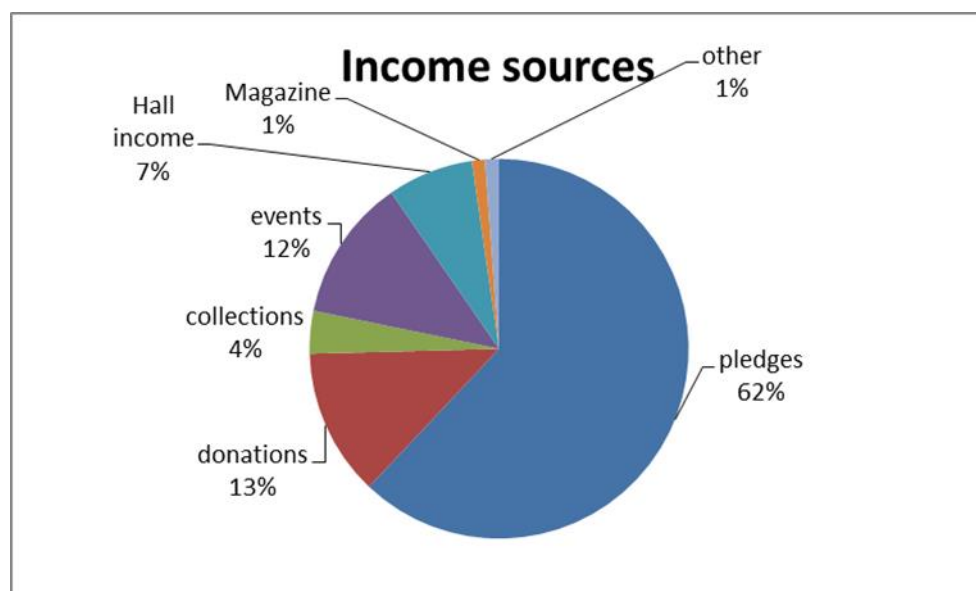
The painter is Father Jordan Pavlev who is a priest of the Bulgarian Orthodox church. It was through the good offices of our friend Fr Christoph Schuler, parish priest of Peter and Paul who knew of Jordan's work and pointed me in his direction.

- *Peter Hawker*

Treasurer's report January 2022: All we have needed, His hand has provided

Dear all

The figures are to 98% complete for our last financial year, and I look forward to presenting them more fully in the AGM reports. After allocating Fr10,000 to our building fund, for future repairs, we have a small amount of around Fr200 left to go to our reserves. Once again the Lord has provided, although he provided more to the Association than to the Church. However the Association is able to support certain of our Church costs, so that the deficit on the Church side has been covered by the Association.



Our lack of income on the Church side is once again due to Covid, in that we have had less hall rental income and significantly less income via the collection plate. We also did not benefit from any legacies in 2021. Pledges and donation income is around Fr5,000 less than in 2020. Our events team however managed to raise nearly Fr26,000 after costs, which is around Fr4,000 more than in the previous year. It is also coincidentally the same amount as the Association had to give in order to support the Church.

A huge thank you to all who have helped us reach this breakeven point in 2021. We all give from what the Lord gives to us, and the giving can be in many different forms. The donation of time and expense is just as valuable to us as the giving of cash, just harder to account for.

Best wishes

- Sue Higson

Junior Church News



The big event of the last two months was, of course, **Christmas**. We held our Nativity Play (see separate article) on 12 December. On 19 December we had Christmas activities during our Junior Church meeting which were fun for all involved. And on Christmas Eve the family Crib and Christingle service.

January has been much quieter but we look forward to some more interesting Junior Church projects in the spring.

Currently, Junior Church is meeting on the first and third Sunday of each month. The families start worship together in church and then the children go to the hall for their session. At the moment, there are few children and even fewer teachers, so we all meet together. Any child aged 3 – 14 is welcome to join us.

As you will realise, we are short of teachers. We would love to be able again to offer Junior Church on every Sunday, but to do that we need at least three more teachers. In addition to teachers, we also need helpers. The helpers don't need to prepare anything – just be there to "help"! If you could offer help with this important ministry, or would just like to know more about it, please speak to Helen or to a Junior Church teacher – why not come one Sunday and see what we are doing?

- *Tricia Carrick*



Goodbye Winter! Hello Spring!

Our hybrid Christmas Bazaar was quite successful. Despite the cold and windy weather, we were happy to welcome you all and see you laughing, eating or enjoying a drink in our garden.

Our first sale of the year will take place on **Saturday 12 March** so please **Save the Date!**

At the moment this article is being written, we cannot be entirely sure how the Covid situation will be in March but we can always hope for the best.

Our wonderful volunteers are already coming up with creative ideas and if everything goes according to plan, we will be offering delicious home-baked goods and a great selection of refreshments.

You will also be able to browse the stalls with our second-hand books and choose from a wide variety of gift items.

So whether you're looking to restock your British Food shelves or need a unique card (Mothering Sunday is coming soon) we are here!

As always, a big THANK YOU to our volunteers for their time, support and precious help.

Don't forget

www.sale-stursula.ch will be back in February for your online orders. Browse our platform from the comfort of your home, place your orders safely and pick them up on the day of the sale.

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 keep you updated with any future events taking place at St Ursula's.

Sending you warm wishes for a lovely sunny Spring.

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy!

- *Maria Avdikou, Church Office*

The background photo used for our Spring Sale flyer and this article was designed by Freepik.

Shrove Tuesday = Pancakes

It is a tradition in the UK to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday – the day before Lent begins.

We hope that this year we will be able to resume our tradition of offering pancakes in the church hall

on **Shrove Tuesday** which is **1 March**. If the Corona virus situation allows us to go ahead, you are invited to drop in at the church hall from **18.00** and participate in this tradition. Pancakes and drinks will be provided. Savoury pancakes with chilli con carne, cheese and ham will be available. As will sweet pancakes with the traditional sugar and lemon juice or maple syrup toppings.

All being well, there will also be the traditional quiz with lots of impossible questions.

As we need to have an idea of numbers, please register with the church office if you would like to attend (or let me know). This will also allow us to contact you should we have to cancel at the last minute.

We would like to welcome everyone, of all ages, to join us.

- *Tricia Carrick*



To: All Members of St Ursula's, Berne
2022

January

Annual General Meeting

Dear friends,

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St Ursula's Church, Berne, which will be held at **11.30** on **Sunday 27 March 2022** in the church.

The **Agenda** for the meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Reception and Approval of the Electoral Roll
3. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM held on 25 April 2021
4. Approval of the Audited Accounts for the year 2021
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Auditors' Report
5. Presentation of the Budget for the year 2022
6. Election of
 - a. Two churchwardens
 - b. Six council members

If necessary, there may be a short break while the votes are counted.

7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Chaplain's Report
9. Any Other Business

A list for nominations for the elections will be available in the church hall from Sunday 6 March. Names should only be entered after obtaining the consent of the candidate. The proposer and seconder should sign their names (and also print their names, just in case the signature is unclear). All those standing for election or proposing or seconding someone for election **must** be members of the electoral roll.

Please make nominations on or before Sunday, 20 March, so that those voting have time for prayerful consideration before the AGM.

Note that to be able to vote at this meeting you must be on the electoral roll.

Annual reports of the various groups and activities in St Ursula's will be available from Sunday 20 March and at the AGM and afterwards - in the Upper Hall or from the church office. Please collect your copy.

Yours sincerely,

on behalf of the Church Council,

Tricia Carrick

Services and Readings February and March 2022

Sunday 6 February – Fourth Sunday before Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 6.1-8

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Luke 5.1-11

Sunday 13 February – Mission Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Ruth 2.1-23

Hebrews 13.1-5

Matthew 2.13-18

Sunday 20 February – Second Sunday before Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25

Revelation 4

Luke 8.22-25

Sunday 27 February – Sunday next before Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Exodus 34.29-35

2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2

Luke 9.28-43a

Wednesday 2 March – Ash Wednesday

18:30 Eucharist with Imposition of
Ashes

Isaiah 58.1-12

Psalms 51.1-18

2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Sunday 6 March – First Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Romans 10.8b-13

Luke 4.1-13

Sunday 13 March – Second Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Genesis 15.1-18

Psalms 27

Luke 13.31-35

Sunday 20 March – Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 55.1-9

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Luke 13.1-9

Sunday 27 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

10:00 Eucharist

Joshua 5.9-12

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

Sunday 3 April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 43.16-21

Philippians 3.4b-14

John 12.1-8

For Your Diary February and March

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

Other Events

February

Tuesday 1 February	Church Council meeting
Thursday 3 February	Thun Service (via Zoom)
Sunday 6 February	Junior Church
Tuesday 8 February	Zoom Discussion Group (19.00- 20.15)
Sunday 13 February	MISSION SUNDAY
Thursday 17 February	Thun Service (in Thun)
Sunday 20 February	Junior Church
Tuesday 22 February	Zoom Discussion Group (19.00- 20.15)

March

Tuesday 1 March	Pancakes (from 18.00)
Wednesday 2 March	ASH WEDNESDAY
Thursday 3 March	Thun Service (via Zoom)
Sunday 6 March	Junior Church Closing date for Electoral Roll applications Closing date for receipt of AGM reports
Tuesday 8 March	Church Council meeting
Saturday 12 March	Spring Sale (10.00-14.00)
Sunday 13 March	Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 17 March	Thun Service (in Thun)
Sunday 20 March	Junior Church AGM yearly reports available
Thursday 24 March	Magazine Collating
Sunday 27 March	MOTHERING SUNDAY AGM

** Zoom Discussion Group: usually every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The dates in March are to be confirmed.*

Future Dates

Sunday 10 April	PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 14 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY
Friday 15 April	GOOD FRIDAY
Sunday 17 April	EASTER DAY
Friday 22 April – Sunday 24 April	Archdeaconry Choir Festival in Zürich
Thursday 26 May	ASCENSION DAY
Sunday 5 June	PENTECOST
Saturday 11 June	Summer Fête

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 February. 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 6 March**.

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)

Christmas Bazaar 2021



Last year's Christmas Bazaar was a hybrid one; meaning that once again our website sale-stursula.ch was live so that everyone could pre-order their favourite goodies and also the actual Christmas Bazaar took place at St Ursula's.

Complying with the latest Covid-related regulations we had to make several adjustments (e.g.

entrance only with the Covid Certificate, restaurant and cafe only outside, masks always worn indoors). Despite the windy and cold weather we are glad to say that it was a success and we were happy to welcome you to our most popular event of the year.





A great number of our volunteers worked really hard and dedicated lots of hours of their personal time behind the scenes. In the run up to the bazaar there was cake baking and decorating, food to source and sort, wreaths to make, patchwork to sew, prizes to find, books to sort and catering to organise. So a big THANK YOU to all of them for their help and to all those who organised and ran a stall.



The bazaar is our most important fundraiser. All our visitors were happy and the following results were achieved.

Except for the British Food Stall, all the figures below are after expenses have been deducted.

Second Hand Books	2213.50
Christmas Cakes	1372.55
Christmas Decorations and Wreaths	1082.45
British Food Stall	7440.54 (gross)
Patchwork	1281.00
Restaurant	1035.35
Raffle	983.50
Tombola	620.00
Grand Total	16028.89

Thank you all and see you soon on Saturday 12 March, our first Book and Food Sale of 2022. Please use the flyer with this magazine to advertise our event. The website will be opening towards the end of February.

- Maria Avdikou and Sue Higson



Nativity Service

Our annual Nativity Service was held on **Sunday 12 December**. As always, it was a celebration of the birth of Christ with carols. A group of angels prepared the way and accompanied the story which was told with bible readings and acted by the children. One highlight was our “messenger” from God who brought the instructions to the angels.

There were 16 adults – 4 angels, 6 readers 3 musicians, the “voice of God” and 2 helpers – and also 13 children involved. Thanks to all of these for taking part.

We also want to thank Hans for getting the microphones to work from the various different places.

And thank you to all who came along and joined in.

There are some photos below.

- *Tricia Carrick*



Christmas Bazaar Raffle report: A special thanks to our supporters

This year we once again received the support of many businesses to get some great raffle prizes! The various shops and raffle sponsors were really happy when they heard we were having a normal Christmas Bazaar (not only online) this year. They are very keen to support our fundraising activities.

At the bazaar we were able to offer raffle prizes such as a flower bouquet and Christmas arrangements, a supermarket voucher, various Swiss specialities, biscuits, many bags and family goodies for outdoor sport activities and items for indoor decoration, glasses and drinks, several free trial vouchers for a fitness centre, indoor fragrances and perfumes, a panettone, museum entrance vouchers, a haircut voucher and a lounge game bar entrance.

Thanks to Toni and Sharon Bachmann for securing for us the first prize of the raffle this year, which was a dinner for two at the Hotel Iseltwald.

In total we were able to offer more than 50 prizes this year, and we did it a new way by having regular draws throughout the bazaar, encouraging the early buyers of tickets, as they had more chances.

Thank you to the following partners supporting prizes:

Local Kirchenfeld shops:

Danieli Dolceforno Bakery
Kirchenfeld Apotheke
Marsano Flowershop
The White Rabbit fitness centre
Trouvaille Kids & Living

Other partners:

Ballenberg Museum
BLS
Communications Museum, Berne
DIE POST
Grandhotel Giessbach, Brienz
Hairdresser Sally Burcki Berne
Kambly Biscuits
Lounge Game room Erupt Berne
MacArthurs Pub, Thun
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We hope you enjoyed this Christmas Bazaar raffle as much as we did and hopefully you were a winner of one of these prizes! We wish you a lot of enjoyment with them.

It has been a real pleasure collecting these prizes for the raffle.

Thank you as usual for all your support and your advice.

Stay well.

- *Agnes Derory*

If you like this, you might have in your own network, a preferred shop or restaurant in the Berne area which would be happy to benefit from free advertisement at

St Ursula's, during our next Summer Fete or during our next Christmas Bazaar. If this is the case, feel free to let us know, we will contact them on your behalf to discuss with them the next raffle prize opportunity. Thank you.



Jam Jars!



I've run out of jam jars and can't make any more marmalade until I get some jars. I especially need the "Bonne Maman" type ones as we need standard sizes for the online sales. So, a special plea for lots of jam jars so that we don't have a shortage of marmalade and jams at this year's sales.

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

If you have any to spare, please leave them either outside the hall door or in the Church Kitchen.

THANK YOU!

- *Jana Kutesko*

Sakh'ulutsha means “we are building young people” in Xhosa, one of South Africa’s ten official languages. Sakh'ulutsha is about building communities as part of Scripture Union’s Lifeskills programme, which St Ursula’s Church has been supporting for many years now.

St Ursula’s relationship to the Scripture Union developed almost thirty years ago through Rob Mackay, a former member of St Ursula’s congregation and the National Development Coordinator at Scripture Union South Africa (SUSA).

Using a fun, relevant, experiential learning approach, Scripture Union’s programme has provided young people, in primary and secondary schools with access to the Gospel to help clarify their values and equips them with skills to deal with life challenges. More recently, with the spread of Covid-19 across South Africa and the changes within the school environment, Scripture Union has had to review their strategy to find innovative ways of dealing with the challenges of the pandemic.

Background: South Africa’s Young People

Unlike Switzerland, South Africa has a youthful population.

With a large part of South Africa’s population under the age of 18, finding a job for South Africa’s youth is not easy; In 2017 youth unemployment was over 50%.



A SUSA camp picture (Pictures: SUSA)



Bible Quiz distribution after Scripture Union hosted a quiz at school

Dealing with the Covid challenges

Just as we have been challenged by Covid19 at St Ursula’s Church, SUSA has had to adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the country’s far greater digital inequality gap, South Africa has struggled to provide access to education for many students.

In June 2021, SUSA celebrated their youth month. Chicks Radise, one of their youth leaders, explains in a recent podcast how advance

planning was crucial for SUSAs teaching activities. For example, by wearing masks, working from home and being innovative their team has tried to adapt. To help young people overcome feelings of fear and loneliness Scripture Union’s leaders are trying to bring people together through examples of role models and Christian leadership. What does this mean in a concrete way?



SUSA Facilitating a Lifeskills lesson at Bisley Park Primary, Kwazulu-Natal (Picture SUSAs)

Sinawe: We are with you – dealing with the dangers of social media

Through Sinawe (Zulu for “we are with you”), the Lifeskills Education programme works together with the whole educational ecosystem by linking the community with the churches and linking the churches with the school. The programme has provided prayer and extracurricular activities during these challenging Covid times. For example, because of the pandemic, in 2021 many children were not able to play and socially interact with their peers in a physical setting, meaning that children were tempted to go online, spending far more time on social media, without appreciating the dangers of platforms like TikTok and Facebook. SUSAs has been informing teachers and children how to deal with the risks and dangers of social media, including how to deal with bullying and realising the implications of their social media posts.



She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue (Picture: SUSAs)

Putting technology to good use

SUSAs leaders have been putting technology to good use, such as through the introduction of a SU Zoom prayer meeting although digital access and digital literacy is far from the standard we are used to here in Switzerland.

Scripture Union South Africa is helping children to deal with these challenges through Christian teaching and St Ursula's Church is making a difference by supporting their efforts financially and through prayer.

Rob Mackay highlights:

“We want to emphasise how much your (St Ursula's) support is appreciated. With the pressures put on children with schools often closed, with overcrowded township life making schools and our courses sometimes the place where they feel most safe, our programmes are more in demand than ever.”

Please pray for:

- more volunteers to come forward in Gauteng South – the right kind that God has prepared for ministry in this region.
- the Kadesh Barnea campsite, under the leadership of Chicks Radise and his wife Lerato. Grant them more campers and leaders.
- the Western Cape region as they plan for their 2022 ministry activities.
- creativity in how to generate funding for Scripture Union as they seek to continue our mandate in ‘leading young people to know and walk with God.’

SU has its annual Staff Conference on the 19th and 20th of January 2022. This will be the second year it is held over Zoom. Please pray for God's direction and wisdom, and also a fresh energy as we kick-start this new year.

Thank the Lord with us for faithful donors who continue to support us even during the pandemic. Times are tough for everyone but we are grateful to the Lord for the continued privilege of working with young people in South Africa.

Please pray for this year's cohort of Trendsetters (SU's gap year volunteers), that as they serve other young people through SU, they may grow in their Christian walk and as mature and responsible citizens of South Africa.

Further resources:

Scripture Union South Africa podcasts:

<https://scriptureunionsa.buzzsprout.com/1195868>

- Pieter Perrett for the Charity and Mission Team, with input from Rob Mackay (SUSA)



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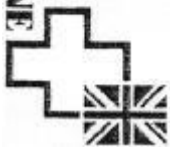
Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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 celebrated 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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Johannes Hewel 078 949 39 86
Sue Higson 076 690 50 88
Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36
Chris Sager
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

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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

Vacant

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

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

PARENTS AND TOTS

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

PASTORAL CARE

contact the Chaplain

ROTA COORDINATOR

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

Chalice Bearers:

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Audio and Video:

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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

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Alison Beindorff 033 243 41 30

TREASURER

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WEBMASTER

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People have very different thoughts about the hymn on our back cover. Musically it has a simple tune, 'Sussex', adapted from a traditional folk tune by the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams for *The English Hymnal*. However, for some it is a model of (almost) everything a hymn should not be, while for others it describes the support God gives in the hardships of the Christian life. It does both.

To get the negative thoughts out of the way first, the hymn does not mention Christ at all. This is a fair comment, as the writer was a Unitarian, married to a doctor in Rochester, New York. She wrote this hymn originally as a personal prayer ("I", not "we") for a monthly magazine in 1859, and adapted it as a hymn five years later.

Nevertheless, the hymn describes very well what Christians mean by the Way of the Cross – moving forward through difficulties, with God's leadership and protection.

Critics also complain that the hymn misuses scripture. Psalm 23 asks God to lead us beside still waters and in green pastures. For the psalmist, these are ideals. But the hymn sees them as easy-going and idle – for the hymn-writer, a better way is 'the steep and rugged pathway', moving onward like Moses with his rod, striking 'living water from the rocks.' (Num. 10:20).

Yet Christ did not promise that our way would be an easy one, although he did promise us the joy of treading it with him. Mrs Willis' hymn may end: "Father, be thou at our side," but if we pray with the prayer Jesus prayed and accept his protection, then Jesus too will be at our side.

- *Hector Davie*



¹ Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

² Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

³ Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

⁴ Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

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