

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



December 2022 - January 2023

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

Chaplain: Revd Helen Marshall

E-mail: office@stursula.ch

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:

10.00 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church and Crèche

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

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

Services in Thun: 18.30 on the first and third Thursdays of the month at
Chapelle Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

ST URSULA'S BERNE

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

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land Co. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as a thank offering for the near miraculous recovery of her adopted daughter, who was treated at the clinic of the famous Professor Kocher.

The hall and the house were added in 1959. An English Missionary Society, the USPG, helped to support the church from its earliest days. Since 1977, however, the chaplaincy has been fully self-supporting, relying solely on its members and well-wishers for its financial support.

St Ursula's has a long tradition of ministry to all English-speaking people in the Canton of Berne and beyond. It also provides a home for Christians from many different denominations and cultural backgrounds. Regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names to the Electoral Roll and so play a full part in the life of the church. Details from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

See Calendar inside for details of this month's services
St Ursula's Church website: www.stursula.ch



St Ursula's Church Magazine

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From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

One thing about getting older is that time seems to pass more quickly. I find it hard to believe that we are soon approaching another Christmas. These coming weeks I know will pass very quickly and they may be a very busy (even stressful) time for many of us.

One of the sad things about the often hectic busyness in the run-up to Christmas is that we can easily miss out on the wonderful season of Advent, which begins on 27 November. Advent is above all a season of *hope* when we look ahead not only to the first coming of Christ into our world, but also his second coming and the promise of the new heavens and the new earth. Mourning, crying and pain will come to an end and our deep human yearnings for love, justice and peace will be finally fulfilled in God's presence.

Our world needs this hope more than ever, and not only our wider world but we ourselves too. So let's not miss out on Advent!

During Advent this year, I will be offering **Advent Space**: a time for silence, reflection and prayer, on a Wednesday evening, 20.00 -21.00, in church. Dates and themes as below:

Wednesday 30 November: *Yearning*

Wednesday 7 December: *Waiting*

Wednesday 14 December: *Yes*

I will begin each of these sessions with some brief reflections on the theme. I will then provide some written material for meditation and prayer in silence. We will conclude each hour with the brief, quiet service of Compline (Night Prayer).

I hope you will be able to come. Please ask if you would like to know more.



I conclude with the Advent collect:

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.
Amen.

With love in Christ,
Helen



Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION

Every year in recent times the Church of England has created a web campaign for Christmas, with a striking slogan to catch people's attention. It is surprising what a wealth of images people associate with the Christmas story – I wonder how many come to your mind, from the pregnant Mary on her donkey, to the wise men on their camels. The greetings card industry thrives on people's half-remembered stories of angels and shepherds, crowded inns and hay-filled mangers, and often these distant memories are all that some people still associate with the big buildings that lie around their towns and villages with no immediately obvious purpose in life. And this at least opens up a way that we who know that something was stirring in the obscure streets of first-century Judaea can talk about it to people who see it only as a string of mythical stories.

What can we tell these people? We don't spend much time ourselves following stars, and indeed if you look at the story in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel, it's not very clear what happened. Some people with an interest in studying the stars – we don't know how many, how old or what nationality – saw a sign that they interpreted as evidence of a new king in Judaea. They set off, carrying gifts, and found the existing king in his palace, quite unaware of any successor. They got advice that led them to Bethlehem and somehow managed to find the house where Jesus and his mother were staying, and gave him their gifts. The visitors returned home, and the young family fled to safety in Egypt.

The message we want to give newcomers is that they should bring their gifts, come and worship too. But is the gap too great between the camels, the baby and the frankincense on the greetings cards, and the crucified and risen saviour who lives in us, as we do in him? It should not be.

- *Hector Davie*

Keeping Still

Sometimes we hear bad news, and it can be devastating. It may concern a close friend. It may concern our work, our relations, our health. It may paralyse us into inaction, or it may stimulate us to a frenzy of fruitless activity. We may react with anger or with despair. It takes time for our mind to become calm, to adjust itself and to set fresh priorities.

In the first Book of Kings, we hear of Ahab coming to power in the northern kingdom, together with his wife Jezebel. This was devastating news for the prophet Elijah. Jezebel was a firm follower of foreign gods, and used her influence to replace the worship focussed on the temple at Jerusalem with the worship of Baal. She brought hundreds of prophets of Baal into the kingdom, and forced Elijah to hide for his own safety. A three-year drought followed, and the prophets of Baal were powerless to bring rain, but Elijah rebuilt God's altar and the rain came and fell. The local people seized the prophets of Baal, and Elijah had to flee for his own safety to the southern kingdom. Then, Elijah set out for the mountain of the Lord, where Moses had received the commandments. He was told that the Lord would pass by – there was a mighty wind, “but the Lord was not in the wind”. Then an earthquake and then a fire, but God was not there either. Finally, “a still small voice.”

Like Elijah, we have our own expectations of God and God's glory. With hindsight and history, through the lens of Jesus and the Church, we perhaps see God more clearly as speaking strengthening words that sink deep into our hearts. God's spirit brings life, but also brings strength. Translators have struggled with the still small voice, but have made little of it beyond “a quiet whisper” – the Bible we use in church gives a creative translation: “the sound of sheer silence”, but what does silence sound like?

We can never really know silence until we accept God into our own silence. Psalm 46:10 was set down in the midst of wars and threats of wars. “Be still,” it told the world, fixing its attention on the brooks and streams of Jerusalem, city of peace, “and know that I am God.” This stillness is a living stillness: so often our lives are little more than chaos and noise, but the Bible reminds us of the calmness and harmony we can experience in God's presence. In this harmony, we can, and need to, discover our true selves.

- *Hector Davie*

A Word for the Month – Dust

The first of the forty days of fasting leading up to Easter is known as Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, Christians make ashes, traditionally from the palm crosses of the previous year, and make the sign of the cross on their forehead, with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”

The first part of this command recalls God’s words to Adam in the Garden of Eden, as a result of what today might be called an inappropriate eating experience. The idea is used again in the committal in the funeral service, in the phrase “ashes to ashes, dust to dust”, recalling the gloomy view that, without God’s breath of life, we are merely dust and ashes. (As Abraham admitted in Genesis 18:27.)

Dust and ashes are not the same thing. Dust is produced over many years by the erosion, the constant grinding down, of solid rock, into smaller and smaller particles. Ashes are the product of fire. In English we have different words for different kinds of fragment – it may be fine and dry: dust, or rich and fertile: soil. Earth, land, sand, mud, all describe different types of our environment, or different ways of looking at the same thing.

The accounts in the Book of Genesis were written down in Hebrew, which also had different words. *Ha-arets*, the earth or the land, which “brought forth living creatures of every kind” (1:24). *‘Aphar*, dust, from *ha-adamah*, the ground or the soil, out of which God moulded *ha-adam*, Adam, man, who through God’s breath became a living being (2:7). The message reminds us constantly of the close link between us humans, and the earth, seen as land, as territory, as soil, or as tiny grains of stone.

In modern times we recognize more and more how dangerous it can be to interfere with the balance that exists. On the biggest scale, we act as though the earth belongs to us. We try to exploit it for our own purposes – to extract its resources, to cut down its forests, to use its living creatures for our own advantage, to fight for control of areas of it that we want.

On the smallest scale, a new danger has emerged recently. We have created substances which, like rock, cannot easily be broken down or absorbed. These are the plastics, the polymers that stay there, just grinding themselves into smaller and smaller particles, and in the process getting everywhere – even into the leaves of lettuces, the flesh of fish, the bones of buffaloes – and the brains of human beings. The writers of the Bible did not have the means of measuring nanoparticles – they measured length in cubits and any weight smaller than a barleycorn would have confused them. But they were right to say that we are dust, and we owe our life to God, the Lord of heaven and earth. We are merely

creators of polyethylene terephthalate, and PET is a mixed blessing!
Perhaps we should be content with our place in God's world, and listen more to God's "still, small voice".

- *Hector Davie*

Christmas Cakes



Again this year, we had a great time, both making the Christmas cakes for the Bazaar, and on Saturday 12 November, icing and decorating them. For this fun morning, we were assisted by Sue and a delightful group of young ladies from the International School. They produced some really wonderful decorations.

Special thanks go to Jana and Jane for organising everything and making sure it was successful. Also thanks to my son-in-law, Jakob, who grated all the oranges and lemons, and my grandson, Noah, who is a dab hand at icing the cakes.

All in all, a remarkable team. Thank you all.

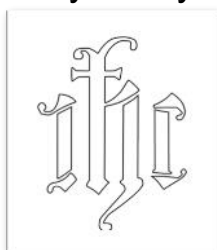
- *Libby Stewardson*

The Stained-glass Windows in Our Church

The next time you're in church, have an extended look at the three stained-glass windows behind the altar. It turns out they were originally designed by Edward Burne-Jones, a famous pre-Raphaelite designer and painter (1833-1898) and were then rendered into stained glass in 1909 by the William Morris Company (1861 – 1940). This was only a few years after St Ursula's Church was built and dedicated. In the panels, St Ursula is on the left holding an arrow, a symbol of her martyrdom; Christ, the Saviour of the World ("Salvator Mundi"), holding an orb, a symbol of the globe, is in the centre and St Etheldreda is on the right with a crown at her feet indicating her noble birth.



In the lower part of the central panel one sees the monogram "ihc", a very old symbol, dating back to the first century.



Ihc is an abbreviation of the Greek name Jesus (Iasous), pronounced "hasous". Grammatically, the monogram can be written in two forms, as lhs or as lhc. The lhc is grammatically more correct because the letter "s" (sigma) is represented as a "c" when in the middle of a word. However, it is an "s" when at the end of the word.

Both Ursula (died in AD 383) and Etheldreda (ca. AD 636 – 680) are British saints. Ursula (which means little bear) was among a group of virgins whose boat was blown off course and they landed in Gaul. Returning from a pilgrimage to Rome, she was beheaded by Huns in Cologne where there is a church dedicated to her memory. Etheldreda, who also remained a virgin, founded a convent where Ely Cathedral (not far from Cambridge) now stands.

The windows were ordered in 1908 and delivered and installed in 1909. They were dedicated by Bishop Herbert Bury at the end of 1911, in memory of Cecil Bonham, the youngest child of the British Minister (or ambassador), who had died in September 1908 at the age of 21. They were paid for by a special window fund.

- Art Funkhouser



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It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year



Finally, our first normal Christmas Bazaar after Covid era. Well, Covid is still around but things have definitely been easier this year for events. No more Covid Certificates are needed and no limitations apply regarding the number of the attendees.

The blinking lights, the wrapped gifts with their big bows, the glitter and glow of the decorations are all signs of Christmas. Even the weather has got chillier (at last) and we are all getting ready for the most wonderful time of the year.

November is one of the busiest months at St Ursula's. Organising the Christmas Bazaar has never been an easy task but with the much-appreciated effort from all our volunteers, their passion, patience and dedication we overcome all difficulties in order to come together and spread Christmas joy all around us.

This year the actual Christmas Bazaar took place at St Ursula's on a bigger scale than the last two years and sale-stursula.ch was live again so that everyone could pre-order their hard-to-resist goodies.

All our volunteers worked really hard and dedicated lots of hours of their personal time in order to offer you a great range of delicious foods, handmade gifts and books.

So a big THANK YOU to all of them for their help, their support and generosity.

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.

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.

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.

Services and Readings

December 2022 and January 2023

Sunday 4 December – Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 Eucharist
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday 11 December – Nativity Play

10:00 Nativity Play
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Luke 2:1-7

Sunday 18 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 Eucharist
Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-end

18.00 Carol Service

Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve

16:00 Christingle Service
22:00 Eucharist
Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day

10:00 Eucharist with All Age talk
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:1-20



Sunday 1 January – Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

10:00 Eucharist
Numbers 6:22-end
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

Sunday 8 January – Epiphany

10:00 All Age Eucharist
Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 15 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 Eucharist
Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Sunday 22 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany Ecumenical Service in the Munster (details to be confirmed)

Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday 29 January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 Eucharist
1 Kings 17:8-16
1 Corinthians 1:18-end
John 2:1-11

Sunday 5 February – Third Sunday before Lent

10:00 Eucharist
Isaiah 58:1-9a
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

For Your Diary

December 2022 and January 2023

December

Thursday 1 December	12.00 Holy Communion service, followed by a simple American Thanksgiving Lunch 18.30 Thun Service
Sunday 4 December	Nativity Play Rehearsals
Tuesday 6 December	19.00 Church Council meeting
Wednesday 7 December	20.00 Advent Space
Sunday 11 December	10.00 Nativity Service
Wednesday 14 December	20.00 Advent Space
Thursday 15 December	19.00 Carol Service in Thun with Glühwein and refreshments after the service
Sunday 18 December	18.00 Carol Service at St Ursula's followed by Glühwein and mince pies
Saturday 24 December	16.00 Christingle and Crib Service
Saturday 24 December	22.00 Christmas Eve Eucharist
Sunday 25 December	10.00 Christmas Day - All Age Eucharist (there will be no Junior Church on Christmas Day)

January

Thursday 5 January	18.30 Thun Service
Tuesday 10 January	19.00 Church Council meeting
Sunday 15 January	COPY DATE
Thursday 19 January	18.30 Thun Service
Sunday 22 January	Ecumenical service at the Münster. No service at St Ursula's

Future Dates

Sunday 19 March	11.30 AGM
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Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Sunday 19 March 2023 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 our churchwardens, and representatives to the church council and the archdeaconry synod.

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

In the meantime, please consider whether to join the Electoral Roll if you are not already a member – there will be more information in the next magazine. However, you can already get an Electoral Roll form – ask Maria if you can't find one in the hall.

- Tricia Carrick (on behalf of the church council)

Happy Birthday!

David Eze	14 on 12 December
Kai Lehmann	12 on 17 December
Amilia Mankai	6 on 19 December
Aydon Kuruvilla	11 on 4 January
Adriele Jacob	8 on 9 January
Martin Probst	4 on 19 January



The Bishop's Advent Appeal



Fig. 1: Bishop Hannington Academy, Mumias

Every year, in Lent and Advent, our Bishop chooses a cause dear to the heart, where a small contribution can make a big difference. In 2020, Bishop Robert chose a building project at a primary school in the west of Kenya.

This was because he knew Joseph

Wandera personally, the Bishop of Mumias in the west of Kenya. We wrote in the April 2020 magazine how the cathedral in Mumias was helping the rapid growth of free primary school places by enlarging the Bishop Hannington Academy nearby, named after the 19th-century martyr, as a contribution towards better primary education in a Christian context.

In 2019, the school had just two classrooms with three teachers. There has been a lot of progress since then. The school is growing, and now needs a purpose-built toilet block. UN-sponsored World Toilet Day (19 November) reminds us of the crucial importance of good hygiene.

We have already helped build a classroom. This Appeal gives a chance to provide an “ablutions block” for the girls and boys, to give them toilets and the possibility of better hygiene while at school. “Days for Girls” (featuring prominently at the Lambeth Conference) has



Fig. 2: Bishop Joseph with Bishop Robert at Lambeth 2022



Fig. 3: The Planned Toilet Block

brought home to us all the importance of proper provision if girls are to manage at school. Better hygiene means better education. Better education will change their world.

Bishop Joseph has given detailed estimates. It will cost 2.4 million Kenyan shillings, about 20,000 euros, to build a new ablutions block. (Extraordinary value by Swiss standards!) Bishop Robert's Advent Appeal will therefore be a very tangible show of support for the Diocese of Mumias's mission to educate primary school children.

We shall be putting boxes to help you to donate to the Bishop Hannington Toilet Block Appeal. Or you can use the Diocese's secure Just Giving webpage: <https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

- Hector Davie

Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) Salt, Jordan

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf is a place where deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind children are welcomed, loved and nurtured in many ways; where they are able to learn sign language, get an education and vocational training, and are supported in everyday life. St Ursula's Church has supported HLID for many years through prayers and financial giving.

The members of the Mission and Charity Committee at their meeting in September were concerned that they had not received a report from the Institute for some time. After an inquiry as to the reason an answer came and it was indeed sad news. Father Luay Haddad, the director of HLID had passed away unexpectedly. It was a shock for the staff and everyone at the Institute. The staff had to deal with this difficult situation as best they could and only after some months was able to inform their supporters about the situation and how the Institute is getting along. The following is their report we received at the beginning of October:

Father Luay Haddad

Father Luay had a great heart for all, especially for those who are disadvantaged in society.

He will certainly be remembered for taking on the management of the Institute through the transition following Brother Andrew's retirement, and more particularly through the very challenging restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic. His faithful work stood out in the appreciation of his fellow workers and the children, and if you accompanied him through the schoolyard you would notice that he took time for the concerns of each individual and even took care of the worries of the smallest ones. He managed the Institute well in difficult times and kept it financially stable. For this achievement, Father Luay deserves great thanks and appreciation.

The new school year begins

The summer holidays have just ended. While the students were at home, the annual major clean-up took place in Salt. The entire Institute was spruced up in all the various departments and areas. Broken furniture was repaired or replaced, all rooms inspected for damage and a major cleaning operation undertaken. The staff in the house-keeping department were especially called upon to wash the children's laundry, repair holes in clothes and clean all the bedding.



Music for the deafblind



It goes without saying that deafblind people cannot hear anything; so they should not be able to make music you might think. Not so. In fact, there was a music class in the deafblind department recently where they played music with big drums, tambourines and even glockenspiels. It's true that the deafblind pupils cannot hear sounds or melodies, but they can

perceive music - just differently. Their sense of touch is extraordinarily well developed which is why they can perceive the vibrations of musical instruments much more intensely than hearing people. As a result, music can evoke special feelings in deafblind people in the same way.

Action against hearing loss

The Institute not only takes care of deaf people by providing school education and creating jobs. There is also the "HEAR Department", where trained staff try to counteract hearing loss or even restore hearing through various treatment methods and the use of hearing aids. Their work takes them to the refugee camps in the north where children with hearing problems are often treated and can be helped through the use of hearing aids. The HEAR department has now published a list of tips to help counteract hearing loss. For example, it recommends not listening to music too loudly with headphones, and wearing earplugs in a noisy environment.

Fingers crossed for the final exams

Five HLID students have managed to get as far as sitting their final exams for high school. If they pass these they will have completed their school education and can even start studying at university. It cannot be taken for granted that someone without hearing can finish school with the so-called "Tautschihi" (high school diploma in Jordan).

When you consider that it is much more difficult to learn to write without knowing the sound of the letters and that many of the children hardly get any support from home, this is an amazing achievement that deserves great respect.

Father Jamil Khadir

On 3 September, Father Luay's successor was announced. He is a well-known name at the Institute and we are very pleased that the Bishop has appointed Father Jamil Khadir as the new director. As part of his pastoral training, he worked at the school in many areas from 2015 to 2017 and knows the Institute very well. He "speaks" sign language



fluently and has a good relationship with the staff at Salt. Among other things, he is well known to our German colleagues who established a strong relationship with him during their time working at the school as volunteers. He starts the new school year as principal. We wish him every success.



We thank God that with Father Jamil Khadir the Institute has a capable new director who will be able to lead the staff and children in their work.

Let us pray

For wisdom and blessings for Father Jamil Khadir in his new role

For the staff in the various areas of the Institute;

- teaching
- vocational training
- housekeeping
- helping refugees in camps with hearing problems

For the children to adapt well in learning and coping in daily life.

- *Esther Hutchison Funkhouser for the Charity and Missions Team*



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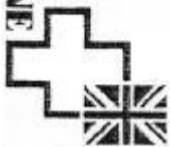
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The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - 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

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This is sometimes thought of as a carol, but it is not a modern carol. It is a ballad, probably sung about 1410 by a wandering minstrel in the east of England. We have modernised the spelling (and the handwriting!). The language

reminds us that English used to be much closer to German in its grammar and word order – it tells how Adam lay imprisoned, patiently, for four thousand years, all for an apple that he took, as clergy find written in the Bible. It rejoices that if this had not happened, Jesus would not have come to save us (and Mary would not have been Queen of Heaven, as the medieval church believed). It ends with a Latin phrase all hearers would have known: Deo gratias – Thanks be to God.

We get a wonderful insight into how people thought six hundred years ago. In popular legend, after Adam was ejected from Paradise, when he died he lay in limbo until the time of Christ. Popular thought had the idea that between his death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday, Jesus released the dead from this limbo, though the Bible goes no further than saying that he visited the lower parts of the earth (Ephesians 4:9) and preached the good news to the dead (1 Peter 4:6). This was a time when people were very aware of Thomas Aquinas' view of Adam's sin as a "happy fault", and it is good to have this story recalling those times.

We have no idea what tune the words were sung to. Many modern British composers have provided settings, but we can only guess. But it is interesting to recall how, over six hundred years ago, the minstrels of England celebrated Christmas!

- *Hector Davie*

¹ Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

³ Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady,
A-been heaven's queen.

² And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took.
As clerkës finden written
In their book.

⁴ Blessed be the time
That apple taken was!
Therefore we may singen
Deo gratias!

