

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



February - March 2023

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

**Chaplain:** Revd Helen Marshall

E-mail: [office@stursula.ch](mailto:office@stursula.ch)

Day off: Friday

### **Lay Reader**

Archana Jacob

[archana@stursula.ch](mailto:archana@stursula.ch)

**Church Office:** 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

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

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:** usually 18.30 on two Thursdays each month at Chapelle

Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

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## **ST URSULA'S BERNE**

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

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

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

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

**See Calendar inside for details of this month's services**

**St Ursula's Church website: [www.stursula.ch](http://www.stursula.ch)**



# St Ursula's Church Magazine

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February - March 2023

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## **AGM – DATE CHANGED**

Unfortunately, the date for the AGM has had to be changed. It will now be on **Sunday 26 March 2023**. Please note this changed date immediately in your diary, so that you come on the correct day.

More information about the AGM later in the magazine.

## **Table of Contents**

From the Chaplain	2	Renewal of Lay Reader	14
Sunday Best	4	Services and Readings	15
Keeping Still	5	For Your Diary	16
Electoral Roll Revision	6	Happy Birthday	17
Annual General Meeting	7	Spring Sale	18
AGM Agenda	8	Change in Inheritance Law	19
A Word for the Month - Fast	9	Christmas Bazaar	20
Shrove Tuesday = Pancakes	10	Curry Evening	22
From the Treasurer	11	Use of Photos	23
Fundraising News	12	Here to Help You	28
Archdeaconry Choir Festival	14		

### **COPY DATE**

for the April - May 2023 magazine is **12 March 2023**

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

**COLLATING DATE: Thursday 23 March 2023**

# From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Epiphany when we give thanks that the light of Christ is revealed to all people. On the day of Epiphany itself, 6 January, we remembered the story of the Magi from the East who were guided by the light of a star to find the Christ child. This story reminds us that the Messiah, the Christ, came into the world for *all* peoples, and not just for his own people, the Jews. Foreigners, like you and me, have also seen the light of Christ.

**Light** is a big theme throughout the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We lit candles on the Advent Wreath as we recalled those who prepared the way for the coming of Christ; we celebrated the coming of Christ, the light of the world, at Christmas; and during Epiphany we give thanks that this light is given for all peoples.

This theme of light continues as we celebrate the feast of **Candlemas on Thursday 2 February**. This is the occasion when we remember Mary and Joseph taking the baby Jesus to present him to God in the temple. The old man Simeon takes the little child in his arms and gives thanks to God that this child will be a 'light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

We call this feast Candlemas because traditionally at this service the whole church would be filled with candles to celebrate the revelation of the light of Christ for all people. This year, we are planning on having a **special Eucharist** at St Ursula's to mark this occasion, **2 February, 19.00**, and the church will be filled with candles.

Candlemas is a significant day, because it marks a kind of staging post between Christmas and Lent and Holy Week. We look back to the celebration of the light of Christ, coming into the world at Christmas, but we also look ahead to the passion of Christ, his suffering and death, as he confronts the darkness of our world through the cross. There are hints of this in the gospel reading for Candlemas: Simeon warns Mary that this child will be opposed by many and 'a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

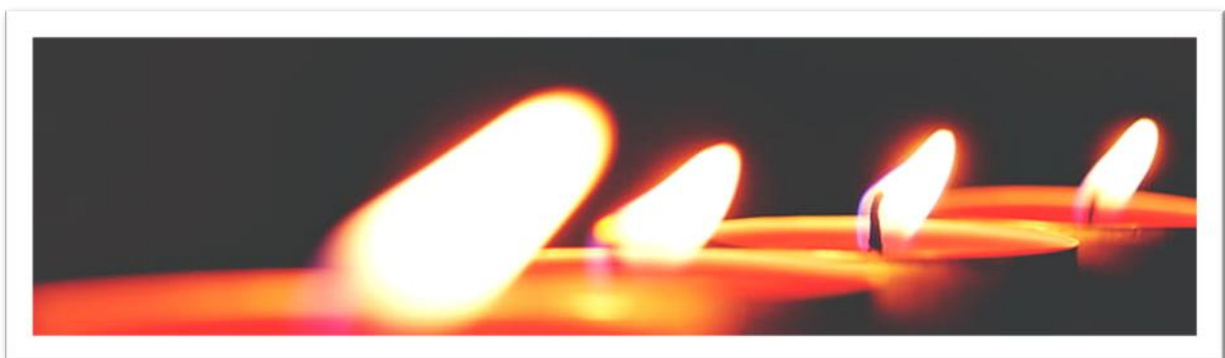
I hope that you will come along to this special service for Candlemas and stay for refreshments afterwards. We encourage everyone to bring some finger food to share.

I conclude with a poem for Candlemas which reminds us of the story of Mary and Joseph bringing the baby Jesus to the temple and celebrates that his light shines out even 'against the dark'.

### **Candlemas**

They came, as called, according to the Law,  
Though they were poor, and had to keep things simple,  
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,  
For God was coming with them to his temple.  
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle  
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,  
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,  
Had made a killing on the two young doves.  
They come at last with us to Candlemas  
And keep the day the prophecies came true;  
We share with them, amidst our busyness,  
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.  
For Candlemas still keeps his kindled light:  
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.  
*(Malcolm Guite)*

With love in Christ,  
Helen



# Sunday Best

What should a Christian wear to church? Any woman trying to enter an Italian cathedral or a Greek monastery wearing t-shirt, hot pants and a tattoo, and any man clad in a Stetson hat, boxer shorts and flip-flops will know that there are people who expect certain standards. Other faiths also have standards of dress and behaviour which they impose. These standards vary in different cultures, from place to place and between different social groups.

The Bible is not very helpful as a guide. Jesus himself warned against “the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues”, but more because of their hypocrisy than their taste in fashion. The apostles recommended modesty. “I desire... that the women should dress themselves in moderate clothing with reverence and self-control, not with their hair braided or with gold, pearls, or expensive clothes, but with good works, as is proper for women who profess reverence for God.” (1 Timothy 2:8-10) “Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God’s sight.” (1 Peter 3:3-4).

Argumentative readers could – and did – point out that these recommendations were addressed only to women, and were not backed up with evidence. Paul had difficulty telling the Christians in Corinth why women should wear a veil when praying (1 Corinthians 11).

The apostle was on firmer ground describing spiritual clothing. “Put on the whole armour of God” (Ephesians 6:10): the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes to proclaim the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. But he makes clear that this is not a fight against enemies of flesh and blood – forget the belt and breastplate, and just bring the righteousness and the faith!

In fact we can get a better idea from descriptions of early church life. We hear that people met in one another’s houses. They came in off the street in their outdoor clothes, and writers tell us that they kept these on, unlike the pagans in their temples. Pictures of worship show people praying, preaching and singing, all robed and dressed for the street. One is reminded of the Jewish Passover meal, which the people were told to eat “your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly.” (Exodus 12:11)



***Sunday Mass, (ca. 1895) by Gari Melchers***

The best advice is given towards the end of the New Testament, in the second chapter of James' letter. It doesn't matter what you wear – just don't try to show off, and don't be impressed by others who do. "If a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here in a good place, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit by my footstool,' have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ... Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?" God takes us as we are. So should we.

*- Hector Davie*



# 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, to the archdeaconry synod 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 nominate someone for election.

If you would like to stand for election yourself you **must** have been on the Electoral Roll for at least the preceding six (6) months. A list of such people will be displayed on the notice board from Sunday 12 March.

The current list of members of the Electoral Roll is already displayed in the church hall. 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 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 5 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)*



# Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM will be held on **Sunday 26 March at 11.30**. You will find the invitation, including the agenda, on page 8 of this magazine. We hope you will be able to attend this important church meeting.

The meeting will be held in the church, starting at 11.30. It should be finished by 13.30 at the latest. Please bring a sandwich if you think you will be hungry. Note that no child care is provided during the meeting – perhaps parents can arrange this themselves.

At the AGM we will elect church wardens, church council members and representatives to the archdeaconry synod. If you would like to be able to vote at these elections you need to be a member of the Electoral Roll. There is more information about the Electoral Roll on page 6 of this magazine.

The nomination sheet will be available in the church hall in mid-February. Please follow the instructions carefully if you wish to nominate someone for election.

If you would like to know more about the various positions (e.g. council member or synod representative), please speak to one of those currently doing the task – list at the back of this magazine.

If you have other questions please contact me or the chaplain.

- *Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)*

To: All Members of St Ursula's, Bern

January 2023

### **Annual General Meeting – Sunday 26 March 2023**

Dear friends,

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St Ursula's Church, Bern, which will be held at **11.30** on **Sunday 26 March 2023** 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 27 March 2022
4. Approval of the Audited Accounts for the year 2022
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Auditors' Report
5. Presentation of the Budget for the year 2023
6. Election of
  - a. Two churchwardens
  - b. Two representatives to the Archdeaconry Synod
  - c. 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 mid-February. 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 proposing or seconding someone for election **must** be members of the electoral roll. All those standing for election **must** have been on the electoral roll for at least the preceding six months.

Please make nominations on or before Sunday, 19 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 19 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  
(Council Secretary)

# A Word for the Month – Fast

At first sight this is not one word but several. Anyone who owns a fast car and finds it stuck fast in a traffic jam would find it hard to believe that it is the same word. As we await Lent, the idea of not eating or drinking comes to mind, and that comes from the same idea, too – keeping steadfastly to our decision to abstain.

A number of religions practise fasting. It is a sign of sorrow, just as feasting is a sign of joy. The sorrow may be personal – the loss of a close relative or friend, as David and his companions “mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for his son Jonathan and for the army of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had been struck down by the sword.” (2 Sam. 1:12). Or it may be a sign of remorse, either for some wrong thing that we have done, or that someone else may have done. In the Old Testament, suffering was often seen as a sign of direct punishment for past sin, and David provides another example of fasting when the baby whom Bathsheba has borne him (after he has had her husband sent to his death) falls sick (2 Sam. 12:16-23).

So a ruler might proclaim a time of national fasting at a time of national emergency – invasion, natural disaster, anything that might be a sign of punishment for unfaithfulness. Fasting focussed attention on God. It showed our own dependency and humility in the presence of someone greater than ourselves. And the Jewish law set aside a Day of Atonement for the same reason – the Qu’ran also tells Muslims to fast during the month of Ramadan “in order to magnify God and be thankful”.

Fasting requires commitment. It is not a way of ruining our health, but it is more than merely “giving something up”. The *Book of Common Prayer* has a list of “periods of fasting and abstinence”, which should remind us that they are two separate things: fasting provides positive opportunities for self-examination and for improving our relationship with God – in the words of the Lenten collect, for God to “create and make in us new and contrite hearts”. It has been said that the Eastern Orthodox place their emphasis on renewal, while the churches of the Western tradition stress repentance.

In both cases, Lent is a period that looks forward to the joys of Easter – as Paul wrote to the Philippians: “I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” (3:12-14)

Fasting can become dry and mechanical. In many places, people fast for one or two days a week – on Wednesdays, to recall Christ’s betrayal, or on Fridays to recall his crucifixion. Fasting can mean simply abstaining from meat, which led in the past to disputes as to what “meat” was: the idea that eating fish was permissible gave way to the thought that one could eat anything that lived in water: crocodiles, turtles, even beavers and otters. But feasting on lobster and caviar is not fasting. This Lent let us concentrate on renewal – and on straining forward to what lies ahead!

- *Hector Davie*

## Shrove Tuesday = Pancakes



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

You are all invited to drop in at the church hall from **18.00** on **Tuesday 21 February** and participate in this tradition. Pancakes and drinks will be provided. There will be savoury and sweet toppings. If you would like to contribute your help (e.g. clean up, making toppings, etc.), please get in touch with us by email.

- *Angie and Sandra*

angie.furrer@gmx.ch

sandra.estrada.peter@gmail.com

# From the Treasurer – January 2023

Dear all

Before we move to what the annual results for 2022 look like, I want to give a big shout out to the events team for our great fundraising efforts last year. The Christmas Bazaar brought in an extra Fr12,231 for Church funds. In total for the year, net of costs, we raised Fr27,416 from our events. This is a huge help, and significantly reduced the loss we made in the Church for 2022.

Some of you may remember the budget for 2022 was forecasting a deficit in the Church and an excess in the Association for 2022. It turns out my forecasting skills in 2022 were extremely accurate. Currently, pre-audit and final bookings, we have a deficit in the Church of Fr34,021 and an excess in the Association of Fr3,657. This is after the allocation of Fr20,000 to our building fund. The deficit in the Church will be borne by the reserves.

The magazine income was particularly disappointing, and we only just broke even on the magazine. Elsewhere in the magazine I have given information about our upcoming fundraising events, as well as on giving a legacy to St Ursula's. I would also like to ask new members of our church to take a look at our pledging scheme. This allows us to plan our finances more accurately as pledge income is a large part of our total income. The pledge leaflet is on our website on our finances page, and also there should be some in the Church Hall. If anything is unclear, I am happy to answer questions. We are very grateful for all that people give to our church, whether in time or money. Please note that it is not possible for me to send out individual acknowledgements and thank you notes during the year, but you will receive your annual acknowledgements very soon, if not already at the time of reading the magazine.

- Sue Higson



# Fundraising news

## Sales dates

Our popular sales will take place on the following dates this year.

Sale date 2023	Type of event	Online opens latest on
11 March	Spring Book & Food Sale	27 February
10 June	Summer Fete	27 May
9 September	Autumn Book & Food Sale	26 August
24 & 25 November	Christmas Bazaar	12 November

<https://www.sale-stursula.ch/> to pre-order freshly baked goods and for our big sales, a choice of food items imported for you. This year we will be working more closely with our friends in Basel to ensure good stocks at the Christmas Bazaar, however if anyone has friends driving over from the UK during the coming year, please contact us to request a shopping list. This is particularly important for things we only need in small quantities, or which we cannot import.

## Would you like to be more involved in our fundraising?

Without our fundraising events, our loss in 2022 would have been double what it is. We always need new volunteers and helpers. If you would like to join our fundraising team just send me an email to Treasurer@stursula.ch and let me know how you would like to become involved.

**We NEED you.**  
**Can you HELP?**

## Auction Time

Have you heard of a Time and Talents auction before? The idea is to offer your time and talent to be auctioned off to the highest bidder with the money going to church funds.

Below are some ideas of what you can offer, or perhaps bid on, if someone else offers it. You can also offer something we have not thought of.

1 hr photo shoot with 5 digital images.	Window cleaning - x windows
Dinner evening hosted	3 hours spring clean help
Birthday cake-decorated and delivered	Shopping trip to Ikea or similar by car
Dinner evening delivered	Furniture assembly - to x hours
Internet for beginners-workshop	Taxi service - per hour
Smartphones for beginners-workshop	Understanding Swiss health Insurance
Afternoon tea-hosted	Original drawing or painting
Car cleaning, inside and out	Garden work - to x hours
Bicycle service	A letter in German
Babysitting / child care x hours	A letter in French
Dog walking service	A letter in English
Picture hanging or similar	Weekend in holiday home
Help at a Party	Week in holiday home
German conversation	Introductory music lesson ( define instrument)
French conversation	Introductory sport lesson (define sport)

We will also accept items of value into the auction, we already have a donated stamp collection, and perhaps you also have something. Such items will be auctioned off via Ricardo to get the biggest reach, but the time and talent auction will be held in our church on a date to be defined in the future.

There is a form enclosed with this magazine for you to use to register to donate to this auction. The form can be sent in, left in the box in the upper hall, or sent by email to the events team. If you have any questions please ask me, Helen or David.

- Sue Higson



# Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2023

The traditional Archdeaconry Choir Festival is planned to be held in Basel over the weekend 19 – 21 May 2023. Choirs and singers from several Anglican chaplaincies in Switzerland are rehearsing and coming together for a choral Evensong on Saturday and a sung Eucharist on Sunday. A first joint practice on Friday evening usually marks the beginning of the event. The details about music and organisational matters will be announced shortly.

Interested singers from St Ursula's Church are invited to get in touch. Practices for preparing the singers for taking part in the festival will be arranged once interest has been expressed. Please get in touch with us by the end of February at the latest.

Elisabeth or Hans-Karl Pfyffer ([hanskarl.pfyffer@bluewin.ch](mailto:hanskarl.pfyffer@bluewin.ch)).

- *Hans-Karl Pfyffer*

## Renewal of Lay Reader Licence



During the service on 15 January, Helen renewed Archana Jacob's licence from Bishop Robert as our lay reader.

We are very happy to have her in our Church and to be blessed with her gifts.

# Services and Readings February and March 2023

## Thursday 2 February –

### Candlemas

19.00 Eucharist

*Hebrews 2:14-18*

*Luke 2:22-40*

## Sunday 5 February – Third

### Sunday before Lent

10.00 Eucharist

*Isaiah 58:1-9a*

*1 Corinthians 2:1-16*

*Matthew 5:13-20*

## Sunday 12 February – Mission

### Sunday (All Age service)

10.00 All Age Eucharist

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

*Matthew 5:13-16*

## Sunday 19 February – Sunday

### next before Lent

10.00 Eucharist

*Exodus 24:12-18*

*2 Peter 1:16-21*

*Matthew 17:1-9*

## Wednesday 22 February – 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 26 February – First

### Sunday of Lent

10.00 Eucharist

*Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

*Romans 5:12-19*

*Matthew 4:1-11*

## Sunday 5 March – Second

### Sunday of Lent

10.00 Eucharist

*Genesis 12:1-4a*

*Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*

*John 3:1-17*

## Sunday 12 March – Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 Eucharist

*Exodus 17:1-7*

*Romans 5:1-11*

*John 4:5-42*

## Sunday 19 March – Mothering Sunday (All Age Service)

10.00 All Age Eucharist

*Colossians 3:12-17*

*John 19:25b-27*

## Sunday 26 March – Passion Sunday

10.00 Eucharist

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*Romans 8:6-11*

*John 11:1-45*

## Sunday 2 April – Palm Sunday

10.00 Eucharist

*Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew  
21:1-11*

*Liturgy of the Passion: Philippians  
2:5-11*

*Matthew 27:11-54*



# For Your Diary

## February and March 2023

### February

Thursday 2 February	CANDLEMAS Eucharist followed by refreshments at 19.00
Tuesday 7 February	Church Council meeting
Sunday 12 February	MISSION SUNDAY All Age Eucharist
Tuesday 14 February	Online Study Sessions (via Zoom) – 19.00-20.15
Thursday 16 February	Thun Service
Tuesday 21 February	Shrove Tuesday, Pancakes in the church hall from 18.00
Wednesday 22 February	ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist at 18.30

### March

Tuesday 7 March	Council Meeting
Wednesday 8 March	Online Lent Study Groups (via Zoom) – 19.00-20.15
Thursday 9 March	Thun Service
Saturday 11 March	Spring Sale, 10.00-14.00
Sunday 12 March	Magazine Copy Date
Tuesday 14 March	Online Lent Study Groups (via Zoom) – 19.00- 20.15
Sunday 19 March	MOTHERING SUNDAY All Age Eucharist
Tuesday 21 March	Online Lent Study Groups (via Zoom) – 19.00- 20.15
Thursday 23 March	Thun Service
Saturday 25 March	Annunciation Day
Sunday 26 March	AGM, 11.30
Thursday 28 March	Online Lent Study Groups (via Zoom) – 19.00- 20.15

## Future Dates

Sunday 2 April	PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 6 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY (18.30 Eucharist followed by silent watch)
Friday 7 April	GOOD FRIDAY (10.00 Family Service & 14.00 Liturgy of the Last Hour)
Sunday 9 April	EASTER DAY (10.00 Proclamation of the Resurrection and First Eucharist of Easter)
Thursday 27 April	Thun Service
Thursday 11 May	Thun Service
Sunday 14 May	All Age Eucharist Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 18 May	ASCENSION DAY
Thursday 25 May	Thun Service
Sunday 28 May	PENTECOST
Sunday 4 June	TRINITY SUNDAY
Saturday 10 June	Summer Fête

## Happy Birthday

None of the Junior Church children have their birthdays in February, but the following children celebrate their birthdays in March:

Vera Probst	2 on 26 March
Lydia Shergold	13 on 12 March
Christopher Shergold	15 on 12 March
Edem-David Agoba	16 on 28 March





## Welcome Spring!

Spring will be here soon to make our days better and brighter. Our first sale of the year will take place on **Saturday 11 March** so please **Save the Date!**

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 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](http://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 and pick them up on the day of the sale.

## Would you like to help?

If you would like to be part of our amazing team, please contact the Church Office for further details. We always welcome helping hands and fresh ideas.

## Updates

For more updates and additional information, please stay tuned to St Ursula's website [www.stursula.ch](http://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 the respective article was designed by Freepik.

# Change in the Swiss Inheritance Law

The new Swiss inheritance law entered into force on 1 January 2023. The main change is a reduction in the statutory compulsory portions. This gives testators (the person writing the will) more self-determination in the disposal of their estate.

So it is recommended to take this opportunity to review your will and see if it is still in line with your wishes. If you have not yet made a will, then now is the time to do so. This is equally true if you are still young, as now that the compulsory part for parents has been removed, you may wish to make a provision for your parents and other family members. We will be honoured if you choose to remember St Ursula's in your final Testament. Legacies are a great help in ensuring our continued funding.

Also recommended is to think about writing a patient decree (Living Will), or *Patientenverfügung* as it is called in German, which will make your wishes clear if there is a medical emergency where you are no longer able to indicate your wishes.

The following link will help you to create both a patient decree and a will.

<https://www.deinadieu.ch/en>

Alternatively you can contact a notary or your bank for advice.

- *Sue Higson*



# Christmas Bazaar 2022

As you probably already know, November is one of the busiest months at St Ursula's.

Organising the Christmas Bazaar has never been an easy task. Many things behind the scenes may even go unnoticed. For example, we need to move furniture around a lot, even empty the church of all the chairs in order to set up the stalls. And for this we need many helping hands.



With the much appreciated effort from all our volunteers, their passion, patience and dedication we managed to overcome all difficulties once again in order to come together and spread Christmas joy all around us.



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

As always, we had Christmas cakes, crumpets and home baked goods, the food stall full of treats, beautiful Christmas wreaths and decorations, patchwork and other fine Christmas gifts, mulled wine and mince pies, second hand books, children's activities, tombola and a raffle. On Friday evening we served Raclette while on Saturday our visitors could enjoy our delicious Christmas Lunch.





All our volunteers worked really hard and dedicated lots of hours of their personal time. So a big THANK YOU to all of them for their help, their support and generosity.

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

Our first Book and Food Sale of 2023 will be on Saturday 11 March from 10.00 – 14.00. Please use the flyer with this magazine to advertise this event.

- Maria Avdikou, Church Office





SATURDAY  
START 7PM

**FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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# CURRY Evening

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# Use of Photos

We have recently been advised that we may only use photos of anyone – adults and children – if we have a written consent form. So we have created a form which we would like to ask you to fill in if you consent to your photo being used on our website, in the magazine and elsewhere, e.g. as publicity for St Ursula's.

Except in special circumstances (where permission has been obtained) we will not publish individual pictures and generally no names will be associated with the photos.

But to fulfil the safeguarding and data protection rules we need you to complete the form – one per family – and return it to the church office. Each adult and each child over the age of 16 must sign the form. You can get a form from the church office or, on Sundays, from a person on duty. If someone has not completed the form, we will (in the future) blur out their face in photos. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to retrospectively apply this.

- *Tricia Carrick*

- Swiss Tax-declarations
- Tax-advice
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## *Beratungen*

**Toni Bachmann**

Brunngasse 20

**CH-3806 Bönigen b. I**

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

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English Speaking Club of Bern

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We are looking forward to meeting you

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

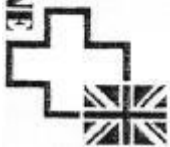
## Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count 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](mailto:g.tritt@gmx.net)  
Website [www.icberne.org](http://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](http://www.angloswissclubs.ch)

Contact: President: Chris Warren

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



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# Here to help you

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Vacant

## **CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM**

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

### **Church Council**

#### *Clergy Members:*

Helen Marshall (chair) 031 352 85 67  
David Marshall

#### *Lay Members:*

Michael Agoba 078 811 19 46  
Martin Browne 079 953 96 76  
Tricia Carrick 031 971 27 71  
Agnes Derory 079 841 45 75  
Sue Higson 076 690 50 88  
Archana Jacob 031 859 64 12  
Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59  
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

*Administration:* Maria Avdikou

**Normally open Monday, 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**

Coordinated by David Marshall

## **OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

## **PARENTS AND TOTS**

Angela Thomas littlebearsbern@gmail.com  
www.littlebearsbern.ch

## **PASTORAL CARE**

contact the Chaplain

## **ROTA COORDINATOR**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Chalice Bearers:**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Intercessions:**

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

### **Readers:**

vacant

### **Servers:**

Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Sidespersons:**

Martin Browne 079 953 96 76

### **Audio and Video:**

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Deputy: Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Hans Goepfert 077 472 20 60

## **THUN CONTACT**

Alison Beindorff 033 243 41 30

## **TREASURER**

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

## **VESTRY**

Vacant

## **WEBMASTER**

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

Our hymn books contain a number of very old hymns which have been adapted from old Irish poems. This month's example is a good choice for Lent. It lay undiscovered for centuries as a manuscript, *Rop tú mo baile, a Choimdiu cride*, in a Dublin library until the beginning of the 20th century.

We do not know quite when it was written. According to tradition it was composed by a sixth-century saint, St Dallan, who had his roots in the family of the Irish High Kings and had many contacts in the monastic community. The hymn uses the Celtic tradition of the *Ard Rí*, the High King, as a symbol for God, and is a request for protection and for a pure life. It addresses God as a source of power, of love and of true riches. Even if it was written later than the sixth century, it still reflects the need for defence. We are

used to thinking of soldiers armed with swords nowadays as politically incorrect, but, as in Ephesians 6, God's sword helps us to defend ourselves against the Devil. Anyone who has seen the thick defensive walls surrounding the monasteries of ancient Ireland will recognize the symbolism that verses like Psalm 61 had for life in those times, when invasion from beyond the seas was a very real threat.

At the end of the 19th century, there was a great interest in Irish culture and literature, and in 1905 a scholar, Mary Byrne, made a translation of the hymn into English. Seven years later, Eleanor Hull put this translation into verse, and by 1919 it was being sung in churches to the tune we use today, a traditional melody named after the little village of Slane on the River Boyne in County Meath, more famous nowadays for its whiskey than for its ancient monastery.

May we continue to sing this hymn, and to recall the missionaries who brought the Christian faith to the Celtic people on Ireland's distant isle. God is still our father, a source of heaven's joys, of light, and will protect us through the distractions of Lent and through to Easter beyond. "Be thou my vision" – and the vision for all of us!

- *Hector Davie*



**Eleanor Hull**

<sup>1</sup> Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;  
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

<sup>2</sup> Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;  
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

<sup>3</sup> Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;  
Be Thou my whole Armour, be Thou my true Might;  
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tower,  
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

<sup>4</sup> Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,  
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

<sup>5</sup> High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys, after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Old Irish (10<sup>th</sup> century?) translated by Eleanor Hull*

