

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



April - May 2023

G. Arnold 1/23

**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

2nd Sunday is normally All Age Eucharist

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

VOL 42/2

April - May 2023

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### **COPY DATE**

for the June - July 2023 magazine is **14 May 2023**

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

**COLLATING DATE: Thursday 25 May 2023**

# From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this magazine it will be the beginning of Holy Week (2-9 April), during which we remember the last supper Jesus had with his friends, his betrayal and trial, his agonized death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead. These events are right at the centre of our faith.

I hope that you will be able to join us for the special services marking these events. On Palm Sunday, 2 April, we meet near the entrance of the Dählhölzli for the opening part of our service and then process into the church waving our palm crosses and singing. We haven't got as far as getting a donkey, but maybe another year! The service in church includes a long Gospel reading of the Passion of Christ as we look ahead to the rest of Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday this year we will have our Eucharist in the Upper Hall as part of a bring and share meal. After the meal and sharing of communion, we will move into the church to strip the church, listen to the gospel of the watch, and spend time in prayer and silence. During this time, we are invited to meditate on Jesus' praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest and trial, the desertion of his friends, and the mockery and torture he endures from his enemies.

This prepares us for Good Friday. There are two opportunities to reflect on Jesus' death on the cross: a short Family Service in the morning which seeks to help children to understand these things, and in the afternoon the Liturgy of the Cross, which is a more formal service of hymns and readings (including a dramatized passion reading), canticles and silence.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the joy of the resurrection which lies right at the heart of our faith. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, there would be no Christian faith and no church, and we would not be worshipping at St Ursula's week by week. But we believe that Christ is Risen and he is in the midst of us. I hope that the Easter Day service will be a very joyful occasion with a very full church; it will be an All Age Eucharist as we celebrate the Easter joy together as a church family. The service will be followed by an Easter egg hunt!

We celebrate the joy of the Risen Lord not only on Easter Sunday but throughout the season of Eastertide. At the end of Eastertide, we remember the ascension of our Lord on Ascension Day (Thursday, 18 May) as he returns to the Father in glory, and we pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost (Sunday, 28 May) is another high point of the church year, when we rejoice in the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first

disciples and give thanks that this same Holy Spirit is with us in the church today.

As we have done in previous years, our special Pentecost service will be followed by a bring and share lunch when we encourage everyone to bring a dish from their home country. This is an opportunity to celebrate both the international character of our fellowship, and our unity in Christ. Please do come along for this special event which in the past has been one of our biggest church celebrations of the year. More details about the service and the meal will go out nearer the time, but please put this date in your diary now.

Easter and Pentecost lie ahead of us, but first we must walk the way of the cross. We are called, as individuals and as a church family, to follow our Crucified and Risen Lord. Let us remind ourselves of all that he has done for us and given to us and in response give our whole selves back to him.



Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you for the benefits that you have won for us,  
for all the pains and insults that you have borne for us.  
Most merciful redeemer,  
friend and brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.

Amen.

*(Richard of Chichester)*

With love in Christ,  
*Helen*

# Living Water

Those of us who have been following Helen's Lent Course have encountered the richness and the diversity of the fourteenth-century English mystics – writers who described their relationship with God very directly and with joy, even passion. Some of us have been surprised that God was being spoken of with such vigour, so long ago.

God is full of surprises. And a hundred years before the English mystics, another writer was born in what is now central Italy. He too believed that joy was at the centre of our relation with God. "God is sheer joy, and sheer joy demands companionship," he wrote. His name was Thomas, he came from the region of Aquino, and we know him as Thomas Aquinas. He was born about 1225, he studied at Monte Cassino, at Naples and at Paris, and is best known as a philosopher – the "angelic doctor".

For many of us, philosophers are dry as dust, and Thomas' status as patron saint of pencil makers does not help his popularity. But one of his observations caught my attention. The fourth chapter of John's Gospel tells of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at a well. Jesus asks for a drink. The woman says: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" and Jesus replies: "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (John 4:7-10 – read on for the whole story!)

For most of us, this conversation would have been quite understandable as a piece of picture language. Jesus spoke with power, and this power was God's power, coming (flowing, even) from the Holy Spirit. For Thomas Aquinas, calling water "living" raised the whole question of life. What is life? At Easter, Jesus rose from the dead, and in him we have new life.

Normally we can tell the difference between life and death. We can recognize a dead donkey, a dead tree, a dead mosquito. As a figure of speech, we can talk of a dead silence, a dead calm on the lake or in the traffic. But what is living water?

Scientists still ask whether there is life elsewhere in the universe – if not on the Moon, then perhaps on Mars, or a distant planet, or if not now, maybe millions of years ago, or millions of years in the future. (If there is, we haven't yet found it, and if we find it, scholars will spend years disagreeing over whether it is intelligent or not! There is unlikely to be such a thing as intelligent water!)



For Aquinas, water, like fire, was a symbol of the Holy Spirit. God warms our hearts with the Spirit's fire. God puts out the fire of temptation and cleanses us, and also sustains us when we thirst (Isaiah 55:1) with living water. Living water does not mean thinking, respiring, feeling water. Living water is water which is connected with its source and flows from it.

So, says Aquinas, the grace of the Holy Spirit is correctly called living water, because this grace is given to us in such a way that the Holy Spirit, the actual source of the grace, is also given. "The love of God is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

The Resurrection (and the gift of the Spirit seven weeks later) mean that our faith in our living Lord can come to life again, quickened and revitalised. We only have to ask, and we will receive (Matthew 7:7). The woman at the well should have asked. Perhaps she felt unworthy, but Jesus accepts her as she was. We too should not be afraid to ask for God's gifts. This living water is abundantly ready to wash over us all. It is there for the asking – to quench our thirst with the Spirit's blessings!

- *Hector Davie*



***Christ and the Samaritan Woman at the Well, by Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller***

# A Word for the Month – Apology



God has made us, God has loved us, we have been less than perfect, God has forgiven us. God's forgiveness is unconditional. We recall this in one of the church's regular weekly prayers: "Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever."

Amen, we say. And yet, cannot we do anything in return? No, and yes. We have been brought up in a society where everything has to be earned, and God's way with us turns this idea on its head. If we think we can earn God's love, then we make the same mistake as the rich person who asked Jesus: "What must I do to be saved?" That's not the way God works.

And yet. When our human ways meet God's ways, something changes. It has to. On one level, we become more humble. We show our humility through repentance – through "changing our mind" in a literal sense. And on another level, we become more thankful. We show our gratitude through praise and joyful worship.

God want us to change towards each other, too – to love our neighbours and to live in harmony with them. We live so close together that our



actions affect other people, and not always directly or obviously. Our neighbour may be in another part of the world, in another age, someone not yet born, or unaware of us. We may think we are helping them. So may they.

To put things right and start again requires forgiveness, a God-like quality. If we have caused harm, we may perhaps ask for this forgiveness by offering an apology.

The word 'apology' does not appear in the Bible translation which we use at St Ursula's. This does not make it unscriptural! One of my favourite Greek words is '*anapologitos*', used by the apostle Paul at the beginning of Romans 2 – we are "without excuse" if we condemn others for not knowing about the Jewish law if we ourselves do not do what is right. It is more important to do God's will than to tell other people how to behave.

In any case, apologies can be easily misunderstood. For the Christian, they should express our sorrow, our grief that something has gone wrong. All too often, they can be mere excuses – explanations of why something happened. "I forgot to check." "I thought you wouldn't notice." "I didn't know it was wrong." This level of apology may not be deep enough to put things right.

In the past few years, the Church of England has been looking at its own involvement in the buying and selling of men, women and children, particularly in the slave trade. It has changed from patting itself on the back for its part in abolishing the enslavement of millions of our fellow humans – our neighbours – and looked more closely at the millions of pounds it invested in the eighteenth century in the South Sea Company, in the colonial plantations, knowing that this involved trading in enslaved people. Very recently, the head of the Church Commissioners, the financial body which has followed the eighteenth-century body ("Queen Anne's Bounty") as the Church of England's investment arm, has apologized for their (our) part in this trade, and set up a fund of £100 million to redress the Church's past wrongs.

There are similar wrongs for which we should apologize. For years we have been robbing the earth of its resources. This affects ourselves, our neighbours, our children, and generations yet to come. Many of our social attitudes have been harmful to our neighbours – we must put them right. Our member Louise Rapaud will tell of her plan for an inter-generational apology for global warming.

There is work to be done on the detail – who apologizes, to whom and for what? Some may say that there is too much that is superficial, hypocritical or political correctness, but then God wants us to live correctly. Read Ezekiel 18: God is righteous, and wants each of us to live fairly too!

- *Hector Davie*

# The Dream of the Rood

The Dream of the Rood (Cross) is a very ancient English poem, yet at the same time surprisingly modern.

From the Anglo-Saxon period: some scholars date it as ninth century, while others claim it is earlier because parts of it are carved on the Ruthwell Cross (eighth century).

Whatever the date, it is a remarkable poem. It tells of a midnight vision that a man had, when he saw the Cross covered all over with precious gems, shining brightly in the surrounding darkness.

The second and central part of the poem is narrated by the cross itself, and this is why I find it modern. Pagan myths had animals talking like humans (and the familiar fairy tale Little Red Riding Hood has the wolf speaking), but to my knowledge nobody has made an inanimate piece of wood speak.

Modern fiction has a foetus in its mother's womb talking (McEwan) and a robot speaking and helping people accept their lives (Ishiguro), but a piece of timber shaped into a cross?

And this Cross speaks eloquently and passionately. It describes itself as drenched in Christ's blood and feeling pain as the nails are driven in. The Cross has many epithets for the crucified one: Lord of all mankind; young hero, God Almighty, warrior, noble king, Lord of heaven, God of hosts, Ruler, Prince, Lord of victories.

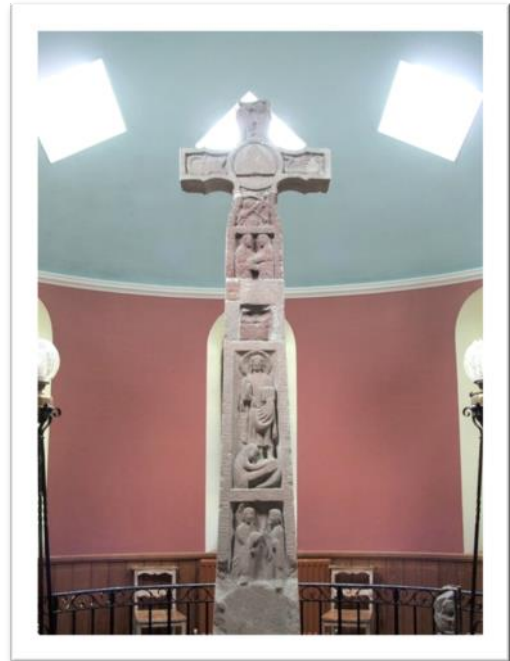
The Cross bears Christ up and also slays him; is at once supporter and destroyer. The Cross suffers with him and also rises again with him. Death and resurrection are together in the Cross.

Suffering and victory go hand in hand.

But these are bald statements compared with what the Anglo-Saxon poet has to say. This highly imaginative and deeply devotional work affords the reader a spiritual experience.

Well worth reading, even after so many centuries.

- *Dorothy Beringer*



Lairich Rig / The Ruthwell Cross / CC BY-SA 2.0

# Junior Church News

Junior Church meets every Sunday during the service in the upper hall. The families start worship in the church, and then the children go out for their Junior Church session and Crèche. At the end of the service, communion is celebrated together. Once a month, the children stay in church during the service to join the congregation during the all-age service.

TearFund is the Charity our Junior Church supports. The collection taken during Junior Church goes towards a TearFund project in Uganda. We are thankful that all parents remind their children to take cash to Junior Church. The children learn how to share and be grateful for what they have.

Currently, there are usually between 5 and 13 children in the group. We are very grateful for all our teachers and helpers, especially all who joined us during the last couple of months. However, more volunteers are still needed. The material we use is from “Roots”; if you would like to have a look at it or use it at home with your children, please contact Helen or a teacher.

If you could offer help with this vital ministry or would like to know more about it, please speak either to Helen or a Junior Church teacher – why not come one Sunday and see what we are doing?

- *Ruby Wildhaber*



## From the Treasurer – Funds and fun

I am not going to write a long Treasurer's report this time. My report in the AGM booklet is worth a read if you want to know how we did last year. In short it was as I budgeted – a deficit in the Church and a surplus in the Association. The report shows how important all our sources of income are, and in particular events. Without fundraising events, our deficit would have been double what it was.



At the time of writing, our Spring sale has just happened. We had a lot of visitors and a very good atmosphere. The book ladies raised Fr730, the food stall raised around Fr1,700 before the cost of food, and the restaurant raised around Fr1,200. We had a lot more payments by Twint as well as some by bank card which is encouraging. The sale website however was not really used, with only nine orders coming in. It seems that people really want the communal experience.

We also had the benefit of the students from the International school helping out with the catering, and they did a great job. I

have received a lot of compliments about how hard working they were. A big thank you to all who helped, and all who baked cakes or scones, as well as prepared soups or Bakes for the restaurant; this made our catering experience so much more relaxed.

Our next sale will be on 10 June, and at some point before then we will be doing our Time and Talent auction, so please remember to send in your form that was in the last magazine if you wish to offer anything.

- Susan Higson

## Gardening News

We have a new tree in the church garden. A very nice Cornus has been planted in memory of Queen Elizabeth, and the current British Ambassador will be giving us a small plaque and performing a ceremony soon to christen the tree, as it were, as part of the Platinum Jubilee canopy. The tree will need some TLC and lots of water for the next couple of years, so now is the time to consider joining our gardening team. Our next Gardening day is on 25 March, so you probably missed it, but join our team and you will be notified of the next days. They are always very satisfying and fun. Scan the QR code to join the WhatsApp group.

Gardening: St Ursula's  
WhatsApp group



- Sue Higson

## Missing Hymn Books

Once upon a time we had a number of the “Ancient & Modern” hymn books with full music. They were covered in green or grey paper and lived on the shelves at the back of church. Now there are only two.

If anyone has one of the others, or knows where one is, please let me or the Church Office know.

- Tricia Carrick





## **Saturday 10 June - Save the Date**

Dreaming of summer sunshine on a cold rainy day, I am excited to announce our upcoming Summer Fête on Saturday 10 June.

A celebration for the whole family, a day where we all come together for fun, games and tasty treats.

As always, 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 secondhand books and choose from a wide variety of gift items.

Last but not least, we are planning to have some surprise stalls for you and activities for the kids.

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 May 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.

## **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 Summer Fête flyer and this article was designed by Freepik.

# For Your Diary April and May 2023

## April

Sunday 2 April	PALM SUNDAY
Thursday 6 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY (18.30 Eucharist and Bring and Share Meal in the Upper Hall followed by Silent Watch in the Church)
Friday 7 April	GOOD FRIDAY (10.00 Family Service & 14.00 Liturgy of the Last Hour)
Sunday 9 April	EASTER DAY 10.00 All Age Eucharist followed by Easter egg hunt after the Service (no Junior Church and Crèche)
Tuesday 25 April	Church Council meeting
Thursday 27 April	Thun Service

## May

Thursday 11 May	Thun Service
Sunday 14 May	All Age Eucharist Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 18 May	ASCENSION DAY
Friday 19 - Sunday 21 May	Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2023
Thursday 25 May	Thun Service
Sunday 28 May	PENTECOST - Bring & Share Lunch
Monday 29 May	Whit Monday

## Future Dates

Sunday 4 June	TRINITY SUNDAY
Tuesday 6 June	Church Council meeting
Saturday 10 June	Summer Fête
Sunday 11 June	All Age Eucharist
Sunday 9 July	All Age Eucharist
Sunday 16 July	Magazine Copy Date
Saturday 26 August	Children's Day at St Ursula's
Saturday 9 September	Autumn Sale

# Services and Readings

## April and May 2023

### **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*

### **Thursday 6 April – Maundy Thursday**

18.30 Eucharist  
*Exodus 12:1-14*  
*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*  
*John 13:1-17, 31b-35*  
*Gospel of the watch:*  
*Luke 22:31-62*

### **Friday 7 April – Good Friday**

10.00 Family Service  
  
14.00 Liturgy of the Cross  
*Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12*  
*Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9*  
*John 18:1 –19:42*

### **Sunday 9 April – Easter Day**

10.00 All Age Eucharist  
*Acts 10:34-43*  
*Colossians 3:1-4*  
*John 20:1-18*

### **Sunday 16 April – Second Sunday of Easter**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Acts 2:14a, 22-32*  
*1 Peter 1:3-9*  
*John 20:19-31*

### **Sunday 23 April – Third Sunday of Easter**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Zephaniah 3:14-end*  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41*  
*Luke 24:13-35*

### **Sunday 30 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Acts 2:42-47*  
*Psalm 23*  
*John 10:1-10*

### **Sunday 7 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Genesis 8:1-19*  
*Acts 7:55-60*  
*John 14:1-14*

### **Sunday 14 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

10.00 All Age Eucharist  
*Genesis 8:20-9:17*  
*John 14:15-21*

### **Thursday 18 May – Ascension Day**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Daniel 7:9-14*  
*Acts 1:1-11*  
*Luke 24:44-53*

### **Sunday 21 May – Sunday after Ascension Day**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Ezekiel 36:24-28*  
*Acts 1:6-14*  
*John 17:1-11*

### **Sunday 28 May – Pentecost**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Acts 2:1-21*  
*1 Corinthians 12:3b-13*  
*John 7:37-39*

### **Sunday 4 June – Trinity**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31*  
*2 Corinthians 12:11-14*  
*Matthew 28:16-20*

# Website & Magazine Survey Report

## Website

The survey went out in January, and we received a very pleasing response rate of 51 replies, half of whom had visited the website within the previous seven days.

Most respondents visit the website in order to get information about services, hear the sermon or read Helen's newsletter. A quarter of respondents use the links from the site to our social media or other sites.

A lot of respondents would welcome more information about current events, both in St Ursula's as well as the wider Anglican community. They would also welcome sign up slots to volunteer for events or rota duties, etc. There were also several requests to know who one should pray for and for information on members of the congregation. Under the Safeguarding as well as the Data Protection Act (DPA) this is information that we would never share on our website. Ironically there were also complaints that there is too much personal information already on the website, and so we clearly need to take the DPA into account with the design of the new website.

Overall, people seem happy with the current website, but would also be happy to see more current content, and have an easier to navigate format. Several people also offered to help with the redesign as well as test it. Currently we are waiting for the new template promised by the Diocese in Europe for church websites. We hope that it will be available soon.

## Magazine

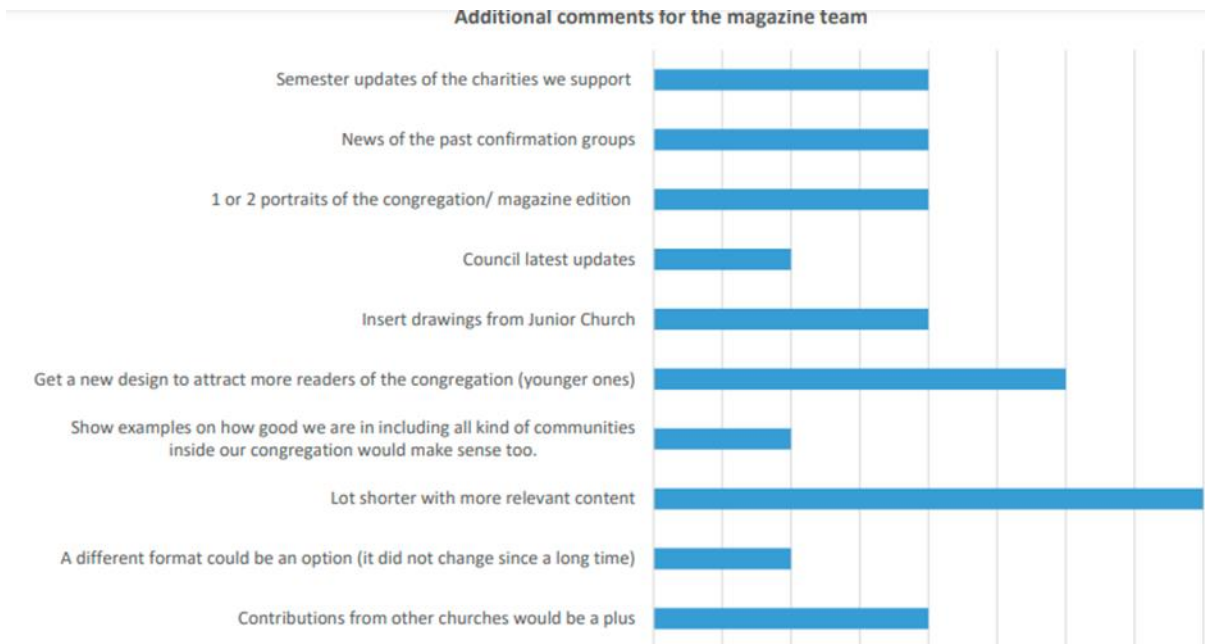
We also included the magazine in the survey, which is important, as some people do not use the website and will not use it even if updated. They prefer printed information.

Of the respondents, around half had the paper version, and half read the digital version. The majority read most of the contents of the magazine, with their favourite articles being those written about the life of the church as well as the articles by Hector and Helen. The advertisements were also read by over 70% of the people, with nearly half of them using the advertisers.

Nearly all feel that the Fr24 per year subscription fee is fair, and a lot were willing to pay more, however some felt that it should be free to pledgers or less expensive.



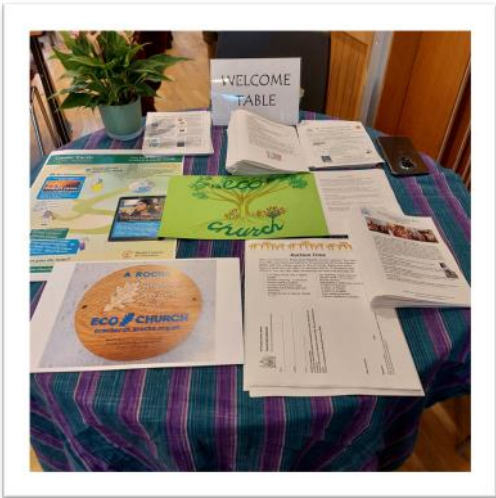
A general revamp seems to be wished for, so maybe that will be another project this year.



- Sue Higson



# A successful Spring Sale



March has been very temperamental so far. In Greece they used to call March "Pentagnomos" meaning that March comes with five opinions: rainy, snowy, sunny, cold and warm, often all delivered at the same day. Unfortunately, we were unlucky with the weather this time during our Spring Sale and we couldn't use our beautiful garden.

However, we were delighted to welcome many people at our premises, not only regulars but also new visitors, who came

to browse our stalls and enjoy a cup of coffee with some cake or the delicious lunch dishes provided by our amazing team of volunteers.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the Sale as well as to all those who came along to support us.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Summer Fête on Saturday 10 June. Tell your friends!

- Maria Avdikou, Church Office





# The Bishop's Lent appeal 2023

The Diocese is seeking to develop an independent new chaplaincy at Rabat, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco, and within the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar. Morocco is officially a Muslim country. His Majesty King Mohammed VI very graciously permits the Church of England to operate in his country ministering to the Anglican faithful from abroad. This new work in Rabat builds on this special permission.



For the last eight years St Augustine's has been a growing outreach project run from the long established Church of England Chaplaincy at Casablanca which is a two hour train journey away. The distance has meant that only a short Sunday service can be provided. The needs of the Anglican Community in Rabat are now at the point when it is time for a new and exciting step in

faith – independence within the Diocesan family! The congregation is embarking boldly on the next phase which will be a resident priest to further build up St Augustine's.

To establish a resident chaplain's post in Rabat will require accommodation, a basic stipend and some associated costs of setting up and running this new venture. The Diocesan Mission Opportunities Fund has promised part funding for this project and it is hoped that the diocese's previous mission relationship with USPG may also provide some financial support.

The appeal touches on several of the priorities of the diocese: building up the body of Christ, resourcing ministry, interfaith and ecumenical relations and ministry to migrant and refugee communities. Your gifts will help to establish a new congregation, extending the work of the Church, in a vibrant capital city, serving a young, international community, whose needs are great, but whose resources are very limited.

If you would like to donate, please use the QR code on the right or transfer to our Charitable Association noting that it is for the Lent appeal.

IBAN: CH61 0900 0000 6066 6488 7



More info: <https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1910-bishops-lent-appeal-2023-resourcing-ministry-in-rabat-moroccoa>

# Charity of the Month – Refuge Egypt

Our Charity focus for this issue comes from Refuge Egypt, which St Ursula’s Church Berne has supported for many years.

“Refuge Egypt serves people from Sudan and other countries, living in Egypt, who have fled their original country of nationality due to war or disaster, and who have well founded fears of return due to persecution or loss of rights.”

Refuge Egypt (RE), a ministry of the Anglican Church in Egypt, provides the following programmes:



**Humanitarian Assistance:** by registering refugees when they first arrive in Cairo. After registration they aim to provide emergency support for refugees and their families in their first two years in Egypt—to help refugees find their footing as they arrive in Cairo.



**Youth mission:** Refuge Egypt’s Youth Program seeks to encourage and educate refugee youth in a relaxed and safe environment so they may know God, respect each other, and be prepared for life in Egypt.



**Preschool:** The Happy Child Preschool, based in Maadi, provides a foundation in literacy, numeracy, and social skills for access to further education.



**Capacity and Livelihoods:** Given that refugees in Cairo must find work in order to make ends meet and many are forced to work in the informal sector, Refuge Egypt works to enable refugees to access employment so that they can be independent and integrated into Egyptian society.



**Adult Education:** Refuge Egypt’s Adult Education Program provides men and women with affordable, high-quality English language instruction. Refugees with English language skills have more opportunities for employment and advanced education.



**Medical Services:** Refuge Egypt delivers accessible and comprehensive health care for refugees with qualified doctors, nurses, counsellors, community health workers, and volunteers.

## Refuge Egypt's Sustained Efforts despite Economic Challenges in Egypt 2023

Refugees were badly affected by the economic impact of the COVID pandemic in Egypt; many have yet to recover.

The excellent work of Refuge Egypt, despite the economic challenges in Egypt was also highlighted in 2022 by Kat Brealey, who works closely with Refuge Egypt and is based in Cairo.

Kat reflects on her time with Refuge Egypt: "I had the privilege of spending the day with Refuge Egypt, one of our partners here in Cairo, witnessing the amazing work that they are doing to support refugees here, especially those from African countries, who are fleeing violence and instability and are seeking sanctuary in a safe place to raise their families".

Hardships faced by refugees have been exacerbated by the recent COVID pandemic and the current economic crisis in Egypt, where the Egyptian pound has lost more than 50 percent of its value since March 2022. Refuge Egypt has a strong focus on education, ranging from toddlers through to adult education.

### Education for All : United Nations SDG No. 4



Education is very much integrated into many of Refuge Egypt's programmes. In response to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal no. 4, Refuge Egypt provides quality education to refugees of all ages living in Cairo. From the toddlers at Happy Child Preschool to the school students at St. Raphael Primary and Secondary School and the Adult Education Programme, Refuge Egypt recognizes the importance of equipping refugees with the skills necessary for participation in today's globalized world.



The adult education programme offers English and Arabic classes. Language skills can make resettlement much easier, in addition to improving their quality of life and job prospects in Egypt.

The English language adult programme now includes over 200 students divided into 12 classes. Student demographics have also changed over the past couple years, with increasing numbers of females, Eritreans and Ethiopians, as well as young university students.



Refuge Egypt has evidence from their alumni students that their courses have helped students to find jobs and the community they serve.

## Volunteering

Refuge Egypt welcomes volunteers; in particular people with experience in language teaching are particularly encouraged to join them in Cairo. See the reference section below.

## Prayer and bible verses:

Please pray for:

- **the important work of Refuge Egypt:** for the necessary workers and funds and the success of all their programmes.
- **the staff at Refuge Egypt:** that they will be equipped to serve to bring your light and your love to people living on the margins.
- **Egypt's economic situation:** that it may improve to ease the hardship of refugees.

## Bible verses for reflection:

'He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.'

*Deuteronomy 10:18*

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.' *Proverbs 31:8-9*



## Additional resources:

Brealey, K (2022) Short video on Refuge Egypt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rt7zxpmCpcc>

Embrace the Middle East (2023) <https://embraceme.org/blog/egypts-economic-turmoil-whats-happening-and-why>

Kamal, E (2023) Life without a safety net: What it means to be a refugee <https://embraceme.org/blog/life-as-a-refugee>

Refuge Egypt Bulletins Oct 2022, May 2022 <http://www.refuge-egypt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Newsletter-October-2022.pdf> and <http://www.refuge-egypt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/May-2022-Newsletter.pdf>

Egypt, R. (2021). Annual Report <http://www.refuge-egypt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/RE-Annual-Report-2021.pdf>

Volunteer with Refuge Egypt <http://www.refuge-egypt.org/volunteer/>

- Pieter Perrett for the Charity and Missions Team

# Use of Photos

We have 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
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## *Beratungen*

**Toni Bachmann**

Brunngasse 20

**CH-3806 Bönigen b. I**

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

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

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



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\*Enviably student to teacher ratio

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



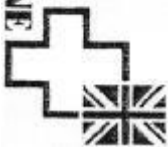
## Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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

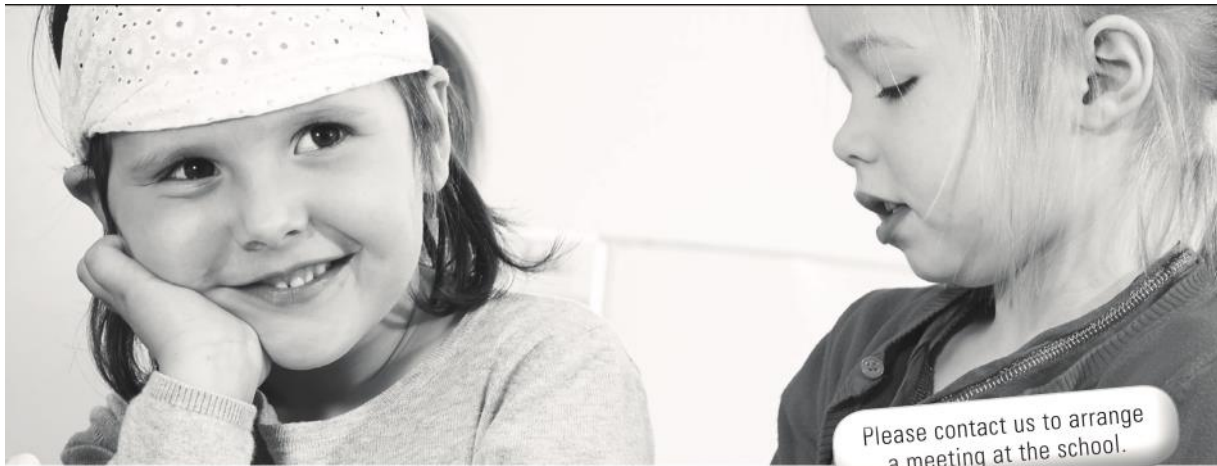


The Swiss British Society, Berne organises a number of cultural events including visits to exhibitions, concerts, a Christmas dinner, Burns supper and musical evenings. We also invite guest speakers to address our members on a range of literary, musical or political topics. Usually our events have a 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

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David Marshall

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Martin Browne 079 953 96 76  
Tricia Carrick 031 971 27 71  
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Sue Higson 076 690 50 88  
Archana Jacob 031 859 64 12  
Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59  
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Ruby Wildhaber 078 808 75 15

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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  
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## **CRÈCHE**

Dominic Roser 076 546 80 85

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Vacant

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Patricia Carrick 031 971 27 71

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Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

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Chloë Hodler 031 951 40 57

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Ruby Wildhaber 078 808 75 15

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Archana Jacob 031 859 64 12

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Annemarie Walthert 031 331 03 72

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Coordinated by David Marshall

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Querida Long 079 816 86 55

## **OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

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## **PARENTS AND TOTS**

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

## **PASTORAL CARE**

contact the Chaplain

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Ruth Freiburghaus 031 992 56 15

### **Chalice Bearers:**

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Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

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vacant

### **Servers:**

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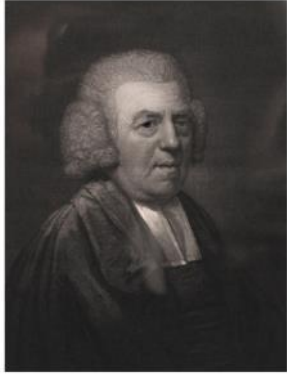
Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

## **VESTRY**

Vacant

## **WEBMASTER**

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71



John Newton (1725-1807)

Our hymn this month is well known, and not related to the events of Holy Week or Easter – not directly anyway! Its first six verses were written by John Newton, the curate of Olney, a small town in Buckinghamshire, originally to go with a sermon preached in the parish church on New Year's Day 1773, based on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17.

John Newton (no relation to the scientist, Isaac!) was the son of a sailor. After being forced to serve in the Royal Navy, he worked in the Atlantic slave trade, and even on his own admission, was not a gentle or selfless individual. A coastal storm off the north of Ireland in 1748 struck his ship so violently that he called to God for mercy, and this was a decisive moment for him, although he continued in the slave trade for another seven years, before a bishop reluctantly accepted him as a priest in the Church of England. He later turned into an opponent of slavery.

Olney was close to Bedford, home of John Bunyan, writer of *Pilgrim's Progress*. The locals appreciated Newton's fiery, evangelical preaching, and the simple, direct hymns that he and his friend William Cowper wrote. *Amazing Grace* was also popular across the Atlantic in the Second Great Awakening, a revivalist movement that began in the 1790s. Its tune, easily played on a simple pipe, also added to its popularity.

The hymn expresses a very Evangelical faith – human unworthiness (“wretchedness”), the change brought about by conversion (being found, and seeing), a close and possessive relationship with God (“my shield and portion”), and a confidence in a life of “joy and peace” after death.

This Lent and Easter, we can review our own faith and reflect on God's amazing grace. Perhaps we should balance the amazement and the grace more equally. The centre of our amazement may indeed be our personal experience. Yet the salvation, through Jesus' death and resurrection and the gift of the Spirit, comes, as the hymn declares, from God's grace!

- *Hector Davie*

## Faith's Review and Expectation

<sup>1</sup> Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

<sup>2</sup> 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed!

<sup>3</sup> Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

<sup>5</sup> Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

<sup>6</sup> The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, who called me here below,  
will be forever mine.

<sup>7</sup> When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.

*John Newton (1725-1807)*