

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



October - November 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.jacob@stursula.ch](mailto:archana.jacob@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

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October - November 2023

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for the  
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January 2024  
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**12 November 2023**

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

**COLLATING DATE:**  
**Thursday 23 November**  
**2023**

# From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

We are drawing to the end of Creation season, which ends with the feast-day of St Francis of Assisi on 3 October.

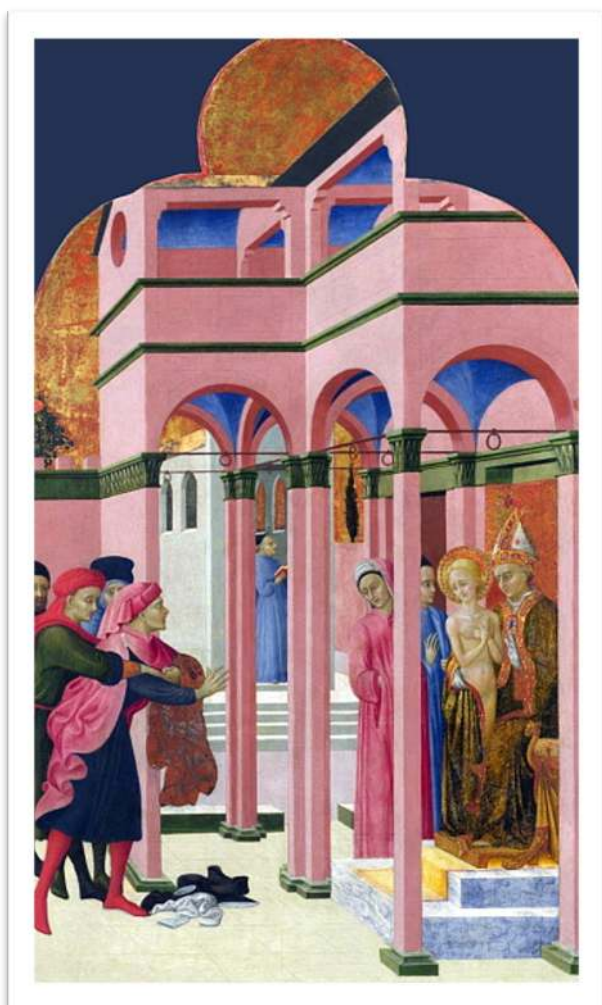
In our church we have a beautiful icon of St Francis which Peter Hawker very generously commissioned for St Ursula's in memory of his beloved Vreni. If you've never done so, come up and have a close look at it one day. It hangs just behind the altar.

In July, David and I had a few days in London during our holiday in the UK and we took the opportunity to visit the National Gallery to see a highly acclaimed exhibition on St Francis, featuring works by masters from the past such as Botticelli and Zurbarán through to modern artists including Stanley Spencer and Antony Gormley. It is striking how St Francis continues to appeal to a very wide range of people and also how the story of his life touches on so many issues which continue to

resonate with us in the world today. When Jorge Bergoglio was elected Pope in 2013 he took the name 'Francis' to indicate his love for this saint and his desire to follow his example.

There are many lessons we can learn from this very popular saint who has inspired millions of Christians over the centuries. We might be struck by his simplicity of life; as a rich young man he turned from a wealthy life and embraced poverty for the sake of Christ. This continues to be a challenge to us in our very materialistic age. It's also worth remembering that Francis didn't live simply and care for the poor through gritted teeth, but with an infectious joy.

Alongside his joyful simplicity of life and concern for the poor, St Francis stood out in his unusual approach to Muslims, reaching out to them in peace in a Christ-like way at a time of crusades and inter-religious



*Saint Francis renounces his Earthly Father, Stefano di Giovanni (1392-1450)*

conflict. His example continues to challenge Christians today to be instruments of God's peace, to quote one of his prayers, on which the popular song 'Make me a channel of your peace' is based.

In his joyful simplicity, care for the poor, and desire to be a peace-maker, Francis was also open to the suffering of the world around him. Those around him tell of the mysterious story towards the end of his life, when Francis received in his own body the stigmata, or wounds of Christ. Francis reminds us that sharing in Christ's suffering is part of what it means to live a fruitful Christian life.

Of course, one of the main things people associate with St Francis is his love for creation. The stories of Francis speak of his joy and delight in all created things: people, animals, birds. St Francis' delight in and care for creation can inspire us as we reflect on the deepening environmental crisis. Mentioning Pope Francis again, in 2015 he published *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, the most significant Christian contribution in this field. Those Italian words 'Laudato Si' are the opening of the 'Canticle of the Creatures', composed by Francis. We often sing an English version in the hymn 'All Creatures of Our God and King'. Pope Francis holds up St Francis as a major inspiration for Christians as they reflect on the environmental crisis.

St Francis offers us a compelling *positive* vision as we approach this crisis. He invites us to love all God's creatures and to take our place as human beings alongside them all in a joyful chorus of grateful praise to God.

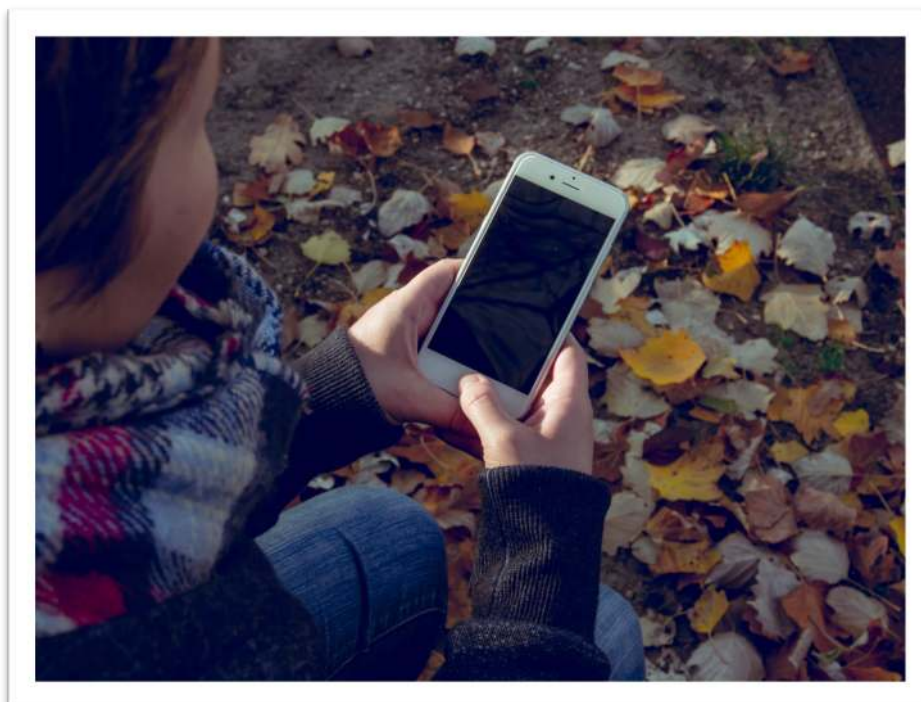
With the environmental crisis, we have no end of negative motivation to start to live well, do the right thing, and treat what is around us with greater respect. We know there's all kinds of bad stuff coming if we don't change the way we live. Responding to those negative messages, responding to the crisis out of negative motivation, is a lot better than nothing, and that may be all we can hope for in terms of policies and laws. But as Christians we have a *positive* motivation to inspire us and to share with others: we were created by God to share in God's joy by living in grateful interdependence with all other creatures.

St Francis inspires us with a God-centred vision of the whole creation. He does not see nature as divine; rather, he teaches us to rejoice in all things as created by God and as existing to glorify God. So, let us with Francis learn to look with love and respect on the world around us as existing to glorify God, not just to satisfy our needs. We have a responsibility, as wise and loving stewards, to care for all God's creatures and to harmonize the grateful praise of the whole creation.

With love in Christ,

*Helen*

# Being Different



The Bible says a lot about being different. We hear a lot about Jesus being “one of us” – the Word became flesh, but the most vigorous interpreter of Jesus in the western world was the apostle Paul. Paul had to live with his Jewish background as Saul from Tarsus, who used to “enter house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison” (Acts 8:3) and explain his new-found faith to the tech-savvy Europeans, who had their own gods, and kept them in their place.

For Paul’s listeners, spirit was spirit and flesh was flesh. The gods, Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Co., were spirit. You could let your hair down with some of them, you could blame some of them for the things that went wrong, you could ask them for special favours. But you knew that in reality (the world of “things”), if you had a cough you went to the apothecary – a visit to the temple of Bacchus would not have the same effect! Paul realized that the spiritual world where God “dwelt on high” was good and the material “fleshly” world created by God was good, and he wanted the flesh and the spirit to be in harmony.

If in doubt, though, the resulting synthesis should tend towards the spiritual side and away from the fleshly side. “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect,” Paul told the Romans (12:2). So they should bless their persecutors, feed their enemies and live in harmony with all. (12:14-21).

“The Son of Man came turning cartwheels”, said the preacher of a sermon that sticks in my mind. We all need to be transformed but are we being transformed enough?

I am reminded of the story of the missionaries who worked to translate the English *Book of Common Prayer* into a local language somewhere, and found that nobody local would use it. A visitor realized that the translators had subconsciously used the tones and rhythms of their own language – they had translated the words but not the feelings. And I wonder whether we are right to be “politically correct” or to follow fashionable opinion. Should we feed Vladimir Putin and not sanction him? Should we invite drug addicts to sleep in the church porch? Should we reserve jobs for the poor, for unwashed people with long hair, for the very young or the very old?

Each of us must answer these questions without outside pressure. A Church of England survey in 2016 asked “Why are the Under 35’s different?” and pointed out that a quarter of the English population were “millennials”, people born between 1980 and 2000. They thought and acted differently from other people. They were “tech-savvy, and almost always online. This dominates how they receive news and information, how they communicate with friends, how they work, shop and how they give. It shapes their attitudes and values, and as a result leads to different behaviour.”

The study found that “authenticity is important to them, although this can mean a range of things. It may mean consistency between an online personality and the portrayed personality in the workplace, or that the marketing of brands relates to true performance, or that the stated values of an organisation are actually delivered.” It added that they are “individuals, whose connectedness is via online social groupings, rather than through more traditional institutional labels. At the UK general election in May 2015, only 48.5% of millennials voted, the lowest turnout of any age group.”

Jesus praised the innocence of little children. Perhaps we grow less innocent with age. Are we too English, too American, too Nepalese, too feminine, too fond of Pink Floyd, or Rembrandt, or coconuts? We are all different, for that is how we have grown. But we are all one in Christ. That is how we were made.

*-Hector Davie*

# A Word for the Month – Canon



**Bishop Robert signs the legal document collating Helen as a canon.**

The Bishop has appointed Helen as a canon, and we congratulate her and rejoice with her at her additional role. But what is a canon, and what does a canon do? Does this mean an additional burden for her? Will we see less of her?

To make one thing clear from the outset, a canon is not the same as a cannon! There is no danger of Helen going off or being fired (except perhaps with

the Holy Spirit!). The two words are “false friends”, and have almost nothing in common, beyond a reputation for solidness and straightness.

Canons help bishops. A thousand years ago, long before the Reformation, bishops took on the care of all the followers of Christ in a given area. They spread the faith and answered questions. The word bishop means “overseer”, and bishops usually settled in centres of population. Many of these centres became large cities, and large cities needed large churches. Large churches brought large congregations, and large congregations meant frequent services, and extra staff. These staff members were the canons, working under the direction of a dean. They were called canons because they lived and worked together according to a rule, a regular plan. (In German, they were known as *Domherren*.)

Some canons were in charge of the singing, some of pastoral work, some of hospitality. With the Reformation in the 16th century, all of this changed. There was a much closer connection between the jobs people did and their effectiveness. The sheer number of services was reduced as worship became simpler and more direct. “Residentiary” canons were still needed to run cathedrals and large churches, but the position of canon became more an honorary post than a functional one.

Canons still hold key jobs within their diocese (even lay tasks, like legal and financial administration). The bishop turns to them for advice. When canons meet together, their meeting is called a chapter, and many cathedrals have chapter houses where the canons and the dean of the cathedral met – the name comes from their *lectio divina*, the chapter of



scripture they read together at the start of their meetings. Today, their work is largely informal or ceremonial – giving advice.

Nominally, though, canons are associated with cathedrals. Most English cathedrals have special seats for their canons. Each of these stalls bore the name of some place, person or event in the diocese – perhaps the parish that provided land to support the post (known as a “prebend”), or some notably holy person. Helen’s stall will be that of Nicholas von Flüe (better known as Bruder Klaus) and at some stage she will go to our pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Brussels to be “installed” in it.

Talking about stalls and installation reminds us how easily we use familiar words in an unfamiliar way. Don’t cows have stalls and don’t horses have stables? But installing something simply means putting it in its right place and keeping it there – stabilizing it. And the word “canon”, like the word “cane”, goes back to the word for a reed of papyrus, used as a measuring rod, a ruler. (That’s why cannon guns only work if they are straight!) The “canon of Scripture” means the books that people generally trust as their guide. “Canon law” is the way the church behaves. Let us support Helen with our prayers as she ministers to the needs of God’s family here in Europe.

- Hector Davie



## Lay Learning Course

Are you looking to deepen your faith? The Diocese in Europe's enriching lay learning course is returning this September for its second year, open to everyone.


 It has four parts:

**Knowing God** looks at prayer, and focuses on the Lord’s Prayer, and the context in which Jesus taught it to his disciples

**Growing in Christ** explores what Christians over the centuries have wanted to say about Jesus Christ and what he did.

**Building Community** looks at our common life as part of the People of God, and how it is expressed, for example in our worship.

**Living beyond Ourselves** asks about how our Christian faith should affect our responses to key issues of our time such as the care for creation and migration.

 Fortnightly online sessions begin 26 September led by Dr. Clare Amos, Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship.

 Learn more and register at [www.europe.anglican.org/lay-learning-course](http://www.europe.anglican.org/lay-learning-course)

# My Spiritual Journey



Born in Congo, I grew up in Switzerland. My spiritual journey was a long journey of wandering that began in a Christian faith where, as a child, I attended the Catholic Church. Sundays were a wonderful opportunity to bring magic into my child's life: the beautiful Sunday clothes, the drive or walk along my father's side (who never attended church but only dropped me in front of the church). Once inside I remembered being in a state of hypnosis in this beautiful building by the divine presence of God that I could not see but only feel, the heavenly serenity, the powerful smell of incense, the worship songs, gold ornaments, the cross.

The Sundays of my childhood in the Catholic Church were exquisite moments. Then I attended the evangelical church, by obligation of adults. Not finding the answers and guidance to solidify my faith during my adolescence, I turned away in adulthood from my faith in Christ to seek answers to my existential questions through readings on animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam.

Buddhism convinced me the most and led me to Nepal where I converted to the Buddhist tradition and followed the foundations. It was during a retreat in the Himalayan mountains that I experienced what is called an awakening of consciousness followed by a spiritual battle where my life was threatened. No one and nothing could break the threat of death that hung over my soul and my life.

Then, while writing my diary, a supernatural force arose from nowhere, seized my hand and led me to write in automatic writing “Jesus is my Saviour, Jesus is my Saviour” on 2 pages. That day not only had Jesus repelled the demonic attack but saved my life. So I understood that His name was the name of All Power. Yet the appearance of the name of Jesus in the midst of my pilgrimage to Nepal long remained a great mystery that I could not grasp at that moment. Not knowing to which God to submit myself after these years of spiritual wandering, I decided to abandon any form of spiritual research because the more I approached a truth the more confused and tormented I was.

However, I had not abandoned the idea that there was a God, the Father, who knew how to amaze me with the beauty, perfection, ingenuity, abundance, strength and diversity of His creation. And God had not forsaken me but waited for the divine moment to reveal His glory and sovereignty to me. And it was in the midst of the COVID crisis, the night of October 12 to 13, 2021, that God called me in my sleep. One can then ask me “How did you know that it was really God?” We know; that’s all: it’s written in every cell of our being that recognizes without hesitation its Creator.

The days that followed were days I shed tears of sadness, shame, regret and guilt for having ignored for too long the One who was always there to let me know who He was. Tears for my repentance flowed for days for deliberately betraying His love, rejecting it, denying it, and turning away from it. However, God in all His grace and mercy showed me the new path to follow, the way in Christ. It was then that I finally grasped what I had not been able to grasp when the name of Christ had delivered me in Nepal, that He is the way, the truth and the life in all things and this for eternity. Surrounding myself with God, He then led me to St Ursula’s Church to find my place within His church, the body of Christ. The warmth I found there allowed me to flourish in my faith and new commitment to Christ.

- *Laetitia Elanga*

Ed: Laetitia was confirmed at St Ursula's on 10 September together with Delali, Joana, Manu and Zornitsa

# Finance News from the Treasurer

I am writing this report just after our Autumn sale which raised around Fr3,500 for church funds. The weather was fabulous and we had a lovely day inside and out with many visitors. A big thank you as ever to the team who work on these events. The funds are vital to our work and to minimise deficits, whereas the outreach that the events also provide is very valuable in other ways.

At the end of November is our Christmas Bazaar. There is a flyer with this magazine. That is our biggest fundraiser spread over two days. We are currently planning the raffle, the food stocks and the restaurant. Raffle and tombola prizes are very welcome, or would you like to help us approach sponsors, or advertise the event? Tell your friends and neighbours, and put the flyer up – that is already a start.

Currently, we are looking for someone to run the catering at the bazaar, either both days or just one. Do you fancy the challenge? Contact Maria if you would like more information.

Financially, although the Church is in deficit, and the Charitable Association does not currently have enough extra to cover the deficit, we are still in a better position than last year. More money would of course give us more options, not just to renovate the kitchen, as lovely as that would be, but just think what we could do if we had a paid youth worker or a paid assistant chaplain like we used to have in the past.

If you are not currently pledging please pick up a leaflet, or talk to me about it. If you are one of our regular and committed pledgers, thank you so much. Somebody asked me the other day what the smallest pledge was, and what was the highest. The smallest monthly payment is Fr10, and the highest is around Fr835. So the span is huge. I cannot tell anyone what is the right amount to give. Only you know your circumstances and also what God has provided so that only you know how much is right to give back to God.



Finally, also included with this magazine is a leaflet about a quiz night on 7 October. Tearfund, a charity we support, is running a big quiz night in the UK on that evening, and many churches are taking part. As many have asked for another quiz, I felt that this was the perfect opportunity to have a quiz while raising money for a good cause. In fact, such a good

opportunity, that I rashly decided to do two, one with an afternoon tea, naturally enough in the afternoon, and another with a broader food offering, possibly Turkish, but currently being checked. Come along and join in the fun. Tickets can be bought on Eventfrog or ordered via email - see information on the flyer.

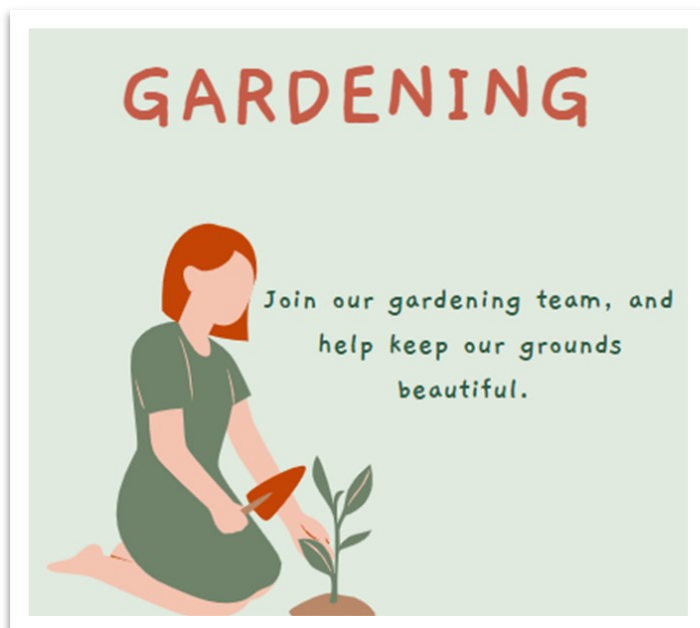
- Sue Higson

## Gardening News

Have you noticed that the Gardening team have been hard at work again? The hedges were all cut in July this year, a big thank you to all those who worked on them. Plus the boxes have been planted up with some healthy vegetables, thank you to Chris for that. Feel free to help yourselves.

The next Gardening Working Party will be on 14 October from 9.00. Come and join in, as we want to get the garden ready for winter and perhaps make safe places for hedgehogs and other creatures to survive the winter. No special skills are required. Children are also welcome. Contact Sue Higson or Alison Beindorff for more information, or join the WhatsApp group to stay informed.

- Sue Higson



Gardening: St Ursula's  
WhatsApp group



# Church Council Report

The last council meeting was held on 5 September. As there had been no meeting in July or August, there were a large number of topics to catch up on although some of these were postponed until a future meeting.

As always, the past and future events were reviewed. The main event of the summer was the Children's Activity Day held at the end of August. This was a great success, but council noted that it was a lot of work and should be organised differently if we hold such events again. The visit of Rev Claire Finlay went very well – she enjoyed meeting us and lots of people enjoyed meeting her. The bishop's visit for the confirmation was discussed. Future events include a newcomers' supper and a lunch for students as well as a quiz in aid of Tear Fund.

One challenging area of church life is that many events require catering and it is sometimes difficult to find volunteers. In each case a team is needed, even if there is no cooking to be done - setting up and clearing up is always required.

Money is always an important issue. The treasurer's report at this meeting was encouraging. However it seems that many people still do not realise that St Ursula's is totally self-sufficient so council again considered the idea of several meetings throughout the year to report on the financial situation and to answer questions.

Council identified a number of tasks done in the church and various members offered to write or revise the guidelines for these jobs.

It has been observed that the singing in church is often poor. Council discussed whether this was because of the style of music chosen, whether people didn't know the tunes or what the reasons could be. No conclusions were reached – council members will ask people and see what they can find out.

Council members will also ask people for ideas on how we can make our events, particularly the four sales each year, more attractive to a wider range of our community. The hope is that more people who regularly come to church services will be encouraged to attend such events.

During its recent Day Away, council had discussed and prayed about the idea of setting up housegroups. The next actions are preparing the communication to the congregation and holding an Open Forum to present the ideas and answer questions. This will take place on Sunday 3 December after the service.

- *Tricia Carrick, council secretary*

# Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2023

The traditional Archdeaconry Choir Festival was hosted by the Anglican Church in Basel, over the weekend 19 – 21 May 2023. Choirs from the Anglican churches in Basel, Geneva and Zurich met under the leadership of Stephen Smith, with David Blunden (Basel) at the organ. As there is no longer a choir at St Ursula's church, six St Ursula's singers took part, after having prepared for the event in a few coaching sessions, bringing the total number of singers to about 50.

The music for the choral Evensong at the Heiliggeistkirche in Basel included works by C.V. Stanford (*Coelos ascendit hodie*) and Vaughan Williams (*O Clap your hands*), and a setting by Craig Philips for the Preces and Responses. On Sunday a service was held in the Predigerkirche jointly with the Old Catholic Community in Basel. The *Missa O Quam Gloria* by L. de Victoria was sung by the choir for the Eucharist, complemented with works by Stanford (*Coelos ascendit Gloria*) and Byrd (*O sing joyfully*).

This successful festival was once again one of the few opportunities for members of the Anglican Chaplaincies in Switzerland for jointly practising and contributing a high standard of choral music for the services, and getting to know each other.

- Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Ed: Apologies to Hans-Karl and to our readers for the delay in publishing this article. Despite the fact that Hans-Karl submitted it well ahead of the copy date, we somehow missed it in the last issue and we do apologise.

## Housegroups

At the AGM held in April, Helen noted that one of the priorities of this year is "the re-introduction of regular housegroups". On 2 September, council met to spend a "Day Away" reflecting and praying on this topic. The ideas from that day will now be refined and presented in the next magazine. In addition there will be an Open Forum after the service on Sunday 3 December which will give the whole congregation an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topic. Please note this date in your diary.

- Tricia Carrick, Council Secretary





## **Transforming Lives and Changing Futures**

Help Us Break the Cycle of Poverty for Children in Zambia

### ***Next Events* in aid of Cecily's Fund**

#### **CECILY'S FUND – PUMPKIN SOUP**

**DELICIOUS LUNCH** on Sunday 19 November  
from 12.00, St Ursula's - All are welcome!

#### **CECILY'S FUND – Benefit Concert**

**GREAT PERFORMANCE** on Wednesday 22 November  
19.00, Heiliggeistkirche Berne

**Alexandre Dubach, violin**  
**Marc Fitze, organ**  
**Iris Egger, singer & conductor**



Flyers are available soon in the Upper Hall  
Please pass them on to anyone else you think might be interested

**BE THE CHANGE  
THAT WILL TRANSFORM A LIFE**

Thank you to everyone that makes these children's dreams come true

***We would be delighted to see you there***  
***Your Cecily's Fund Team***



# Services and Readings October and November 2023

## **Sunday 1 October – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*  
*Philippians 2:1-13*  
*Matthew 21:23-32*

## **Sunday 8 October – Harvest Festival (All Age Eucharist)**

10.00 All Age Eucharist  
*2 Corinthians 9:6-end*  
*Luke 12:16-21*

## **Sunday 15 October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Isaiah 25:1-9*  
*Philippians 4:1-9*  
*Matthew 22:1-14*

## **Sunday 22 October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Psalms 96:1-13*  
*1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*  
*Matthew 22:15-22*

## **Sunday 29 October – Last Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*  
*1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*  
*Matthew 22:34-46*

## **Sunday 5 November – All Saints and All Souls**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Revelation 7:9-17*  
*1 John 3:1-3*  
*Matthew 5:1-12*

## **Sunday 12 November – Remembrance Sunday**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Readings to be confirmed*

## **Sunday 19 November – Second Sunday before Advent (All Age Eucharist)**

10.00 All Age Eucharist  
*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*  
*Matthew 25:14-30*

## **Sunday 26 November – Christ the King**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*  
*Ephesians 1:15-23*  
*Matthew 25:31-46*

## **Sunday 3 December – Advent Sunday**

10.00 Eucharist  
*Isaiah 64:1-9*  
*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*  
*Mark 13:24-37*

## **New office hours**



The Church Office is now open on Mondays 9.00-17.00,  
Wednesdays 7.30-11.30 and Fridays 7.30-11.30.

Telephone: +41 31 352 85 67

Email: [office@stursula.ch](mailto:office@stursula.ch)

# For Your Diary

## October and November 2023

### October

Tuesday 3 October	Church Council meeting
Thursday 5 October	Thun Service
Saturday 7 October	Men's Group (8.00-12.00 in St Ursula's Upper Hall) Tear Fund Quiz: 15.00 with afternoon tea 19.30 with Turkish buffet and drinks
Sunday 8 October	All Age Eucharist & Harvest Festival
Thursday 19 October	Thun Service
Sunday 29 October	Talk: Mental Health and the Christian Faith (after the service)

### November

Thursday 2 November	Thun Service
Sunday 5 November	ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS
Tuesday 7 November	Church Council meeting
Wednesday 8 November - Saturday 11 November	Diocesan Racial Justice Conference in Freiburg im Breisgau
Saturday 11 November	Nacht der Religionen
Sunday 12 November	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 16 November	Thun Service
Sunday 19 November	All Age Eucharist Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch Christmas Bazaar set up and moving chairs from the church
Wednesday 22 November	Benefit Concert in aid of Cecily's Fund in the Heiliggeistkirche in Berne
Friday 24 November	Christmas Bazaar 17.00 – 19.30
Saturday 25 November	Christmas Bazaar 10.00 – 15.00

## Future Dates

Saturday 2 December	Men's Group (8.00-12.00 at St Ursula's Upper Hall)
Sunday 3 December	Open Forum: Housegroups (after the service)
Tuesday 5 December	Church Council meeting
Thursday 7 December	Thun Service
Thursday 14 December	Carol Service at Heiliggeist Church
Sunday 17 December	Nativity Service - All Age
Sunday 24 December	Christmas Services (16.00: afternoon service for families, 22.00: first Eucharist of Christmas)
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day All Age Eucharist, 10.00
Date to be confirmed	Carol Service in Thun

## Junior Church Birthdays

### Junior Church Birthdays in October 2023

Daniela Cintron 10 on 19 October  
Ayla, Louis and Marvin Carnell 11 on 22 October  
Daniel Bohutínský 5 on 23 October  
Rafael Matthews 5 on 26 October

### Junior Church Birthdays in November 2023

Purity Aduba 6 on 1 November  
Benedikt Steinberg 3 on 12 November  
Dominik Bohutínský 3 on 19 November  
Gabriela Cintron 15 on 19 November  
Gabriela Matthews 9 on 26 November  
Samuel Wienand 9 on 28 November





## St Ursula's Christmas Bazaar

We are currently enjoying a very warm September in Switzerland; it still feels like summer.

Our volunteers however are already planning our next big event, our greatest holiday tradition, our Christmas Bazaar.

Join us in the festive mood, whilst picking up some presents for friends and family. Let yourselves feel swept away by the variety of our stands, get lured by the delicious treats on offer, and warm your hearts with our volunteers' joy and hospitality. Can you think of a better way to get everyone together while the weather is chilly?

As always, you will find some of your favourite stalls like our delicious Christmas cakes, the food stall, Christmas wreaths and decorations, patchwork and other fine Christmas gifts, second-hand books, children's activities and as always, we are planning to have some surprises for you as well.

### Help needed

Organising the Christmas Bazaar has never been an easy task. Many things behind the scenes may go unnoticed. With the much-appreciated effort from all our volunteers, their passion, patience and dedication we manage to overcome all difficulties every year. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful team, please contact the Church Office for further details or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall and please check the following list of areas where we need the most help.

**CAKES** - If you are able to bake cakes for the café and bring them for the bazaar, they will be gratefully received.

**MOVING CHAIRS** - We hope to move chairs and tables after church on Sunday 19 November ready for the bazaar and would be grateful to have many helping hands.

**SET UP & CLEAR UP** - Also lots of help is needed including set up on Thursday and Friday morning and clear up on Saturday afternoon as well as during the bazaar.

## **Donations**

Gifts you didn't quite love? Books collecting dust on your shelves? New or second-hand toys in excellent condition your kids do not want anymore? Overstocked food items or some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate? Crockery, ornaments and china looking for a new home? Donations for our stalls are welcome and will be much appreciated. Please bring them into church and put them in the red tombola box in the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office for more information.

## **Flyers**

Please use the flyer with this magazine to help advertise the bazaar. If you'd like more flyers, please either pick them up from the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office: [office@stursula.ch](mailto:office@stursula.ch) or 031 352 8567.

## **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 send you more details closer to the date of our bazaar.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the bazaar.

*- Maria Avdikou, Church Office*

The background photo used for this article and the respective flyer was designed with Canva.

# Junior Church News



Junior Church continues to meet on Sundays. On the second Sunday of the month, there is usually an All-Age Eucharist service. The children stay in church and worship with the whole congregation. For the other Sundays, the families start worship in the church, and then the children go to the hall for their session. At the end of the service, communion is celebrated together.

All children aged between three and fourteen are welcome to join us. Those aged three and under can join the crèche which provides a safe environment for them to play and explore. The Junior Church currently has an all-age class, which is attended by a growing group of children.

Would you like to know more about our Junior Church team or even want to help us with this vital ministry? Then please speak to Helen or to a Junior Church teacher. Or why not come along one Sunday and see what we are doing? As we are still very short of teachers and helpers, we will continue with only an all-age class each week. It is a goal of ours to be able to offer separate groups for the different ages.

The material provided by Roots corresponds to one or more of the readings used in the church service and will be looked at during Junior Church.

The Junior Church supports a TearFund project in Uganda with the collection taken during Junior Church time and with special events during the year. We are thankful that parents remind their children to take a contribution to Junior Church. We hope this helps the children learn how to share and to be grateful for what they have.



**tearfund.ch**  
Hinsehen. Handeln.

- *Ruby Wildhaber*

# Confirmation

We were privileged to welcome Bishop Robert (our diocesan bishop) to St Ursula's on Sunday 10 September. He came to visit us and also to lead a special, joyful confirmation service. Five members of St Ursula's – Laeticia, Delali, Joana, Manu and Zornitsa - were confirmed and Helene was received into the Church of England.



The service was followed by a “bring and share” lunch for the whole congregation. The weather was sunny and some of us could sit outside to eat. It was a good opportunity for us to meet the bishop informally.

After lunch the church council had a short time to discuss with the bishop

some of the positive things that are happening here and also some of the challenges.

- *Tricia Carrick*



# 'Creation Fun' – Children's Activity Day



Around 8.30 on a cool, overcast Saturday morning at the end of August, a few people gathered in the church hall and kitchen to prepare drinks, snacks and craft activities. They were joined slowly by others, so that by around 10.00 most of the 15 adult helpers (including two from St Andrews, Zurich) had arrived. Helen briefed us on the plan for the day and explained various safety aspects like fire exits, and the need to watch the gates when outside to ensure that children didn't run off.

At 10.30 the 24 children, with 13 parents, started to arrive. They were assigned to one of the five groups, depending on their age. The youngest children, aged 3 – 5, were either fish or butterflies, the 7 – 8 year olds were monkeys or lions and the oldest group, aged 11 – 14, were tigers. In the groups, each child was given a badge to write their name on and decorate. After doing this, they enjoyed a drink and snack and time to chat.



By 11.00 everyone was ready. Fortunately the rain held off so we could go outside and play some games with the parachute and balls, which everyone (especially the spectators!) enjoyed.





Then back inside to hear the creation story from the Bible, to learn a song about creation and for prayer.



The next activity was planned to be a trip to the woods to collect material – twigs, leaves, pine cones etc. But, by this stage, it was raining hard and most of the children did not want to go outside or did not have raincoats. So a few hardy people (with raincoats) went and collected material for all



of us to share. In groups, we then made pictures, collages or 3-dimensional creations.

Now it was time for lunch. It was still raining so we unfortunately had to eat our packed lunches in the hall.

The afternoon's activities included decorating biscuits, writing and decorating prayer leaves, and creating banners with a panel for each day of creation. We created two banners – one

for St Ursula's and one for St Andrew's. The groups rotated around the activities and fun was had by all. The oldest group created posters about the environment and climate change instead of working on the banners. Our banner, poster and the prayer tree were all used in our All Age service on Creation Sunday.

The final session of the day was held in church where we sang the creation song again, looked at all that we had created and saw that "it was good". We closed the day by blessing the banners and by praying as we placed the leaf prayers on a tree.



Everyone had a good time and, hopefully, learned a little more about creation. Thanks to all those who came along, to all the helpers and especially to Helen and to Jackie (from Zurich) who planned and organised the event. We hope there will be many more like it.

- Tricia Carrick



# Charity of the Month – The Tear Fund Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Programme

The organization Tear Fund is well known in our congregation because we, very much including the Junior Church, have been supporting one of their projects in Uganda.

Tear Fund Schweiz is a non-governmental humanitarian welfare organization, based on Christian values, with the goal of working to help alleviate poverty and disadvantages in various countries in the Southern Hemisphere. Tear Fund stands for The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund.

St Ursula's decided to focus on supporting one specific Tear Fund project rather than the organization in general. We thought this would especially help the youth in our church to become interested and informed about a project. As many readers know, we specifically support the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Programme in Uganda.

This August Tear Fund provided St Ursula's with a detailed description of the water and hygiene project called "Water is Life". Work started in April 2022 and is expected to be completed in March 2026.

Tear Fund reports that only half of all people living in the countryside have access to clean water. Many women and children have to walk for



hours in difficult terrain to collect water and bring it back to their homes/ villages. This means children often miss school. The collected water is mainly used for drinking and cooking which means that there isn't enough for minimal hygiene. Many children die of diarrhoea because they drink contaminated water but also they and their family members don't have clean water with which to wash their hands.

The "Water is Life" project aims to help provide access to water and sanitary facilities as well as instruct people in how to prevent diseases and death through good hygiene. Systems are installed to bring water into villages, rainwater collection tanks are installed and drains are built to properly dispose of wastewater.

Included in the water project is the establishing of a connection to farming by encouraging the ecological use of water resources and the farming methods best suited to preventing erosion and protecting from occasional floods.

Not only private persons but also institutions such as schools, hospitals and churches profit from the water project. And the project includes educating people in the running and maintenance of water systems.

Like concentric rings, the effects of the project reach to planting of trees, beekeeping, the use of cooking stoves which save energy and other positive changes. To date the success of the project is above expectations with protection of water resources and awareness of ways to farm in the face of extreme weather challenges. In some places solar panels have been installed to pump water up to villages.

### **Ways to pray for the project:**

- that people will generously support Tear Fund projects with donations
- that costs can be kept to a minimum in the face of rising prices for material and benzine
- that Tear Fund workers be given flexibility and wisdom if projects experience difficulties
- that even more people will be served and lives improved through water projects

We can sincerely thank God for the vision and practical application of the water project in all its many facets.

*- Donna Goepfert for the Charity team*

# A Lovely Autumn Sale

Our Autumn Sale took place on Saturday 9 September and it was a lovely day for all of us to come together and of course raise funds for St Ursula's needs and goals.



We were happy to see new and old faces, 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.

We were also blessed with beautiful weather which meant that more people had the chance to enjoy the sunshine sitting outside in our garden.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the Sale as well as to all those who came along to support us. We wouldn't be able to do this without people like you.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Christmas Bazaar on Friday 24 November, 17.00 -19.30 and Saturday 25 November, 10.00 -15.00. Tell your friends!

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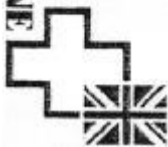
## Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count 100 members (including families) from some 30 nations. Our common language is English, but among our members many other languages can be heard. We hold a monthly meeting with guest speakers and presentations on a wide range of topics, and publish a monthly Newsletter. In 2021 the club celebrated its 30th anniversary. We are waiting to welcome you !

President Graham Tritt,  
tel. 078 684 2473, email [g.tritt@gmx.net](mailto:g.tritt@gmx.net)  
Website [www.icberne.org](http://www.icberne.org)

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Contact: President: Chris Warren

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





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The Industrial Revolution at the beginning of the 1800s brought great changes to society, to the churches and to the way people thought about religion. In Europe it was a time of revival and renewal, of new ideas and a rediscovery of the Bible and of spirituality. People were enthusiastic about this fresh way of presenting the Gospel, and there was a flowering of art and poetry, some of it stressing God's gentle love and tenderness, some stressing human sinfulness, and some of it emphasizing God's greatness and majesty.

In those times of change and uncertainty, the Book of Revelation, at the end of the New Testament, held a particular attraction. Surely this changing world of the early nineteenth century, with its wickedness, its injustice, its poverty would soon end and Jesus would return on the clouds as he had promised his apostles after his resurrection to reign in glory. This stress on "the Last Things" inspired many visionaries (not always in a healthy way) and many hymn-writers.

One of these was Matthew Bridges. He was born in 1800 in the coastal town of Maldon in Essex. His brother became a clergyman in the Church of England, but although Matthew studied at Oxford University, he was attracted by the style of worship growing in influence in the 1830s and known today as the Oxford Movement, and joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1848. In 1851, he published *Hymns of the Heart*, which included "Crown him with many crowns", which has appeared in many hymn-books of many denominations, and has become so popular that at least two writers (Godfrey Thring, in 1874, and Percy Dearmer, in 1931) have written alternative versions of the words – easily done, for the verses fall into halves which can simply be rearranged, and the tune we usually sing, *Diademata*, by Sir George Elvey, organist of St George's Chapel, Windsor, who composed it for *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1861, lends itself to this.

The hymn is solidly Bible-based, but draws heavily on images from the Apocalypse – the Book of Revelation. The crowning of the Lamb of God recalls a theme that runs through it (5:11-14, 22:3-5, for example). The Mystic Rose refers to medieval thoughts about Jesus' birth, reflections on the Song of Songs (2:1) and Isaiah 11 (in German we have a reference in the song *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*). The worshipping angels, the sea of glass all remind us of the glory of our risen Saviour.

But, as the last verse affirms, our praises are sincere because they are individual and personal. They will never, never, fail, for Jesus has died for us all – "for thou hast died for me."

- Hector Davie

## **“On his head were many crowns”**

<sup>1</sup> Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own:  
awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

<sup>2</sup> Crown him the Virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies won  
which now his brow adorn:  
fruit of the mystic Rose,  
as of that Rose the Stem;  
the Root whence mercy ever flows,  
the Babe of Bethlehem!

<sup>3</sup> Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

<sup>4</sup> Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a sceptre sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
and all be prayer and praise:  
his reign shall know no end,  
and round his piercèd feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

<sup>5</sup> Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime:  
Glassed in a sea of light,  
where everlasting waves  
reflect his throne, the Infinite,  
who lives and loves and saves.

<sup>6</sup> Crown him the Lord of heaven,  
One with the Father known,  
and the blest Spirit, through him given  
from yonder triune throne.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity

*Matthew Bridges (1800-1893)*