

St Ursula's Church Berne



Annual Reports for 2016

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Each report has an author who can be contacted for further information.

Up-to-date contact information is available on our website and in our magazine.

St Ursula's Church

Chaplain: The Ven. Peter M. Potter until 26 June 2016
 Rev Stephen Stuckes from 1 May 2017

Assistant Chaplain: Rev Mark Pogson



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WORSHIP, PRAYER AND STUDY

Worship

We started off in January with an ecumenical service at the Münster. The aim of the service was to bring the different churches closer together, celebrate the diversity but also the unity in worshipping the same God.

In April 2016, I was licensed as a Lay Reader after completing three years of training. It marked the end of my studies but the beginning of a new ministry. The licensing was a defining moment for me and I especially thank Father Peter for overseeing and mentoring me during my training. I also had huge support from members of the congregation and my family who encouraged me in so many ways.

Never did I imagine though, that I would have to rely on the newly acquired training quite quickly. Our chaplain Rev. Peter Potter announced during the AGM that he would be retiring. Only a few months were left for the “handover”. Farewells are never easy, but this was particularly hard as Father Peter and his wife Shareene have served this congregation for almost a decade.

To provide continuity I had to work closely with the Church Wardens and the locums. It was particularly important to help the locums gain a quick overview of upcoming services and events and to provide assistance with any matters arising. Thanks to the different backgrounds of the locums we enjoyed a wide range of worship and leadership styles.

Rev. Mark Pogson, our own assistant chaplain (24 July to 31 August)

Rev. Rajinder Daniel (1 September to 10 October)

Rev. Douglas Pratt (14 October to 28 November)

Rev. Ian Eglin (3 December to 8 January)

Rev. Jan Jensen (15 January to 5 February)

Rev. Brian Rodford (12 February to 19 March)

Rev. Michael Tristram (26 March to 23 April)

At the same time this experience underscored the reality that worship does not depend on mere human beings. We all rely on God to steer us and make up for our weaknesses.

Prayer & Study

We have seen a steady growth in the area study in 2016.

In February / March Father Peter held a series of Lent Devotional Studies & Compline. The course followed “A Possible World” by CMS and helped to inspire the participants to have a vision of St Ursula’s being a caring church.

In September Rev. Rajinder Daniel led a five-week bible study on Mark's gospel. Around seven people attended on an average and it was well received.

The comments inspired me to look at various materials which could be used for a study course. In December/January 2017 we offered an advent & epiphany course on "The Joy of the Gospel". The study material was based on Pope Francis' work on the church's mission of evangelization in the modern world. An average of 13 people attended the six sessions. The general feedback was that people would appreciate study courses to take place more frequently.

Based on the feedback we decided to offer the 2017 Lent course in March / April at two different times. Hence, we have one group which meets on Fridays during lunch time and another group which meets in the evening. Both groups follow "Love Life Live Lent - Be the change" which is an action-oriented course. Moreover the course offers to participants an opportunity for charity and volunteering. An average of 20-22 people attend the course so far.

The importance of prayer has been held up during the past year. Regular prayers for this time of transition and the new chaplain are being led by Brian Morgan after the 10.00 service. Henry Hope, who is contemplating applying for ordination, offers Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Evening Prayers on Fridays.

This transition period has also shown the importance of re-instituting the vital ministry of Pastoral Care. The ministry had sadly declined some time ago. The Church is called to reflect the love of Christ and to model a community living by that truth. Hence, I have submitted a report to council on how Pastoral Care could be put back in place and which structures are needed to ensure that we (as a church) engage with people and form deeper relationships. The preparatory report serves the purpose of giving an overview to the new chaplain and hopes to form a solid basis for future decisions.

To conclude, 2016 has been a time of significant change for the most part of the year. We have been advised to ensure continuity until a new chaplain takes over the responsibility. This has not been an easy task and I thank council and the Churchwardens for their tremendous support and their wisdom.

I am pleased that Rev. Stephen Stuckes will be our chaplain from 1 May onwards. After meeting him and his wife, Jane, I feel confident, that our congregation will continue its journey of faith under the leadership of a compassionate and very capable shepherd.



Archana Jacob, Lay Minister

CHURCHWARDENS

2016 was a year of change and renewal as our chaplain, Peter Potter and his wife Shareene, left St Ursula's Church in June. Peter reaching his retirement age meant a change of ministry in our Church.

In June we started our interregnum period and also a lot of work for Council. We started to write straight away our Vacancy Pack as the Appointment Timetable was rather tight. This was also a unique opportunity to reflect upon the values, mission and future of our Church.

2016 was also a year of blessings as an anonymous donor gave St Ursula's the means to undertake urgent renovations in the Church hall as well as in the Chaplain's house. His/her very generous gift, which appeared to many of us like a miracle, allowed us to launch the renovation project ("Energy Saving Appeal").

During 2016 St Ursula's was also, and as usual, busy in terms of activities, events, and projects. To name a few: breakfast at Church (every first Sunday of the month from 8:30), the organisation of the Archdeaconry Choir Festival (23-24 April 2016 at St Ursula's), the energy project of the Church buildings, etc.

In January 2016 Mark Pogson was officially licensed as Assistant Chaplain. The congregation congratulated Mark on his licensing and thanked him for the help he has offered to St Ursula's.

Shrove Tuesday was well attended, attracting both crêpes lovers and quiz lovers. Thank you to Tricia and Hector for organizing it and to all the participants for this enjoyable moment of fellowship.

During Lent, Father Peter held a series of devotional studies on the miracles in St John's Gospel, followed by Compline.

Mission Sunday and Mothering Sunday were on 6 March. For this occasion the Mission team invited Canon Medhat Sabry (Casablanca and Cairo) to present the work of Refugee Egypt. His two-day visit in Berne was highly appreciated. On Saturday Canon Medhat gave a talk on the Refugee Situation in North Africa. On Sunday he co-celebrated the Eucharist and gave a vibrant sermon.



At our AGM, Father Peter Potter announced his retirement and his departure from St Ursula's. The Sunday services during summer were taken up by Rev. Mark

Pogson, our assistant chaplain who was acting as locum, and by Archana Jacob, our Lay Reader.

In April St Ursula's hosted the Archdeaconry Choir Festival. A great thank you to Elisabeth and Hans-Karl Pfyffer for their indefectible leadership and also a big thank you to the Catering Team

Ascension was celebrated at the Madeleine Hermitage near Dürdingen, a cave carved into the cliffs and consisting of different rooms, this was dug by 2 hermits in the 18th C.



In May we had our first themed fund-raising. A 'Swedish evening' took place at St Ursula's. The evening was organised by the Swedish Church for our Energy Saving Appeal. The Swedish food and songs were highly appreciated.

In June we had our traditional Summer Fête attracting both young and old. A great opportunity too for fellowship and to reach out to the local population. Many thanks to all the people who helped and a special

thank you goes to Jana for her valuable help.

On Friday, 24 June we had a farewell party for Peter and Shareene and our Church had a whole page in the newspaper "Der Bund".

In September our first locum chaplain arrived, Rajinder Daniel (Birmingham). He and his wife Lorna stayed with us till mid-October. They were followed by Douglas Pratt (New Zealand) and his wife Jenny (till end of November). Ian Eglin and his wife Caroline led us through Advent and celebrated Christmas. They left at the beginning of January 2017. The Congregation of Berne and Thun were very appreciative of experiencing different styles of ministry. It is indeed a privilege and a mind-opening to witness the different spiritual and cultural tones of the Anglican faith.



Our Autumn Book and Food sale was on 3 September - a feast for fellowship and also for bookworms and gourmets!

During September and October our locum Rajinder Daniel ran a course on Mark's gospel.

On 28 October, we had our second themed fund-raising evening, "Pub Quiz Night". A success in many ways!

From 2 December until 6 January many of us followed the Advent and Epiphany Course run together by our locum chaplain Ian Eglin and our Lay Reader Archana Jacob.

Our Christmas bazaar took place this year on 25 and 26 November. A great event, in terms of Christian fellowship, reach out, culinary delicacies, and financial profit.



Mid December we had our traditional Nativity Play. On Christmas Eve, we had the Crib Service in the afternoon and in the evening the First Eucharist of Christmas. On Christmas Day we also had two Services, one of them with Carols.

This is, by far, not an exhaustive list of what has been done during this last year at St Ursula's.

We thank Father Peter for his ministry at St Ursula and we wish him and Shareene a pleasant retirement in Dunblane. We also thank all the locum chaplains, Mark Pogson, Rajinder Daniel, Douglas Pratt and Ian Eglin - and their wives - for their inspiration, advice, support and friendship.

We express our gratitude to our Archdeacon Adèle Kelham for all her wise advice and continuous support during this interregnum period.

We address our deep gratefulness for the continuous support that we receive from St Ursula's congregation. We thank all the members and friends of St Ursula's for their faithful commitment to worship and help in many other Church activities, like, choir, patchwork, mission work, book sales, Sunday breakfasts, etc.

We thank the teachers in Junior Church and Youth group for bringing the message of the Gospel nearer to our younger members, and the helpers of the crèche for their caring support of our younger members.

We also thank Archana for her precious involvement in the ministry at St Ursula's during the interregnum and Mark for his ministry in Thun.

For the new Church year we pray that we shall all continue to be united as Christ's body, that we will appreciate the work of the Lord among us and that more people will join us to rejoice in the Lord.

Thank you to each of you for what you do for our St Ursula's Church. Amen!

Maxine Wildhaber & Isabelle Wienand, Church Wardens

COUNCIL

This council year from May 2016 through March 2017 was challenging in many ways, including the fact that council was working to provide continuity and the smooth running of worship during an interregnum period. Council met 12 times, with Tricia Carrick presiding as Vice-Chair after Peter Potter's retirement mid-July.

Council usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month although some dates were changed. There were two meetings in June but none in July and the Standing Committee met once in August. Adèle Kelham, Archdeacon of Switzerland, attended most of the meetings. She helped guide council through the procedure for appointment and provided support in our time without a chaplain including meeting regularly with the wardens.

Council were responsible for filling in the various documents that were part of the Vacancy Pact. It needed to be completed, approved by council and submitted to the Diocesan Office by 8 September 2016 in order to insure that we could send two representatives in November of 2016 to interview possible candidates for chaplain. In order to facilitate the writing of the Chaplaincy Profile that was part of the Vacancy Pack, council canvassed people to learn how they see the church.

Very importantly, Brian Morgan organized a weekly prayer session, held during coffee time after the service. These were times of prayer touching on all aspects of the interregnum from welcoming locums to dealing with the application process to asking for guidance in choosing a new chaplain.

The Diocesan Office helped the wardens organize locums, each for a period of several weeks, to help lead worship and shepherd the congregation. They attended council and other meetings, activities and events.

One big theme in all chaplaincies is safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Officer, Cecily Klingler, regularly attends council meetings and keeps us informed not only of general changes and developments in safeguarding requirements but also tells us how St Ursula's is doing in meeting those requirements. Council approved the Safeguarding Protocol, therefore agreeing to abide by it and to ensure that our church is covered by insurance should any incidents occur.

Archana Jacob was licenced as Lay Reader and therefore attends council meetings. Council approved renewing Mark Pogson's license to officiate for another year. At the upcoming AGM (Annual General Meeting) three Synod Representatives need to be elected for a term of three years. They make up part of the council.

Hector Davie stepped down as treasurer in May and new council member Sue Higson was elected treasurer by council. She, as Hector did, produces a detailed monthly report for every council meeting presenting the financial situation of the church. She is also heading a fundraising committee for the "Energy Saving

Appeal” project. The project can soon be started, probably in April 2017. Considerable funds, including a generous donation, are available but not all planned changes are yet covered by the amount.

Junior Church and Youth continue to be important topics discussed by council. One council member is designated to liaise with Junior Church and Youth leaders and report back findings at the meetings. Some challenging areas looked at were the dwindling number of children, the need of teachers and whether to engage a youth leader. Council is aware of and thankful for the dedication of the teachers.

Council encouraged the Thun congregation as they searched for a more convenient venue for their Thursday services. They are now meeting in a chapel only five minutes from the train station.

The church property continually requires maintenance and renewal which council is responsible for overseeing. We are thankful for the many hours of volunteer work, organised by Edi Wildhaber, such as maintaining the garden with special help from Beat Hodler and doing various necessary repairs with the support of Rolf Klingler. The sound system is still being worked on.

The “Energy Saving Appeal” project demands much time and planning including meeting with a “Denkmalschutz” representative and representatives from the planning firm we are dealing with. Hans Goepfert and his team are ably leading the church through the process. Council is informed at each meeting of progress and involved in some decision making.

Council was involved in discussions about and planning for the Nacht der Religionen, the Advent course, the Harvest service, the Christmas party and farewell parties for Peter and Shareene and Linda Bisig. An effort was made to help all church attendees feel welcome and included in church life.

This report covers only a part of council’s work. Anyone is welcome to attend council meetings as an observer. If you have questions or suggestions that council could consider, please speak to a member. Their names are listed in the church magazine. Importantly, please continue to pray for work of the council and its members as they strive to facilitate worship, fellowship and outreach at St Ursula’s.

Donna Goepfert, Council Secretary

THUN GROUP

The Thun congregation meets on the first and third Thursday of each month, except for July and the first Thursday in August when we have a break.

The purpose of coming together is to worship the Lord and to have fellowship with each other. The service starts at 18:30 and afterwards we generally spend a

few minutes discussing the week's readings and sermon. We then go for a drink and fellowship in a nearby café.

We are a small group but I get the impression the meetings are appreciated. I led many of the meetings in the first part of the year but we appreciated visits from the Ven. Peter Potter. We were sad when he retired and left us to live in Scotland.

Later on in the year some of the services were led by the Locums which were enjoyed.

We have had occasional social activities on the fifth Thursday of a month. At Christmas, we had a carol service at Göttibach Church, Thun, which was well attended

Our numbers vary and depend on the time of the year. We have had some new members but have lost others.



Before the year was complete we decided to meet in a more central location - the Chapelle Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22 - and looked forward to what the Lord would bring in 2017.

Rev Mark Pogson

CRÈCHE

St Ursula's crèche cares for children up to the age of 3 years during the 10.00 service on Sunday, so that parents can leave their babies and toddlers in the care of two helpers whilst they attend the Service

The crèche is a most valuable form of Christian service to the young parents within the Church and crèche volunteers have continued to provide a fundamental service to our families with babies and toddlers.

In crèche children play, colour, listen to stories and enjoy different kinds of puzzles. It is also a meeting point for parent to have a chat and exchange ideas.

This year we have seen an increase of children. Attendances vary depending on

the Sunday. Sometimes we have up to 8 children and other times 4 or less.

Parents are asked to complete a registration form for their children, which should include medical or other special needs of the child that crèche volunteers should know about.

After many years of organizing the crèche I decided to step down and I take the opportunity to thank Sara Hutchison for assuming the duty of Crèche Coordinator.

I would also like to thank all those who have served on the crèche rota in the past years for their valued help.

In the future we hope also that more Mums and Dads will join our rota and help us in this Service. Children's ministry brings adults and children together and this contributes to the building of bonds within the body of Christ.

Maxine Wildhaber, Crèche Coordinator

CHURCH BREAKFASTS



Church breakfasts continued in 2016. They are held on the first Sunday of each month (except during holiday time). These are normally attended by around 12 - 15 people. It is an informal time for people to meet each other.

Tricia Carrick

JUNIOR CHURCH

Classes

In 2016 St Ursula's offered three Junior Church classes: Sparklers for those aged 3 to 7, Trailblazers for those aged 7+ to 11 and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+.

During the first half of 2016, the Junior Church remained in church on the 2nd Sunday of each month, for an "All in Church Together" service. After the summer holidays it was decided that only the children in the Pilot class would stay in church and that the other two classes would have Junior Church.

We leave for our classes shortly after the start of the 10.00 service. On the 4th Sunday of the month we held our all-age Junior Church choir practices.



During Lent we created a “Road of Tears” which followed Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem week by week. On Easter Day the tears transformed into “Flowers of Joy”.



Resources

We continue to use “ROOTS” for our teaching materials. These ecumenical and lectionary-based resources are produced by a Christian charitable company - ROOTS for Churches Ltd - which is based in the UK.

Teachers

The number of teachers remained at seven during 2016, however, Walter Bisig stepped down as a teacher in January 2017. Ideally we would like a pool of teachers of between nine and twelve.

Tear Fund

Tear Fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with the children's weekly collection going to the “Uganda Water and Sanitation” project. In 2016 the church collections at Harvest and at the Christmas Services also went to this project. In total, over CHF 2,400 was raised for this project in 2016.



Nativity Play

The Nativity service in 2016 told the Nativity Story through the eyes of the participants - including the donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem. The story was interspersed with carols sung by the entire congregation plus several songs performed by the Junior Church.

More Information

The Junior Church teachers aim to include a short item in each church magazine giving up-to-date information about the Junior Church.

Jana Kutesko

YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY

In March 2016 Tricia Carrick started a Youth Group Bible Study Class. The Bible Study normally takes place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. The Bible Study takes place during the 10.00 Eucharist.

The Youth Group have also been heavily involved in other church projects such as the Nativity Play.

Jana Kutesko

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

We at St Ursula's are committed to:

- The care and nurture of a respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities that provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.



Our council has to certify each year to the Diocese of Europe that we are following the Diocesan safeguarding policy. The Diocesan Guidelines have been updated and this means that we have also to meet these criteria and are having to upgrade our own safeguarding procedures, records and documents at St Ursula's. Safeguarding checks for those working with children and young people at our church now need to be reviewed every 5 years. A wider group of

people in our church will now need to complete safeguarding checks if they are involved with children or vulnerable adults.

Diocesan training sessions on safeguarding issues for children and for adults are

available online. It is mandatory for all who work with our children and have safeguarding clearance and most of our helpers have already successfully completed this. Once it is set up, those involved in St Ursula's Pastoral Care will also need clearances and need to complete the online training. A training day on Safeguarding led by Archdeaconry trainers should take place at St Ursula's in the near future.

Risk assessments are now required for all church meetings and events and we have begun to undertake completing these. This is part of ensuring that our church is a safe place for all at all times.

All our relevant safeguarding documents can be found on the Diocese of Europe website: www.europe.anglican.org under the heading of Diocesan Guidelines and Policies/Safeguarding. You can find our St Ursula's Safeguarding policy on the noticeboard in the church hall.

I would encourage everyone to read these documents, as safeguarding is a matter for the whole congregation. Should you ever feel there is a concern in our church about a safeguarding issue, then it is essential to report this to the Chaplain or the Safeguarding Officer. Such matters are always kept strictly confidential.

I am pleased to report that in the past year there have been no serious incidents requiring action. Our present situation with more limited numbers of Junior Church teachers or crèche helpers does sometimes provide a challenge for our safeguarding procedures to be followed but this does not mean that we can compromise here.

Finally, a reminder to all parents that they are responsible for supervising their children once the Junior Church and Crèche sessions have ended.

Cecily Klingler, Safeguarding Officer.

Tel: 031 302 4859 or 076 425 4859, Email: cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

MUSIC

Music in our Services

Worship and Music Planning

Until his retirement Father Peter led a small group (the organist, the music group co-ordinator and a member of the Congregation) to select the music for most services. During the interregnum period the organist has selected the hymns, subject to the approval by the Locum Priest.

The music for less formal services has usually been planned by those leading the service together with members of the music group. Music to complement the hymns during other parts of Communion Services is chosen by the music group leaders and the Chaplain.

Organists

Organ music plays an important, but not exclusive, part in the services and worship at St Ursula's church. Apart from the regular Sunday services there have been a small number of extra services in 2016 where organ music was called for. The contribution by several people in assisting (or substituting) the organ playing (either at the organ or at the piano) is gratefully acknowledged.

Choral Music in Services and at Events

The choir of St Ursula's has about 15 singers of all voices. On a number of occasions the choir has enriched our services by singing in parts, for example with a Psalm, an Anthem or a Motet, or liturgical items in a Communion Service. Saturday choir practices are a regular activity for enthusiastic singers.

On a number of occasions, the choir has contributed to our services:

- Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon by M. Rizza, sung during the Gospel reading).
- Father forgive (Coventry Litany, Paul Leddington Wright).
- Easter Anthem
- Psalms: e.g. 46, 51, 139. (Anglican Chant, usually as a post communion anthem).
- Anthems / Motets, such as: The Lord is full of compassion (Ph. Moore); Thou knowest Lord (H. Purcell).
- Christmas Gloria (Ledger); Angel's Carol (J. Rutter).

On the occasion of special events, the choir has contributed:

- St. Ursula's Summer Fete 2016: He came singing love (Weaver); O taste and see (Vaughan Williams).
- God so loved the world (Stainer); Cantate Domino (Pitoni); Madrigal: This is the Month of maying (Morley).
- Fr. Peter's Farewell service in June: May the road rise to meet you (Chilcott); O taste and see (Vaughan Williams); Agnus Dei (from C. Wood, Mass in F)
- Lausanne: Choral Evensong for the 200 years Anniversary of Christ Church Lausanne and for the retirement of Rev. Adele Kelham: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Stanford in C); Anthem: I saw a new heaven (Bainton); Psalm 1 (BCP).
- Thun: Christmas Carol Service: Angel's Carol (Rutter) and A Maiden most Gentle (Carter).

Three choir members from St Ursula's Church attended the traditional RSCM Singing Break in Dunblane (Scotland), widening the musical skills and the musical repertoire, not least for the benefit of our church and choir.

Many thanks are extended to all who have contributed in many ways to enriching our services with music, be it by using their vocal, instrumental or organisational skills, and who devote a lot of their time and effort for this important element in our worship.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Music Group

The Music Group is now in its 11th year and continues to provide a regular accompaniment for the mostly contemporary songs, chants and hymns at our services.

Our main contribution is to the informal Eucharist services, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month. The music is mostly chosen from the “Worship Today” or “Junior Praise” song books but other sources are also often used (e.g. Common Ground, Taizé, Iona and Hymns Old & New).

We are delighted to have been joined during this last year by Henry (alto sax), Tawna (bass guitar) and Paul (Ukelele).

At the services, our numbers have reached a maximum of 10 (!) on at least one occasion, with a solid core of about 6-7 regular contributors (both musicians and singers).



Our active members during the last year:

Adoree - piano, Agatha - flute, Belle - 6string guitar, Eva - voice, Hans-Martin - flute, Henry - alto sax, Paul - Ukelele, Peter - clarinet & tenor sax, Philip - 6string guitar, Rebecca - alto sax, Tawna - bass guitar, Tricia - piano, Tony - 12string guitar.

Many thanks to all music group members for your talents, flexibility and support.

Tony continues to organise the group but is

still often away on business - many thanks to Tricia who has taken over the lead several times. Also thanks to Henry for his regular transpositions of the music for alto-sax.

All music group members practice the planned music individually and we have group practices in the church hall, starting well before the Sunday services.

It is most encouraging when we receive feedback from the congregation, including any new suggestions. Please don't hesitate to give your inputs.

If anyone is interested in joining the Music Group, either with instrument or voice, please contact Tony. You will be most welcome.

Tony Read

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is the list of the full voting members of St Ursula's. These are the people who can vote at the AGM and stand for election.

Every year, the Electoral Roll is revised under the direction of council. This year, the revision was completed on 7 March 2017. There were 4 deletions and 5 additions meaning that the number of members in 2017 is 117.

Since the revision, the Electoral Roll, together with the list of changes, has been displayed next to the principal door of the church and on the notice board in the church hall.

If you would like more information about the Electoral Roll please contact me.

Tricia Carrick, Electoral Roll Officer

MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

The master rota combines all eight rotas directly connected with services: duty council, sidespersons, readers, intercession, beamer/audio, servers at the altar, chalice assistants and flowers. It is compiled six times a year and based on a list of 38 volunteers as of December 2016. These loyal helpers supported a total of 58 services in the past year and deserve a big THANK YOU.

We are always looking for new volunteers to share the burden. There is a coordinator for each individual rota who provides information as well as training and will be happy to answer any questions. Names and phone numbers can be found on the last page of the magazine, or you can talk to one of the helpers to find out more.

Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator

MAGAZINE



Editing

The St Ursula's Church magazine is published six times a year. Currently, 375 people subscribe to the magazine, with 279 receiving a hard copy and 88 receiving it electronically.

The purpose of the church magazine is to inform readers of the services and events at St Ursula's, to teach about Christianity and to reach out to the English-speaking community of Berne.

Tricia Carrick, Hector Davie, Jana Kutesko and Father Peter (until his retirement) made up the core team of content providers and proofreaders. Articles and other content are also submitted by groups within St Ursula's (Junior Church, Charity and Missions Committee and Housegroups, for example), individual church members as well as people who are not members of the church. Hector Davie handles the electronic distribution and advertising, Querida Long is the magazine editor and Annemarie Walthert is in charge of collating the magazine.

Contributions to the magazine can be sent to magazine@stursula.ch

Collating

About 280 magazines are sent out every 2nd month. Although they are already folded and stapled we still need volunteers to help insert the flyers and put the magazines into the envelopes, however, with three to five people helping, the job goes smoothly.

Many thanks to all the faithful helpers!

Jana Kutesko & Annemarie Walthert

TREASURER'S REPORT

This is my first annual report as your treasurer, so where do I start? Perhaps I should start by admitting that I was wrong in my December 2016 report. I was forecasting a breakeven position. Well we did much better than that, with an excess of over a little over CHF 40,500 after extraordinary items and before any transfers to reserves. This is a great result, and it allows us to top up both our general reserves and our building fund after the losses of previous years.

Last year there was a loss of CHF 26,387 on the same basis. There are 2 main reasons for the difference of almost CHF 67,000. Giving has increased by CHF 24,072 over prior year, whereas personnel costs dropped by around CHF 48,700. So many thanks to all who gave so generously over the year and responded to the need with a bit extra as well. Our time of locums brought us

many benefits in terms of styles of preaching and people, as well as saving costs. The benefits will of course roll over into 2017, and the budget for 2017 is also showing an excess. Our new priest is on his way and I have every confidence that he will be able to build on this healthy result. I have seen that people respond to our need. We cannot sit back on our laurels, for it is clear that we still need a bit more if we are to cover our spend on a normal year, but we are on the right way.

We also raised CHF 257,547 for the energy appeal and building fund, although admittedly most of that was due to a very generous anonymous donation. Nevertheless we had some fund raising activities and some people gave directly to the appeal. From our excess this year we transferred CHF 20,000 to the building fund, so the balance we have at the end of 2016 is CHF 365,534. We will need all of this and more in 2017 when the work finally starts on the building works. We still need to raise some more in 2017 and I will be writing some more about that in a separate report.

The other positions in the financial report do not vary greatly from 2015. Our other sources of income remained fairly constant, and the expenditure also. We did spend less on running costs generally all round, but these figures hide something that all our expenditure costs hide in actual fact. The costs are lower in part due to an increase in work being done for free. The gardening and caretaking work for example is done by a team of people quietly behind the scenes without payment and often without claiming for their materials. The vestry work is the same, the flower team, the production and sending of the magazine, our fundraising events, I could go on and on. The Sunday services and midweek events are faithfully organised and led by people who receive no payment. They all do these things because they love our Church, our People and they love God. They want to give back, and without all their time and gifts we would be in a much worse position.

To close I wish to give a big thanks to Hector Davie, who has been a great source of support and assistance in the last year, as well as keeping me on my toes when it comes to the presentation of the figures. I may have been assistant treasurer in the past, but that was some time ago, and I had forgotten or was unaware of just everything that is involved in being Treasurer. He did an amazing job over all the years and I am doing my best to live up to his standards. There were 2,458 transactions booked in 2016, which is 100 less than in 2015. I also want to thank the council for their patience when the monthly report was not always quite ready in time for the monthly council meeting, perhaps we should move it to the second Tuesday of every month instead of the first.

Sue Higson, Treasurer

Consolidated Income Statement for the year ended 31.12.2016

INCOME	2016	2015	EXPENDITURE	2016	2015
Income from Community	165,963	141,891	Personnel-related costs	102,695	151,386
<i>Pledged giving</i>	117,680	111,298	Stipends and remuneration	71,109	106,440
<i>Donations</i>	18,457	5,318	Travelling expenses	3,163	4,480
<i>Collections</i>	29,826	25,275	Other personnel costs	28,423	40,466
			Running costs	48,835	48,508
Income from events	34,518	34,740	Premises	38,594	40,484
			Office	781	278
Income from other sources	25,880	26,103	Telephone and Internet	694	827
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	25,101	24,267	Insurance	2,961	3,228
<i>Other</i>	780	1,836	Property tax	1,607	1,607
			Vestry	1,351	1,055
			Ministry and Hospitality	992	113
Grant from Archdeaconry	3,190	5,000	Subscriptions and advertising	1,854	916
Grant from Church Commissioners		6,587	Youth and Junior Church	449	1,071
			Library	-	22
Permanent activities income	8,063	8,680	Permanent activities expenses	3,579	3,844
<i>Magazine</i>	5,587	6,223	Magazine	2,930	3,381
<i>Card table</i>	119	136	Card table	-	14
<i>Coffee</i>	2,332	2,187	Coffee	309	358
<i>Other</i>	25	134	Other	340	90
Income from Thun	765	708	Diocese/Deanery	14,203	15,164
			Charity	21,958	24,344
Investment and trust income	712	1,360	Financial Expense	143	136
			Forex loss	3,550	
TOTAL	239,091	225,068	TOTAL	195,411	244,476
DEFICIT		19,409	excess from ordinary activities	43,680	
Extraordinary items					
Extraordinary income			Extraordinary Expense		
Building Appeal receipts	257,547	-	Building Fund Expenditure	-	5,466
			Removals and furnishing	3,123	1,512
			Transfer to building fund	277,546	10,000
TOTAL	257,547			280,669	16,978
result after extraordinary items					
reduction in general reserves		36,387	Increase in general reserves	20,557	

Balance Sheet as at 31.12.2016

CHF					
Assets		31.12.2016	31.12.2016	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
		Church	Association	Total	Total
Cash and Bank					
Current accounts					
CH		24,712.06	5,564.00	30,276.06	9,379.84
UK		20,372.59		20,372.59	40,130.96
Deposit accounts					
CH		94,605.05	365,154.60	459,759.65	154,871.90
Total Cash and Bank		139,689.70	370,718.60	510,408.30	204,382.70
<i>Stocks on hand</i>		3,223.55	1,026.30	4,249.85	6,768.40
debtors and monies due		1,735.50	750.00	2,485.50	756.00
owed by AHV		5,414.54		5,414.54	
Total other assets		10,373.59	1,776.30	12,149.89	7,524.40
Fixed assets (copier)		3,100.00	-	3,100.00	4,680.00
Prepayments & deferred expense		3,182.90	-	3,182.90	8,161.90
total Assets		156,346.19	372,494.90	528,841.09	224,749.00
current liabilities					
creditors	-	6,599.85	- 1,672.80	- 8,272.65	- 16,080.00
collections to be paid out	-	4,796.60		- 4,796.60	
due within 1 month	-	11,396.45	- 1,672.80	- 13,069.25	- 16,080.00
provisions and deferred income	-	7,581.40	-	- 7,581.40	
funds held for others	-	1,912.70	- 30.20	- 1,942.90	
excess of assets over liabilities		135,455.64	370,791.90	506,247.54	208,669.00
Capital reserves					
Contingency reserve	-	111,093.64	- 4,231.50	- 115,325.14	- 90,669.27
Ministry Training Fund	-	18,038.45	-	- 18,038.45	- 18,563.35
Building and Development Fund		-	- 365,534.10	- 365,534.10	- 87,987.98
non liquid capital	-	6,323.55	- 1,026.30	- 7,349.85	- 11,448.40
		-135,455.64	- 370,791.90	- 506,247.54	- 208,669.00

The notes to the accounts can be obtained from the Treasurer on request.

ENERGY APPEAL FUNDRAISING



As mentioned in the Treasurer report we managed to raise CHF 257,546.60 in 2016 for the building fund. CHF 250,000 came from one donor, to whom we are very thankful. The Swedish night raised CHF 2,688. The pub quiz raised CHF 1,502.50. We received CHF 800 from the Bern authorities related to our energy certificate, and the remaining CHF 2,556.10 was contributed from our congregation at various times through the year.

In total at year end we have CHF 365,534.10 in the building fund which goes a long way towards what we need, but not the whole way. The project team have been working hard with the project company to finalise all the details of the project. We have, at the time of writing, not got all the offers in, so do not know the final cost. However, we have had feedback on some aspects from the Denkmalschutz, most is positive, but we are also obliged to spend more money in order to meet their requirements which has increased our likely costs. In addition, we would like to do some things to the house to make it welcoming for our new chaplain when he arrives. The house has not had any renovation work since 2006 when the bathroom was renovated. The previous major renovations were over 20 years ago. The interior is still in good condition, but showing its age in some places. We also want to put in a hearing aid loop in the church, improve access from the Church halls to the House for better use of the cellars, and easy access to the new heating system when in place. We need to do some maintenance or safety checks of some of the older fittings in our Church, the list goes on.

These items are not exactly related to our initial appeal that was aimed at us reducing our energy footprint, but it is all money that needs to come from the building fund. Therefore it makes sense to try and raise it all now, even if we do the work over the next 5 years, rather than have a never ending appeal running.

So we are relaunching the appeal with a new logo and new energy. For our energy appeal itself we are probably about CHF 40,000 short. If we would like to do everything else on our list, then a target of CHF 80,000 should cover everything.

CHF 80,000 is not beyond our abilities to raise. We will be running fundraisers, contacting businesses and embassies, and encouraging people to give directly for this appeal. All donations are fully tax deductible. If you want the tax relief, make sure that you donate either directly to the Association post account or ask for a tax receipt if you donate in cash at one of our fundraisers. Perhaps you would like to consider a short term extra monthly donation or a one off lump sum for the appeal. Check out the information leaflets available, or ask the Treasurer if you need more information.

Sue Higson, Treasurer

WEBMASTER

The internet is increasingly becoming part of our daily life, and churches everywhere now give priority to the way they present themselves on the web. A web presence can be a tool for evangelism, a source of information, a means of instruction, a social tool, a repository for facts and figures, or just a source of fun. We hope ours is all of these.

St Ursula's was one of the first churches in Switzerland to have a web presence, which has been a benefit - in that we have a lot of experience of what works and what doesn't work, and a disadvantage, in that new techniques and technologies are harder to integrate with the content we already have.

A glimpse at our site map, or at the foot of our home page, www.stursula.ch, will give an idea of what this content is. We have some 6 gigabytes of material, including:

- details of who we are, where we are, and what we do, aimed at newcomers and visitors to the area;
- news of our latest and forthcoming events, for the benefit of members and people on the edge who want to be informed;
- a library of photographs, for those who like to see or be reminded of what we do;
- present and past issues of our newsletter;
- a library of past sermons, for those who cannot get in to church, or who need some spiritual listening;
- rotas, notice sheets and service sheets, for those involved in our Sunday worship;
- data shared by council, committees, the office, the music group - this is not normally publicly available;
- links to fellow Christians, to worship resources, to the wider Christian world;

We also have a presence on Facebook and Twitter, and a blog, all widening the audience of people we want to reach.

Around 50 separate people visit our main website every day, but a third of these are robots gleaning information, for good reasons or bad. The most visited pages are those connected with prayer, but also the practical pages - the rotas, readings, news, service details, contact people. A handful of people listen to the sermon each week, and the PDF version of the magazine is surprisingly well read - people even look up back issues.

Over the next few years, we hope to make the website even more useful and

more attractive, but a big challenge is keeping it up to date. Everyone can help in this - if you notice something that has “passed its sell-by date”, send a quick mail to webmaster@stursula.ch. This is a way in which we all can play our part.

Hector Davie, Webmaster

BUILDINGS

Building Manager

This year has been a rather busy one for our team.

A BIG, big thank you to you all who kept our premises clean and tidy. Many big and small hands helped in the garden clean up both in Spring and Autumn and throughout the year.

I am very grateful to all the generous donors who don't only help but also donate the material eg. the gravel in the churchyard.

In order to save money, the Building Committee undertakes a lot of work itself. Hans, Rolf and myself try to do our best but sometimes we don't manage to do everything and certain repairs still need to be done by paid professionals.

Blinds in the upper hall, new taps, etc. these items will be either repaired or replaced when the workers will be in the Church and in the Chaplain house for the heating system and other renovation works.

For the audio and sound system both Hans Goepfert and Tony Read found a solution and the problem we have now will be solved when we will change the heating system in the Church.

The new heating system and the renovation works this is where most of the money is spent.

We already have a generous sum but we still need urgently to fundraise so that we can complete all the necessary works.

I look forward to spring time when the garden will need to be freshened up again. As usual I count on volunteers to help. If you would like to give a hand please get in contact either with the office or directly with me: edi.wildhaber@gmail.com

To end up I would like to mention a few animals stories happening in the Church and in Church house. The mice who loved the British food are gone, the pine martens are still in the Church house -all our locums were well entertained at night. Unfortunately for the pine martens, soon the roof will be insulated and this will be the moment when they will become homeless.

Edi Wildhaber, Building Manager

Church Caretaker

Aim of Activity

To keep the church building in order and do minor repairs whilst keeping maintenance costs as low as possible.

General Maintenance and Improvements (odd job repairs)

I have done most of the repairs and improvements in coordination with the Church Office.

I appreciate people reporting damage (preferably by E-Mail to me or to the Church Office). The sooner Jana or I know about problems, the sooner they can be solved.

Some of these repairs could be avoided by hall users taking more care with the hall fittings (e.g. dragging tables and chairs across the floor instead of lifting them, children hanging on cupboard doors (hinges are not designed to take the extra load)).

Heating

In general the heating in the Church has been functioning well. The hot air ducts below the Church floor are annually dusted before the heating period. I usually pre-program the control in the Church one week in advance according to Jana's Church calendar in the Internet. Please let me know about unplanned activities (such as funerals). We do have to compromise in the Church between individual comfort requirements and economy in saving energy. As far as the Church halls are concerned, the hall users should contribute to saving energy by keeping doors and windows closed in the heating season. For further information on this topic, including the future renewal of the Church heating system, I refer to the recent results of the Church Energy Group headed by Hans Goepfert.

Church Lighting

A problem has popped up with the fluorescent lights in the lower Church Hall. It seems that the induction coils in the light fittings are getting weak such that the lights fail even with new tubes and starters. A good way around this problem is replacing the fluorescent tubes with compatible LED tubes. Other lights (hallway, stairs, toilets) are gradually being replaced by LED's. Priority is being given to lights where full brightness is required immediately (e.g. stairs).

Garbage Recycling

Church users (in particular third parties renting our Church) are asked to take their recyclable waste to appropriate public collection places (e.g. Jubiläumsplatz around the corner from St Ursula's). Special solutions for Church events (i.e. Bazaars, book sales etc.) are to be worked out on a case by case basis.

Telephone and Internet

Our internet based telephone system generally performs well and without any major problems.

Rolf Klingler, Church Caretaker

Environmental - Energy Efficiency Initiative

One year ago we explained what sort of problems and deficiencies our ageing infrastructure was causing including discomfort to the congregation and operational difficulties and we set out a plan of what we would have to do to correct this. We also said that this would cost us about CHF 250,000 and that the return would be a very impressive saving of our energy consumption and our running and maintenance costs. Additionally it would be a response against global warming and a significant contribution to reducing carbon emission.

So we studied many options with the support of outside specialists.

Towards the end of 2016 our efforts bore fruit in the form of a set of very good solutions, namely:

- A new heating system in the church, to improve the comfort of the congregation. This means heating the entire nave to an equally comfortable temperature and getting rid of noise and draughts.
- Insulating the Chaplain's house and the halls with the result that we will use 70% less fossil fuel and improve the living comfort for our new Chaplain.
- Replacing our ageing boiler with a modern highly efficient gas heater, compliant with new exhaust gas regulations.

This is a fine and important project that will not only reduce expenditures for running and maintenance, but more importantly, it will ensure that our magnificent church can serve us as a place of worship in the long term.

Before we can implement the project, we had to go through a number of administrative procedures with the city authorities. We needed a building permit and, as our church is a listed historical monument, approval from the "Denkmalschutz". So we met with them at the church, explained how our church functions and what our project is all about, and we answered many questions, some critical ones among them. And some modifications needed to be done, technically not significant, but with an impact on the costs. But in the end we were assured that the basic concept was accepted. So now we are in the process of selecting the contractors. Final decisions are expected in about 4 weeks. Then we must wait for the building permit. Implementation of the different projects is planned for the period May-July.

But there is still one hurdle to cross, namely money. In spring 2016 we launched

fund raising activities and we were surprisingly successful thanks to a very generous donation which covered the then estimated costs. However, extra costs surfaced with the modifications imposed by the “Denkmalschutz”. And the church heating proved more complex than anticipated, which again caused extra costs. And we decided to implement a hearing loop system, and to correct deficiencies in the church infrastructure which was not originally planned for.

So from the financial point of view we are almost there, but not quite - about CHF 40,000 is missing.

But then we had to find a new Chaplain, coincidentally at the same time as the energy project was under way. And we would like to give him a really good welcome. Part of it is to fix up his new living quarters where many parts are worn, damaged or broken. And this will again add up to CHF 40,000 to the bill.

So in order to close this gap of 2 x CHF 40,000, i.e CHF 80,000, we have to go back to fundraising. We hope that you will be generous in supporting St. Ursula's Church in the forthcoming fundraising events

Hans Goepfert

LIBRARY



St Ursula's church library is open most Sundays during coffee time after the church service. It offers a wide variety of books for children, teens and adults. There are Bible study and reference aids, books on spirituality, family and Christian living, children's books, youth fiction as well as historical/biographical/autobiographical books.

A complete book list (except children's books) is available on the church website so it is easy to check if the book you are looking for is in the library or just to browse through the titles for something that interests you. Any suggestions for book acquisitions are very welcome!

Several members of the congregation have produced book reviews for the church magazine, and more will be coming. If anyone has a book to recommend they are welcome to write a review of it for the magazine or give a short live presentation in church. Some members of the congregation have generously donated books to the library and the library coordinators try to inform people of the new additions by publishing a list of new (to us) books in the magazine.

For various reasons (such as lack of time, only reading e-books, etc.) only a limited number of people take advantage of the library. It is easily accessible in the Upper Hall and books may be borrowed for one month although librarians are lenient with those who don't return them on time.

Any questions or requests can be directed to library coordinators Donna Goepfert

(dgo@secunet.ch) and Isabelle Wienand (isabelle.wienand@unibas.ch) or to faithful helpers Andrée Kamarys and Annemarie Walthert.

Donna Goepfert

BOOK AND FOOD SALES

Second Hand English Books

We had another successful year with the book sales, taking around CHF 5,100 from all four sales. This is only possible with the continuing and dedicated support of a great team of helpers, who are on hand to help sort the hundreds of book donations at least eight times each year and to sell on the five day of the sales.

My thanks go to our regular book team - Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Diane Lohri, Mary

Mead, Patricia Schwager and Rachel Huguenin - and also to those ladies who come to help whenever they can.



Our new theme tables look attractive and produce a few extra sales. Also, the children's books continue to be hugely popular. On the other hand, the sale of DVDs and CDs is rather slow, which is why we may have to consider removing them from the sales to make room for more books.

An ongoing problem is that we continue to receive far more books than we have room for or could possibly sell. And, sadly, we continue to receive far too many old and dirty books, hardbacks and German books, that nobody wishes to buy. In fact, around 2/3 of our donations have to be "dumped" because they are simply unsuitable for our sales. Another problem looming on the horizon is that the shelves are becoming quite rickety after years of use and under the immense weight of hundreds of books. One or two are badly damaged, possibly even dangerous, and will need replacing in the next couple of years. This is an issue which will need to be addressed by Council once the new Chaplain arrives.

To everyone who supports our book sales I would like to express a big THANK YOU. They are extremely popular and even attract people from outside the canton of Bern. Also, they continue to be an important source of outreach and income for our Church, with few to no overheads. If anyone has any suggestions for our sales or would like to join our team of helpers, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Allison Masciadri, Tel: 079 343 21 65

British Food Stall

For over 10 years, we have had a stall selling British Food at the Book and Food Sales in the spring and late summer, at the Summer Fête and at the Christmas Bazaar. We also usually sell food after the 10.00 church service on the 2 Sundays following each sale.



The Christmas Bazaar always has the biggest sales and we're very, very lucky to have such willing and enthusiastic helpers who faithfully turn up year in, year out. A special thank-you must also go to Caroline Trippas and my daughters, Georgina and Eleanor, who rarely miss helping at a sale

Running the food stall is a year round activity and a great deal of thanks must also go to Andrew True, Jackie Wilkinson, Liz Perrett, Tricia Carrick and Hector Davie

who all do what they can to ensure that the food stall is well stocked. However, as ever, if you are travelling to the UK, Australia or USA etc. or are having visitors from there, and think that you or your visitors might have space to bring some shopping over, please let me know so that I can give you a list of items needed - every little bit helps!

The food stalls are not only an important fundraiser for St Ursula's - raising over CHF 14,000 after costs in 2016 - but also an important and friendly outreach to the wider community.

Jana Kutesko

Catering

2016 was again a busy year. We were able to maintain our reputation for providing good food and service for both the Synod and the book sales and the Christmas Bazaar.

This year our goal will be to maintain this and to this end we are well on the way.

The need to develop a younger team of helpers is there and we need to be more pro-active about recruiting people. Some of our wonderful helpers are no longer able to physically cope, though their hearts are in the right place.

Thank you Tricia for installing locks on the two cupboards in the kitchen.



We have replaced various kitchen utensils and acquired two non-slip trays.
The Choir Festival catering worked really well. Thank you to all who helped.
And finally, a word of thanks to all those who have responded to our calls for help in all the various ways.

Lynn Morgan

ST URSULA'S SUMMER FÊTE



Our Summer Fête in 2016 celebrated the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. We even had a visitor from the British Embassy to officially open the fête. We had a commemorative display about the Queen in the church and a special contribution from St Ursula's choir.



The weather was excellent and as the photos show a good time was had by all!

We also took the not inconsiderable sum of CHF 6,200 during the fête.

Our Summer Fête in 2017 is on Saturday, 20 May - don't miss it!

Jana Kutesko



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2016

The Christmas Bazaar in 2016 proved once again to be a very popular and looked forward to event with lots of visitors throughout the two days.

The bazaar requires an immense amount of organisation starting months in advance of the actual bazaar: Flyers have to be designed, stalls have to be stocked, cakes have to be baked and iced - the list is endless.

Then the “action” really starts to intensify from the beginning of “set-up” on Thursday night when a set-up team clears the church and halls and makes sure that all the tables and stands etc are moved to their correct positions ready for the arrival of the stall holders on Friday morning.

By 16.00 on Friday, all the stalls are set up and looking beautiful ready for the 17.00 opening.



The bazaar was busy right from the start - the British Food Stall even had a queue stretching into the corridor and as one visitor remarked you could tell it was a British Food Stall because of the orderly and patient queue!

Our tombola stall also proved a popular destination especially on the Saturday when an emergency “top-up” was needed.





Two days of smiling faces from both the helpers and visitors made the 2016 Christmas Bazaar a fun and joyous event and a wonderful start to the Advent season.



I would like to once again thank all those dozens of helpers who tackled - with good humour, tolerance and patience - the many jobs needed to stage the Christmas bazaar from the initial "volunteering to help" right through to the clear up and cleaning at the end - all of you played a vital rôle in the success of the bazaar. The final Christmas bazaar tally was just over CHF 22,000.

This year's bazaar will break with tradition and be held in December - on Friday 1 & Saturday 2 December 2017.

Jana Kutesko

PATCHWORK



The Patchwork ladies come from various backgrounds and denominations - truly an outreach group. We are not only cutting fabrics and threading needles, we also have a lot of fun together and are helping each other in many ways.

At the Bazaar the Patchwork Group is making a significant contribution to the church in outreach, fellowship and money from the sale

of the items small and large that have been designed, assembled, stitched together and quilted throughout the year.

A big THANK YOU goes to all ladies who are working so hard. We just hope we can manage again for the next Christmas Bazaar in December. If you would like to join the group (there are some vacant chairs) we would be delighted to help you in your project.

If you wish to find out more please get in touch with one of the patchwork ladies. We meet on Friday mornings in the church hall, or make a phone call to Elisabeth Pfyffer on 026 492 03 26

Elisabeth Pfyffer

ARCHDEACONRY

Archdeaconry Synod

Every three years, the AGM elects three lay members to the Swiss Archdeaconry Synod - we did so in 2014, electing Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Richard King, and we shall do so again at this forthcoming AGM. Our clergy are also ex officio members, and of course until last July, Peter Potter was Archdeacon (the current Archdeacon is Adèle Kelham, who recently retired from Lausanne and now lives in Aargau).



The Synod brings together members from the nine permanent chaplaincies in Switzerland and their satellite congregations, and itself sends two lay and two clerical representatives to the Diocesan Synod. Synod members also get to vote on our diocese's representatives on General Synod. It is a valuable chance to meet and discuss issues with members of other chaplaincies.

Synod is far from a mere talking shop however. We have an active Christian education programme, SACEP. We give support to the work of Partner Sein, and of the chaplaincy in Athens in its work among the poor and the refugees there. We debate policy matters, and provide feedback to the diocese and to our own chaplaincy councils - and to this AGM.

We meet twice a year - in the period under review on 25 June 2016 in Geneva, and on 4 February 2017 in Berne.

Bishop Robert attended the Geneva meeting, and presented the present diocesan strategy plan - a five point plan for

- BUILDING up the body of Christ - Encouraging and nurturing the faith
- SHARING in the evangelization of Europe - Outreach, welcome, growth
- STRIVING for a just and sustainable world - Care for those in need, safeguarding, slavery, creation
- WORKING for reconciliation - On all levels, church, religions, nations
- RESOURCING ministry - Stewardship, recruitment of clergy

In groups, we discussed what we were doing in our own chaplaincies, and more relevantly, what we could do, and gave useful feedback to the bishop and to our diocesan representatives.

We discussed our response to the refugee crisis, our response to discussions at General Synod on sexuality, and we also thought about what we could do to foster communications, especially by reporting local activities to Paul Needle, who is in charge of such things at diocesan level. We heard reports from the SACEP seminar on Migration, and we discussed the question of safeguarding - not just of the young and the vulnerable, but of all church members - new courses are on the way, and new standards being introduced.

We kept abreast of the work of the Swiss Council of Churches, AGCK, of our relations with the Old Catholic Church and its aid agency, of the annual choir festival (see the next report), and of responses to the diocesan Green Review of environment policy.

Our February meeting was attended by the diocesan secretary, Adrian Mumford, who provided a useful presentation of diocesan finances - explaining how our contributions to the dioceses were being ploughed back into work in the chaplaincies - communications and safeguarding were areas of special interest.

The regular reports continued - the SACEP seminar had been on discipleship (our next, on 13 May in Zurich is on interfaith relations in the Holy Land - all are welcome!), we learnt of the agreement between the Old Catholic Churches and the Swedish Lutherans, of a forthcoming booklet on ecumenism within Europe,

which is in several ways different from ecumenism in England, of events in Switzerland to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Luther's 95 Theses. For more details of these, ask any of our synod members, or search the archdeaconry website, www.anglican.ch.

Hector Davie

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2016 at St Ursula's

The traditional annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Berne at St. Ursula's Church over the weekend of 23/24 April 2016. It was attended by 36 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva and Zürich. The music was led by Gordon Appleton (Former RSCM Regional Director) and Mark Jones (former Director of Music at Gresham's School) at the organ.



A choral Evensong on Saturday and a choral Communion Service on Sunday Morning were the highlights of the occasion. On Saturday the choral music included works by W.H. Harris (Holy is the true Light), J. Reading (Preces and Responses); C.V. Stanford (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C); E. Elgar (The Spirit of the Lord). On Sunday the choir sang the Mass in F (set by Ch. Wood) and Cantate Domino (composed by G.O. Pitoni) as an Introit. The Communion Motet by C. Saint-Saens (Panis Angelicus) and the post-communion Anthem by O. Gibbons (Almighty and everlasting God) further enriched the liturgy of the Communion Service. Psalms were sung in both services in the traditional Anglican Chant style.



A great Thank You is extended to all who supported and contributed in many ways to making the Festival a great event. The Catering Team of St. Ursulas' Church spared no effort in making all singers very welcome with excellent food and refreshments.

This Festival is one of the few regular annual occasions where members from the different chaplaincies meet together and join forces in a common

cause: - enriching worship with great and meaningful music.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

CHARITY AND MISSIONS



The task of the Charity and Mission Team is fourfold:

- *To draw up a proposal towards the end of the year for Council on how to allocate these funds*
- *To keep in contact with the organisations we are supporting*
- *To pass on news about the organisations to the congregation through articles in the magazine, displays in the church hall and by direct contact*
- *To help our church family pray faithfully for the people we support with our gifts.*

For many years St Ursula's church has set aside 10% of the pledged giving for charitable and missionary work. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organisations supported in previous years the funds were distributed in 2016 as follows:

List of Payments in 2016

Local	CHF	GBP	
Discretionary (to be used locally by Chaplain)	300.00		
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3,500.00		
Zentrum 5	1,000.00		
AKiB Passantenhilfe (Seev Levi)	1,000.00		

Regional	CHF	GBP	
Family Life Mission (Wołochowicz)	1,000.00		Last payment
Contingency for refugees Middle East	1,000.00		
Train a Priest	500	400	
International			
Church Mission Society	1,800.00	1,350	For Argentina
Us - United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1,800.00	1,350	For Bangladesh
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Ramallah School)	1,000.00	700	
Bishop's Advent Appeal (Church Growth St John's , Casablanca)	1,000.00	700	
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2,000.00		
Child Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	1,500.00		
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	2,000.00		
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	1,600.00		
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	1,600.00		
Total	22,600.00		

The Charity team tries to maintain a balance between local, regional and international projects and keep in touch with the recipients. We have been supporting most of our projects for a number of years. This year we put aside CHF 1000 to be dedicated towards a project for Middle East refugees which is still to be nominated. Our funding for the CMS goes specifically to CMS mission Partners, Andrew & Maria Leake in North Argentina and for 'USPG' our support goes to the Connect Church partner program helping provide healthcare in rural communities in Jobarpar, Bangladesh. We made the decision that this would be the last payment to the Family Life Mission in Poland.

Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events and are not shown in the above table. These can be found in the treasurer's AGM report.

The Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund is faithfully supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of helpers who have organised various fundraising events at St Ursula's such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup Lunch, the Lent Soup Lunch and concerts/events throughout the past year.



The Junior Church continues to support the Tear Fund Schweiz Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda. Proceeds from our, as ever lively, Harvest Festival auction, the Christmas service collections and the Junior Church collections go to this project. In December the Christmas Crafts and Cookie Workshop initiated by Ruby Wildhaber raised over CHF 400 for the TearFund project!

Recently on 26 February 2017 we had our yearly Missions Sunday service. The Charity and Missions team's aim is to present the charities and missions we support at St Ursula's and to pray and give thanks for these. This year we had a special focus on The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) in Salt, Jordan. We were privileged to have a guest speaker with first hand experience with the HLID, Gerhardt Tschanz, who came with his wife, Evelyne. Our Missions Sunday service took place in our now established pattern but this year our Missions Sunday worship was enriched by the special participation of the Junior church children and youth who together with their teachers/leader had prepared on 3 Sundays in advance for a presentation on the beamer on Jordan as well as for the intercessions and the reading. Our speaker gave an interesting talk and demonstration for the children as well as a talk during the sermon slot. The service was followed by a well-attended Pot Luck meal with a happy time of fellowship and sharing and a very inspiring talk and presentation by Gerhardt Tschanz about how he became involved in the work of the HLID and the setting up a HLID 'Creative Baking' Workshop.

We do thank our church family for its continuing support in the past year. We encourage all of you to keep the institutions we support in your prayers. Please check the board in the church hall for our charity focus displays and information about other charities and missions. As well we have our regular charity and missions focus article in the magazine.

The Charity and Mission Team:

Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Esther Hutchison, Cecily Klingler, Pieter Perrett, Mark Pogson, Chaplain or locum

Contact person: Cecily Klingler, 031 302 48 59 or cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

Cecily Klinger

INFORMATION ABOUT ST URSULA'S CHURCH

St Ursula's 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 Company. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as an offering of thanks 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 and then extended (thanks to a windfall grant from the Canton of Berne) in 1992. 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 of how to join the Electoral Roll can be obtained from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

Current Members of the Church Council

Churchwardens:

Maxine Wildhaber	076 349 40 42
Isabelle Wienand	026 321 58 14

Lay Members:

Tricia Carrick	031 535 53 28
Hector Davie	031 971 27 71
John Eze	079 489 58 46
Donna Goepfert	031 931 27 42
Hans Goepfert	031 931 27 42
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88
Richard King	076 628 60 03
Tony Read	033 243 34 32
Edi Wildhaber	079 460 61 15

