

NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 09

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Message from our Chaplain

In Luke 12:16-21 Jesus tells the parable of the rich man who built more and more barns to store his harvest. The parable is apt today. Milk quotas are on the EU agenda again; the Swiss government is advising us to have a stock of food at home in case of swine flu; the credit crunch is the result of banks holding on to money instead of lending it sensibly.

The parable invites us to consider the choices we make about our possessions. By hoarding, do we show a lack of confidence in God's wish to provide for our needs? What are our attitudes towards "now", "the future" and "eternity"?

These are questions about *stewardship*. In its Christian context, the idea of stewardship tells us that we are not owners of what we have. Our possessions (which include our time, talents and money) are gifts from God and we only have them for a time. A steward has to give an account of the use he has made of the goods entrusted to him. Later on (Luke 19:12-27), we learn that hoarding (putting money in a hole in the ground) is not good stewardship. Money, said the English philosopher Francis Bacon, is like manure: it only does good if you spread it about.

As stewards of our possessions, the account we will have to give to God is how we used them to further his Kingdom. And, because the Church is the instrument of God's Kingdom on earth, we shall have to give an account of how we enabled the Church to witness to the Kingdom and to put its values into practice. In short, as Christians our stewardship requires us to give of our time, talents and money for the work of the Church.

The Church needs money to pay its bills (see the Treasurer's article in last month's magazine) but it also needs money to expand its work or to do its current tasks better. The current questionnaire will no doubt produce a crop of ideas and dreams about what we could do. These will need resources if the crop is to produce a real harvest.

Pray, then, that this year's pledge appeal will produce a good crop and labourers ready to go into the harvest.

Peter

***Calendar of Services
for
October 2009***



- Oct 4** **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Genesis 2:18 – 24
Hebrews 1: 1 – 4, 2: 5 – 12
Mark 10: 2 – 16
- Oct 11** **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.30 **Holy Communion (said)**
10.00 **Informal Eucharist**
Amos 5: 6, 7, 10 – 15
Hebrews 4: 12 – end
Mark 10: 17 – 31
- Oct 15** **Thun Eucharist**
- Oct 18** **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Isaiah 35: 3 - 6
2 Timothy 4: 5 – 17
Luke 10: 1 – 9
- Oct 25** **Harvest and Pledge Sunday**
(Last Sunday after Trinity)
8.30 **Holy Communion (said)**
10.00 **All-Age Eucharist**
Joel 2: 21 - 27
1 Timothy 6: 6 – 10
Matthew 6: 25 – 33

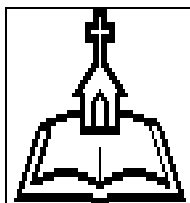
Please note that not all the readings appointed for a particular Sunday will necessarily be used.



Rotas for October 2009

READERS

- 4 J Wong+Y Chittazhathu
- 11 P Jayaraj+E Pfyffer
- 18 B Winfield+C Hodler
- 25 P Jayaraj+S Higson



INTERCESSIONS

- 4 S Faillettaz
- 11 B Morgan
- 18 E Hutchison
- 25 J Wenger

SIDESPERSONS

- 4 S Faillettaz
- 11 H Davie
- 18 B Winfield
- 25 S Higson



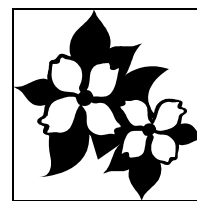
COFFEE & TEA

- 4 Köniz Group
- 11 J Wehrli+J Wong
- 18 R Fenner+C Eggler
- 25 J Chisholm+S Berger

FLOWERS

- 4 E Eigner
- 11 V Hawker
- 18 M Wittwer

27 Harvest Festival - Y Bomonti, J Josi



If you would like to donate flowers for a special reason during the coming month, please contact Yojena Chittazhathu at ☎031 859 64 12 or the church office.

SERVER

- 4 D Goepfert
- 11 A Thomas
- 18 L Robb
- 25 M Wildhaber



CHALICE ASSISTANTS

- 4 A Funkhouser + HELP
- 11 E Hutchison + K Chittazhathu
- 18 H Davie + J Wenger
- 25 B Morgan + R Freiburghaus



DUTY COUNCIL MEMBER

- 4 E Hutchison
- 11 J Eze
- 18 T Read
- 25 T Carrick

AUDIO

- 4 E Wildhaber
- 11 A Tomczak
- 18 H Wenger
- 25 W Bisig

Whose body is it anyway?

“Do as you please” is a theme for “modern” times. We live in an age where nearly anything goes. Not everything, for each generation draws a line somewhere between what is acceptable and what is unacceptable. Nobody today would turn a hair today at a widow marrying her dead husband's brother or a woman being elected to parliament, unheard of in nineteenth century Britain, but nobody a hundred years ago would have turned a hair at smoking in a café or teachers caning disobedient children. Nevertheless we think of ourselves as free, and cherish the gift of freedom.

Freedom is part of the Christian message. Jesus came to set us free – free from the slavery of sin, free from the slavery of the old law which had been given to Moses. No longer would an injured person call for vengeance, eye for eye and tooth for tooth. No longer would a simple act of kindness – cooking a meal for a starving stranger on a Saturday, handing a cup of water to a leper – be an action that no “righteous” person would do. Righteousness now came from trust in God, in acting as God would act. And because God is love, righteousness meant showing love: loving God with heart, mind, soul and strength, and loving our neighbour as we love ourself.

St Augustine summarized the freedom of the Gospel in the pithy sentence “Love, and do what you will” (it sounds even pithier in Latin: *ama et quod vis fac.*) But there have always been misguided people who have forgotten the first word, and assumed that they can do whatever they please.

No society could work this way, and a sensible non-Christian might put it more reasonably, by saying that we can do as we like, as long as we don't harm anyone else. Sometimes, to meet reason with reason, it is possible to debate what “harming someone else” means. Is an unborn child “someone else” or merely a part of its mother's body? Is assisted suicide “harmful” if the person asks for our help in achieving their death?

Doing no harm is a long way from loving, though. And we are called to love not only our neighbours but ourselves as well. If our neighbours have worth in God's sight, they should also have worth in our own estimation.

This is why Christians and humanists have difficulty understanding each other's viewpoint. We will have different responses to the suicide who believes life is “not worth living”. We will have different responses to the parents who believe their unborn child is “not worth having”. We will have different responses to the couple who believe their relationship is “not worth preserving”. And we will look differently at the consequences of people's actions: is drug-addiction merely anti-social: an encouragement to dealers and a drain on the health services, or does it reduce the addict's openness to

God's power and goodness? If we wish to end our life, is it enough just to make sure we are unlikely to change our mind, or should we consider how others will be affected by our death?

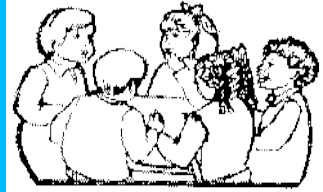
Although we all know where babies come from, Christians share the additional belief that God “formed us in our mother's womb” - we belong to God. This belief is why there is such an intense dislike of eugenics, and an almost irrational distrust of stem-cell research. We do not want to breed *Übermenschen*, and as Christians, we should not “play God” in deciding that a baby likely to be born handicapped should not be allowed to live – for if blindness, or Down's syndrome, or muscular dystrophy is a handicap, who is to say that left-handedness, or a predisposition to criticize the government, are not handicaps too? Because we all belong to God, we all have value and we all deserve to be valued. And this is why we should all value our neighbours, not simply avoiding harming them, but actively seeking their good.

This is true of ourselves too. Not only should we seek the good of others, but at the same time, we should seek what is good for ourselves – what is good for our spiritual well-being, though. Those deadly sins – getting rich, living luxuriously, showing we are better than others, getting our own way, living for food or for sexual gratification, living in an idle dream world may seem attractive, but if these become our goals in life, they will enslave us and spell death to our chances of growing in God's liberating image.

We pray “your will be done”, and our pleasure should be in doing God's will. We need to constantly see God in others, and also to see God at work in ourselves. If we truly see our neighbours as individuals to be respected and cherished, then, and only then, will we be able to “do as we please”, and only then will God's will be done.

-Hector Davie -

JUNIOR CHURCH



If you would like more information about the Junior Church, please contact one of the people listed on the Ministry Team page at the back of the magazine, or refer to our website www.anglican.ch/berne

NURSERY ROTA OCTOBER

6 Cecily Klingler & Jerusha Viggiswarapu
11 Chloë Hodler & Sarah Bouldin
18 Lynn Robb & Belinda Aréstegui
25 Rebecca Eze & Maxine Wildhaber

Laughlines

The new vicar was a bit of an efficiency expert, whose obsession was to move around the hymn books, the notice-sheets, the magazines, the guides, and most of the other portable things in his church, in search of the perfect place. From porch to display stand to table to vestry to side chapel – round and round various things went, week by week. After several months, a visitor approached a harassed churchwarden before church one morning, and asked if he could tell her where the copies of the church guides were kept. “No, I’m sorry, he said wearily. “But if you just stand here a while, I’m sure you’ll see them go by!

+++++

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. “Mum, look what I found,” the boy called out.

“What have you got there, dear?”

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, “I think it's Adam's underwear!”

**Congratulations
to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays
in October**

Flynn Hodler
2
on 25th
October

John Gusset
10
on 3rd October

Darcy Wildhaber
12
on 1st October

Denisha Sathiyaraj
9
on 6th October

Matthew Batley
9
on 10th
October

Gemma Masciadri
11
on 20th
October

Leo Eigner
15
on 4th October

Benjamin Giulini
7
on 30th
October

Jannis Philipp
6
on 7th October

For Your Diary

Regular weekly events

Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice

Other events

Friday 9	19.00 – 21.00	Youth Group
Sunday 11		COPY DATE
Friday 16	19.00 – 21.00	Youth Group
Saturday 17	10.00 – 13.00	Second hand Children's Toy and Equipment Sale
Sunday 18	10.00 – 11.30	Youth Group
	10.00 – 11.30	Confirmation Class
Monday 19	09.00 – 11.00	Christmas Cake Baking
Thursday 22	09.00 – 11.00	Magazine Collating
Friday 23	19.00 – 20.00	Youth Leaders' Meeting
Sunday 25		Harvest & Pledge Sunday followed by Auction of Harvest Offerings for Tear Fund
Tuesday 27	19.00 – 21.00	Junior Church Teachers' Fellowship
Friday 30	19.00 – 21.00	Confirmation Class
	19.00 – 21.00	Youth Parents' Meeting

Future dates

Wednesday 4 November	11.30 – 13.30	Pumpkin Soup Lunch for Cecily's Fund
Friday 6 November		Study Course starts
Saturday 7 November		“Nacht der Religionen”
Sunday 8 November		All Souls and Remembrance Sunday
Friday 27 November	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 28 November	10.00 – 15.00	Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday 15 December	19.00	Biel Carol Service
Wednesday 16 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service
Thursday 17 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service



DON'T FORGET

**to put your clocks back
Saturday night 24 October 2009**

COPY DATE !!!

for the November issue is 11 October

COLLATING DATE

22 October 2009

English Church Services and Housegroup in Thun

Thun church group normally meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. But this month, because of holidays, only on 15 October.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Services are held at the "Pavilion" of the Reformierte Kirchgemeindehaus in Bubenbergrasse, Thun.

For more information please contact Sharon Bachmann 033 336 93 78.

* * * * *

Lunch Invitation

We would like to invite you to our

Traditional Soup Lunch in aid of Cecily's Fund

At: St Ursula's

Date: Wednesday 4 November 2009

Time: from 11.30 to 13.30

Please join us for an informal lunch of delicious homemade pumpkin, vegetable, or gluten-free soup and good company! We will provide soup, bread, tea and coffee. If you would like to bring some cake or cookies to share they would be most welcome.

There will be a basket for voluntary donations which will go to Cecily's Fund to support their work providing education for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia.

www.cecilysfund.org

Cecily's Fund is registered charity no. 1071660

Christmas Bazaar

Friday 27 November 17.00 to 19.30

&

Saturday 28 November 10.00 to 15.00

British food

Cards and gifts

Quilts and patchwork

Bric à Brac

Christian books

Toys

Christmas cakes

Second hand books

Raffle

Bottle Stall

Restaurant

Helpers are still needed!

for many of the above

and to join the **Manpower** or **Womanpower** team

to set up on Thursday evening and clear away on Saturday afternoon.

If you can help, please contact:

Lynn Robb lynn_robby@yahoo.com) or

Maxine Wildhaber maxine.wildhaber@cultuzz.com

or the Church Office berne@anglican.ch

Help make this year's bazaar really special!

BAZAAR RESTAURANT

We need help in the restaurant again this year! If you would like to help in the restaurant either on the Friday evening or on the Saturday please contact Sharon Bachmann by email sha1977@quicknet.ch or on 078 885 4632.

Yvonne Bomonti and I are organising the restaurant this year and we need help with cooking and baking before the bazaar. We need you to make chilli con carne (any recipe), soup, cakes, scones and mince pies. These can all be made beforehand and frozen in the church freezer.

To offer help or for more information please contact Sharon using the above email address or phone number.

Many thanks to you all for the help you have given in the past and for the help I know you will give again this year!!

Sharon



Christmas Bazaar Cake Workshop



We are having a **Christmas Cake Workshop** on **Monday 19 October beginning at 9.00**. We would like to make mince pies also. We hope as many of you as possible can come along. We shall be making Christmas cakes of all sizes

and we need people to help make the cakes, line the cake tins and perhaps to take some cakes with them to bake at home. All ingredients for this workshop are donated but **please** bring a cake tin or two, only small ones. We are also looking for people to ice the cakes at a later date.



For more information please contact Wendy Astor 031 302 02 14

* * * * *

Weekend Away 2009

Around 70 people of all ages enjoyed some time away with the church family over the weekend of 4 – 6 September. Of course, not all could come for the whole time but everyone was welcome whenever they were there. We were staying in a great place in Aeschi and had glorious weather.

The adults appreciated the study sessions led by Peter and Shareene, so did the children whose sessions were organised by Isabel and Tina. Everyone enjoyed the food and the free times. We all had fun learning, working and playing together. There are photos on our website if you'd like to have a look. Many thanks to the organisers: Jennifer, Esther and Stefan.

Getting Involved

In October, we make our annual pledge appeal. We ask you to help to support St Ursula's in a practical way. We not only want your prayers, but also your help with our worship, with our fellowship, with maintaining our presence here in Berne. All of us have talents, and all of us can play a part in the life of the church. We don't have to lead worship, we don't have to wash up after coffee, we don't even have to make an effort to talk to newcomers, though as Christians we welcome all our neighbours. Could you lead – or just help to lead – Junior Church? Could you become our environment officer – or just be part of an environment team? You might even have a talent for a job nobody has formulated yet – I have just read an article suggesting that every church should have a Church Photographer: could it be you?

One form of involvement open to nearly everyone is by supporting the church financially. Maintaining our ministry costs money. The budget which will accompany the pledge appeal shows that we need almost Fr300'000 just to cover our expenditure in 2010 – over Fr810 a day. With more, we could strike out and grow in new ways.

The Fr810 simply enables us to maintain our current presence and activities. We hope to raise a third of this through events and activities, but the other two thirds must come from your generosity. 129 people could give Fr129 a month, or 50 people could give Fr300 and a further 60 could give Fr25. We all have different incomes and different priorities.

Some of our activities allow donors to qualify for tax relief, and we have created the “St Ursula's Charitable Association” to allow you to give in a tax effective way (though it would be difficult for us if more than half our income came via the Association). It is also possible if you have sufficient UK taxed income to donate via Gift Aid, or under certain circumstances to claim US tax relief – the Treasurer has details.

No matter how much or how little you can give, the whole church is grateful for your involvement and support. Telling us in advance helps us to budget effectively for our activities, and to bring nearer the day when money – and the need for it – is no more!

The Treasurer

NEWS FROM NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1, Neuchâtel

Regular Services: 2nd and last Sunday of each month at 5 pm

2nd Sunday : Family Communion Service

Last Sunday : Communion service (During the sermon and liturgy, children leave to follow their own programme in Junior Church.)

Minister in charge: **The Rev. Roy Farrar** Tel : 032 730 51 83

Chemin du Chasselas 11

2012 AUVERNIER

www.neuchatelchurch.ch

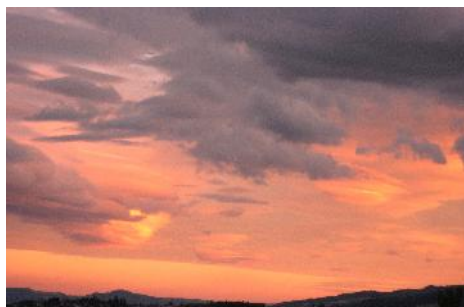
HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th at 5 pm

Our harvest gifts become ever more diversified and exciting each year extending far beyond the traditional fruit, vegetables, jams, wines, etc. Italian spaghetti, Cadbury's bars, mega-salamis, to name but a few. All is auctioned after the service and proceeds donated directly to Beryl Baker for her amazing work among the Indians in the Chaco region of Paraguay. Do come and join in the fun, and stay afterwards to a cheese and wine supper organised by the committee.

From Roy and Mieke

Last month I was thinking about the future life of our church in Neuchâtel and wondering what a future traveller might find here in a few years time.



But this month I have been surprised by joy by **ALL** that the Lord has been doing amongst us as a church.

The picture of the sky above Auvernier, which is so full of energy and movement, reminds me of the activity of the Lord amongst us.

There have been individual lives touched by the Holy Spirit in very deep and moving ways.

The Church Picnic at the end of August was a time of great celebration and great fun, especially for the kids and the poor innocent passers by who experienced the monkey story.



The discussion group 'Debate at Eight' has opened up a new way to explore our faith and the comments from the first group at the Alpha course about being the best approach since 'sliced bread' suggest that there is such energy and excitement in the church at this stage.

These events are all full expressions of being church, just as much as a service on a Sunday.

Our prayer is that this will continue as we grow and explore even more exciting ways of bringing the good news of the Kingdom to those around us.

Echos of the Church Council meeting held on September 9th

For some time, the council has been aware of the difficulties inherent to a service at 5pm for families with young children. As, for the present, we are fortunate in having a resident minister, we are seriously investigating the possibility of having one service a month at 10am. Junior Church would be organised during this service. If everything can be arranged with the other churches using the premises, we hope to ring in the changes with the new year. **Watch this space!!!!!!**

To conform to the new Diocesan Child Protection policy, a document has been drawn up similar to that now in use at St Ursula's, Berne, which we were kindly permitted to use as a model. A Child Protection Officer will be elected to serve for a maximum of 3 years. Teachers and helpers are required to submit to the necessary checks and two people are always required to be present during the class. As the Junior Church team is still so small, a member of the congregation may often be asked to volunteer to accompany the children once in a while.



Relationships, Not Programs: The Makings of a Relational Youth Ministry

Being a good youth worker isn't about being "cool", listening to popular music, watching the latest funny video clip on YouTube*, and sharing life with the world (or the world wide web) via a Facebook** profile. All of these things are part of what I personally do to be a good youth worker, but I have a good reason why.

Youth ministry is all about relationships. Young people are looking for adults who will be involved in their lives on a personal level to help them grow in their faith and navigate this confusing world. The ministry is not based on programs but on relationships in which both adult leaders and youth can grow closer to God and closer to each other.

We do, of course, have programs, and they include not only a time for spiritual encouragement but also time to share our hearts and enjoy life and laughter together. Ultimately, as a youth ministry (and as a church) we want to encourage young people to grow spiritually and personally as they connect with God and discover their identity. We pray and worship together, study the Bible to learn the truth that should define our lives, and reach out by loving both each other and the world.

I don't entertain or babysit young people, and I'm constantly challenging them. I dream of a youth ministry where on a Friday night, I can watch with pride as the young people themselves lead worship, share testimonies, decorate the room, set up a snack, organize games, give announcements, and pray for each other. We're already taking baby steps in that direction.

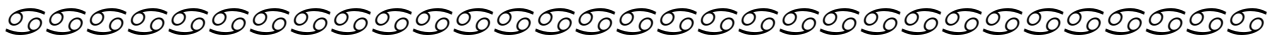
The youth ministry at St Ursula's is still in its forming stage, so I'm focusing on finding God's vision of where we should go and working on getting us there. It will take time and hard work to build a community where young people can feel welcomed and accepted as well as challenged and encouraged to grow, serve, and become more like Jesus. However, I believe with all my heart that a relational youth ministry, where adults can walk alongside youth on their faith journey and where youth can meet God and step out in faith, is worth every sacrifice that must be made.

Therefore, when I post on Facebook a note of what God is teaching me, I do it with the hope that one of my youth will find encouragement in my words. When I view the latest video on YouTube, I'm analyzing the message behind it and trying to figure out if I could use it for a youth group teaching. When I'm listening to the new hit single, I'm thinking about how I could talk to one of the youth about the lyrics. I'm not so concerned about *doing* youth ministry. First I want to *be* in youth ministry. I am privileged to be part of the lives of a dozen teenagers, as their youth worker, and, I hope, as their friend.

*YouTube is a popular video sharing website where people can upload and view video clips.

**Facebook is a social networking website that allows people to post personal information, photos, notes, and videos.

- Tina Lutz –



Young People's Confirmation Class

By the time you read this, the first meeting will have taken place – on Friday 18 September. The next meetings are planned for Sunday 18 October and Friday 30 October.

The group will meet on Friday evenings, once a month, during the youth group time and also on Sunday mornings, approximately twice a month, during the morning worship.

Please continue to pray for the young people starting out on this new stage of their Christian journey and for their families and the leaders of the group. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact the chaplain or Tricia Carrick.

Confirmation for Adults

There will also be an opportunity for adults to be confirmed at St Ursula's in the summer next year. Classes will start in January. If you are interested please contact the chaplain.



Tea-time News from the Pastoral Group

We hope those who came to our Afternoon Tea in June enjoyed it. Are you ready for another? The Pastoral Care Team plan to host a similar event on 16 January, 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. in the hall. There will be refreshments and a brainteaser (if you fancy having a go at it). Absolutely everyone will be welcome.

There is always a catch We would be very grateful if some of you could offer lifts and/or bake a cake or scones etc. Please let me know if you hope to attend and/or can help in these ways.

Shareene Potter, Tel: 031 351 03 43

In October 2009 our Charity and Missions focus is Tearfund Schweiz

St Ursula's has supported Tearfund, a Christian relief and development charity, for many years. St Ursula's gives financially through the Junior Church collections, the Harvest Festival collections and occasionally from special efforts. This support goes towards the TearFund Education program for schools in South Sudan. As well as financial support, some members of our congregation have been working closely with the Tearfund team in Zürich providing concrete results. Vanessa Wenger will be spending 6 months volunteering in an 'Across' project (supported by TearFund) in southern Sudan. In June we had a visit and talk from Revd. Reuben Mbaguta, a member of a delegation visiting Switzerland under the sponsorship of TearFund Switzerland. The delegation is part of a project 'Water Changes Life' to provide clean water for the Kigezi area of south-west Uganda.

How does TearFund work?

Integrating the dimension of faith, empowering women and children, fighting HIV/Aids and promoting peace and human rights as well as caring for and maintaining the natural environment are cross-cutting aspects in all of TearFund's projects.

1. By working together for development

- The projects are designed with the main principle of helping people to help themselves.
- The project work concentrates on 3 main areas i.e. education, community health and livelihood support.
- Tearfund does not plan or implement its own projects but works together with competent partner organisations. TearFund supports such organisations and assists them to achieve a high level of expertise.
- TearFund encourages partner organisations to work together with local church communities of various denominations where possible

2. Emergency aid and rehabilitation

- TearFund coordinates, and is responsible for, relief and rehabilitation projects in collaboration with INTEGRAL, an international umbrella organisation of Christian relief and development agencies.
- The operational management of such projects is in the hands of local and international experts of Christian partner organisations.
- TearFund adheres here to the Sphere Standards and the code of conduct laid down by the Red Cross.

3. Raising awareness and spreading information

- TearFund promotes the social responsibilities of Christians encouraging them to stand up on behalf of deprived people in third world countries.
- TearFund makes it a high priority to encourage people to pray for deprived and oppressed people and for a transformation of political and

economical structures.

- Publishing information about the unjust distribution of wealth between north and south and the unacceptable divide between rich and poor that still predominates in many countries.
- TearFund sees its role as an organisation speaking on behalf of deprived people in third world countries. Along with like minded agencies and the campaign STOP ARMUT 2015 (see www.stoparmut.ch) we are sensitising political decision makers to the issues affecting people living in poverty.
- TearFund is leading the way to a sustainable and ecologically acceptable development for all mankind. Through Teartrade.ch it advertises for fair trade and a lifestyle in solidarity.

You can find more information on TearFund on the charity notice board in the church hall or on www.tearfund.ch

What can we actively do at St Ursulas?

1 TearFund Afrika-Lauf 2009 Für benachteiligte Menschen (for disadvantaged people) in Uganda in Münsingen on October 24. Why don't you consider participating in or sponsoring this event! More information on www.tearfund.ch or see flyers in the church hall.

2 Postcard Action 'Praying and Acting'. This is part of the 'Stop Armut 2015' campaign (as part of the global Micah Challenge) that all people should have access to water and sanitation. If you have not already done so you still have a chance to **sign the**



postcard petition to Bundesrat Hans-Rudolf Merz. The deadline has been extended to **Oct 19**. Postcards are in the church hall.

3 PRAY!

- Pray for Vanessa Wenger who leaves on Oct 5 for a 6 month period of volunteering with the Across organisation (supported by TearFund Schweiz) in South Sudan. Pray for her placement in a village and for the work she is called to do there, for her protection, safety and health throughout her stay and that she will be richly blessed as she serves the Lord in Sudan.
- Give thanks for Gerhardt Bärtschi and his years of service as CEO of TearFund Schweiz and pray for wisdom and vision for Johannes Günthardt as he begins his term as new CEO.
- Pray for the all organisations and projects which TearFund Schweiz supports, especially for the work of the 'Across' Education Project for schools in South Sudan and protection of all the workers involved.
- Pray that we at St Ursula's are faithful in our support of TearFund, both financially and in prayer.

On behalf of the Charity and Missions Team, Cecily Klingler

Church Council Report

There were 24 items on the agenda for the council meeting held on Tuesday 1 September. We agreed to handle 5 of them by email after the meeting and, thanks to the diligent preparation of all members, we managed to complete the rest by 22.00.

One major topic of this meeting was the financial situation which is worrying since there is currently a deficit and that is unlikely to change before the end of the year. The main problem is that pledge income is significantly lower than budgeted. Council asks you to pray about this.

The financial theme continued with consideration of the draft budget for 2010. A realistic budget has a significant deficit which council thought undesirable. Some budgeted expenses could be reduced if members of the congregation do more to help in the garden and with cleaning and maintenance. Standing Committee will look at the budget in detail and prepare a final version to be approved by council for sending out with the pledge appeal.

No major building work is planned in the near future, but some small repairs (e.g. to the ceiling tiles in the hall) are needed, as is work in the garden in the autumn – a work day will be organised again.

Tina reported on Youth Work – see separate report in this magazine.

The welcome cards have been very successful, lots of information has been gathered: council agreed to remove the hymn books from the backs of the chairs and make them available on shelves at the back of the church for those who want them. This will give space for the welcome cards in the chair backs.

Progress is being made with the questionnaire: a group of test people had tried it out on-line and given feedback. It will be available for the congregation soon.

The book table has sold very few books for a number of years, so council agreed to reduce the stock and concentrate on Bibles, children's books and occasional seasonal material. Changing the use of the book table may also give an opportunity to improve the way we present other information.

Child protection is an important issue and we must ensure that our children, and also the adults working with them, are protected as completely as possible. This should be the case for all chaplaincies in the archdeaconry, so the topic will be raised at the next archdeaconry meeting.

The final item discussed was the care of our premises, in particular the way we clear up. Everyone, not just council members, needs to make sure that the rooms are left in a good state – toys, books etc put away, washing up done, surfaces and floors clean, rubbish disposed of correctly etc.

Because of holidays and other absences, there will not be a council meeting in October – so the next one is on Tuesday 3 November.

If you would like more information about this meeting, or about any other aspect of council, please contact a council member.

- Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary) -

Chaplain's Notes

Prayers for healing

Our next service with prayers for healing will be on Sunday 18 October. This is also the Feast of St Luke, "the good physician". The collect for his feast asks that we may receive "the wholesome medicine of the gospel". As always, there will be a time for you to come forward to ask for prayer, either for yourself or for someone known to you.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Our harvest service this year is on 25 October and we shall be focussing on the theme of water. We are following up Father Joshua's memorable presentation on this theme in June. There is also a Tearfund *Afrika Lauf* the day before in Münsingen and some of our young people plan to take part.

Harvest Thanksgiving is also the occasion when you can bring your Pledge envelopes back to church for dedication in the service.

7 November: Nacht der Religionen

We shall be taking part in this event again this year. We shall be joining with the Old Catholics and the Lutherans with a programme at St Peter and Paul's Church. Most of the details of the evening are being organised by the Old Catholics but the final item will be Night Prayer in the Iona tradition (in English). Help will be needed in stewarding and providing refreshments. Look out for more details nearer the time.

"These three"- New Study Course

In response to requests for a study course to follow our successful Lent course, we shall be starting a series on 1 Corinthians 13 next month. The five sessions are:

Believing and trusting

The Peace of God

Faith into Love

The Greatest of these

All shall be well

Please note the dates of the sessions on the flyer included with this magazine. As we need to order materials, please make sure you return the reply slip promptly if you wish to take part.

So what are vicars, chaplains, and the rest?

Unlike deacon, priest and bishop (see last month's magazine), these are all job titles. Becoming a priest at ordination is a bit like becoming a husband (or wife) or parent. It is, quite literally, a life-changing event. But once the change has happened, there are jobs to be done.

Clergy minister in a variety of situations. All clergy who work in a parish are technically a *curate*, that is someone who has the "cure" (or care) of the souls living in the parish. Nowadays, however, the word curate almost always means someone who is an assistant to the incumbent. The latter is the general term for someone in charge of a parish and it covers *vicars*, *rectors* and *priests in charge*. These all do the same job and the difference between them is historical, relating to the way they used to be paid. The Scottish Episcopal Church does not have vicars (again for historical reasons) and in the American Episcopal Church a vicar is a junior member of a clergy team in a parish.

By the way, clergy are not paid a wage or salary in return for working a specific number of hours but a stipend, that is a sum of money that enables them to give their time to ministry without needing to find other employment.

Clergy who are on the staff of a cathedral are known as *canons* and the senior member of staff is the *dean*. There are also honorary canons, a title given by the bishop to senior clergy who have served the diocese in some special way. An *archdeacon* is an ancient office in the Church. In spite of the name, archdeacons are priests who assist the bishop in the administration of the diocese. In particular, their job is to be the bishop's eyes and ears in their part of the diocese and have a duty "to bring to the bishop's attention what calls for correction or merits praise". Archdeacons are also traditionally supposed to "see to the drains" - that is making sure that church property and buildings are kept in good order.

Some clergy minister to people in a particular situation – at work, in hospital, the armed forces or in prison for example. They are called *chaplains*. Clergy in the Diocese in Europe were originally called chaplains for the same reason although nowadays their job is often more like that of a parish priest.

PMP

A Word for the Month - Ritual

Jesus and his disciples clearly lived before the age of swine flu. For the Gospels record how the disciples ate bread with unwashed hands – to the disgust of the Pharisees (Mark 7:2). And they report that “all the Jews” do not eat unless they have washed their hands. Sensible Jews and foolish disciples, anyone with a basic knowledge of hygiene would say!

But the point of the story lies in one word that translators struggle to interpret correctly. The Pharisees wash “with the fist”. Whatever this means, they wash in a special way, and they wash this way not simply out of habit, but because it would be wrong to do otherwise.

For the Pharisees, this hand-washing was a ritual. Ritual is a word with a wide range of meanings. For example, some people count sheep while trying to sleep. Children arrange their toys in a special way. “Good manners” mean following the correct ritual. We marvel at the courtship rituals of birds, and recoil at the thought of the Aztecs practising ritual sacrifice. In its origin, ritual is connected to the word rite – a religious ceremony. It is the way the ceremony is performed.

Ritual is not an essential part of the action it signifies. We cannot say that it is impossible for a couple to marry unless the bridegroom puts a ring on the finger of the bride. We cannot say that someone is unburied unless “earth shall be cast on the body by some standing by”.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus why his disciples did not wash in the “correct” ritual way, Jesus met them with the complaint that they had placed “the traditions of the elders” above the commandments of God, and gave other examples of ways “tradition” had allowed God's will to be disregarded. By pronouncing a ritual formula, a son could ignore his duty to take care of his parents. By concentrating on the ritual rather than the substance, the Pharisees were forgetting that real purity did not come from ritual cleanliness, but from the heart.

Jesus was not opposed to ritual as such, nor to tradition as such. It was ritual which had become empty, which actively obscured the meaning behind it. It was tradition that led away from the truth, and not towards it. We find Jesus adopting rituals – spitting on one blind man's eyes (Mark 8:22-25), sending another to wash in the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-7). And we find him calling on his disciples to go and baptize, to eat bread and wine in remembrance of him. We find the apostles anointing the sick in his name.

Unless we see the connection between the “outward and visible sign” and the “inward and spiritual grace”, even the most basic sacraments can degenerate into mere empty ritual. For washing with water does not by itself make us die to sin and rise to new life. Eating bread and drinking wine together does not

by itself bind us into Christ's death and resurrection. Ritual too loses its point if we are not in touch with the meaning behind it, with the reason for it.

Three of our Gospels describe Jesus performing miracles. The Gospel of John describes such events as "signs". Turning water into wine was indeed miraculous. But it was not just miraculous. It was not a conjuring trick, or a bit of magic. It was a sign of the change God was working through the incarnation, just as feeding the five thousand or giving sight to the blind were signs of the new age foreseen by Isaiah (61:1, 35:5). If ritual loses its meaning, it becomes magic mumbo-jumbo, and, like the Pharisees' hand-washing, dangerously misguided.

One person's ritual may differ from another's. Not everyone lifts up their arms in prayer or adoration. Not everyone makes the sign of the cross in recollection of our Lord's saving death, or of the height and depth and width and breadth of God's love for the world. Some groups of Christians process into their meetings and lay a Bible at the front at the beginning of a service, as a sign that God is present through Christ, the living word. Others burn incense to recall how the prayers of God's holy people rise up to heaven. Some ritual can be distracting, and it is sometimes difficult to convince people that an innovation can make our worship more sincere (there are still those who recoil at greeting each other at the Peace, or bringing the Gospel physically into the midst of the congregation!)

Like the "signs" in John's Gospel, like the sacraments of the New Testament, ritual is not just an outward ceremony. It is not just a way to ensure our worship is orderly and runs smoothly and without distraction. Ritual is an expression of a deeper truth, and of our reaction to it. Ritual is our way of focussing and expressing our relationship with God. If it does not fulfil this function, it is human mumbo-jumbo, and not, as it can be, a gateway to Heaven!

- *Hector Davie* -



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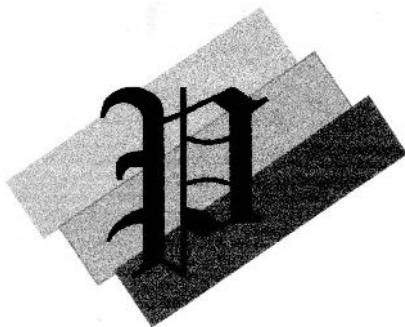
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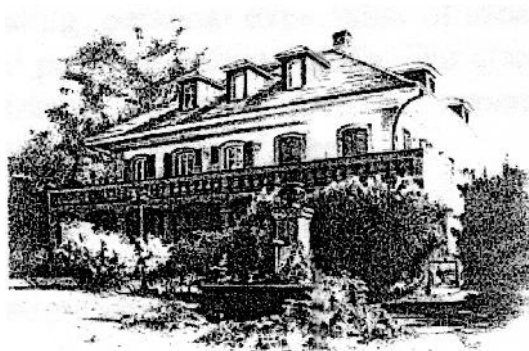
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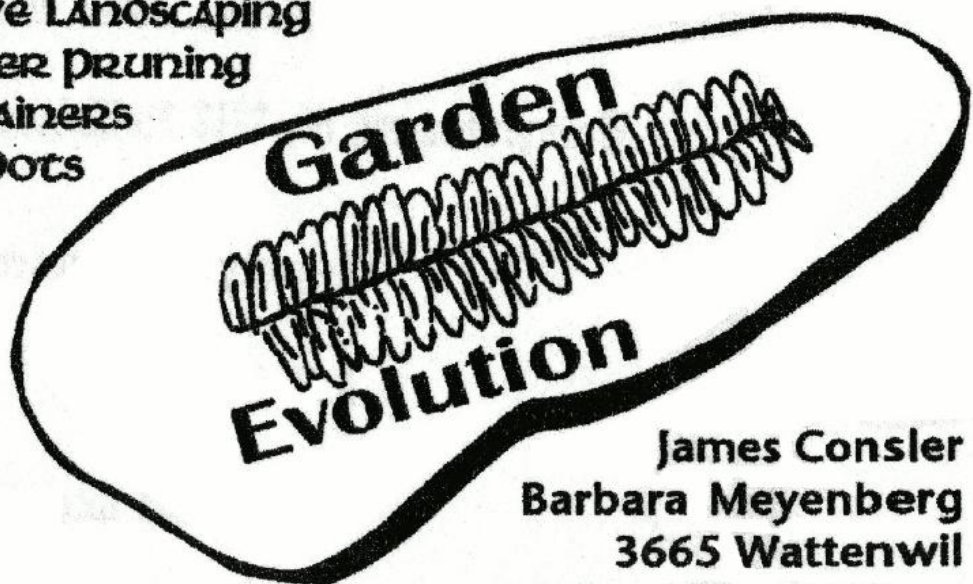
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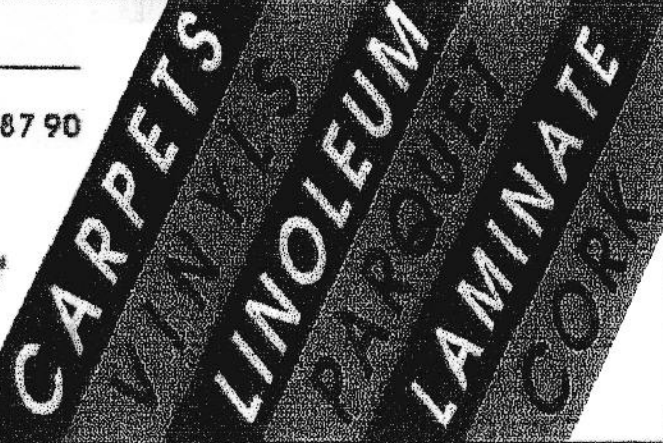
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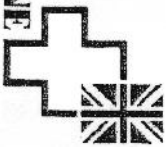
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OCTOBER PRAYER DIARY

1. Thursday Christians working for social reform
2. Friday people in the police service
3. Saturday Lay Readers in the diocese
4. **Sunday** *St Francis* – the animal creation
5. Monday wise stewardship of our resources
6. Tuesday *William Tyndale* – Bible translators
7. Wednesday people working in the tourist industry
8. Thursday old people's homes in the area
9. Friday Confirmation candidates in our chaplaincy
10. Saturday Christian poets and authors
11. **Sunday** people providing voluntary services in our communities
12. Monday public transport in our area
13. Tuesday Christians working in the media
14. Wednesday honorary and assistant chaplains in the diocese
15. Thursday the farming community
16. Friday Christians in sport
17. Saturday couples preparing for Christian marriage
18. **Sunday** *St Luke* – the Church's ministry of healing
19. Monday One World Week
20. Tuesday the Anglican Healing Network
21. Wednesday the Bishop's Staff Meeting
22. Thursday local hospitals
23. Friday the provision of safe water supplies
24. Saturday The United Nations
25. **Sunday** Harvest Thanksgiving
26. Monday mediators and mediation services
27. Tuesday the Iona Community
28. Wednesday *Simon and Jude* – thanksgiving for the apostles
29. Thursday all who suffer for their faith
30. Friday The Swiss Council of Churches (AGCK)
31. Saturday *Martin Luther* – the Church's prophetic ministry