

NEWSLETTER

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Message from our Chaplain

There is a large degree of common ground and overall satisfaction at St Ursula's, as well as a high level of commitment. Those are the key findings of the survey carried out last year.

We now have a lot of information about who we are as a congregation and what we can build on in the future. We are grateful to Hector, Pieter and Isabel (whose place has now been taken by Allison) for their work in processing all the data that came in.

We may be diverse in some ways (with as many as 17 different nationalities represented, speaking several languages) but we have a lot more in common. Approximately two-thirds of us are Anglicans or from other churches with a liturgical tradition; half of us rated traditional hymns as their first preference (and 68 percent said hymns were their first choice of music); over 80 percent expressed a "broad" view of the Bible (i.e. as opposed to a literalist one).

About 70 percent of you said you were happy or satisfied with such features of St Ursula's as prayer, teaching, worship and pastoral care. A similar majority of parents with children were happy or better with Junior Church. Welcome even got a 100 percent rating!

There will be a chance to hear more about the results during the AGM (28 March). As you can see, the general picture gives plenty of reason for hope and encouragement. It is also a testimony to the commitment and dedication of many people to St Ursula's.

Needless to say, we must not be self-satisfied (it is Lent after all!). We can, however, now say with greater confidence who we are and what we stand for. St Ursula's welcomes all who come to join us and we are the only such church in Berne that offers liturgical worship in English. We need to make sure we can all cooperate in doing that well. The point is, when we tell other people about St Ursula's, we now have a clear and distinctive message that is backed by the congregation as a whole.

Added to that are the other positive points that our survey has identified. All this gives us a good foundation on which to build and to grow. Work and pray that it happens.

Peter

Calendar of Services
for
March 2010



- Mar. 4** **19.30** **Thun Eucharist**
- Mar. 7** **Third Sunday of Lent**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Isaiah 55: 1-9
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
Luke 13: 1-9
- Mar. 14** **Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**
8.30 **Holy Communion (said)**
10.00 **Informal Eucharist**
Exodus 2: 1-10
Luke 2: 33-35
- Mar. 18** **19.30** **Thun Eucharist**
- Mar. 21** **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Isaiah 43: 16-21
Philippians 3: 4b-14
John 12: 1-8
- Mar. 28** **Palm Sunday**
8.30 **Holy Communion (said)**
10.00 **Eucharist**
Luke 19: 28-40
Philippians 2: 5-11
Mark 14: 32 – 15: 41



Neuchâtel Services
Sunday 7 March – 10.00
Sunday 21 March – 17.00

Temptation

I was recently refused admittance to the British Library in London. An ancestor had written hymn tunes and other music, and the only known copies were in their vaults. I had an old reader's ticket, but knowing it was long out of date, I took care to take my passport and other evidence of my identity in order to renew it.

The woman who received me could not have been more polite. Yes, a passport and a driving licence were perfectly acceptable, but to prove that I was who I said I was, I needed one document from list A and one from list B. Did I perhaps have evidence of my address? Not a computer printout, but an original bill, perhaps? I explained that I paid my utility bills electronically, that Swiss driving licences no longer bore one's address. The only document on list B that I could possibly have produced was the renewal notice for my house insurance policy, and I had not thought of taking that to London with me! Hence the refusal.

In these security-conscious days, such events are not unusual. Banks have passed beyond asking one's mother's maiden name to prove one's identity – nowadays they may even demand sworn affidavits with a consular seal on them. Catching a plane is no longer a matter of checking one's ticket and getting on the flight. Criminals and terrorists have become experts at impersonation (curiously known in Britain as “identity theft”, which at least hints at the suffering of the person being impersonated).

At first sight, this does not seem to have much to do with the subject of this article, temptation, or with the current season, Lent. Isn't temptation more about luxury chocolates, or erotic encounters, or cheating with our tax forms? The temptations Jesus underwent in the wilderness seem to be of the latter kind – cheating on his fast by turning stones into bread, jumping off a pinnacle to show his miraculous power, gaining authority over people by unscrupulous means.

But in fact the temptations Jesus faced in the desert were not just about doing something he ought not to have done. They were a test to find out if Jesus was really who he said he was. They were an identity test, just as our bank asking us the fourth, sixth and eighth characters of our password, or an airport scanner detecting the Marmite in our hand-luggage, is making sure that we are who we say we are.

When we echo Jesus' prayer “Lead us not into temptation”, we are not simply asking God to preserve us from “occasions for sin” – though that is certainly part of what we are asking. We are also asking to avoid the searching and probing that we would need to undergo if God needed to prove we are what we say we are.

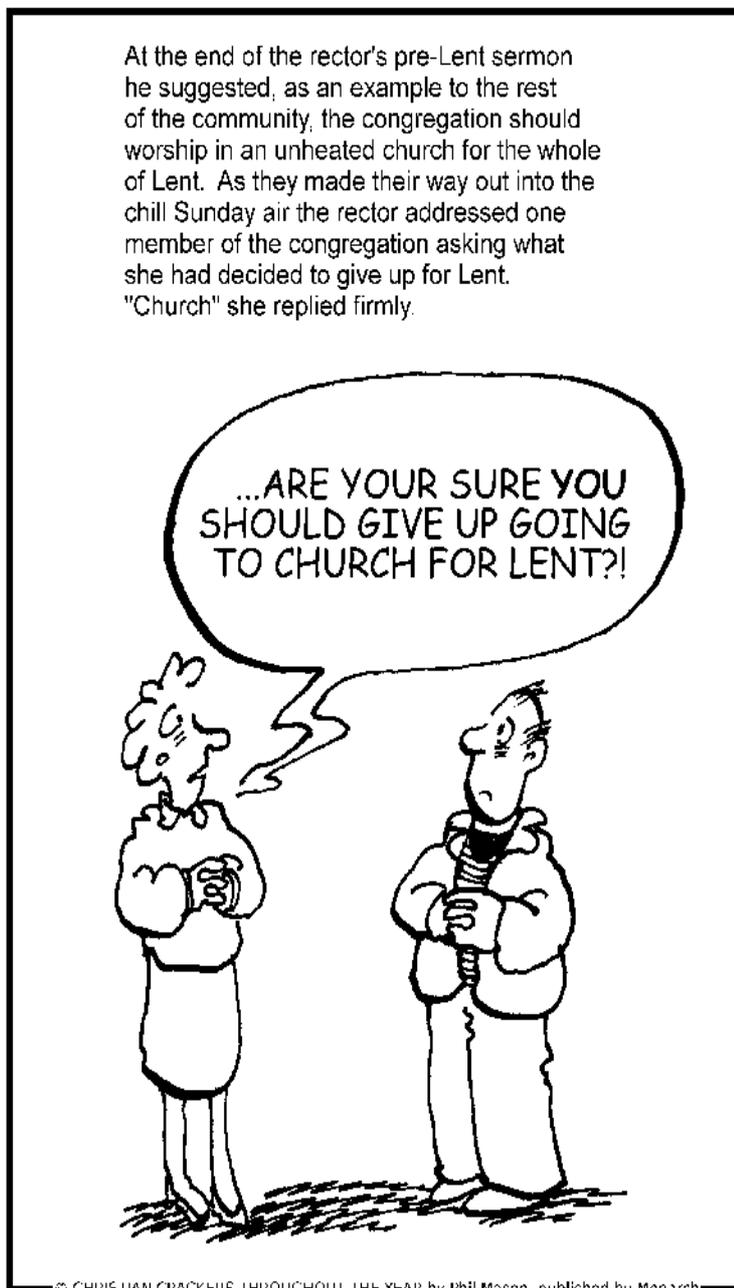
The Book of Job is the clearest example of this latter type of temptation. Job's goodness is tested by his property being destroyed, his children dying, and

sores covering his body. His response is "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Jesus underwent the same sort of testing during his forty days in the wilderness: "If you are who you say you are, command these stones to become bread", says the Devil. But in fact Jesus proves that he is who he says he is by doing the opposite – by refusing to command the stones to become bread.

We pray that God will not lead us into temptation because we know that we are not who we say we are. Or at least, who we plan to say we are on the Day of Judgement. We know we cannot live up to God's standards. God's scanner does not just check for Marmite in our baggage: it is not even a full-body scanner, but a body and soul scanner!

This Lent, let us by all means avoid the chocolate-cake type temptation, but let us also take the opportunity to examine ourselves, just as Jesus was examined in the wilderness, just as Job's faith was examined. God does not want to judge our faults. God wants to correct us and lead us to the joys of heaven. It is our task to help in this, by laying bare our faults and letting them be healed. Lent is the time to get to grips with this, by tidying up our lives, so that we can be renewed in our resurrected Lord.

HD





JUNIOR CHURCH

Classes and Meeting Times

The Junior Church normally meets every Sunday in the year, unless there is a special All-Age service. There are four classes: Sparklers for children aged 3 to 5+, All-Stars for children aged 5 to 8+, Trailblazers for children aged 8 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery (crèche).

Junior Church begins with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church. After this, all the children and teachers meet together in the hall for a brief introduction, prayer and to collect our gifts for Tear Fund. This is also an opportunity for giving out notices and welcoming newcomers and visitors. The children then go to their own classes.

Every Sunday the Sparklers return to church at the Peace. On the first and third Sunday of each month, the other classes do not return to church but remain in their groups for more teaching.

Nursery Rota

7 Cecily Klingler and Jerusha Viggiswarapu

14 Chloë Hodler and Sarah Bouldin

21 Lynn Robb and Belinda Aréstegui

28 Rebecca Eze and Maxine Wildhaber

Social Group for 7 – 12s

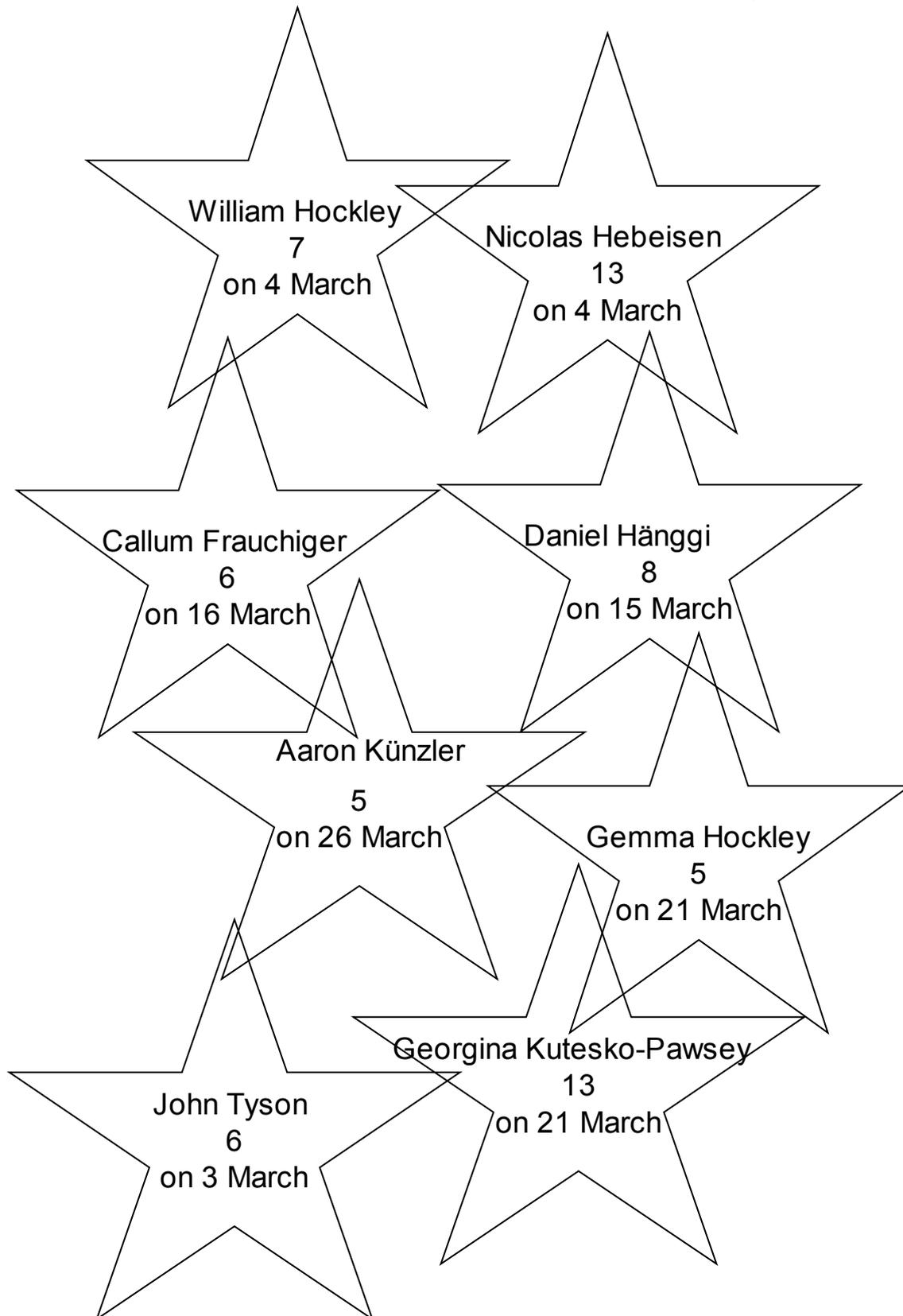
This new group meets on Saturdays about every two months. The next meeting will be on Saturday 27 March from 10.00 to 12.00. We will be making chocolates and fudge to sell at the bake sale on 4 April. If you would like more information please speak to Thenjiwe Germann or Francoise Hänggi.

Easter Picture Competition

Calling all artists aged 14 or under: Can you draw us an Easter picture? If so, please give it to your Junior Church teacher by Sunday 14 March. The best ones will be printed in the magazine and some may be used in our Easter services. There will also be a small prize for the best picture.

Congratulations

to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in March



For Your Diary

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	09.30-10.00 19.30	Morning Prayer Lent Study Course in Stettlen
Tuesdays	19.00	Lent Study Course in Rüfenacht
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15 19.00 19.30	Parents and Tots Lent Study Course in Liebefeld Lent Study Course in Wohlen (not 3 March)
Fridays	09.30 19.00-21.00 19.30	Patchwork Youth Group Lent Study Course in Fraubrunnen
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir Practice

Other Events

Sunday 7 March	10.00	Youth Group
Tuesday 9 March	19.30	Church Council (External Venue)
Friday 12 March	19.00	Confirmation Class
Sunday 14 March	11.30	Lenten Soup, Old Catholic Church COPY DATE
Sunday 21 March	10.00	Confirmation Class and Youth Group
Thursday 25 March	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating
Saturday 27 March	10.00 - 12.00	Social Group for 7 – 12s
Sunday 28 March	12.00	Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Future Dates

Sunday 4 April (Easter)	12.00	JC Bake Sale in aid of Tear Fund
Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 April		Youth / Adult Trip to Taizé
Friday-Sunday 30 April-2 May		Archdeaconry Choir Festival
Saturday 22 May	14.00 – 16.30	Afternoon Tea
Saturday 5 June	10.00 – 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 20 June	10.00	Confirmation Service
Sunday 28 August	12.00	International Bring and Share Lunch
Saturday 4 September	10.00 – 14.00	Book and Food Sale
Friday-Sunday 17-19 September		Church Weekend Away
Friday 19 November	17.00 – 19.30	Christmas Bazaar
and Sat 20 November	10.00 – 15.00	

English Church Services and Housegroup in Thun

The Thun church group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 19.30. Everyone is welcome to join us! Services are held at the "Pavilion" of the Reformierte Kirchgemeindehaus in Bubenbergstrasse, Thun. For more information please contact Rachel Huguenin at ☎033 336 29 54.

25 Years



It all began 25 years ago, shortly after my husband passed away. Peter Hawker asked me if I would like to help out in the office. I accepted and when I got there found Barbara Bream at the typewriter, possibly typing copy for the magazine, and Hilda McMahon cutting and sticking the magazine together.

The office had a private door to the landing so we could come and go without bothering anyone.

Several assistants stayed in the flat: Andrew Moss, Richard Smyth, Mark Hunt, and of course Tony and Marjorie Wharton.

I remember going across to visit Marjorie and found a huge table full of Christmas cakes covered with almond paste ready to be iced. This Marjorie did as she was very good at it.

Barbara had to leave for England shortly and eventually we had to give up the flat.

Hilda and I moved across to a room upstairs which we at first had to get to up a tricky ladder. Later Mike Hawker made a proper floor and then the downstairs hall was built and proper stairs up to the attic

Soon afterwards Hilda had to leave and I was left alone. I soon decided to take the whole thing home. I bought a laptop and got an email address for people to send me their copy.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the magazine through the years.

I've been wanting to give up the magazine for a long time now but couldn't find anyone to take it on. Now we are on our way to finding my successor.

Whoever you are, I hope you enjoy doing the mag as much as I did!

God bless everyone

Wendy Astor

Dear Wendy,

It has fallen to me, on behalf of St Ursula's, to thank you for the 25 years of faithful service you have given to this congregation in producing the monthly newsletter (magazine) through the ministries of four chaplains – five, if we count the vacancy that the Revd Mark Hunt filled before the arrival of Revd David Wotherspoon!

According to my archives, you indeed took over that responsibility from Barbara Bream in April/May 1985. In your team you had Jenny Blair helping with the editorial side and a number of proof readers. I remember the 'words of wisdom' that Barbara wrote then to "encourage" you and the others:

"Producing the church magazine is a bit like a birth experience. Each month you anguish over it, and then the tremendous feeling of relief and enjoyment when it's in the post and off to the printer (*sic*).....whew !"

She then went on to enumerate the Christian virtues that would be encouraged in the editor:

- 1) **Trust, Faith** - you would have to have faith that, despite all the signs to the contrary - i.e. by copy date all you have is a coffee and tea rota and perhaps the odd article - there **will be** a magazine each month.
- 2) **Forgiveness, Long-suffering, humility** - the magazine copy may be proof read by three different people and found to be O.K. but the moment it is in everybody's letter box any number of mistakes will be found. They will be attributed to 'typing errors', NEVER the omission of the proof readers!

Well, Wendy, you have held on for so long and the baby you took on then is now full grown, well established, and like us with all our children, you have had faith to let go of this special child.

God bless you and your family in all your ways

In gratitude,

Peter Hawker



Lent and Easter Special Services

Sunday 14 March

Mothering Sunday

Informal All-Age Eucharist

Sunday 28 March

Palm Sunday

Re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, starting in the hall and processing into the church.



Thursday 1 April

Maundy Thursday

Commemoration of the Last Supper 18.30 in the Upper Hall and Church. Please bring some food to share!



Friday 2 April

Good Friday

Family Service, 10.00

Liturgy of the Last Hour,
14.00



Sunday 4 April

Easter Day

Sung Eucharist with Easter Ceremonies, 09.00

Easter Family Communion,
10.30

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM will be held on **Sunday 28 March at 12.00**. You will find the invitation to this important meeting enclosed with this magazine. We hope you will be able to attend.

A reminder:

At the AGM we will elect church wardens and church council members. If you would like to be able to vote at these elections (or perhaps stand for election yourself) you need to be a member of the Electoral Roll, so check that you are by looking at the list in the hall. If you are not yet a member, please fill in an application form (available in the church hall) and send it in by **Sunday 7 March**.

As well as the normal AGM business, there will be a short presentation of the initial results from the questionnaire carried out at the end of last year. This promises to be interesting, so plan to be there and hear all about it.

Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)

Prayer at the Centre in Liebefeld

Contemplative prayer evenings will restart in March and will continue to be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. In March the Church Council meeting has been moved to the second Tuesday, therefore the restart date of Contemplative Prayer will now be 23 March at 19.00. The Lent course will be nearing completion at this time and many of the community will be involved in this.

May I encourage you to also attend the session of Contemplative Prayer on the 23 March as the Lent course will form the core of our meditations that evening? Please consult the notices for further details. As ever, I will be glad to answer questions you may have.

Brian Morgan, Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld
bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch

COPY DATE !!!
for the April issue is 14 March
COLLATING DATE
25 March 2010

Please send your copy for the April issue to the Church Office
(berne@anglican.ch)

Music Group News

As you may know I have taken over the music group from Isabel Jordan who left for Germany in December.

We have a great number of musicians in our church family. We total 18 to my knowledge!! Many of these are already very busy with other commitments and have offered to play for special services or now and again. However, we have a core group who are committed regularly to rehearsals and to playing in our services for whom we can be thankful. We are just beginning to get into a rhythm of services and rehearsals and adjusting to the new organization. You may have noticed during the services we are exploring new possibilities of musical expression with different combinations of instruments for our worship songs and hymns. We have great fun at our rehearsals trying out new things and are bonding and growing as a group. There are a great number of resources around from which to draw for our services. The music for our services is chosen by a small group of church members, Peter Potter, Hans-Karl Pfyffer and myself included. We meet once every two months to plan the music ahead based on the Bible readings, themes and Liturgical year. It is a great work which is undertaken thoroughly and thoughtfully by its committed members.

As often with the church there is much unseen work that goes on behind the scenes, and this is the case for the music during the services at St Ursula's. For example the work of the beamer team, the audio team, the music group, the organ player. We can be thankful to so many for giving their time, talent and commitment to enable us to worship God in St Ursula's week in week out.

I would like to thank you all for your support, encouragement and prayers for the music group and all the people associated with it. We look forward to serving God and you in this way over the coming months and beyond.

With many blessings,
The Rev Linda Bisig



Bake Sale

The Junior Church will be holding a bake sale on Easter Sunday, 4 April, after the service in aid of Tear Fund. The 7-12s group will be making chocolates and fudge on Saturday 27 March for this sale. Other contributions are welcomed. Also please come and buy.

NEWS FROM NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1

Services are held twice monthly :

10 am on the FIRST Sunday of the month.

Children meet for Junior Church at 10 am in the Villa Yo-Yo and join their parents in church for Communion.

5 pm on the THIRD Sunday of the month : Family Communion service

**Minister in charge : The Rev. Roy Farrar
Chemin du Chasselas 11
2012 AUVERNIER**

**Tel : 032 730 51 83
www.neuchatel-church.ch**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Sunday 18 April after the service

Important points will be discussed – make sure you're there!!

BIBLE STUDY at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm:

Tuesday 9 March

Tuesday 23 March

(No bible study on 6 April)

DEBATE @ EIGHT: at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm

Sunday 28 March

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

1 April at 7 pm: Maundy Thursday, Agape

2 April at 5 pm: Good Friday "Voices around the Cross"

4 April at 10 am: Easter, Regular morning service

ECHOES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met on 18 January. The main items of discussion were the reports of the "Time to Think" day compiled by Bill Packer and Jon Bright, begging the question "Where do we go from here?"

The change to a morning service once a month seems popular.

We must improve contacts with the English-speaking community in Neuchâtel by maintaining and up-dating the website, producing attractive flyers, organising public events and encouraging members to make personal contacts.

We would like to strengthen our links with All Saints in Vevey and suggest that we attend their service on the fifth Sunday of the month.

We need to establish a “pump fund” in view of having to give greater financial support to a minister when Roy retires from Neuchâtel. The treasurer reported that despite increased attendance at church, donations were inferior in 2009 to the previous year.

For all this work to make known the love of our Lord, we need **prayers and people.**

RZ

From Roy and Mieke

The time has come said the walrus “to think of cabbages and kings, to think of many things” so said Lewis Carroll. The time has come in the church for ALL of us to think about what we can do to help the church grow and continue to make an impact on the community of this region.

In a recent sermon I was speaking about the roles played by the two sisters introduced in Luke chapter 10,

Martha -- up front, busy, easily distracted, and worried about the details, but got on with it. She would be good around here, there would be no shortage of helpers for the Junior church, she would be organising us all to be with the children, there would be lots of open social events and a 3D stunning interactive website!!! We would have lots of people ready to pray, read, lead services and even preach!!

Every practical need of this church would be covered several times over

The Treasurer’s pledge letter would have been answered several times over so that the financial future of the church would be well provided for.

Mary -- quiet, sitting down, listening, and reflecting. Mary would be praying and thinking about what has happened in the church over these past few years.

Listening to Sonya’s story and that from Jodi (this month’s magazine) and seeing that the Lord has been so wonderfully at work in these two lives who passed through Neuchâtel.



We are at a point in our church life we need quite a few Marthas, there are real urgent jobs to be done and the church cannot go forward unless these are faced up to. But we also need to maintain those moments of stillness, when God speaks to us and moves us on. We need the Marys to realise the moment to stop and sit at the feet of Jesus.

Which are you? We need both!

Jodi's Story



Moving to a foreign country is not an easy thing to do, but when I moved to Neuchâtel from the US, I quickly became adjusted to work and travelling around Europe. It was so great to see all of the famous towns and to experience the local cultures of France, Italy, and Switzerland etc. After deciding to stay longer in Europe with my job, I realized that something was missing from my life....a church to worship in. I missed going to church on Sundays and the fellowship of other Christians. And I wasn't quite sure if there was a church for me in Neuchâtel due to

the fact that I didn't speak fluent French.

One day, however, a co-worker informed me that she found an English speaking church in Neuchâtel and she gave me the details on the services and bible studies. I was definitely going to check it out as at that point in my life, I really needed some direction from the Lord and fellowship from his servants.

Coming to the Neuchâtel Church for the first time was such a great and memorable experience for me. I remember how welcoming and hospitable everyone was, especially the Minister, Roy and his wife, Mieke. I instantly felt at home, welcomed and loved. Over the next few weeks, I attended services and bible studies and began to know many of the congregation. I looked forward to these times, as it was so great to share in the Lord's love with other people. The bible studies were a great opportunity for me to learn more and to hear other's thoughts on various passages. The discussions were very meaningful to me and they gave me a renewed interest in reading the bible again, something that I had not done since moving to Switzerland. They even gave me the motivation to lead a few bible sessions, which I was very happy to do.

Over the months, the Church became like my Swiss family. I loved going to the services, hearing the 'monkey stories' from Roy and the fellowship after church. I even was unsuspectingly re-introduced to one of my favourite hymns, "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky". I had not heard that hymn since I was first baptized 10 years ago, how special and meaningful that was! I knew the Lord was at work in my heart through the Neuchâtel Church!

Another thing that amazed me about the Church was that, despite the small congregation, the desire to perform good in the name of Christ was plentiful, whether it was through prayers or organized functions. A few of the functions

that I remember was the annual auction held to raise funds for a missionary supporting medical care for Indians of Paraguay. I enjoyed the auction a lot because not only was I supporting a great cause, I was able to enjoy the fellowship through some laughter and good food. The Carol Service, held this past December, was beautiful and brought many new faces to the service in order to sing praise at Christmas. I was so happy to see a packed house for this night and to praise the Lord through the carols we sang.

There have been so many special times at the Neuchâtel Church for me. I have been so blessed to have worshipped there and to get to know so many wonderful people. It became a family for me and I was very sad to have to say goodbye when I moved back to the US. I really wished I could take the congregation with me because it was such a great church to belong to. But, I knew that wasn't realistic and I can only pray that I will find a wonderful church just like it back here in the States. However, nothing can take the place of all the memories I have of the bible studies, the '*Debates @ Eight*' and the congregation. They will always remain in my heart and will always be a blessing to me, and hopefully others who would like to join the church. Thank you Roy and Mieke for your hospitality and warmth! You have touched my heart in so many ways. And thank you, to the congregation for welcoming me in and for always being such a close-knit congregation. I will miss you all but as we always end our service, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen"! It doesn't matter where we go, as long as we keep serving!

God Bless!

Jodi

We miss you, Jodi! Don't forget to send us the zucchini bread recipe!!



Church Council Report

The latest council meeting was held on Tuesday 2 February.

About half of the meeting was used for a presentation and discussion of the initial results of the questionnaire. These results are encouraging and show that there is a lot of common ground. More time is needed to see what steps should be taken and council will consider the way forward at an "Away day" on 8 May. There will be a short presentation of the results at the AGM on 28 March.

There are a number of events planned for the near future, including:

- Our Lenten soup lunch on 28 February, to which we have invited members of the Old Catholic and Lutheran churches. The Old Catholics have invited us to their Lenten soup lunch on 14 March.
- The prayers of dedication for the council as part of the service on 9 May.

The services for Easter were also agreed - see separate notice.

Arrangements for the AGM to be held on 28 March, and an initial Electoral Roll (for revision on 9 March) were discussed and approved.

The painting of the offices and the replacement of the carpets should be done soon - council agreed to the offers presented by the building committee. There are still a number of other items that need attention - the building committee will review the priority list and present it to council at the next meeting.

Junior Church and the Youth Ministry seem to be going OK - reports were presented to council, but not discussed.

As always, finance was discussed briefly. The accounts for 2009 are not yet ready, but it looks like the deficit will be smaller than predicted. The accounts should be audited ready for the next council meeting on 9 March.

Plans for the weekend away are in hand. The Revd Dan Morrow from Zürich has agreed to come and lead the sessions on the topic of "Art and Faith".

If you would like more information about this meeting, or about any aspect of council, please contact a council member – the list is at the back of this magazine or on the web site.

- *Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)* -

Chaplain's Notes

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent is known as *Laetare!* ("Rejoice!") in some churches, from the opening words of the service that day ("Rejoice, Jerusalem", Is. 66:10). It is a kind of day-off during Lent, with a more festive tone. In England it became known as Mothering Sunday because Jerusalem is sometimes associated with motherhood in the Bible.

Mothering Sunday is on 14 March this year and we shall be marking the day with an informal Eucharist and small gifts for the ladies.

After the service, we can continue our festivities because we are invited to St Peter and Paul's Church for their soup lunch. It takes place in their Church Rooms at Kramgasse 10. The Lutherans have also been invited, another sign of our growing three-way partnership.

Soup is provided but if you can bring some cake, that would be appreciated.

Palm Sunday

We re-enact once again Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. We shall start in the Hall that morning and process into the church with our palm crosses. An important feature is the dramatised reading of the Passion Story, telling the events of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

Details of our Holy Week observances are in the special leaflet available in church and the Hall.

Growing Up

We have a flourishing Youth Group at St Ursula's and Tina has put a lot of work into making it both fun and instructive for our young people. What is the next step? How do we help them grow into membership of the congregation as a whole, rather than being a group within it?

These are questions that people at St Ursula's have been pondering for years. One possible solution would be to have some adults acting as mentors for our young people. We hope to make a start on this very soon. Watch out for details.



FAQ: What is the Church for?

The Church's job is to carry on the work of Jesus. He gave his Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to his disciples collectively, not to separate individuals. Before that he called them together as a group, to be the forerunner of the Church.

This Commission was to make disciples and to baptise. During his earthly ministry, Jesus repeatedly told his disciples that he was not offering them an easy life. The job of the Church is not to market a feel-good factor or to make life easier for people. If we were a commercial concern, business consultants would tell us we had got our product wrong or, at the very least, we should keep quiet about some of its side effects.

This is where some of today's would-be disciples go wrong. They do not get what they were expecting and go away complaining that Church did not make them feel happy, help them forget their problems or hand out useful tips. Sometimes we need to hear about pain and sorrow and our worship needs to help us express these feelings. If we ignore them and only want something cheerful, we are likely to get something superficial in return, that does not touch the whole range of our emotional and spiritual selves.

Lent and Holy Week are times when our worship reflects these darker themes. The music, for instance, is deliberately sombre because even dirges can touch us when we are in the mood. We are not forgetting our problems for an hour on Sunday but we are together bringing them to the altar of God, where his transforming miracle takes place.

The Church, then, aims to be transforming not merely uplifting. Her job is to make disciples - God's holy people - and to uphold us in our attempts to live holy lives day by day.

PMP



A Word for the Month - Devil

After Jesus' baptism by John, "the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." So Mark, with his typical terseness, summarizes what must have been a potentially exhausting stage of Jesus' ministry.

The Old Testament does not have much to say about the Devil, and it is important to remember this. We have got used to the picture painted by the mediæval church of green imps with forked tails toasting clergy, politicians and bankers in a mighty bonfire. In this picture, the Devil is in charge of a particularly unpleasant piece of real estate, leading a conflict against God, who rewards the humble and saintly with harps, clouds and pearly gates. It is a battle of near-equals, with God having a permanent advantage, but the Devil giving a good performance nevertheless.

This picture is seriously misleading. The Devil does not have an independent existence as a sort of anti-God. In the Old Testament, the Devil is not even God's opponent, for how could God have any opponents other than human ones who reject God's plans?

The word *satan* is the Hebrew for opponent, and is mostly used in this sense (for example, in Ps 109, the psalmist asks for his adversaries to be repaid (v.20) and clothed with shame (v.29)). When God sends an angel to hinder Balaam's donkey-ride, the angel claims to be "*satan*": Balaam's adversary.

On a few occasions, however, the Old Testament mentions *ha-satan*, The Opponent. The best-known place is at the beginning of the book of Job, where The Opponent is portrayed like a courtier, casts doubt on Job's goodness, and gets God's agreement to test this theory out.

But in the Old Testament Satan is not God's opponent. Satan's work is to point out human weaknesses (for an example, look at Zech 3:1). Satan is our opponent: what we would call "a Devil's advocate."

The Greek equivalent of *satan* is *diabolos*, an accuser, from which we get our word Devil. (The "devils" that Jesus cast out were something quite different – *daimones*, demons.) In the New Testament, Satan is seen in a more active rôle, not only showing up our evil deeds but encouraging us to perform them. The snake who tempted Eve, the King of Babylon who sought to rise like the morning star (Is 14:12-15) are seen as personifications of the Devil.

So Jesus refers to the power of "the Devil and his angels" (Matt 25:41), of "the prince of this world" (John 14:30), and the Ephesians learn of "the ruler of the power of the air", whose "spirit is now at work among those who are disobedient." (2:2). This idea matured in later writings: especially in 1 John, which asserts: "Everyone who commits sin is a child of the Devil; for the Devil has been sinning from the beginning", and in the Apocalypse, which depicts a final conflict between the archangel Michael and "the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan."

Theologians have been unable to resist the Devil as a topic for discussion. Christians have always believed that the Devil was created by God, but somehow "went bad". It is dangerous to think otherwise. We are not dualists – we do not believe that there is a separate force called "evil", and we do not believe that "the world, the flesh and the Devil" are inherently evil. But the world, the flesh and the Devil have the potential to lead us to perform evil deeds. Lent should be an occasion when we recall how Jesus transformed the world by coming to live in it, how Jesus transformed the flesh by becoming a real human being, and how Jesus met the Devil's quotations from the Bible with counter-quotations. Let us, too, put the Devil in a suitable place!

HD

Charity of the Month

AKiB: Zentrum 5

Zentrum 5 is a project from AKiB (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen der Stadt Bern). St Ursula's is one of AKiB's ten supporting churches.

Integration

If you settled in Switzerland from another country, can you still remember how well you integrated on your arrival? Who helped you and how did you cope with the language? For many, particularly migrants, integration can be a real challenge and Zentrum 5 in Bern is a great support.

Zentrum 5 is an integration centre in Berne which supports foreign migrants and Swiss people in need. In particular it offers courses, advice and intercultural activities through a team of 50 volunteers. The focus is on integration through education, contacts and providing a safe place to learn.

Open for everyone

Open for everyone, the 5, in Zentrum 5, stands for the five continents of the earth and includes all people, languages and cultures. Jürg Trefzer, the centre's leader, confirms that despite the centre's wide target group, he sees the centre as a large family. You'll find Zentrum 5 at Flurstrasse 26b in Berne, right in the middle of a Bernese residential area (take the number 20 bus to Wyleregg).

Education at the Centre

Zentrum 5 plays a central role in the cultural life of both the city and the region of Bern. It was started with the aim of taking the asylum seekers off the streets. According to Jürg Trefzer, the centre now attracts 200 visitors daily, with most visitors participating in one of the centre's 20 different courses. German courses offer a great help to many female visitors who often have poor literary skills.

The rooms at the centre are simple, clean and functional. Reading and study facilities are offered by a library with 6000 books from 45 countries as well as 22 international newspapers in many languages. The library is run by volunteers and the offer of "mother tongue" literature helps migrants still have a connection to home.

Thank you for your support which has enabled Zentrum 5 to remain a lively cultural centre helping people in need.



Fig. 1: Library,
Zentrum 5, Berne

Please Pray:

- for continued support for the many people who use the centre
- for Zentrum 5's team of volunteers that they will continue to support the centre
- for the many migrants who use the centre for education
- for continued success with migrant integration in Berne and Switzerland
- for the AKiB and Passantenhilfe (Seev Levi)



Fig. 2: Training at Zentrum 5, Berne

Consider taking a look at what the centre is doing by visiting them at Flurstrasse 26b, Berne and for more information see <http://www.zentrum5.ch>.

"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." (Matt 25: 45)

Pieter Perrett on behalf of the Charity and Missions Team

The Bishop's Lent Appeal - Myanmar

I have chosen for my Lent Appeal to the Diocese this year a project in the Diocese of Toungoo in Myanmar (Burma). I first encountered the bishops of the small but vibrant Anglican Church in Myanmar when I was Bishop of Basingstoke in the Diocese of Winchester, when they visited Winchester when they came to the 1998 Lambeth Conference, because of Winchester's historic link with Myanmar (there is a Winchester House in Mandalay). The faith and Christian witness of this Church is remarkable, as is its concern for practical Christian service. Working with USPG (the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) our Lent Appeal will give us all the opportunity to support health, education and development in the Diocese of Toungoo, a mountainous rural area.

As you will see (*from the posters in the church hall - Ed*), the Healthcare, Education and Community Development programme requires some £16,830 (Fr28600). It is my hope and prayer that the chaplaincies and congregations of the Diocese will give generously this Lent to enable this urgently-needed programme to happen, which will have a real transforming effect on the lives of so many of our fellow Christians in one of the poorest countries of the world. Please keep them in your prayers and respond with your support.

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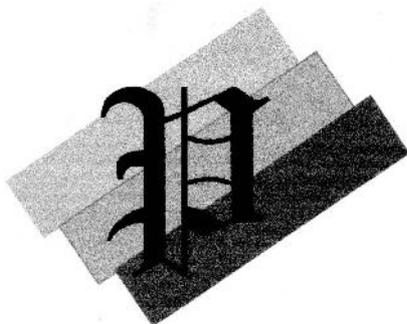
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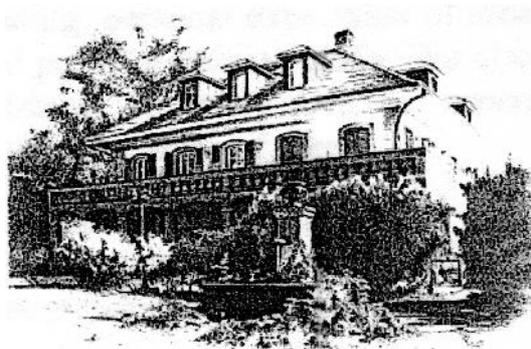
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Graham Tritt, President, tel. 031 829 34 79, email g.tritt@gmx.net
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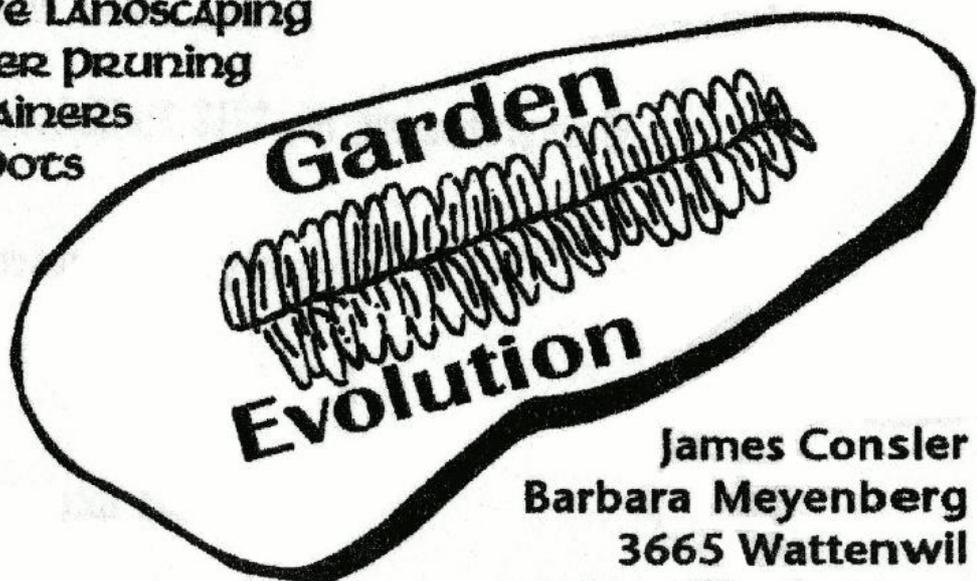
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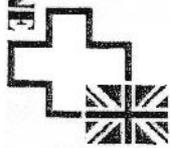
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New members are always welcome. Our website hosted by the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs is: www.angloswissclubs.ch

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2. Tuesday *St Chad*, outreach to the English-speaking community
3. Wednesday Our Lent groups
4. Thursday The people of Afghanistan
5. Friday World Day of Prayer
6. Saturday The Fairtrade movement
7. **Sunday** Revd Penny Franks, serving at Vevey & Château d'Oex
8. Monday The Pastoral Team
9. Tuesday Today's Council meeting
10. Wednesday People working in essential services
11. Thursday The Montreux chaplaincy (vacant)
12. Friday The work of the United Nations
13. Saturday Hospital chaplains
14. **Sunday** *Mothering Sunday*, Family life
15. Monday The Bishop's Lent Appeal (for Myanmar)
16. Tuesday The Anglican Peace and Justice Network
17. Wednesday *St Patrick*, the people of Ireland
18. Thursday Things we can do to help the environment
19. Friday *St Joseph*, fair conditions for people at work
20. Saturday People working unsociable hours
21. **Sunday** *Passion Sunday*, thanks for God's love to us in Jesus
22. Monday Our churchwardens
23. Tuesday Things we have failed to do
24. Wednesday People who have helped us recently
25. Thursday *The Annunciation*, the Mothers Union
26. Friday The peace of Jerusalem
27. Saturday People we have wronged
28. **Palm Sunday** Our AGM today
29. Monday People who have lost their faith
30. Tuesday Those searching for faith
31. Wednesday New Christians