

# THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



October – November 2017

**St Ursula's Church** Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Berne, Switzerland

**Chaplain**

Revd Stephen Stuckes

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031 351 03 43

**Lay Reader**

Archana Jacob

archana@stursula.ch

**Church Office:** 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

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**Normal pattern of Sunday services:**

8.30 Said Eucharist (2nd and 4th Sundays)

10.00 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church and Crèche

Our services follow the Church of England's Common Worship Order One (2000)

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, the 10.00 service is more informal.

See Calendar of Services inside for details of the next few weeks.

**Services in Thun:** 18.30 on the first and third Thursdays of the month at

Chapelle Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

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**ST URSULA'S BERNE**

The church is one of the nine Swiss chaplaincies that have a resident chaplain (minister) and together form the Archdeaconry of Switzerland. This is part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe which stretches from the Canary Islands to Ankara, from Moscow to Morocco.

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land Co. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as a thank offering for the near miraculous recovery of her adopted daughter, who was treated at the clinic of the famous Professor Kocher.

The hall and the house were added in 1959. An English Missionary Society, the USPG, helped to support the church from its earliest days. Since 1977, however, the chaplaincy has been fully self-supporting, relying solely on its members and well-wishers for its financial support.

St Ursula's has a long tradition of ministry to all English-speaking people in the Canton of Berne and beyond. It also provides a home for Christians from many different denominations and cultural backgrounds. Regular worshippers are encouraged to add their names to the Electoral Roll and so play a full part in the life of the church. Details from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

**See Calendar inside for details of this month's services**

**St Ursula's Church website: [www.stursula.ch](http://www.stursula.ch)**

**E-mail: [berne@anglican.ch](mailto:berne@anglican.ch)**



# St Ursula's Church Magazine

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October - November 2017

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for the December - January magazine is

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

**COLLATING DATE: Thursday 23 November 2017**

# Stephen Writes...

Though it is not often noticed there is a weather-vane on top of a house neighbouring St Ursula's. It is a figure of an Angel blowing a trumpet and I rather like the idea of an Angel watching over us. Autumn is the season of Michaelmas. The great Arch-Angel and Captain of the Lord's Army is a significant figure in scripture and has an important role at the moment of judgement.

A couple of years ago I went on a pilgrimage to York to see a performance of a Mystery Play. Watching the performance I found that I was not in agreement with the way that judgement was depicted. The plays of course are medieval and so I was not surprised that some of the depictions reflected the belief of that period. A stark depiction of a moment of salvation or damnation was a vivid way of encouraging good behaviour in this life and in a more credulous, largely illiterate age it is easy to see what an impact such an image in art or dramatic presentation could have on an assembled crowd.

As so often the Greeks have a word for it. The 'psychostasia' or 'weighing of souls' is a method of divine determination of fate, something which persists from the *Iliad* through to Christian Theology.

Kenneth Stevenson a former Bishop of Portsmouth recalled being impressed by an image on the sleeve of a gramophone record of Brahms' Requiem that his mother brought home one day. The illustration was of St Michael the Archangel weighing souls. 'He stood as a powerful figure, dressed in a long white flowing alb, with a red stole worn across his chest and over the left shoulder, and over that a red cope. Two large wings somehow made their appearance through the cope at the back.' He goes on to say that the figure of St Michael held scales and souls were actually being weighed and their fate determined in that moment of artistic representation. The concept is one that occurs in other musical Requiem Mass settings including the Verdi recently performed for the Promenade Concert on television.

But I have understood St Michael's role in this differently. I have come to understand him not so much as the weigher of souls at death but as the defender of them. At that moment of vulnerability it is Michael who will contend for us in the battle for salvation. As the Captain of the Lord's Army he is well placed to fight the 'evil' of separation from God and help us heavenward. It is of a piece with the Bible reading for Michaelmas (29 September) in which he fights and slays the dragon. (Revelation 12:7-9) God

wants everyone to be 'saved' and his angels are there to aid us at his command.

A theological concept that many find appealing is that of 'Conditional Universalism' - the idea that all those who ultimately wish to be with God will be. Perhaps in this scheme it is our own waywardness that the Archangel Michael contends against in order to see us safely home. I recall an old priest (who had been more directly involved in the fight against evil in the world than most) once telling a group of curates that he didn't believe God would 'sit down' until we were all 'safely gathered in'.

This is not to say, of course, that I do not believe in 'judgement'. Clearly there has to be some method by which we come to terms with all that we have been and done before being able to dwell in God's nearer presence. This is where Jesus comes in but that is another discussion.

Whatever you believe about life after death the annual feast of Michaelmas, coinciding as it does with the Harvest Season, might usefully promote some reflection upon two things. Firstly, what we believe about 'judgement' and secondly, how we might live in order that, when our time comes, St Michael's task is made just that little bit easier.

*-Stephen*



Saint Michael, on the retablo of Judgement Day of Saint Alban's church in Cologne. Colijn de Cotera

# How do we Know if it's Wrong?

BBC listeners and viewers will be well aware that this is the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Sexual Offences Act 1967, which legalized homosexual acts between pairs of consenting male adults in England and Wales – a milestone for what we now call the LGBT cause. The 90 other Public Acts of Parliament (which included the Anchors and Chain Cables Act, the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Act and the Decimal Currency Act), not to mention the 42 Private Acts, have passed into near-oblivion.

The church has been criticized for spending too much of its time debating questions of sexuality, and too little time ministering to the poor and oppressed. Part of the problem is that sexuality remains an open issue, whereas there is no question but that we should help the poor, the sick and the oppressed – though we can still haggle over borderline cases: what exactly is poverty, sickness or oppression.

Somewhere within the challenge of loving God and loving our neighbours, there is the challenge of behaving morally. “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20).

We must love all of our neighbours, even the most sinful, and we must never judge them. “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged” (Matt. 7:1). “Let anyone among you that is without sin be the first to throw a stone,” (John 8:7), but accepting people is one thing, and condoning, or even encouraging them, is another. This is why the church has stood firmly against wrongdoing, and why in this time of changing values it is having such a hard struggle to define what changing values are contrary to God’s will for us.

Some modern trends are clearly wrong – lending money to the poor at usurious rates, enticing people from poor environments to work for next to nothing in more developed places. But some of them raise moral questions – euthanasia, abortion, divorce, polygamy, animal welfare, religious prejudice, discrimination (in all its forms) and, of course, the whole range of sexual behaviour.

There are several different yardsticks which are widely used by Christians to answer these moral questions, and the fact that they often deliver different answers is the reason so much time is spent discussing them. One can appeal to scripture – what does the Bible say? One can appeal to tradition – what have we done about this in the past? One can apply the Golden Rule, “do to

others as you would have them do to you” (Matt.7:12), “love your neighbour as yourself” (Lev.19:18). Or one can express one’s innate sense of value, one’s gut-feeling – “this can’t be right!”

Most of these yardsticks, except the third, are misleading. The Bible, taken as a whole, contains Good News. It does not contain rules. It does not say that women must wear headscarves in church. It does not say that slaves must not seek their liberty. It does not say that men must not act effeminately. But it is possible to take verses out of context and claim that this is what it says. In the same way, and using a different yardstick, one person may find an action perfectly natural, and someone else may find it totally unnatural or abhorrent (which is why “being born that way” is no basis for an argument – child-molesters and social benefit fraudsters can also claim they were “born that way.”) After all, the Pharisees even found some of Jesus’ actions abhorrent – touching lepers, or eating with unwashed hands, for example.

The picture we have of Jesus’ life should be our model, and his stress on neighbourly love rather than following a flawed rule book should be our guide. We have no idea what Jesus would have thought of card games, YouTube, nicotine abuse, gambling or gay bishops, except that he would have applied the Golden Rule. In our own lives, we follow Jesus in our own way, but in doing so we bear witness. We are all called to share the light of Christ in a dark world. We are not judged by our dress or our wealth, not on our intelligence or our musical or any other tastes, but on how well we witness to that light – on the evidence that God is at work in us.

- *Hector Davie*



*Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple, by El Greco*

# A Word for the Month – Bread

It used to be thought that the first thing to set human beings apart from the rest of the animal kingdom was the ability to make tools. *Homo habilis* - “handy one” - was the prehistoric forerunner of *homo sapiens* - “wise one”. Later research showed that many of the apes can create tools, and even crows can use sticks to reach their food. We might be a little lower than the angels (Ps 8:5), but we were not significantly higher than the New Caledonian Crow.

So scientists suggested a new test. We were the only creature that could cook. This fits well with beliefs and legends the world over about the use of fire – but that is another story! For our omnivorous diet, cooking over a hot fire made both plants and animal meat tastier and safer to eat. In the Garden of Eden, we have a picture of Adam and Eve living on a diet of herbs, fruit, seeds and nuts. But after the Fall, Adam was condemned to work at tilling the ground and to “eat bread by the sweat of your face”, while their son Abel became “a keeper of sheep”, who sacrificed them and doubtless cooked them, which pleased God, but not his brother Cain!

Aside from this reference to Adam, where bread, *lehem* in Hebrew, could just mean food in general, the first reference to the kind of bread we make by baking comes in the story of Abraham’s victory over the four kings in Genesis 14, after which King Melchizedek of Salem comes to bless Abraham, bringing bread and wine. “And he was priest of God Most High.” According to the Letter to the Hebrews, echoing Psalm 110, Melchizedek’s priesthood prefigured the eternal priesthood of Christ, and the bread and wine presaged the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

To make bread, the Jews kneaded together plain dough, made of flour and water, and dough which had been fermented with yeast. If the bread had to be made in a hurry, there was no point in letting it rise, and the fermented dough was left out. The resulting unleavened bread was called *matsah* in old Hebrew, or in modern cookery, matzo bread.

At the Passover, when the Jews fled from Egypt, they fed in haste the night before on roast lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Ex. 12:8-11). Ever after, Jews have recalled their escape with a meal including unleavened bread. And we Christians have followed their example, in remembrance of Jesus’ last meal with his disciples at Passover time, though whether leavened or unleavened bread has been a topic for dispute at times – for each type has its own symbolism.

Bread was also used in the Jewish Temple. Leviticus 2 describes the grain offering, made with unleavened bread (a later tradition noted that the *matsoth* were striped and pierced, prefiguring Jesus, pierced on the cross, “by whose stripes we were healed”, and the thank offering described in Lev.7:11-14 was accompanied by both leavened and unleavened bread. But just as important was the bread of the Presence (the 1611 Bible calls it “shewbread”), which was placed on a gilt table in the sanctuary each Sabbath and kept “before the Lord always” (Ex.25:30)

Bread was so important, of course, because, like water, it was one of the necessities of life. In their wanderings with Moses through the desert, the Children of Israel were several times rescued by hidden springs of water, and by a strange growth that sprang up overnight – manna, not “bread from heaven” (Ex.16:4). So when Jesus tells the people in Capernaum that he is “the true bread from heaven, ... the bread of life”, he echoes how essential it is for us to receive nourishment from God. “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (Jn 16:39)

In the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God to “give us today our daily bread”, and recall that without God we have no life. But the word translated “daily” means “for the day”, an equally valid interpretation is the bread of God’s kingdom, the day when Jesus will “raise us up” (Jn 16:40, repeated in 16:54). Both meanings are true, and remind us in any case of Jesus’ words, “the one who eats this bread will live forever.” Come and taste how good the Lord is!

- *Hector Davie*



Barbara Smaile, one of the kitchen staff at the Women's Land Army break house at Torquay in 1944, brings in freshly baked bread.

# Some notes from Chaplain Stephen

## **Building Trust**

The early months of a new ministry are about building trust. An established community like St Ursula's wishes to discern what might, or might not be possible with a new Chaplain. It is essential that a relationship of trust is established if the Chaplain and community are to work effectively together. We tend to overestimate what can be achieved in one year and underestimate what can be achieved in five years.

## **Establishing a Rhythm of Prayer**

It is important that as clergy we are true to ourselves. I consider myself to be essentially Benedictine, that is to say influenced by the Rule and Life of St Benedict. In England I have a connection with an Anglican Benedictine Monastery at Mucknell Abbey. My own Spiritual Director for the whole of my ministry has been a woman who is a Religious and who lives a solitary life. The Anglican Church is in many ways a Benedictine Church.

As a part of this I keep a daily rhythm of prayer. This means that I say formal morning and evening prayers as well as pray in other ways. The aim of the Christian Way is to make our whole life an act of prayer.

Henry had already begun to establish some prayer offices at St Ursula and we now invite people to join us when they can, at 8.30 Tuesday, 10.30 Thursday, followed by a time of fellowship at 11, then 6pm Friday. I cannot emphasise enough how important I think these times of prayer are. Though perhaps not for everybody, it would be good if a core group could share in the responsibility for these and for anyone to feel able to be a part of these times on any occasion without being obliged always to be there. Please join us when you can.

## **Encountering the Bible**

A healthy rhythm of Christian life involves both Sunday worship and a midweek learning opportunity. We need to periodically ask the question 'How am I growing as a Christian?'

The Bible I use is the NRSV. There is both an Anglicized and an American version available. It is the Bible used and recommended in the training of clergy and the translation we use for our Bible readings in Church. I am happy to speak to anyone who might be considering buying a new Bible for devotional use about which Bible might be most helpful for them.

This Autumn it would be good to establish an opportunity to reflect upon the scriptures as a church. Please let me know if you are interested in this.

# Ecumenical House Group

"There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens"

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

After some six years, we, Lynn and Brian, have decided to relinquish the leadership of the Ecumenical House Group. This could well mean the group will no longer remain active.

It has been an enriching experience leading the group and we have met, prayed with, studied with and shared with many devout Christians over the years. However, calling on the Holy Spirit, we both feel the time has now come to pray about and review our roles and mission and to seek where God is leading us in our lives. We need to approach this process without the added responsibility of leading the group.

Please pray for us - as we will continue to pray for the whole family of Christ, both at St Ursula's and in other communities in Berne.

In Christ alone  
Lynn & Brian

## Thun services

Just a reminder that we have our services in Thun at 18:30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Chapelle Romande on Frutigenstrasse 22. It is a lovely little chapel, come along and see. We will also be having the Thun Carol service there this year on 7 December, as it is easily accessible for all.





This year – as ever! – we will be relying on the generosity of YOU to make the Christmas Bazaar a success and all help offered is gratefully received! Our Organisational Meeting will take place after the service on Sunday 1 October. Please think about how you can help with the Bazaar.

#### **PRESERVES AND PICKLES**

The home-made jams, marmalades and pickles are always very popular, so if you can spare a few jars of your home-made preserves, please leave them - clearly marked—in the Church Kitchen.

#### **CAKE BAKING & DECORATING**

Please join us to help make this year's Christmas Cakes. All the ingredients are provided but please bring along any small cake tins that you have. Baking day is Wednesday 25 October from 09.00.

#### **CAKE DECORATING**

Decorating day is on Saturday 18 November from 09.00 or if you prefer to decorate at home, please collect some from the Church Kitchen after Thursday 26 October. Cakes should be iced in the traditional way with marzipan and white icing. If you need icing ingredients, please contact Jana Kutesko 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567.

#### **TOMBOLA**

The tombola is a wonderful “catch all” stall – we all receive gifts that aren't quite right for us but could be perfect for someone else, or perhaps you've over stocked on some food items or have some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate! Everything, as long as it's brand new, in perfect condition and not past its sell by date, is welcome. Please deposit any suitable tombola prizes in the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

## **RAFFLE**

The raffle is always very popular and if we can get some good prizes, will be even more so. If you can think of any potential donors or can donate a prize yourself, please contact the Church Office: 031 352 8567 or just bring the prize along to church.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATION WORKSHOP**

Please come along on Thursday 30 November at 09.00 to help make the lovely Christmas Wreaths and Decorations that we sell at the bazaar. No special skills are needed to take part in this fun-filled day of crafts. Lunch will be provided – just let Church Office know you'll be there.

## **BAZAAR RESTAURANT**

Help is needed throughout the whole of Friday and during the bazaar itself. We'll need plenty of cakes, scones, biscuits or mince pies baking too! All help, even if it's just for an hour or two, will be gratefully received.

## **TOY STALL**

New or second hand toys in excellent condition are wanted for the Toy Stall– please bring your donations into church on Sundays and put them in the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

## **BRIC À BRAC**

Please check out your cupboards, drawers, cellars or attics for any “no longer wanted” crockery, ornaments, china & any other items suitable for this stall – please note that we can not accept clothing or items of furniture - please bring your donations into church on Sundays and put them in the Red Tombola Box in the Upper Hall.

## **NEW STALLS?**

If you have an idea for a new stall and are willing to help run it, please contact Jana Kutesko: 031 809 4737 or 031 352 8567 – we'd love to hear from you!

## **HELP ON STALLS**

If you can help on a stall during the bazaar, please either contact the stall holder directly or write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall. A list of stall holders will be available in the Upper Hall or ask the Church Office: [berne@anglican.ch](mailto:berne@anglican.ch) or 031 352 8567 for contact details.

## **SET UP**

We need to move lots of furniture around to set up the bazaar, so if you can spare a couple of hours on Thursday 30 November from 17.30 to help set up the stalls, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall.

## **CLEAR UP**

Please join our clear up team on Saturday 2 December from 15.00. and help make the church and halls ready for Sunday. If you can help, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Upper Hall.

## **FLYERS**

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

- *Jana Kutesko, Church Office*

# **Note from the Treasurer**

Dear all, many thanks to those who joined us at the British Embassy fundraiser in August. We had a lovely evening in the residence and garden, with great music and good company. It was lovely to see old faces and make new friends. We have raised over Fr7,000 to date from that event. More is welcome, so if you came along and took a paying in slip but have not yet used it, please think about doing so soon. The building work is in full swing as anyone who comes regularly to Church or looks at our Facebook page will have seen. We are still around Fr40,000 short of our target, despite a generous grant of Fr20,000 from the GVB Kulturstiftung.

On the finance front it will be Pledge Sunday soon so our pledge packs will be going out in October. I will be producing a budget for 2018 at that point. Stephen will be writing the letters this year. If anyone who is new would already like information about our pledging scheme there are some leaflets in the porch. They will probably also receive a revamp this year.

For 2017 we are still on a good way, with pledges more or less where budgeted, and collections starting to pick up after my last report. Thank you. I am also investigating the possibility of introducing Twint in our church for easy donations or purchase of food, books etc. More and more people are carrying less and less cash. If anyone has any strong feelings about such things in our Church, either for or against, please let me know. I would love to hear your thoughts.

I also sent out 90 reminders with the last magazine, and lots of those who were reminded have now paid. One or two took offence unfortunately which was not the effect I was hoping for. My apologies to any who may have been offended.

- *Sue Higson*

# Church Breakfasts

The Church Breakfasts continue - on the first Sunday of each month. So the dates for the next few are:

1 October

5 November

3 December

7 January

Put these dates in your diary now.

Everyone is welcome. Just come along any time between 8.30 and 9.15 – no need to sign up or bring anything. Cereals, fruit, bread, butter, jam, marmalade and croissants together with tea, coffee and juice will be there waiting for you.

And you can meet people – those you know and perhaps even some you do not know.

- *Tricia Carrick*



## Kitchen

We cannot find the 7 or 8 big glass bowls we used to have – used for salad and many other things. If you have borrowed them, please return them. And a request for the future: if you borrow something from the church kitchen, please leave a note with your name and telephone number.

We are planning the annual clean-up of the kitchen for some time in the first three weeks of October (exact date still to be decided). We will also try to re-label the cupboards. If you would like to come and help please contact Lynn or Tricia.

- *Tricia Carrick and Lynn Morgan*



# RETURNS!

**FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER FROM 19.00**

Last year's Pub Quiz Night proved to be a very popular event, so once again we will be offering a fun-filled night of good traditional pub grub and drinks with a fabulous pub quiz thrown in.

The entrance cost will be Fr10 per person which will include the first drink and entry to the pub quiz. Team size can be from 1 – 6 members. You can sign up as a team or simply join a team on the night.

Numbers are limited and all tickets must be bought in advance. Please contact the Church Office – [berne@anglican.ch](mailto:berne@anglican.ch) or 031 352 8567 to reserve your place.

Please take a flyer from the Upper Hall and help publicise this event – flyers are also available from the website [www.stursula.ch](http://www.stursula.ch)

*- Jana Kutesko, Church Office*



**“Let’s have Soup together”**

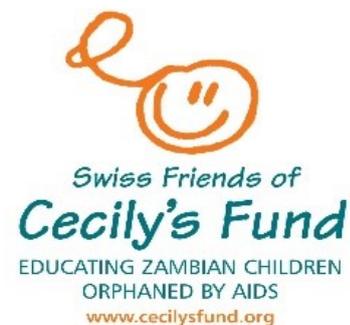
Join us to celebrate the colder weather  
with a warm soup get together!

Sunday 5 November

St Ursula’s Church  
Berne

11.30am to 1.30pm

All donations to the







«Enjoy a Night of Great Music»

## Cecily's Fund Benefit Concert

Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 7.30pm, Heiliggeistkirche Berne

**Alexandre Dubach, violin**  
**Marc Fitze, organ and harmonium**  
**Salma Flügel, cello**  
**Florence Meister, harp**

Works by Camille Saint-Saens, Niccolo Paganini, Antonio Lopez Almagro and others

**We would be delighted to see you there**

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

**Many thanks for your cooperation**

# Prayer of Comfort for Those Orphaned or Abandoned

Dear Lord Jesus, so many children around the world have become orphaned or abandoned for so many different reasons and have never known the love of a mother or father for them –

Lord we know that You care for all people - but have a special heart for little children and orphans –

Watch over these children and young people, we pray. Comfort them in their trials and provide for them when they are in need. Educate them when they are abandoned, protect them from those that would take advantage of their vulnerabilities and heal the physical and emotional hurt that so many have had to face in their young lives. And Father we ask that in Your grace You would draw near to each one and bring them into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus –

Meet each one at their point of need we pray and cover them with Your grace, in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

*- Yvonne Bomonti Berne Representative, Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund*

## Children's Toy & Equipment Sale

This very popular sale will be held on Saturday 28 October from 10.00 – 12.00 in the Upper Hall.



Please let your friends and family know about this opportunity for buying excellent quality second-hand clothes, toys & equipment. For more details please contact the Church Office (031 352 8567). Flyers are available from St Ursula's website, [www.anglican.ch/berne](http://www.anglican.ch/berne)

# Services and Readings

## October and November 2017

### 1 October

#### 16th Sunday after Trinity

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

### 8 October

#### 17th Sunday after Trinity

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Informal Eucharist  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

### 15 October

#### 18th Sunday after Trinity

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

### 22 October

#### Pledge Sunday

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Eucharist  
Joshua 4:21-24  
2 Corinthians 9:6-7  
Matthew 6:1-4

### 29 October

#### Bible Sunday

10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Nehemiah 8:1-4a,5-6,8-12  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Matthew 24:30-35

### 5 November

#### All Saints Day

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

### 12 November

#### Remembrance Sunday

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Wisdom 6:12-16  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
John 15:9-17

### 19 November

#### Second Sunday before Advent

10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Zephaniah 1:7,12-18  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### 26 November

#### Christ the King

08.30 Said Communion  
10.00 Sung Eucharist  
Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### 3 December

#### Advent Sunday

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

# For Your Diary

## October & November 2017

### Regular Weekly Events

Tuesdays	08.30	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Thursdays	10.30	Prayer and Fellowship
Fridays	09.30	Patchwork
	18.00	Evening Prayer
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 2 December

### Other Events

Sunday 1 October	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Bible Study
	11.30	Christmas Bazaar Organisational Meeting
Tuesday 3 October	19.30	Church Council
Thursday 5 October	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 15 October	10.00	Youth Bible Study
Thursday 19 October	18.30	Thun Service
Sunday 22 October		Pledge Sunday
Wednesday 25 October	09.00-11.00	Christmas Cake Baking
Saturday 28 October	10.00-12.00	Second Hand Children's Toy and Equipment Sale
Thursday 2 November	18.30	Thun Service
Friday 3 November	09.00-13.00	Book Sorting
	19.00	Pub Quiz Fundraiser
Saturday 4 November	09.00-17.00	Safeguarding Training Day (see p. 33)
	19.30	Cecily's Fund Benefit Concert at Heiliggeistkirche

Sunday 5 November	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Bible Study
	11.30	Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch
Tuesday 7 November	19.30	Church Council
Saturday 11 November	09.00-18.00	Beauty Day – an Energy Appeal Fundraiser
	18.00-23.00	Night of Religions in Bern
Sunday 12 November		Remembrance Sunday
		Magazine Copy Date
Thursday 16 November	18.30	Thun Service
Saturday 18 November	09.00-14.00	Christmas Cake Decorating
Sunday 19 November	10.00	Youth Bible Study
Thursday 23 November	09.00-11.00	Magazine Collating
Saturday 25 November	16.00	Afternoon tea
	17.00	Choral Evensong
Sunday 26 November	12.00-14.30	Nativity Service Rehearsals
Thursday 30 November	09.00-16.00	Christmas Decoration Workshop TBC
	17.30-20.00	Bazaar Set-up
Friday 1 December	09.00-16.00	Bazaar Set-up
	17.00-19.30	Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 2 December	10.00-15.00	Christmas Bazaar
	15.00-17.00	Bazaar Clear Up

### **Future Dates**

Sunday 3 December	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Bible Study
	12.00-14.30	Nativity Service Rehearsals
Thursday 7 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service
Sunday 10 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Thursday 14 December	19.30	Heiliggeist Carol Service
Sunday 17 December	10.00	Youth Bible Study

# Prayer Diary

October 2017

- 1 **Sunday** That God may continue bless our Chaplain Stephen in his ministry here  
For the Church Breakfast; for those preparing for the Christmas Bazaar
- 2 Monday For those who have been affected by the hurricanes in the Caribbean
- 3 Tuesday For Morning Prayer on Tuesdays. For the Church Council meeting
- 4 Wednesday We give thanks for Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars  
Minor, 1226
- 5 Thursday For the service in Thun this evening
- 6 Friday We give thanks for William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures,  
Reformation Martyr, 1536
- 7 Saturday For our Wardens, Maxine Wildhaber and John Hutchison
- 8 **Sunday** For the music group and their involvement in the informal Eucharist service
- 9 Monday For all the handworkers engaged in the renovation work in the house and  
church. For the coordinator, Hans Goepfert
- 10 Tuesday We give thanks for Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644
- 11 Wednesday For guidance of the Holy Spirit for Henry Hope as he considers putting  
himself forward for the priesthood
- 12 Thursday We give thanks for Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709
- 13 Friday We give thanks for Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915  
For doctors, nurses and those serving the sick throughout the world
- 14 Saturday We give thanks for Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066
- 15 **Sunday** For the children and teachers in Junior Church this morning
- 16 Monday For continued donations to our energy and building appeal
- 17 Tuesday We give thanks for Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c. 107
- 18 Wednesday We give thanks for Luke the Evangelist
- 19 Thursday For prayer and fellowship being held in church this morning - and for the  
Thun service, this evening
- 20 Friday For all refugees and the history of welcoming and supporting them. We  
pray especially for the Sediqi family
- 21 Saturday We look to the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, souls and minds for Pledge  
Sunday tomorrow
- 22 **Sunday** For Pledge Sunday; for all the Lay People serving in church today
- 23 Monday That the message from Pledge Sunday will remain in our hearts – and  
affect our future giving
- 24 Tuesday For an end to the atrocities in Syria and other countries at war of the  
Middle East; for the total defeat of ISIS
- 25 Wednesday For great fellowship at the Christmas Cake baking group today; good job  
ladies (and gentlemen)!
- 26 Thursday We give thanks for Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899
- 27 Friday For the Chaplaincies in the Archdeaconry of Switzerland
- 28 Saturday We give thanks for Simon and Jude, Apostles
- 29 **Sunday** That the Holy Spirit will move us to personally invite a non-churchgoer to  
St Ursula's next Sunday
- 30 Monday That we pray regularly for our non-Christian friends and workmates
- 31 Tuesday We give thanks for Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

## November 2017

- 1 Wednesday ALL SAINTS' DAY  
For our Chaplain Stephen Stuckes, his wife and family
- 2 Thursday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); we remember especially those known personally to us
- 3 Friday For fun and fellowship at the Pub Quiz Night
- 4 Saturday For people contemplating retirement or recently retired
- 5 **Sunday** The Cecily's Fund Pumpkin Soup Lunch today; for Yvonne Bomonti, the Swiss representative of Cecily's Fund
- 6 Monday For the European Community and the Brexit negotiations
- 7 Tuesday We remember Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 461
- 8 Wednesday For the Chaplaincies of the Archdeaconry of France, its priests and people
- 9 Thursday For Hector – his commitment to St Ursula's – his articles in the magazine
- 10 Friday For our brothers and sisters of the Roman Catholic Church, especially the English services at the Bruder Klaus church
- 11 Saturday For "Beauty Day" hosted by the Brazilian Church
- 12 **Sunday** Remembrance Sunday; let us silently remember and pray for the souls of the men, women and children from all countries who have died in war
- 13 Monday That we share the Good News with a stranger this week
- 14 Tuesday For Rolf and Cecily Klinger, Donna and Hans Goepfert, long-time keepers of the faith at St Ursula's
- 15 Wednesday For the Chaplaincies in Lausanne and Montreux, both in an interregnum
- 16 Thursday We remember Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist, Reformer of the Church, 1093
- 17 Friday For the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev Justin Welby; for our Bishops, Robert and David and Archdeacon, Adèle
- 18 Saturday Give thanks for the Christmas Cake Decorating Team
- 19 **Sunday** For renewal of the heart and mind as we partake of the body and blood of Christ at the Eucharist today
- 20 Monday We remember Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 870
- 21 Tuesday For Morning Prayer today
- 22 Wednesday For reduced tension between North Korea and its neighbours and the USA
- 23 Thursday For Alison Masciadri, the organizer of the Readers Rota
- 24 Friday For strength to love and forgive our enemies
- 25 Saturday We give thanks for Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748
- 26 **Sunday** For all involved in the Nativity Play rehearsal today
- 27 Monday For a shared vision for the future for St Ursula's
- 28 Tuesday For the Sound and Beamer Team
- 29 Wednesday For the ministry work of the Church
- 30 Thursday We give thanks for Andrew the Apostle

- Compiled by Brian Morgan

# Junior Church News

## Groups and Meeting Times

Junior church meets on most Sundays during the 10.00 service. The children start the service with the congregation and then leave together after the welcome. We usually split into two classes depending on the age range of the children. The second Sunday of the month is a more informal service and the older children (11 years and above) stay for the service and on these Sundays we just have one class.

## Junior Church Charity

Tear Fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with our weekly collection - at the start of each Junior Church - going to the "Uganda Water and Sanitation" project.

## Crèche

For children younger than three there is a supervised crèche. The crèche is in the lower hall. Parents can bring their children before the service. Pick up is immediately after the service or alternatively before the Eucharist where children are welcome to receive a blessing.



## Nativity Play

This year's Nativity Play will be on Sunday 10 December. The first rehearsal will be after the 10.00 service on 26 November.

- Jana Kutesko

# Youth Bible Study

The Youth Bible Study Group has resumed after the summer break. However, the attendance has been poor so please pray for the group.

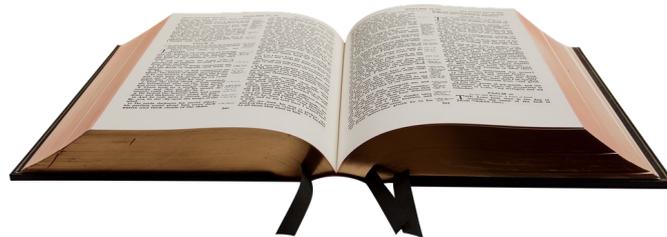
The meetings in October and November will be:

- 1 October
- 15 October
- 5 November
- 19 November

We plan to continue to look at “Old Testament Characters”.

Any young person, aged 14 – 22, is welcome to join the group. Just come along on one of the Sundays mentioned above. If you would like more information, please contact Tricia Carrick

*-Tricia Carrick*



## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in October and November

Amélie Sims 14 on 1 October

Daniela Cintron 4 on 19 October

Ayla Carnell 5 on 22 October

Louis Carnell 5 on 22 October

Marvin Carnell 5 on 22 October

Daniel King 16 on 2 November

Takura Wyder 14 on 11 November

Joana Agoba 14 on 13 November

Gabriela Cintron 9 on 19 November

Naomi Kingori 16 on 28 November

Samuel Wienand 3 on 28 November



# Activity Club – final event

On Friday/Saturday, 28-29 August 2017, a lively group of Activity Club activists spent the night under the pine trees in the garden of Fernand and Françoise Hänggi on the Längenberg. We set up tents – for some a first time experience, cooked together, made smores (thanks to John with ingredients flown in from the US), took a late night walk through the forest to the Tavel Denkmal to look at the milky way and identify the north star, cuddled up in sleeping bags for a night that was all too short, enjoyed a pancake breakfast and looked through old photos again.....a worthy final Activity Club event that was enjoyed by all. A big thanks to Jana, Sharon, Christina, Emily, Rebekka and Raphael for taking on leadership roles and organising tents. With many hands to help, we all had time to chat and enjoy.



Camping 2017

Activity Club was initiated in 2010, then under the leadership of Tina, Thenjiwe and me, with the aim of organising events for our 7-12 year-olds that would complement the community aspect of our church life. We met 6-9 times a year, often on a Saturday morning or a Sunday after church. Most events were geared towards team building and took place outdoors, like our all-day hike on the Belpberg to look for fossils, cycling to Thun, baseball on the Gurten, canyon hiking along Schwarzwasser, ice-skating at Ka-We-De, a drumming workshop at church, soccer matches, and putt-putt in Bolligen. Two events a year we reserved for community service: we helped local farmers

harvest their apples; we baked, made chocolates, breads and syrups to raise money for our Tear Fund project on more than one occasion. When we still had the pastoral teas at our church, Activity Club was there to help, contributing towards the afternoon entertainment and helping serve. Whenever possible, our team of kids were there to offer a hand in some way at the Christmas Bazaar and the Summer



Apple harvest 2010

Fêtes – manning stalls, helping out and clearing away. Bowling in Rubigen became our traditional final event of the year – and the moment where we ceremoniously sent off members leaving us, reviewed the old year and collected ideas for the new.



Sleepover campfire 2011

Over the years, leadership changed and kids joined and left. Jana and Sharon joined the team, contributing

in a very practical way to the diversity of our annual programme. Our young members grew up. They took on teen leadership roles by supervising small groups – particularly when we had our baking events - and by organising games. And when we needed help, they often came back to support us. We

have had the amazing pleasure of being a small part of the lives of the youth of our church. We have seen them grow and develop as individuals and Christians. In the last years our club evolved into a young teens club – many of our kids clearly older than 12. It was time for a change. With the new plans of our Junior Church team for our under 9s and older teens, we are ready for something new. We look forward to the future and are thankful for all that has been!



Bowling 2014

- Françoise Hänggi for the Activity Club team

### Activity Club Blessing

May God give you...  
 For every storm, a rainbow,  
 For every tear, a smile,  
 For every care, a promise,  
 And a blessing in each trial.  
 For every problem life sends,  
 A faithful friend to share,  
 For every sigh, a sweet song,  
 And an answer for each prayer.  
 And until we meet again,  
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



Drumming workshop 2014



مؤسسة الأراضي المقدسة للصم  
The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

## Charity of the Month The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf – an Update

*With Stephen, the St Ursula's Charity Team has been looking again at some of the bases for our charity giving. By giving, we share our wealth with the needy, and we do not expect any benefit from them in return (though their thanks is always nice to have!) But we do gain a spiritual benefit when we give, though only when we know why we are giving, and what we are giving to. Since 2005, this has been the point of these regular magazine articles, and this is why this article goes into deeper detail by sharing the latest news from HLID at Salt, in Jordan, whose activities we heard of from Gerhard Tschanz at our last Missions Sunday in February. So here is their latest prayer letter from Joel Hansen – please pray as you read it.*



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Dear brothers and sisters,

May we ask you once again this **new school year** to continue presenting yourselves before the Throne of Grace with us and for us. Doors would open here because you pray about it right there where you are.

The new school year gets to start here at the HLID on September 4th. Parents bring their children to school, bags and baggage all packed up. Pray that they will be kept safe in their travel on the roads, they are often en route for hours coming to school. The first weeks after their long summer holidays are always a time of getting back into routine for the children. Most of them have a completely different routine at home – up till late in the evening, sleeping in till late in the morning. Getting back into a strict daily timetable makes considerable demands on some of the children.

Ask God for new co-workers in the harvest field of the Deaf and Deafblind in Jordan. A new volunteer, **Leon** has come from the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) in Germany. Last year, we had altogether four volunteers from Germany who supported us with practical skills. So we are lacking colleagues in the dormitories for example, in break-time supervision, publicity and in the Deaf-blind Unit.

**Jantine** from Holland joined the Sign Language team till the end of the year to help develop interpreter training courses, and to work on her own research project.

**Johanna** from Korea is back again in Jordan with his newly wedded wife **Shinae**. We would ask you to stand by them, for protection and guidance in their marriage and for both their work at the Institute.

Deafblind **Rahmeh** (we have often asked for prayer for her) is back in school. Her parents did not know how to go on as she was banging with her fists all day long at the door of her room and screamed until the neighbours complained. Rahmeh did not forget the school and what she has learnt here. We would like to thank you for your prayers which the Father has answered in his good time.

**Pastor Jamil** is happy that people pray for him for his work in the parish and with the young people and all the families he visits – that he can win the confidence in the fellowship. Jamil has also recently started to conduct a Saturday evening service for the parish here at the Institute. I hope that in this way, the parish might take part in the mission of the school.

We are very thankful for all the presentations, talks, services and meetings that **Brother Andrew**, the **Hansen family**, **Johanna** and **Shinae**, **Jörg**, **Dineke** and **Joshua** shared in Holland, England, Korea, Germany and Switzerland, to make known the work of the Institute. This networking enables the Institute to fulfil its calling.

**Please pray for:**

**Confidence that God is our Provider;**

**Pastor Jamil in his new responsibilities;**

**New workers for the Institute;**

**The new School executive committee (Trustees' council).**

**Thank the Lord for:**

**All the children God has entrusted to us for the school year;**

**His answer to all the prayers for Rahmeh;**

**Shinae's and Leon's work;**

**All the new contacts during the summer.**

We greet you all right warmly and pray you will know God's grace.

Joel and the Salt Team

---

PS: The rather ornate Arabic reads **الله كريم** , Allah Kariem, God is Merciful. Allah is the name of God for Arab Christians as well as for Muslims!

*- Hector Davie for the Charity & Missions Team*



# Safeguarding at St Ursula's



The Diocese in Europe promotes “Safe Churches” as part of its commitment to the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

A new Safeguarding Policy and Protocol has been put in place, as of December 2015, and includes major updates in line with recent legislation changes and experience across the Church of England.

Our St Ursula's Church Council has adopted the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Protocol proposed by the Diocese of Europe of which we are part and approves this each year:

## **Our St Ursula's Safeguarding Policy**

The protection from harm of children and adults who may be vulnerable is of paramount importance to us. As a chaplaincy within the Diocese of Europe, we must comply fully with the requirements of the Diocese's Safeguarding Policy.

We will not tolerate the abuse of children or adults in any form.

Specifically, within our Chaplaincy we are committed to:

- The care, nurture, and respectful pastoral ministry of all children, young persons and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young persons and adults who may be vulnerable

- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of ‘informed vigilance’ as to the dangers of abuse.
- The careful selection and training of all those with any safeguarding responsibility within the Church, including the use of available criminal records disclosures and relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- Preventing abuse or the likelihood of abuse by encouraging and adopting a pro-active stance to safeguarding; responding to the slightest concern whether by rumour, speculation or from an anonymous source – every safeguarding concern will be taken seriously.
- Ensuring that any concern about safeguarding must be passed onto someone in the Diocesan Safeguarding Team as there are no legal barriers to sharing such concerns.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed - co-operating with the local police, relevant local agencies and any other relevant body (e.g. other faith groups) in any investigation.
- Seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Our Chaplain, our reader, the wardens, the Safeguarding Officer and our council have specific responsibilities to fulfil concerning safeguarding to comply with our Diocesan Safeguarding protocol.

***But safeguarding is also a responsibility of every member of our congregation at St Ursula’s:***

Every member of our congregation shares a moral duty to provide a safe and secure environment. In particular:

- You must comply with our local Chaplaincy Safeguarding Protocol
- If you are regularly involved in organised activities at St Ursula’s with children, young people, or adults who may be vulnerable you will need to be subject to a safeguarding check

- If you become aware of any abuse taking place (or indeed any potential for abuse), **no matter how slight your concern is**, then you must bring this to the attention of the St Ursula's Safeguarding Officer, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team as soon as you can – or you can report it on the Diocesan confidential reporting line
- You do not have to have proof before you report any safeguarding concern.

All clergy and readers have Safeguarding training and need record-check clearance certificates as a normal part of their ministry. Hundreds of lay volunteers in local churches across Europe are being encouraged to go through the process to ensure that our congregations are safe places for young and vulnerable people to visit.

Two online basic training courses are available online, one for those who work with children and youth and one for those who work with vulnerable adults - see the link below. At St Ursula's, all of those who are directly involved with children, youth or vulnerable adults are expected to complete these online training courses. In fact it is recommended that we encourage all our parishioners to do the two on-line courses. The aim is to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of what is involved in safeguarding and what could be a danger signal.

The Diocese of Europe Safeguarding Policy and Protocol and links to the two online safeguarding training courses are available on the Diocesan website at <http://europe.anglican.org>

On November 4, a safeguarding training session led by safeguarding trainers from the Diocese will be taking place at St Ursula's and our chaplain, our reader, our wardens, our safeguarding officer and all those who work with the Crèche, Junior Church and our young people should be attending this.

If you have any queries please speak to our Safeguarding Officer (Cecily Klingler Tel: 031 302 4859 or 076 425 4859)

*- Cecily Klingler, Safeguarding Officer for St Ursula's*



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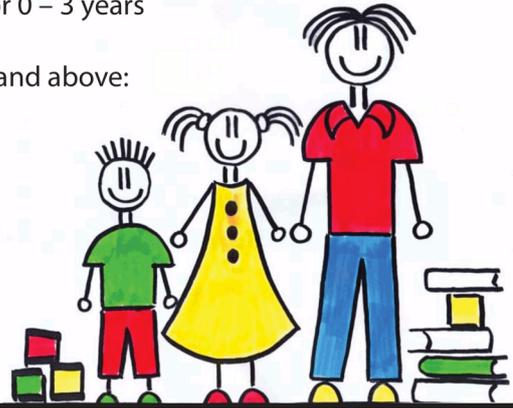


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- \*Individual achievement of each student is valued alongside support for one another.

- \*Enviably low student to teacher ratio

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**Early registration is recommended!**

English Speaking Club of Bern

## Official Invitation

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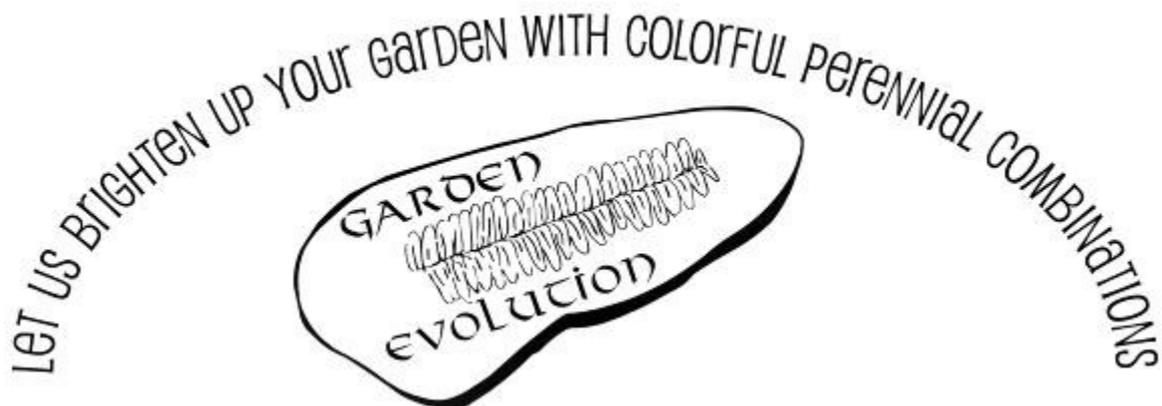
We are looking forward to meeting you

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

## Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of - and integration into - Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count 140 members (including families) from some 30 nations. Our common language is English, but among our members many other languages can be heard. We hold a monthly meeting with guest speakers and presentations on a wide range of topics, and publish a monthly Newsletter. In 2016 the club celebrated its 25th anniversary with several special events. We are waiting to welcome you !

Nazanin Kupferschmid, President  
Tel. 078 905 5743, email nkschmid@gmx.net  
International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, www: icberne.ch  
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The Swiss British Society, Berne organises a number of cultural events including visits to exhibitions, concerts, a Christmas dinner, Burns supper and musical evenings. We also invite guest speakers to address our members on a range of literary, musical or political topics. Usually our events have a social element - we try to combine dinner or lunch together with our lectures and outings, or at least a chat and a cup of tea! New members are always welcome. Our website (and circular) is hosted by the Federation of Anglo Swiss clubs at [www.angloswissclubs.ch](http://www.angloswissclubs.ch)

Contact: President: Chris Warren

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

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[www.upstage.ch](http://www.upstage.ch)

[www.facebook.com/upstage.bern](http://www.facebook.com/upstage.bern)

# Here to help you

## **CARETAKER**

Rolf Klingler 031 302 48 59

## **CATERING COORDINATOR**

Lynn Morgan 031 971 13 36

## **CHARITY AND MISSIONS TEAM**

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

### **Church Council**

#### *Lay Members:*

Tricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

Donna Goepfert (*secretary*) 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Sue Higson 076 690 50 88

Henry Hope 078 408 62 06

John Hutchison (*vice chair*) 032 665 01 81

Cecily Klingler 031 302 48 59

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

Edi Wildhaber 079 460 61 15

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

Ruby Wildhaber 031 301 75 62

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On our back cover is Thomas Cranmer's collect for All Saints' Day. Nobody is quite sure where the noun collect (with the stress on the first syllable) comes from – some say from its being spoken in front of the collected congregation, some from the idea that it collected together many thoughts into a single prayer, some from its Latin root of being “read with” the special readings for the day. It certainly has nothing to do with the church collection, and the modern German word *Kollekte* is a false friend!

Collects usually follow a particular pattern. There is an invocation, a call to God. There is an acknowledgement of why God can do what we want. There is a petition, what we want. There is an aspiration, what we hope to do when we get what we want. And there is a conclusion, asking for the mediation of Jesus, which we confirm when we say “Amen” (“Indeed”).

Cranmer translated many of the old collects from the Latin Mass into English, at a time when the English Bible was taking shape, when literature was beginning to flower, and when the language was clear and direct. But for All Saints' Day he did not do this, because it emphasized too much the intercessions of the saints – a perfectly scriptural concept (James 5:14-16; Rev.5:8, 8:3-4), but simple people might think their intercessions more effective than the mediation of Christ himself.

So Cranmer's acknowledgement recalls that God has “knit together” the church – an echo of Romans 12:5, and that the church is a “mystery” - an outward sign of God's eternal plan for humankind, echoing Ephesians 3:9-10. His petition is for us to follow the saints, something far more active than the older Roman collect, which had asked for us to receive the reconciliation the saints were praying for.

The end effect, the aspiration is the same, and it echoes the hope, quoted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:9, that we should receive the good things that have been prepared for those who love God.

Only sixty-seven words, but sixty-seven words worth taking apart and savouring slowly, for the word collect reminds us too that here are many powerful thoughts collected and concentrated into a small space!



Portrait of Thomas Cranmer,  
by Gerlach Flicke, 1545

- *Hector Davie*

O ALMIGHTY God,  
who hast knit together thine elect  
in one communion and fellowship,  
in the mystical body of thy Son  
Christ our Lord;  
Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints  
in all virtuous and godly living,  
that we may come to those unspeakable joys  
which thou hast prepared  
for those who unfeignedly love thee;  
through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer*  
Collect for All Saints Day



The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs (about 1423-24), Fra Angelico