

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



December 2017 – January 2018

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

Chaplain

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Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

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

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

E-mail: berne@anglican.ch



St Ursula's Church Magazine

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COPY DATE

for the February - March magazine is

14 January 2018

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: Thursday 25 January 2018



Stephen Writes...

'The clock is ticking'

At home one of my favourite sounds is the soft mellow tick of the wind up clock on our kitchen wall. The clock has to be positioned exactly in order that the tick is 'in sync' with a correct metronomic balance. 'The clock is ticking.....' is a saying that is often used as a warning. It tells us that time is short and that a decision must be made or a task completed in case we 'run out' of time.

The Season of Advent is shot through with this sense of the urgency of time and both John the Baptist and Jesus make clear that the moment for taking a life-changing (life-giving?) decision is upon us. At the same time Jesus was concerned that people didn't get this. '..but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?' (Luke 12:56b)

The Greeks had more than one way of conceiving time. Preparing for the coming of Christ was necessary because it was a 'Kairos' moment - the opportune moment in which everything happens.

Perhaps 2000 odd years later we could perhaps be forgiven for having lost some sense of the urgency involved in preparing for the coming of Christ but we live in a moment defined by the Bible as between the first and second coming of Jesus. If we look at the scale of time through the lens of history then we can remind ourselves that the earth is about 4.5 billion years old and that Homo Sapiens, our ancestors, first began to move out of Africa about 70,000 years ago. We are living then in a privileged moment in history, in the age when our conscious development has enabled us to understand the message that Jesus lived and spoke of, the era of Jesus. The Kingdom of God is here and near.

It is a lifetime's work to absorb and reflect what this means for each of us. We have less than a thousand months to grow, learn and live out our little part of God's story for the human race. Advent is the annual reminder to look again at what we have done, who we are and what we may yet become. The clock is ticking...

*'Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin.'*
- Mother Teresa

-Chaplain Stephen

Mary's Christmas



Nativity, by Bernardino Luini, 1525

We all have a picture of that first Christmas – the young couple arriving late at night, the young girl on the donkey, the innkeeper and the stable, the frosty wind. And we know, or we ought to, that all of these are embellishments on what the Bible tells us. Indeed, it is only Luke's gospel that describes the day that changed history – the day when the Saviour Jesus was born.

True, Matthew's gospel describes the angel's visit to Joseph, after he has discovered his future bride is pregnant. True, Matthew describes the visit of

the wise gift-bearers “after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea”. True, John’s gospel declares that “the word was made flesh and lived among us”. But beyond saying that the incarnation happened, and it was God’s work, they add no details. Our picture of the day is all down to Luke’s gospel.

Here we learn of Gabriel’s visit to Mary in Nazareth, of Mary’s three-month stay with her relative Elizabeth, of the registration that required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem, of the birth of Jesus and of Mary’s laying him in a feeding trough “because there was no room” (the word translated “inn”, the same word as in John 14:2, just means “room” – perhaps a guest room), of the angels and the shepherds. We can infer the time of day from the angel’s announcement to the shepherds, we can infer Mary’s youth from our knowledge of Jewish life at that time, but the rest of the story is simply our modern desire to “know what happened”. The Gospels are more interested in why it happened – in what happened in God’s plan for the world.

It is the same with Mary. We know little of who she was. We know, from Matthew 13:55, that she was about to marry a carpenter named Joseph. We know that Jesus accompanied her to the wedding feast in Cana (John 2). The story in Mark 3:19-31 suggests that she and other relatives of Jesus were unnecessarily protective of Jesus as he set out on his ministry, while John 19:25 and Acts 1:14 make it clear that she was a follower of his Way.

Mary’s importance lay in her own part in God’s plan. When the church’s leaders declared in the year 451 at Chalcedon (now a suburb of Istanbul) that Mary was “the one by whom God had been born”, this was not to give kudos to Mary, but to make clear that the baby in the manger was indeed God (and did not become God some time later!). Mary’s part lay in her acceptance of God’s plan, “Let it be with me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

Luke’s gospel portrays Mary’s insight into that plan. When she visits Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, who greets her as “the mother of my Lord”, she breaks into the poetry of the Magnificat – “the Mighty one has done great things for me” - recalling the words of Hannah when she dedicated her son Samuel in the Temple (1 Samuel 2) – God has “lifted up the lowly.”

The picture Luke leaves with us is of glory and of lowliness. The angels in their splendour and the shepherds in their simplicity; the enormous blessing bestowed on Mary, and the baby in the manger; these tell us that at that time, in that place, God and the world met in the reality of the Incarnation. Like Mary, may we treasure these things in our heart.

- *Hector Davie*

A Word for the Month – Word

In the beginning, says Genesis, God created heaven and earth. In the beginning, says the Gospel of John, was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Strange things happen when time and eternity meet, but both are true, if the word beginning has any meaning. The writer of the first chapter of Genesis wanted to make it plain that the world and everything in it had been called into existence by God. God had said “Let there be stars, sun and moon, plants and beasts, and human beings”, and these things had come into being.



The Ancient of Days in Europe a Prophecy copy K, William Blake, 1794

The writer of the creation story in Genesis 1 had an axe to grind. Other religions saw the sun, the moon, physical objects, as things to worship, with their own existence. In Genesis, these are not objects to worship, but things created by God, who alone is worthy of worship. And not made out of something else, but springing into existence because God has spoken – created by the word of God.

“Word” can mean many things, from the sense in which “cat”, “dog” and “and” are words, through the sense of “I’d like a word with you”, to our liturgical “This is the word of the Lord”. Some languages use different names for these senses (like *mot* and *parole*). The Hebrew of the Old Testament uses the same word (*dabar*) for an everyday utterance as for the expression of God’s inmost thoughts, which posed a problem when the Old Testament was translated into Greek, where there were two words for these two concepts, *rhyma* and *logos*.

The *rhyma tou theou*, the word of God, was the collection of sayings about God – what we now know as the Bible. It could also mean God’s act of speech – the word of God by which the heavens were made (Hebrews 11:3).

The *logos kyriou*, the word of the Lord, was what came to the prophets. When they spoke, they were expressing God’s way of looking at events. They were God’s mouthpiece. They were revealing God’s will. What they said was God’s message and came with God’s power and God’s authority.

A little before the time of Jesus, Jewish culture came into contact with Greek philosophy. Thanks to Plato, the Greeks had developed the idea of an underlying idea, a *logos*, a word, expressing itself in *rhymai*, words. The Jews had developed a very similar idea, but for them, the underlying thought was the wisdom of God. The two philosophies merged, and this is what underlies the prologue to John’s gospel.

In Jesus, God’s very self was revealed. The Word was with God and the Word was God – not a God, not a divine being, but God in person. For the writer of John’s gospel, this was a message of Christmas – in Jesus, God was completely revealed. “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9).

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

- Hector Davie

Electoral Roll Revision

Each year our Electoral Roll is revised just before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) – you will find more information about the AGM elsewhere in this magazine.

At the AGM we elect representatives to the church council and also the churchwardens.

In order to vote at these elections, you must be on the Electoral Roll. You must also be on the Electoral Roll if you would like to stand for election yourself or nominate someone else. You can see the current list of members of the Electoral Roll in the church hall.

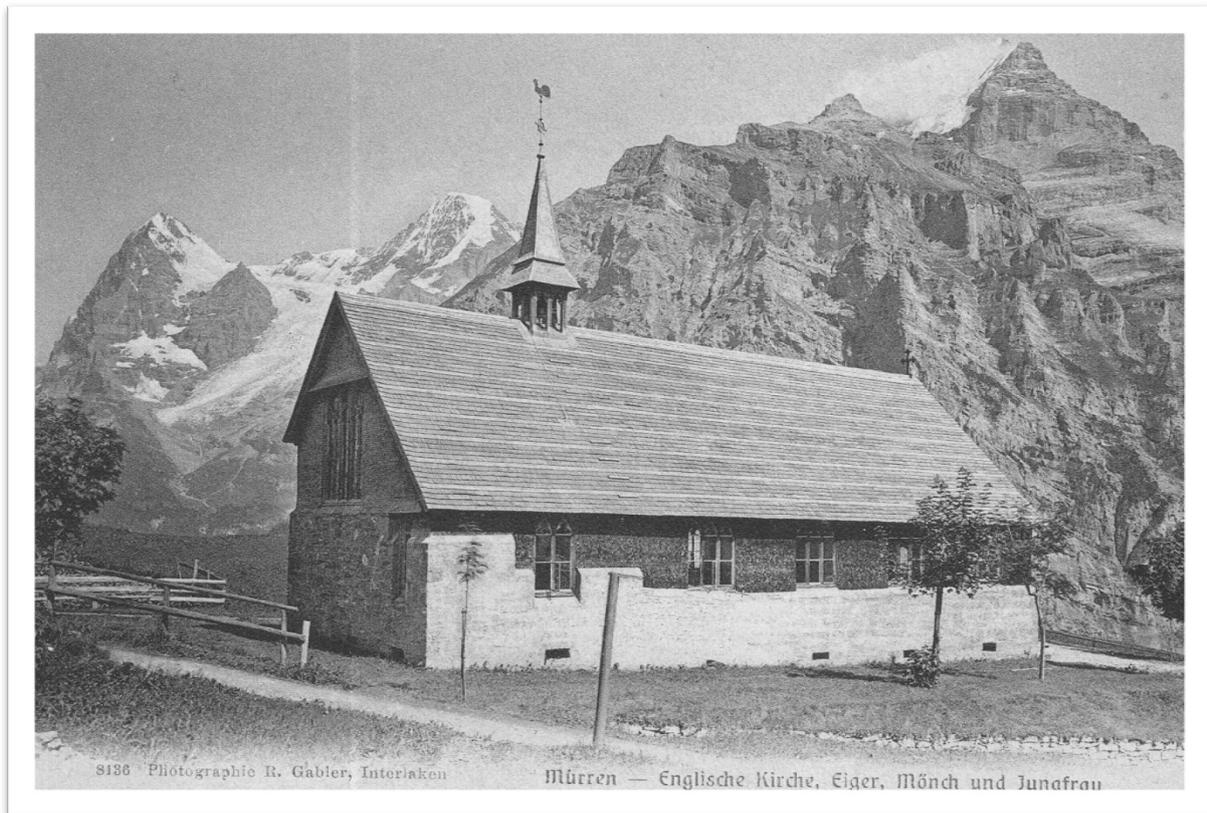
If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, may I encourage you to consider joining. You can find an application form in the church hall and on our website, or you can contact the church office to get one sent to you. Please fill in this form and return it to me. The closing date for the receipt of applications is Sunday 25 February.

If you have questions about the Electoral Roll or are unsure whether to join please speak to me or to a member of council.

- Electoral Roll Officer (Tricia Carrick)



Mürren and the Church without a Saint



Mürren – Englische Kirche, Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau, Postcard published by R. Gabler, Interlaken, probably around 1900.

There is a special connection between St Ursula's and the Mürren church: two of our long-standing members, Chloë Varley and Beat Hodler, were married there in January 1970. In fact, both their families have ties in Mürren that go back 90, even 100 years. The two met in the village during school holidays.

It all began with Chloë's grandfather Edward Varley, a British soldier wounded in World War I. He was sent to Mürren with several hundred other prisoners of war through the humanitarian intervention of the Swiss government. Because of the war hotels were empty, so this helped the local economy, too. In 1917 Edward Varley met and married Anna Huggler who was running her family's sports and souvenir shop catering to the many international visitors in Mürren. The Hugglers came from Brienz and Brienzwiler, villages well known for the woodcarving business where that traditional craft is alive even today. Edward was a Roman Catholic and Anna's family were Protestant – quite a hurdle in those days. The marriage must have taken place in the registry office of

Lauterbrunnen or Interlaken as there is no record of it in the English church. After the war ended, Edward stayed in Mürren and they managed the shop together.

International travellers had discovered the valley of Lauterbrunnen and Mürren with its impressive view of the mountains grouped around the Jungfrau long before the turn of the century. The first hotel was built in 1857, and in the 1870's more hotels and guesthouses followed. Mürren was a success even though visitors faced a 2-3 hour climb from the valley, unless they preferred a horse ride or to be carried in a chair. English visitors from the upper middle class arrived in large numbers, having the means to travel abroad thanks to the prospering British economy. Spending several weeks in Mürren, they expected to find Anglican church services as a matter of course, and from 1872 these services were provided by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG). Soon the idea for a chapel was discussed, money was collected in England, and the owner of one of the hotels made a piece of land available. The London architect George Edmund Street, famous for his Gothic Revival style church buildings, provided the design. Having visited Mürren in 1875, his proposal followed the local building tradition of stone and wood constructions (as you can see in the postcard). The church was finished in 1878, it was in the charge of the SPG which provided services in the summer. For unknown reasons no patron saint was ever named, it has always been "the English Church".

The opening of the funicular and railway connection from Lauterbrunnen in 1891 led to a renewed hotel and tourist boom, especially after the introduction of the winter season. This took place comparatively late in Mürren due to a fight between hotels and railway owners over several years, but proved to be an immediate success when it finally happened in 1910/1911. Sir Henry Lunn with his Public School Alpine Sports Club had offered to bring groups of his affluent customers to Mürren, and soon five out of the ten hotels were fully booked for an elite segment of British society. Ever adventurous, they soon left their hotel ice rinks behind and took to skiing, which at first meant exploring the surroundings of Mürren on skis in the cross-country or Nordic style. But on the steep mountain slopes they soon learnt to slide downhill and to make turns – alpine skiing was born. The local mountain guides saw an opportunity to earn money in the winter as ski guides and instructors; in 1912 they formed the Skiklub Mürren and offered their services to the hotel guests. The Allmendhubel funicular was built as an added attraction for skiers and bobsleigh riders. Some parts of the bob run can still be seen today.

The First World War caused a complete breakdown of the tourist business, but Mürren quickly recovered, not least because of its pioneer role in alpine skiing. This success was mainly due to Sir Arnold Lunn, the son of Sir Henry Lunn. He organised the first slalom race in Mürren in 1922, founded the Kandahar Ski Club in 1924 to promote downhill racing, and fought for the inclusion of alpine skiing in the Winter Olympic Games (achieved in 1936 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen). He initiated the first Alpine World Ski Championships that were naturally held in Mürren in 1931, and again in 1935; they consisted of downhill and slalom races for men and women.

Beat Hodler's grandparents had bought a chalet in Mürren in 1927 and the family became deeply involved in the activities around alpine skiing. Beat himself spent three winters at the local primary school. Ted Varley, the son of Edward and Anna, was born in Mürren but a British citizen. He was also a keen skier and an early member of the Mürren and Kandahar Ski Clubs. Ted, Marc and Annarose, father and mother of Beat Hodler, were all the same age and at school together in the Kirchenfeld gymnasium in Bern; they knew the Mürren slopes like the back of their hands.

Chloë has memories of many Christmas and carol services at the little church in Mürren. It had been a spiritual home for the family for many years, served by British holiday locums mostly in the winter season. One of these holiday locums was George Reindorp, at the time Bishop of Guildford, who married them. (In his reply to the wedding invitation he said the Reindorp family was of the opinion that no wedding reception since the world began had been held so near to heaven as that of the future Mr. and Mrs. Hodler.) When towards the end of the 1970's the upkeep of the church building became too costly and renovations were needed, the USPG (as it had become by then) sold it to the Swiss Reformed Church in 1982. It was carefully restored and is now part of Kirchengemeinde Lauterbrunnen. A special clause in the contract allows English visitors to continue using the church.

There is one last feature of Mürren that must be mentioned: the Schilthorn, also known as Piz Gloria from the 1969 James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, 2970 m above sea level (Mürren 1638 m). Work on the aerial cableway up from Stechelberg in the Lauterbrunnen valley was completed in 1967, but there was no money left to finish the building at the summit. Enter the film producers who decided that this was just the location they needed for the mountain-top hideout of the story's villain. They would pay not only for all the costs of filming, but also for completing the cable car station and all its facilities. These included the world's first revolving restaurant (at least so it was claimed); it would be called Piz Gloria after the completion of the film. A

few months after its opening it was the location of Chloë and Beat's wedding reception. It is thought that this winter wedding and reception set the trend for the many mountain weddings now celebrated by Asian visitors to Switzerland.

- *Ruth Freiburghaus and Chloë Hodler*



Schilthorn and Piz Gloria revolving restaurant, photo by otterboris



Does it not look like a fairytale? Chloë and Beat on their wedding day.

Some notes from Chaplain Stephen

Invitation to visit Bose Monastery.

On two occasions I have been able to travel to Bose Monastery near Turin for a period of retreat. It is an amazing place, a community of about 80 brothers and sisters and ecumenical by foundation – including at least one Swiss Reformed Sister and people from as far apart as Germany and India. (You can look it up on the internet if you want to see some images and learn more.) It was founded in the 1960's by the man who is still the Prior, Enzo Bianchi. He went to what was a desolate village, more or less as a hermit, and began to pray. After two or three years he was joined by two others and gradually Bose began to grow. There are now a range of buildings and a chapel there, excellent guest accommodation and good food. The worship is in Italian of course but the services are recognisable. The theological basis of the community is to bring unity especially between the church of the East and West. Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is sometimes a visitor.

The monastery has been able to plant further monasteries with houses at Assisi, Ostuni, San Gimignano and Jerusalem. The community at Bose support themselves by some of them going out to work, growing much of their own food, making ceramics and furniture as well as offering hospitality to those who visit.

It has become increasingly difficult to find a slot to visit because of all the teaching and conferences that are offered there but we have the chance to go from Monday to Thursday beginning 19th February 2018. If you are interested then you need to let me know as places will be limited. The costs are 60 euros a day for accommodation plus our travel.

I can't wait to go again. For me it has been one of the most interesting and formative things I have ever done. The visit will have the character of a retreat with periods of silence as well as worship, but also space to read and be still. The meals are shared in rooms of 12 people and this is a wonderful way to encounter the community. If we are lucky we may get a tour of the site.

Do come if you can but let me know of your interest or ask me anything else you need to know.

Daily Offices of Prayer at St Ursula

The Monastery of Bose lives by a Rule of life and the Monastic communities remind us that we are all, as Christians, called to the discipline of prayer and the study of the scriptures.

Here at St Ursula's I want to encourage prayer as being fundamental to who we are as a Church. Henry had already begun to establish some 'Offices' of prayer and we have built upon this to the point where we now pray publicly in Church as follows...

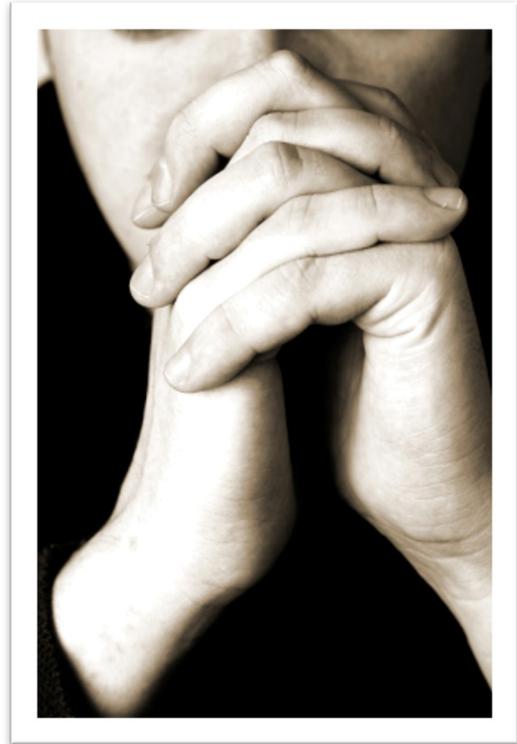
Monday and Tuesday 8:00 and 18:00

Wednesday 8:00

Thursday we offer the eucharist followed by coffee at 10.30

Friday 8:00 and 18:00

Do please join us when you are able. You will be welcome whenever you can come.



-Chaplain Stephen

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 at 19.00, as it is easily accessible for all. The next service after the Carol service will be on 4 January.



Ask and it will be given to you, seek and ye shall find

I learnt this month that Matthew is the patron saint of accountants and church treasurers, so his words are even more fitting to the theme of my report this month.

We have a wonderful congregation and group of supporters. We have managed to raise our target for this year and indeed for the whole energy appeal. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, and groups, as well as the hard work of all our fundraisers and careful stewardship by our project managers, we have raised all we need to pay for all the work that has been done on our Church and buildings. Six Individual donors donated a total of Fr23,100 this year, with two others giving for the house only. We received or will receive grants from Stadt Bern and from the GVB, totalling Fr45,800 and we did seven fundraisers in 2017 dedicated to the fund, including two from partner churches, raising in total Fr12,100, and having a lot of fun on the way. At the beginning, when the project was still being discussed, then the money needed seemed to be a huge sum, even at the underestimated amount. Some people were indeed doubting Thomases and did not believe that we would raise what we needed, others had faith the whole time that it would come. As your Treasurer, I too had faith that it would come, but the first Fr250,000 donation from an anonymous benefactor helped me to trust even more in the words of Matthew.

Now we are very happy that the work is done, and that we have the money to pay the workmen who did such a great job, as well as the architects who planned it all. (We might even have enough money left to replace the kitchen in the house, but don't tell Stephen that too soon, I do not want to raise his hopes just yet 😊).

We also asked you all to respond to the Pledge appeal this year, and we have received many responses, the vast majority positive and willing to commit to our mission. Some new pledgers have committed to our mission. By the time you receive this magazine, those who requested them should have also received the paying in slips. If not, please contact me. Also if you wish to pledge or learn about pledging, but did not receive a letter this year or have misplaced it, feel free to contact me about that too.

It is my honour and privilege to be your treasurer, for I truly get to experience the kindness and generosity of you all, whether in money or deeds. I wish you all a blessed Advent time, and look forward to seeing you at our Christmas bazaar as well as the Advent services.

Yours in Christ, Sue Higson.

- *Sue Higson*

Church Breakfasts

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

3 December

7 January

4 February

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*





Our Christmas Bazaar is only days away and it promises to be our best ever! We have lots of exciting new stalls this year including hand-made gifts and quality wines for sale.

If you can help with the “Set-up” on Thursday (from 17.30) or the “Clear-up” on Saturday (from 15.00) we’d be very happy to see you.

Flyers are available in the Upper Hall – please help yourselves and advertise the Bazaar widely.

- Jana Kutesko, Church Office

Thank you

After what seems to have been an incredibly short year, it's time to say thank you again to our wonderful band of Christmas Cake Helpers. The 'mixing' day was great fun and Jana's advance preparation was as incredible as always. Thank you Jana, Georgina, both Janes, Becky, Manuela and Dominic - not forgetting our Mascot, Cem, and Jakob for assisting Jane in the grating of 40 oranges & 40 lemons (no mean task). I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

As I'm writing this a few days before our Christmas Cake Decorating Workshop, I'd like to thank everyone in advance of what I feel sure will also be a fun gathering.

- Libby Stewardson

Services and Readings

December 2017 and January 2018

3 December - Advent Sunday

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

10 December - Second Sunday of Advent

08.30 Said Communion
10.00 Nativity Play

17 December - Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

24 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

10.00 Said Eucharist with Hymns
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38
14.00 Crib Service
22.00 First Eucharist of Christmas
Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

25 December - Christmas Day

08.30 Said Eucharist
10.00 Service of Lessons and Carols

31 December - First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

7 January - Epiphany

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

14 January - Second Sunday of Epiphany

08.30 Said Communion
10.00 Informal Eucharist
1 Samuel 3:1-10
Revelation 5:1-10
John 1:43-51

21 January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Genesis 14:17-20
Revelation 19:6-10
John 2:1-11

28 January - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

08.30 Said Communion
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28.
10.00 Ecumenical Service in the
Münster
NO SERVICE AT ST URSULA'S

4 February - Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 Sung Eucharist
Proverbs 8:1, 22-31
Colossians 1:15-20
John 1:1-14

Prayer Diary

Sickness has meant the current prayer diary cannot be prepared on time. We pray for all in our church community who are sick, or facing any kind of trouble, difficulty or sadness, and join our prayers with the whole church at this Christmas season of peace, justice, goodwill and the coming of God's reign on earth.

Our services contain special collects for each stage of the Christian year. Here are the collects for the Advent and Christmas through until Twelfth Night.

Advent Sunday (3 December)

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of
darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us
in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with
you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Second Sunday in Advent (10 December)

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and
wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
our bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Third Sunday in Advent (17 December)

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your
messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of
your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready
your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the
world
we may be found an acceptable people
in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the
Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Fourth Sunday in Advent (24 December)

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Eve (24 December)

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly
remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as
our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold
him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Midnight Service

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one
true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation
of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly
glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten
Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure
virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and
grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Sunday after Christmas (31 December)

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own
image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Epiphany (6 January)

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples
of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to
face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Pub Quiz Night



The Pub Quiz Night on 3 November was lots of fun with good food, a tricky quiz and a superb atmosphere. There was fierce competition between the teams but “The Bern Wonders” were clear winners with “The Poppies” winning a tie-break over “The Amateurs” to be runners up.

We also raised almost Fr 1,400 for our Energy Appeal.

A special thank you to the night's helpers and quiz compilers – a magnificent job was done by all of you.

- Jana Kutesko, Church Office

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 18 March at 12.00. There will be an invitation to the AGM, together with the agenda, in the next magazine, but please note this date now. We hope many members of the congregation will be able to attend this important church meeting.

- Tricia Carrick (Electoral Roll Officer)

Christmas Tea Party 19 December, 15.00

Come and enjoy a cup of tea and a mince pie (or two), and some Christmas cheer in celebration of this great event.

Contributions and help gratefully received.

Contact: Sheila Berger. sheila.berger@bluewin.ch



Soup Lunch success in aid of Cecily's Fund



The November Soup Lunch was very well supported and very jolly!

We raised an amazing Fr1,000 for Cecily's Fund on that day.

It was so lovely to welcome everyone who came to the Soup Lunch at St Ursula's.

The shared meal was simple and delicious and brought us closer to our less fortunate little sisters and brothers in Zambia.

Watching the video created for Cecily's Fund's 20th anniversary gave us a glimpse of our work and what life is like for so many children in Zambia.

A HUGE thank you to all for supporting Cecily's Fund, and a special thank to those who helped in any way.

A huge thank you too for the way that the St Ursula's community has taken Cecily's Fund to its heart and for all the support it has provided for the work in Zambia over the years. This continued support of their education has changed the lives and opportunities of many hundreds of orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia. Many thanks!

**Let the spirit of love gently fill our hearts & homes.
In this loveliest of seasons may we find many reasons for happiness.
Merry Christmas!**

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

For Your Diary December 2017 & January 2018



Regular Weekly Events

Mondays	08.00 – 08.30	Morning Prayer – not on 25 December & 1 January
	18.00-18.30	Evening Prayer – not on 25 December & 1 January
Tuesdays	08.00 – 08.30	Morning Prayer – not on 26 December & 2 January
	18.00-18.30	Evening Prayer – not on 26 December & 2 January
Wednesdays	08.00 – 08.30	Morning Prayer – not on 27 December
	09.15 - 11.15	Parents and Tots – not on 27 December
Thursdays	10.30-11.30	Holy Communion & Fellowship
Fridays	08.00 – 08.30	Morning Prayer – not on 29 December
	09.30	Patchwork – not on 15, 22 & 29 December
	18.00-18.30	Evening Prayer – not on 29 December
Saturdays	09.30 - 11.30	Choir Practice – not on 30 December & 6 January

Other Events

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 – 16.30	Bazaar Clear-up
Sunday 3 December	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Group Bible Study
	11.30 - 12.30	Nativity Service Rehearsal

Tuesday 5 December	19.30	Church Council
Thursday 7 December	19.00	Thun Carol Service at Chapelle Romande
Friday 8 December	12.00 and 18.30	Bible Study Course
Sunday 10 December	10.00	Nativity Service
Thursday 14 December	19.30	Carol Service at the Heiliggeist Church
Friday 15 December	12.00 and 18.30	Bible Study Course
Sunday 17 December	10.00	Youth Group Bible Study
Tuesday 19 December	15.00	Christmas Afternoon Tea Party
Christmas Eve	10.00	Said Eucharist (fourth Sunday of Advent)
	16.00	Crib Service at St Ursula's
	22.00	First Eucharist of Christmas
Christmas Day	08.30	Said Eucharist
	10.00	Lessons & Carols
Sunday 7 January	08.30	Church Breakfast
	10.00	Youth Group Bible Study
Tuesday 9 January	19.30	Church Council
Sunday 14 January		COPY DATE
Thursday 25 January	09.00 - 11.00	Magazine Collating
Sunday 28 January	10.00	Ecumenical Service at the Münster
		NO 10.00 SERVICE AT ST URSULA'S
Sunday 21 January	10.00	Youth Group Bible Study
Saturday 27 January	09.00	Archdeaconry Synod

Future Dates

Monday 19 - Wednesday 21 February		Retreat to Bose Monastery
Saturday 3 March	10.00	Book and Food Sale
Sunday 18 March	12.00	Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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.

The teachers welcome all the children, introduce the day's topic and take a collection in support of the Junior Church's charity, Tear Fund's "Uganda Water and Sanitation" project. Then there is a brief prayer before the children split into their classes where they explore Bible stories, play games, draw and make crafts.

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 Service

This year's Nativity Service will be on Sunday 10 December at 10.00.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service (at 16.00) and the Lessons and Carols Service on Christmas Day (at 10.00) are two more family favourites this time of year.

- *Querida Long*

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in December and January:

David Eze 9 on 12 December

Anabelle Hebeisen 16 on 12 December

Johann Underwood 4 on 31 December

Aydon Kuruvilla 6 on 4 January

Kilian King 13 on 24 January



Nativity Service

The annual Nativity Service will take place on **Sunday 10 December at 10.00**. As always, it will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with carols.

This year we will focus on the stories of the shepherds and the angels. So each child will be either a shepherd or an angel – we hope to have a few adult angels and shepherds too. The Youth Group have agreed to do the readings.

So it should be a new focus on this familiar story. So do come along - and please invite other people to come to this special service.

As always, we need extra adults to help in many different ways. If you can help please contact Tricia, Ruby, Françoise or another Junior Church teacher.

The rehearsals will be during the Junior Church time on Sunday 26 November and Sunday 3 December – continuing for a short time in church afterwards.

If you would like more information, please contact Tricia Carrick.

-Tricia Carrick



Last year's Nativity Service

Charity of the Month – The Bishop’s Appeal



Serving the needs and aspirations of refugees and asylum seekers in Rome

Every year, at Lent and Advent our Bishop appeals for help towards projects which are specially significant for our church activities in Europe. They are often projects where a little help can go a long way. In Lent, he asked for help with a project for the destitute in Budapest. But very often in recent years, the appeal has focussed on the needs of refugees.

This year’s Advent Appeal focuses on Italy, where many refugees arrive, and where, because of the Dublin agreement, a large proportion of refuge seekers are granted refugee status. Our fellow Anglicans at St Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome try to support homeless refugees and asylum seekers in Rome with a daily, cooked breakfast and essential items for personal dignity and warmth over a 6-month period.

The Joel Nafuma Refugee Center is St Paul’s Church’s major outreach ministry. It assists some 17,000 people each year, and is the only day centre to receive homeless asylum seekers and refugees in Rome. Every day, they welcome 200-250 guests - from many different nations: Mali, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Pakistan, Guinea and the Ivory Coast. Half of them are homeless, sleeping in parks or on the pavement outside railway stations. Many are vulnerable, depressed and traumatized. They are sometimes completely alone. They can be as young as 18. 70% have come to Italy because of conflict or to flee political or religious persecution. Some 85% are men. The rest are women or children.

While they wait for shelter, they are welcomed at the Centre, given a nutritious, cooked breakfast, as well as essential items (toiletries, second-hand shoes, clothes and blankets), and offered legal advice. If they wish, they can



join a language lesson, learn to use a computer or simply watch the news on the TV. The Centre has a multi-faith prayer space where guests can meditate and pray.

This is the only place in Rome that takes in homeless and dormitory-housed refugees during the day, and gives them a safe refuge from the

streets. Often, once they have a bed, they return to take classes, write a CV in Italian and begin the search for employment. Some guests attend music and art therapy or see a counsellor for individual sessions. The Joel Nafuma Refugee Center prides itself on being able to track the progress of many young people who progress from humanitarian assistance to being able to fend for themselves in Rome.

In 2017, the Centre has seen a rise in guest numbers due to the increased number of people coming from Libya, the closure of the Calais “Jungle” camp in France, and increased deportations from Scandinavia. This is a project that calls for more support from outside St Paul’s congregation, and it is good that Bishop Robert has nominated it as his charity for this Advent season.

Do have a look at the Centre’s website, www.jnrc.it, and try to get an impression of what they are doing. You can give to the appeal either directly, or by sending a contribution to the Treasurer using the Charitable Association’s Postfinance account (60-666488-7), noting that you want the money to go to the Bishop’s Appeal. In this way, you can spread an added blessing at Christmas.

- *Hector Davie*



Amadeus Choir Berne marks the beginning of Advent with a musical treat

Over the last years, the Bernese Amadeus Choir has repeatedly performed masterpieces of choral music in English such as Handel's Messiah or Purcell's King Arthur. In 2017 this exploration of the English repertoire continues with a seasonal concert featuring Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicolas cantata and The Lark Ascending by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

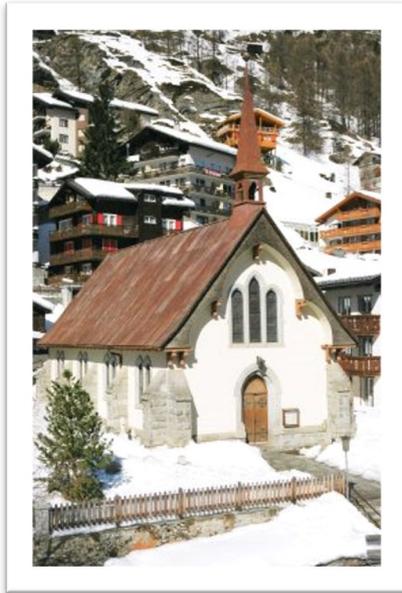
Britten's cantata was first performed in 1948 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lancing College in Sussex. The premiere brought together lay musicians and choirs from several neighbouring public schools. The title part was interpreted by Peter Pears, Britten's lifelong personal and professional partner, who was himself an alumnus of Lancing.

The Lark Ascending was inspired by a poem of the same name by George Meredith. Vaughan Williams had begun his composition before the Great War, its premiere, however, was not to take place until 1920. The piece enjoyed immediate popularity in Britain and still ranks highly among the nation's classical favourites.

For this project the Amadeus Choir cooperates with the vocal ensemble Suppléments musicaux and the orchestra Arte Frizzante, thus continuing its tradition to enable young musicians. The solo parts will be interpreted by violinist Maria Strelbitska and the English tenor Jonathan Stoughton. Bohdan Shved, artistic director of the Amadeus Choir since 2012, will be conducting.

The concert will be given twice: Friday 1 December and Saturday 2 December 2017 at 7.30 p.m. (doors and box office open at 7 p.m.) at the Petruskirche (Brunnadernstrasse 40, 3006 Berne).

Zermatt Roof Appeal



If you enjoyed the story of the “Church of the Mountaineers” in the April-May issue of this magazine about St. Peter’s Zermatt, you may be interested in the following information from the Intercontinental Church Society. ICS owns and maintains the building of St. Peter’s, besides providing the chaplains.

St. Peter’s, Zermatt is a beautiful historic church that holds a special place in walkers’, climbers’ and skiers’ hearts.

After thorough investigation, it has become clear that the roof needs to be replaced. The current one dates from 1925 and while repairs and patch-ups have been carried out, it is now in such a poor state of repair that it is time to act! In the summer of 2018 we will replace the roof at a cost of Fr150,000 (£121,000).

We want to not only preserve the church for future generations, but also ensure that it remains fit for purpose in the service of Christian Mission and Ministry in Zermatt and its environs.

For donations go to <http://ics-uk.org/zermatt-roof-appeal/>

For Christmas Services at St. Peter’s see
<http://ics-uk.org/about-ics/seasonal-mission/st-peters-zermatt/>

- Ruth Freiburghaus

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan

The Revd Hilary Jones (chaplain in Basle) is organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan next year (2018). Please contact her for more information or a brochure.

hilaryjones@bluewin.ch



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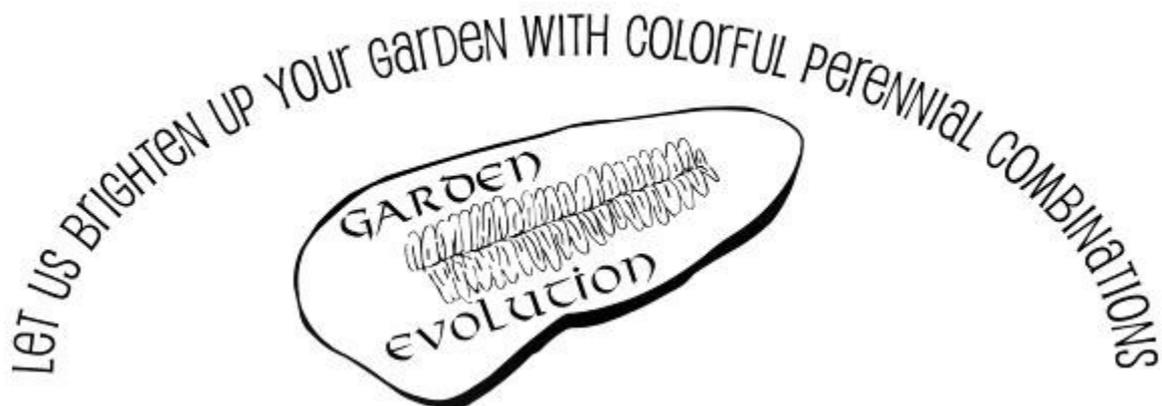
We are looking forward to meeting you

Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | 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

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch

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Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 40 42

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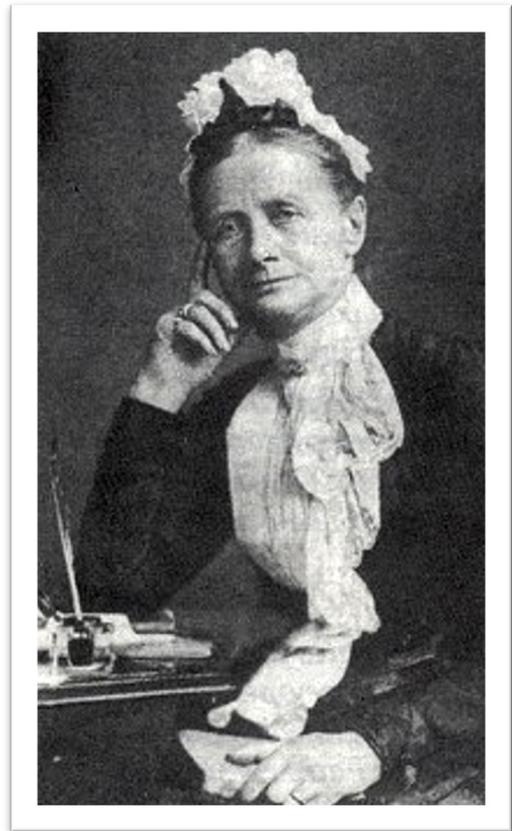
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Cecil Frances Humphreys was born in Dublin in 1818, and moved to Strabane, on the border of Counties Tyrone and Derry, in her twenties. She was actively involved in developing nursing in the area, and in the local Institute for the Deaf and Dumb. She also taught Sunday school. She had written poetry from her youth, and became famous as a hymn-writer. In 1848, she published a book of "Hymns for Little Children", dedicating the profits to the Deaf and Dumb Institute. The book contained several hymns still sung today on themes related to the Apostles' Creed – "Maker of heaven and earth" (*All things bright and beautiful*), "Born of the virgin Mary" (*Once in royal David's city*) and "Crucified, dead and buried" (*There is a green hill far away*). The book went through over sixty editions in her lifetime.



Cecil Frances Humphreys

She later married a young clergyman, William Alexander, who went on to become Bishop of Derry and then Archbishop of Armagh, and so she is best known as Mrs C.F. Alexander. She died in 1891.

Though written for little children, and oozing with the values of the Ulster middle class, ("Little children all must be mild, obedient, good as he"), *Once in royal David's city* is also packed with theological truth. Even if the stable, the stall and the cattle-shed are decorations of the Bible story, the idea of the Lord of all coming from heaven to live among the poor and lowly is central to the Christmas story. So is the picture of Christ sharing in our saddest and our happiest moments, and so too is the expectation of Christ leading his children on to be with him in heaven.

The tune was written by Henry Gauntlett, a London organist who wrote over a thousand hymn tunes (of which this one, Irby, is the only one remembered!) and who was the first recipient of a Doctorate of Music from the Archbishop of Canterbury since the Reformation. Anyone who has heard a lone chorister sing it at the Festival of Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, Cambridge, knows the powerful effect of Arthur Henry Mann's arrangement of Gauntlett's notes. May we all experience that foretaste of heaven,

*Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.*

- Hector Davie

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For he is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

