

# **St Ursula's Church Berne**



# **Annual Reports for 2011**

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

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

## St Ursula's Church

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Honorary Assistant Chaplain:	Rev Linda Bisig
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## PRAYER, WORSHIP AND STUDY COURSES

The voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.

So says no. 16 in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Here "strain" means "tune" or "music". On the other hand, St Benedict's Rule does say that "to pray is to work and to work is to pray".



Prayer is more than our own private conversation with God. It is adding our voice to the Church's continuous voice of prayer. Using a set form, like Morning and Evening Prayer from *Common Worship* enables us to plug into that constant stream of prayer and also gives us words when we cannot find our own.

Some of us meet for Morning Prayer at St Ursula's every Monday at 9.30 and I am usually in church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 7.30 and 17.00 for daily prayers. All are welcome to join us at those times.

It is clear to me that there is a need for a deeper understanding of prayer in the congregation. And the only way you can learn this is by doing it. The same applies to learning how to be Church - for which there is also a great need, so that we can hand on to our young people a sense of what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. Collective worship, or liturgy, is more than a series of arcane activities involving candles and crosses. It is the way in which we approach with body and soul, with all our senses, the divine mystery of the Word made flesh. But to realise this requires us to come with open minds, expecting to glimpse eternal truths, not looking for closed answers or stereotyped applications.

Our 2009 survey showed that there was a need for short-term study courses and we have met this during the seasons of Lent and Advent. In 2011 we alternated between an open Lent course, where people were invited to follow the recommended book (on the Lord's Prayer) in whatever way they wished, on their own or with others, and a more structured series of meditations in Advent. The latter was a chance to experience prayer that uses a minimum of words but relies on Holy Spirit's guiding our senses and imaginations. The Lent 2012 course, on the problem of evil, was an attempt to do some serious theology together on a topic to which there are no easy answers.

The day before this year's AGM, we have Canon Douglas Pratt's lecture on interfaith relations and we hope this may prove to be the first in an occasional series of lectures on the topics of the day.

*Ven. Peter M Potter, Chaplain*

## COUNCIL

This year the council met ten times from April 2011 to February 2012, having taken a break for October, and the outgoing council will meet one more time before this report is published for the AGM in March. This report provides a summary of the meetings over this time period.

At almost every meeting, reports and decisions were made regarding finance, youth and Junior Church, and building and maintenance work:

### **Finance**

Throughout the year, our treasurer Hector Davis has done an outstanding job of keeping the church accounts balanced and managed. The council approved allocations to charities, as well as deciding financial policies regarding the church assets, such as our excellent photocopier, hall rental, budget and stipends and remunerations.

### **Youth and Junior Church**

Our Youth Coordinator, Mary McKinley, has also regularly reported on the programmes for teens and children in Junior Church. Objectives and outreach strategies for these programmes were agreed on by council, and at the March meeting important decisions regarding the role of the next Youth Coordinator will be decided, as Mary will be leaving us this summer to have a baby.

### **Building and Maintenance**

Edi Wildhaber reported to council on all property matters. You can see some of the changes council have instigated in the new LED lights in the Upper Hall, improved heating, the safer and much more pleasing outlook of the outside space around the church in both the trees and the gravel. A lot of hard work by volunteers has gone into these improvements and they have been financed by the church. The positive changes can be felt by all.

Outreach and publicity were also main focuses throughout the year. The council and special committees made important decisions regarding community involvement and church events such as the Weekend Away, the Bring and Share lunches, fund-raising events, and the Royal Wedding celebration. Discussions about the role of a volunteer Publicity Officer are under way.



Obviously, this is but a part of the council's work, in addition, council makes decisions on special church services, and receives reports on Archdeaconry and Diocesan topics. If you are interested in learning more about the council's activities or you have any issues or ideas that you would like council to address, please speak to a council member - their names can be found in the magazine or online. And, as always, there is an open invitation for observers to attend the council meetings - just contact the current council secretary.

*Mary McKinley, Council Secretary*

## WARDENS' REPORT

### **Maxine Wildhaber on aims for 2011**

Our aim for 2011 as church wardens was to get to know each other and share the activities which come with this job. I can say that being with Archana was a great privilege for me. The sharing of ideas, hopes and sometimes disappointments, have enriched our friendship and also our faith. The aim for 2011 could be achieved well. We thank God for His guidance and the Church family for keeping us in their prayers.

### **Archana Chittazhathu on aims for 2011**

2011 was the first year for me as a church warden. I can happily look back on our accomplished goal of getting to know each other and working as a team. I am still learning about the responsibilities this important role involves and I am very grateful to have Maxine at my side. It is a real joy to share ideas, questions and experiences with each other. Maxine was able to give me a good overview and I love being part of the team. The enthusiasm and commitment of each and every member of the council is also a great inspiration. It's a real joy for both Maxine and me to play our part in being there for our Church family.

### **Activities 2011**

Over the past year we attended several council meetings and church warden meetings which helped us to gain insight of our Church's needs and to be able to give advice. As wardens we could help by welcoming new members of our church, listening to the different needs and concern of members of our church family, coming up with new ideas, offering our time and prayer and organizing events.

After the last AGM, Walter Bisig agreed to be our new environmental officer and in May Donna Goepfert was elected as Synod Representative. They could give us valuable advice on important issues. We thank them for their work and time.

The Youth / Children's Ministry was broadened in the past year. In April there was a Junior Church sleepover which was very well attended and a great success. With the help of our youth worker, Mary and our webmaster, Hector the teens could produce a Youth group Website. It is really wonderful to see that the members of Junior Church have been very active throughout the year. As part of that ministry we saw the birth of a group called TAC Teens Activity Club (12- 15 years). The numerous "After-church-outings" needed lot of organisation. Another important event in the life our church family was the Communion of six participants in October. The communion course could only be led because of the commitment of Father Peter and Tricia. We thank them so much for their effort and continue our prayers for the young adults. A new Confirmation course started last August. We ask the church family to pray for these young adults as their growth in Christ leads them to become blessed and a gift to us all.

As every year our Christmas Bazaar has been a great success financially but above all it helped us to connect with other people both in our Church and outside.

On the other hand our Weekend Away was not as well attended as we hoped. This leaves us with confusion as to whether we should continue having a Weekend Away in the coming year. We pray for God’s guidance on that matter and certainly need your opinion too. Fellowship plays an important role in our church and we firmly believe that we need opportunities to get together, discuss and share the Gospel. It would be very interesting to get inputs from you on how to create opportunities for the church family to grow closer to each other through sharing God’s love.

The council members had a very memorable Council Day Away in August. Father Peter taught us on church structures. We learned how they help and support both the chaplain and the congregation. Moreover we received training on stewardship. We also did a brainstorming on the mission of our church and what we can do to fulfill that mission. In the figure below you can find a rough outline of our results.



One very important question which engaged the council throughout the year was how we can be more welcoming. The discussions included aspects on how to introduce new members to different activities, how to introduce them to other members of the church family, how to follow up with new members etc. There are also people who come to know about St. Ursula’s just by chance and drop in. It is important to have a person who makes

us aware of the opportunities we have to communicate with interested people about our church. We decided to look for a Publicity Officer and we are praying that the right person will be prompted by the Holy Spirit to get in touch with us.

All Christians make up the body of Christ. Therefore Father Peter had the idea to invite several guest preachers during the year. Thanks to this our church family could hear sermons from members of our wider Christian family. We all enjoyed the variety of topics and we hope more guests will be invited in the future too.

We would like to end by thanking you all for your faithful support and prayers. Especially, we thank the PCC members, servers, coffee makers, flower arrangers, crèche supervisors, junior church teachers, our church cleaner, sidespersons, readers, intercessors, our bell ringer, our choir and our organist. And certainly we thank all the members of our congregation who contribute so much to St Ursula's.

Last but no means least we give our thanks to Father Peter for his leadership and support at any time.

*Maxine Wildhaber, Archana Chittazhathu*

## THUN GROUP

The Thun church group consists of approximately 8 members, although not everyone is able to attend every service due to other commitments. We meet for worship and fellowship on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We also have a few social evenings per year which are normally hosted by various members of the church at their homes and which are always very enjoyable.

Some members of our group also attend St Ursula's fairly regularly and often help at book sales and bazaars.

We held our annual Christmas service on the Wednesday before Christmas which was attended by people from St Ursula's / Thun church and by members of the local Old Catholic church. We were very grateful to the St Ursula's choir, organist and to Hans Kimmich, who kindly agreed to play the flute, for making beautiful music at the service that night. It took place, as usual, at Göttibach church (which is now dedicated to St Beatus). This year we had managed to book the Pavillon so we were able to provide refreshments and fellowship after the service.

*Rachel Huguenin*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

There are many good things to report about 2011, so let me start with these. Our day-to-day accounts, even after transferring our regular Fr10,000 to our Buildings and Development Fund, showed a healthy surplus of Fr14,842.12. This was partly due to a grant of Fr5,000 from the Swiss Archdeaconry to compensate us for the demands made by them on Peter's time.

This situation allowed us to continue with our plans to maintain and improve our premises, and we were able to refurbish the hall ceilings and install energy-efficient LED lighting, as well as carry out improvements to the chaplain's house, and work on the floodlights and area in front of the church. This cost us Fr38,691.15.

The effect of all this on our overall situation would have left us significantly less well-off if it had not been for a legacy of Fr9,846.10 from the late Dora Minder-Jaggi. Many of our older members will remember Dora and her sister Hilda Grant with affection, and we are very grateful that they remembered St Ursula's in their wills. We hope to use the money appropriately in Dora's memory.



Our bazaars and other social events are widely known and appreciated, and a source of outreach and pleasure. So it is also good to report that our income from events was some 9.5% higher than in 2010, mainly thanks to our successful Summer Bazaar, which entailed a good deal of work, but yielded a good deal of fun for all who took part, as well as a net profit of Fr5,525.35.

This profit, like the profit from the Christmas bazaar and our book sales, does not include the results from the food stall. This is partly because it would be laborious to value the stock immediately after each event, and partly because Jana will gladly sell you a box of Yorkshire Tea or a packet of Rowntree's fruit gums at any time of the year, so allocating sales to events would be difficult. 2011 was another record year - thanks to Jana's efforts and to her team of helpers. Thanks, indeed, to all who helped and all who came!

The increase in event income, however, did not compensate for a decline in revenue from direct giving. Giving by our own members, "bread-and-butter" revenue, through pledges, donations and collections, totalled Fr189,533.65, down by some 4.7%. This January I sent 132 letters thanking people for their pledge contributions and donations, seven more than last year, so the cause is not fewer donors, but more probably the general economic climate.

It is a fact, though, that even regular members do not always realize that (with the exception of the grant of Fr5,000 mentioned above (and we contributed Fr650 of this ourselves through our support for the archdeaconry!)) we receive no financial support from outside. Quite the reverse - we Swiss chaplaincies are among the largest contributors to the work of the Diocese in Europe, where there is quite remarkable growth both in ministry and in the need for it.

Income from the use of our premises also declined, but in this case, not because they were used less but because of the irregularity of some of the payments, which for various reasons makes accounting on an annual basis difficult. There were also fewer weddings and funerals during the year. Neuchâtel are now a financially independent congregation under the Revd Dianne Cox, and no longer appear in our accounts.

The remainder of our income was in line with what we had budgeted. The magazine now appears bi-monthly, and the figures reflect this. The only books we now have on our book stand are Bibles, and seasonal books for children. Although interest rates declined further in the course of the year, the Fr2,026.20 earned was a slight improvement on 2010, but still represents a mere 0.83% return on our total cash assets.

Fortunately, although our regular income was 1.8% lower than in 2010, our expenditure fell by 8.3%. Total personnel costs (Fr Peter, Mary and Jana) were in line with budget. The archdeaconry continues to contribute to Peter's travelling expenses when on archdeaconry business. Staffing costs amount to 57% of our expenditure (63% if you include our cleaner), which reflects our priorities.

Apart from the improvements mentioned above and accounted separately, there were few unusual major expenses on our premises - work on our trees (Fr5,761.80) and our rainwater guttering (Fr1,376.55), and various replacements and improvements to our store of crockery. The cost of fuel continues to increase, and the Council and the Building Team are





looking at ways of improving our energy efficiency.

Our Weekend Away more or less broke even, and other running costs were in line with budget. We are always looking for ways to optimise the use of our resources - don't forget that you can make copies using the office copier at very favourable rates, and that the church has a Mobility subscription which any church member can take advantage of at times when the chaplain is not using it, for a nominal donation.

Our Junior Church and youth group costs were well within budget. About half of the expenditure, as always, was for teaching materials, but the other half paid for a range of activities in the course of the year.



As I mentioned above, we pay the Church of England - they do not pay us! Thanks to the strong franc, our support for the central administration of the diocese and the development of its work in other parts of Europe cost us less than in 2010, although the sterling amount increased. The small increase in the accounts was in our support for the archdeaconry here in Switzerland.

The strong franc also meant that our charity giving could be more effective, Our target is to give "at least" 10% of our income from giving (i.e. the Fr189,533.65 shown as "income from community") to charity, and last year this proportion was 11.9%. In addition to this, we gave Fr9,434.55 in dedicated collections (including those from the Junior Church for their special Tear Fund project) which means that we gave over Fr31,900 for charitable and missionary work during 2011.



As every year, we put Fr10,000 into our Building and Development Fund. This is an essential discipline to ensure that the church's ministry is not hindered by concerns about maintaining our physical infrastructure. The process is one not only of renewal but also of using our resources wisely and sustainably, and our building fund, which currently stands at a depleted Fr39,935, may need to be topped up in due course.

Our accrued capital, our "reserves", at the end of 2011 stood at Fr171,172.92, or eight months' expenditure. Council may well decide to earmark some of this for future projects.

The work of Treasurer does not have to be combined with the work of bookkeeper - but it helps in keeping an eye on what is happening. I made 2700 ledger entries in 2011, 20 fewer than in 2010. I am always grateful to those of you who have given to the church, both in time and in money, and try to remember you all in prayer. In our giving, we contribute part of ourselves to Christ's transforming work.

*Hector Davie, Church Treasurer*

## CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2011

<u>INCOME</u> (2010 figures in small type)		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Income from Community	189,533.65	198,963	Personnel-related costs	144,919.51	159,482
<i>Pledged giving</i>	<i>155,915.00</i>	<i>164,960</i>	<i>Stipends and remunerations</i>	<i>104,630.00</i>	<i>108,613</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>3,163.40</i>	<i>7,294</i>	<i>Travelling expenses</i>	<i>3,736.70</i>	<i>3,857</i>
<i>Collections</i>	<i>30,455.25</i>	<i>26,708</i>	<i>Rent</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0</i>
			<i>Other personnel costs</i>	<i>36,552.81</i>	<i>47,012</i>
Income from events	37,618.10	34,329	Running costs (Note 7)	54,732.20	60,593
<i>Book Sales</i>	<i>9,484.40</i>	<i>7,656</i>	<i>Premises</i>	<i>39,911.60</i>	<i>43,934</i>
<i>Bazaar</i>	<i>12,674.60</i>	<i>13,122</i>	<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	<i>804.32</i>	<i>584</i>
<i>Food Stall</i>	<i>14,071.70</i>	<i>12,190</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>5,025.36</i>	<i>5,867</i>
<i>Other events</i>	<i>1,387.40</i>	<i>1,361</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>2,112.39</i>	<i>1,999</i>
			<i>Insurance</i>	<i>3,239.50</i>	<i>3240</i>
Income from other sources	21,906.85	24,691	<i>Property tax</i>	<i>1,606.80</i>	<i>1607</i>
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	<i>20,244.85</i>	<i>22,031</i>	<i>Vestry</i>	<i>840.72</i>	<i>1,895</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>1,662.00</i>	<i>2,660</i>	<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	<i>1,191.43</i>	<i>1,469</i>
			<i>Youth and Junior Church</i>	<i>1,836.10</i>	<i>1,808</i>
Thun	641.20	848	<i>Library</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>550</i>
			<i>Diocese/Deanery</i>	<i>12,562.85</i>	<i>12,275</i>
Other income	8,874.80	10,112	Other expenditure	4,252.35	3,512
<i>Magazine</i>	<i>6,163.00</i>	<i>7,063</i>	<i>Magazine</i>	<i>3,566.85</i>	<i>2,931</i>
<i>Book table</i>	<i>126.50</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>Book table</i>	<i>114.80</i>	<i>257</i>
<i>Card table</i>	<i>159.70</i>	<i>571</i>	<i>Card table</i>	<i>92.00</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Coffee</i>	<i>2,425.60</i>	<i>2,221</i>	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>478.70</i>	<i>325</i>
			<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0</i>
Grants	5,000.00	0	<i>Charity (Note 6)</i>	<i>22,500.00</i>	<i>23,439</i>
Miscellaneous Financials	243.33	0	<i>Financial Expense (Note 5)</i>	<i>199.00</i>	<i>193</i>
			<i>Miscellaneous Financial</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>1,928</i>
			<i>Depreciation</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0</i>
Interest/dividend income	2,026.20	1,905	<i>Transfer to Building+Dev Fund</i>	<i>10,000.00</i>	<i>10000</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>265,844.13</u></b>	270,849	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>251,002.01</u></b>	273,781
DEFICIT		2,932	SURPLUS	14,842.12.	

### EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

			Repairs (2010 - Replacements)	1,277.95	3389
Legacy	9,846.10	0	Building Work	37,413.20	16,843
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>9,846.10</u></b>	0	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>38,691.15</u></b>	20,232
EXTRAORDINARY DEFICIT	28,845.05	20,232			

### BALANCE SHEET 31.12.2011

ASSETS		LIABILITIES			
Cash on hand CH	8,922.08	14,395	Payments received for 2012	0.00	0
Cash on hand GB (Note 3)	31,863.45	35,733	Miscellaneous Creditors	29,889.50	26,336
Short term accounts CH	201,943.15	197,837			
Stocks on hand (Note 4)	8,150.00	10,705	Non-liquid capital	12,900.00	18,005
Amounts receivable	670.30	557	Building and Development Fund	39,934.54	68,626
Fixed assets (Note 2)	4,750.00	7,300	Ministry Training Fund	20,608.67	20,609
Advance payments made	18,206.65	8,428	Accrued capital (Note 1)	171,172.92	141,379
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>274,505.63</u></b>	274,955	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>274,505.63</u></b>	274,955

## NOTES

1. The change in the consolidated accrued capital is the result of:

Accrued capital on 31.12.2010	+	144,379.40
Legacy	+	9,846.10
Surplus from ordinary activities	+	14,842.12
Decrease in stocks and assets	+	5,105.30
Accrued capital on 31.12.2011	+	171,172.92

2. The church's fixed assets are:

	Acquisition cost	Value 31.12.2010	Acquisitions during year	Depreciation for year	Value 31.12.2011
Photocopier	12,749.90	7,300.00	0.00	2,550.00	4,750.00
TOTAL	12,749.90	7,300.00	0.00	2,550.00	4,750.00

3. Sterling balances on 31.12.2011 are converted at the rate of Fr1.45 = £1 (2010: 1.55).

4. Book stocks on 31.12.2011 were valued at Fr500.00 (31.12.2010: Fr614.80). Card stocks were valued at Fr679.00 (31.12.2010: Fr771.00). (Oil, UK food, and bus and parking tickets account for the remainder).

5. Miscellaneous financial items include an exchange gain of Fr380.88 (2010: loss: Fr2,106.91).

6. Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events, which are not shown in these accounts. These amounted to Fr9,434.55 (2010: Fr9,364.40), as follows:

Remembrance Day	729.85	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday / Rosenaktion	568.40	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organization
Bake Sale 8 May	345.05	Tear Fund Schweiz (Sudan)
Harvest Festival	862.00	Tear Fund Schweiz
Thun Carol Service	540.00	Cecily's Fund
Christmas Collections	5,702.20	Tear Fund Schweiz (Sudan)
Junior Church Collections	687.05	Tear Fund Schweiz (Sudan)

7. Running costs for our premises include:

Electricity and water	5,267.60	4,848
Heating system	7,847.60	8,517
Caretaking, garden, tree surgery, etc	6,116.30	835
Cleaning	14,933.80	21,973
Kitchen	1,647.08	2,563
Repairs to premises	1,482.00	2,135
Equipment and repairs	1,252.90	1,695
Use of premises (Thun)	420.00	500
Other	944.40	868

Office costs include:

Materials	463.21	387
Postage	737.60	651
Photocopying	3,824.55	4,829

Chairman  
P M Potter

Treasurer  
H C M Davie

Auditors  
A R Carrick N Weibel

## YOUTH CONFIRMATION GROUP

The main aim of the youth confirmation course is to provide an opportunity for young people to meet together to explore topics relating to God and to the Christian faith. For those who are interested, it is also a preparation for confirmation - that is becoming a full adult member of the Church.

A new youth confirmation course started in November 2011, with 5 members - all girls. This was preceded by an information meeting for members and their parents in September.

There are two main parts to the course:

- on Friday evenings, approximately once a month. The focus of these sessions is to explore what it means to be a member of the Church and they are led by Father Peter.
- on Sunday mornings, during the service, approximately twice a month. The focus of these sessions is general Christian education and they are led by Tricia.

In 2011 attendance at the Sunday morning sessions was very good, with only two members missing one session each. We hope this continues (or improves) in 2012.

As well as the confirmation service which will be on 24 June, we will be having a weekend away together in June 2012 which will give more time for exploring various topics and also for having fun.

It is a privilege to be able to spend time with these young people on this important leg of their Christian journey - we all profit from the time spent together.

*Tricia Carrick*

## YOUTH PROGRAMME

In the last year, the youth programme at St Ursula's has continued to change and adapt according to the needs of the teens, it consists of Youth Group and the newly created Teen Activity Club (TAC). Through Bible Study and through fellowship, a lot of great memories have been created for all involved.

### **Changes in Youth Group**

Youth Group started 2011 with bi-monthly Bible Studies and bi-monthly social activities. However, attendance at the activities was consistently low, and after discussion with the teens, Father Peter and council, it was agreed to increase the Bible Studies to 3 Sundays a month, with only 1 social outing. This change had positive results for Sunday attendance, but it became clear that events during normal social hours were difficult for the teens to attend. After the summer break, it took some time for Youth Group to get warmed up again, and it was not always easy to find time to meet within the teens' and the church's busy schedules. But, Youth Group now meets twice a month for Bible Study, and the

younger members also attend the Confirmation Course. Though there are no longer specific Youth Group outings, the older teens are always invited to participate in other church events, such as TAC, and this is proving to be a successful combination of activities for the teens.

### Creation of TAC

With a large group of children becoming teens in the last year, the Junior Church team recognized that there was a gap in the church's social programme for the younger teens, from 12 to 15. Hence the creation of the Teen Activity Club, or TAC, which was kicked off at the Weekend Away in September. Once a month this group meets for an outing that can be physical, cultural, educational or simply for fellowship. The older teens are always welcome, and often attend. The average attendance is 7, not counting the adult helpers.



### Events and Activities

Since the start of 2011, the teens have done so many things! In Youth Group we have explored themes and topics ranging from the revolution in Egypt to Christian lifestyles to taking chances. In TAC, the teens have tested their courage at the Seilpark, learned about other religions at Nacht der Religionen, expressed themselves at a drama workshop, witnessed a unique aspect of British culture at a pantomime, and investigated how we communicate at the Communications museum. In March we will explore what God has given us at Papiliorama. The hardest challenge the teens have faced came in December, when they really pulled together and impressed with their special teen play at the 2011 Nativity Service!



It has been quite a year!

*Mary McKinley, Youth Coordinator*

### 7 - 12 ACTIVITY CLUB

The 7 - 12 Activity Club, led by Françoise Hänggi, Sharon Batley and Jana Kutesko, has continued to meet every few weeks throughout 2011. A varied, fun and very popular programme has been followed from finding fossils on the Belpberg, picking apples for a farmer in Riggisberg to helping host the Pastoral tea in October We ended the year with a bowling trip where we said good-bye to some of our older members who transferred over to the new Teens Activity Group (TAC).

*Jana Kutesko*



# JUNIOR CHURCH

## Classes

In 2011 there were three Junior Church classes: Sparklers for those aged 3 to 7+, Trailblazers for those aged 7 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+. In addition the Youth group for those aged 13 and over continues to meet on some Sunday mornings.

## Numbers

Attendance fell again in 2011, with an average of eight children each Sunday meaning that sometimes there were no children in a particular class. The attendance was higher in the first half of the year (January to June) with an average of ten children, compared with six in the second part (August to November - summer holidays not counted).

The number of committed teachers remained constant throughout 2011 at ten.

## Teachers' Meetings

Again in 2011, there was no Junior Church leader, nor a leader of each group. Instead there were meetings intended for all teachers, together with Peter, to coordinate activities, to decide on classes and to discuss teaching material and any other ideas or matters of concern. There were six such meetings in 2011, unfortunately not well attended with an average of five teachers present (lowest 3, highest 7).

## Sleepover

The theme of the 2011 Junior Church sleepover was "Walking with Jesus". The focus was on Luke 24:13 - 35 "The Road to Emmaus" and included some other well-known stories. More than twenty 6 to 12 year olds attended the event with almost



as many youth group members and adults helping out at various

times. The weather was wonderful and on Friday evening, along with the teaching, we were able to do all our traditional sleepover activities including

a barbecue, treasure hunt and of course 'smores!

After a delicious

breakfast we spent the remaining time preparing for a special Junior Church led service on the Sunday where the entire congregation "walked with Jesus".



## Pilots in Church

During 2011, the Pilots class met in church for the informal Eucharist service on the second Sunday of each month. They helped with various aspects of worship. Some fine-tuning is still needed as sometimes there are several children ready to help and on other days there are none. Adult coordination is essential.

## Communion Course

In August, we started another communion course for older children. It was attended by six children, all of whom were admitted to communion on Sunday 23 October. As usual, there were four teaching sessions on Sunday mornings for the children. There was also a whole day Saturday workshop for the children and their parents. All were well attended (almost 100%).

## Tear Fund

Tear fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with the weekly collection going to the project in Sudan which we are currently supporting. The church collections at Harvest and at the Nativity Service also go to this project. We also held a bake sale on the Sunday after the sleepover, which was organised by the 7 - 12 Activity Club.



## Nativity Service

The highlight of December was the Nativity Service. Members of the Youth Group acted in the "Great Manger Mystery" where the animals find a baby in their manger in their barn. This was a innovative, new and

striking introduction to the traditional telling of how the baby got to be there. Many of our Junior Church children took part - acting, reading, singing or playing an instrument. It was a great celebration of the birth of Jesus.



*Tricia Carrick*



## CRÈCHE

Crèche meets every Sunday in the Lower Hall and is for new born babies until about 3 years old.

The number of babies and toddlers varies from Sunday to Sunday, from two up to five or more. We have a rota of volunteers, with two helpers looking after the toddlers every week, with everyone on the rota being rostered approximately every three months. The helpers are generally parents of children attending the crèche, but anyone may volunteer and offers of help are always welcome.

The parents can worship and hear God's Words whilst their young ones can have an enjoyable time with other children. The programme varies from week to week as we are aware of the children's different needs. Your little ones will be cared for in a stimulating and secure environment with age-appropriate toys, books and activities, as well as basic childcare items.

Lately we perceived that many children are eager to know more about Jesus' life in their early age. Our plan for this year is to start using free material from Ministry-to-Children, their online resources, like games or colouring pages, are also suitable for toddlers and we hope successful among our helpers too.

We are very thankful for the families with young children that joined our Church last year and we feel very blessed. When you welcome a child in the name of Jesus you welcome Jesus himself.

*“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” Mark 9:36-37*

When we minister to children, God is with us.

*Maxine Wildhaber, Crèche Coordinator*

## ELECTORAL ROLL

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

This year there was one deletion and seven additions meaning that the number of members in 2012 is 128.

The Electoral Roll, together with the list of changes, is now on display on the Notice Board in the Church Hall.

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

*Tricia Carrick, Electoral Roll Officer*



## MUSIC

### **Worship and Music Planning**

Father Peter Potter leads a small group (the organist, the music group co-ordinator and one of the Wardens) to select the music for most services.

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

### **Organists**

Organ music plays an important, but not exclusive, part in the services and worship at St. Ursula's church. Apart from the regular Sunday services there have been a small number of extra services in 2011 where organ music was called for. The contribution by several people in assisting (or substituting) the organ playing (either at the organ or at the piano) is gratefully acknowledged. Many thanks also go to guest organists who have contributed to our services with their talents and skills.

### **Music in services and at events**

The group of singers who had taken part in the choir festivals has developed into a choir (Choir of St. Ursula's Singers) with about 12 -14 people of all voices. On a number of occasions the choir has enriched our services by singing, in parts of the Communion Service, a Psalm, an Anthem or a Motet. Contributions by the choir have become more frequent during 2011. Saturday choir practices have become a fairly regular activity for enthusiastic singers. In December the traditional Carol Service was held in Thun with active participation by the choir.

In addition to the organ music, a small music group has been contributing regularly to our services. This group has often led the singing of songs during Communion and occasionally gathering songs at the beginning of the service, as well as more informal songs and hymns during worship. The group has led most of the music in services with a less formal style (usually the second Sunday of the month).

It has to be recognised that tastes in music differ greatly. This brings diversity and richness to our worship, but challenges us musically to make use of different styles of music and content ranging from well known traditional to new and contemporary elements.

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

*Hans-Karl Pfyffer*

## Music Group

The aim of the Music Group is to provide a regular accompaniment for the more modern songs, chants and hymns at our services. It is also good to include more people in the regular support of our services.

Our main contribution is to the more informal Eucharist, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month. Additionally the service on the 4th Sunday in the month often has several modern songs accompanied by the group. The music chosen is mostly from the "Worship Today" or Junior Praise song books but other sources are also often used (e.g. Taizé).



We have a solid core of 5-7 regular contributors (both musicians and singers) with occasional attendance by some of the younger members of the congregation, which is highly appreciated. Our group has added a new member in the last year as Claudia joined us with violin - super! We always hope to attract more musicians and so you may be seeing some new faces - please welcome them too.

Many thanks to all our current contributors for your talents, flexibility and support.

Tony continues to lead the group but has been away a lot on business in the last 6 months - many thanks to those (especially Tricia) who took over. Due to limited availability of our members during the week, we have stopped mid-week group practices. The members all practice the planned music individually and then we have group practices starting well before the Sunday services.

The positive feedback from several members of the congregation is much appreciated and very encouraging - so it seems that we are still on the right way. Please don't hesitate to make any suggestions for improvements.

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

*Tony Read*

## MAGAZINE COLLATING

Every second month we send out about 300 magazines. As they come from the printers already folded and stapled, work is much easier now especially if we have at least six helpers.

The helpers are enjoying the job, the good company and also a cup of coffee.

Many thanks to all the faithful helpers!

*Annemarie Walthert*

## FAITH, HOPE & REALITY HOUSE GROUP AT ST URSULA'S

### From old to new:

The last Wohlen House Group meeting took place in June 2011 at Shelagh's and Martin's home in Wohlen. There was time for food and drink, songs of fellowship, prayer, bible study and time to share.



On the behalf of all participants and friends, I would like to thank Shelagh Brawand for her dedicated and competent leadership of the Wohlen House Group over the last 15 years.

A few weeks later, at a social evening in Bellmund, the Group brought the new *Faith, Hope & Reality House Group* to life.

### Why?

In a troubled world, how do we build up real trust (which the word `faith` means). Where are our sources and foundations of hope as people and communities? How do we face the harsher realities of the world without being dragged down into despair?

### Who?

The Wednesday evening *Faith, Hope & Reality House Group* consists of friends, mostly from St Ursula's. There are usually 10-12 people present at our gatherings.

### Where?

The *Faith, Hope & Reality House Group* meets in the Church Hall at St Ursula's in Berne. For details of our gatherings, or any other enquiries about the Group, please contact: Yvonne Bomonti 032 331 83 85, [yvonne@bomonti.ch](mailto:yvonne@bomonti.ch). We would all be very happy to welcome you.

### When?

The *Faith, Hope & Reality House Group* meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening of the month, beginning at 7.30pm and ending around 9.30pm.

### What happens at the House Group?

- We worship the Lord singing and giving thanks to him.
- We seek the Lord's direction and offer petition in prayer.
- We spend time studying His Word (the Bible) and
- We enjoy friendship, laughter and a cup of tea or coffee together.

Members of the Group take turns at leading the evening. At present we are studying "Pleasing God", a LifeBuilder from Scripture Union UK.

We have learnt from our current study:

- Realizing that Jesus has made us perfectly pleasing to God forever.
- Discovering that a life which is pleasing to God does not begin with

commitment or sheer determination, but with grace.

- Understanding our proper and pleasing response to God's grace.
- Meeting some of the members of the biblical Hall of Fame and discover why their faith was so pleasing to God.
- Realizing that the Lord is not pleased by external factors, such as height or appearance but rather looks at our hearts and so on.

Some other programmes enjoyed by our group included an evening of lively discussion about Atheism and a movie night on Mother Teresa's life. She was a simple nun who followed her calling to help the poorest of the poor and became one of the most significant personalities of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century - a wonderful film of the human spirit.

During Lent most members of our Group are going to take part in the Lenten course, led by our chaplain, Ven Peter M Potter, who regularly attends our House Group gathering and is always ready to provide support in the form of advice with theological answers.

*Yvonne Bomonti, Coordinator, Faith, Hope & Reality House Group*

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

The philosophy of pastoral care at St Ursula's is that it is practised for all by all.

The Pastoral Care Team seeks to encourage members of the congregation to care for each other. It does so by regularly remembering all who have requested prayer and also, from time to time, by arranging social activities where people can get to learn of each other's needs informally

In 2011 we held two Pastoral Teas, in April and October. On the latter occasion we had the Activity Club helping with the baking, serving and clearing up. A group of the young people also entertained us musically.



Having started paid employment, Jennifer Hockley has stepped down from the Team and we thank her for her contributions.

We plan to have a number of evening meetings this year, based on prayer. The first will take place on 16 April, when we shall also look at the subject of intercession. These will be open meetings to pray for pastoral needs.

As always, we can only pray for people if we know of their need. There is the intercessions book in the porch, or please get in touch with me if you or someone you know is in need.

*Shareene Potter*

## WEEKEND AWAY 2011



The Weekend Away was held, once again, over a weekend in September bringing the church family together in Aeschi for fun, faith and fellowship. The theme this year was “Creation flourishing - in Word, Music, and Worship” and we invited people to “Be part of the greening of St Ursula’s”. 40 people participated at some point in the weekend away though the number of people who stayed overnight and who were there for the whole weekend away was significantly less. Financially, we more or less broke even, despite paying for cleaning costs for the first time, largely due to the fact that fewer meals were catered and we didn't have to pay any expenses this year for a guest speaker.

Our plans included 3 sessions for adults & youth (2 together, 1 separate) which included readings, questions, time for discussion in small groups, and the opportunity to generate ideas for us as individuals and for us as a congregation.



There were also 3 sessions for the children which included paper-making and baking with a solar oven. Meals together included a Pot-luck meal on Friday evening, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, as well as on Saturday evening an apéro & dinner. There was free time on



Saturday afternoon, with an optional group walk through the Suldtal which included a breathtaking view of the Pochtenfall (an 81m high waterfall) and restful and



interesting stops along the way. A kick-off meeting was held for the 12-15 year-olds' activity club, there were games for the Youth Group, a campfire, as well as our much enjoyed annual Saturday Night Quiz. Last but not least, worship included Morning Prayer, Compline, and our Sunday morning Creationtide Eucharist with music provided by the Music Group. Coffee time followed, and a packed lunch was also provided on request for some for the journey home.

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to all who participated and contributed to an overwhelmingly positive time of fun, faith and, especially fellowship.

Feedback forms were again distributed at the end of the weekend and whilst almost everybody would recommend the weekend away to others and thought that we should have a Weekend Away every year, there was some concern

expressed about the workload involved, as well as the Weekend Away not attracting enough participants from the wider church family. Therefore, we have decided to change our plans for 2012 to a “Day Away” in the hopes that more people will be able to and willing to participate, as well as the workload being minimized. Plans for 2012 will be shared in the April/May church magazine, and registration forms will be available by the end of May, for our Day Away in September 2012. We hope that you will be able to join us.

*Jennifer Hockley*

## **CHURCH LIBRARY**

St Ursula’s church library has been in existence for 13 years now and continues to offer Christian books and other materials that encourage a deeper understanding and love of God and the Bible. Although not all books reflect the theological views held by all members of the congregation, each book is included on its own merit to challenge thinking and enlarge understanding of the world and the church.

The library, now conveniently located in the Upper Hall, contains a wide variety of books, DVD’s, and compact discs and tapes in eleven categories. There are reference aids, books on spirituality, family and Christian living, children’s books, youth fiction, Bible study and reference aids, historical/biographical/autobiographical books, adult Christian fiction, and a selection of weekly sermon tapes plus Christian music compact discs.

Many thanks go to the church library helpers including Andrée Kamarys, Querida Long, Adorée Weibel, Annemarie Walthert and Donna Goepfert. We also thank Heidi Gusset and Roxanne Eicher for their dedicated help in the past. These volunteers not only aid people in finding and borrowing books but enjoy providing a corner for welcoming church members as well as visitors for conversation.

The interest taking advantage of the library is limited and on some Sundays no books are borrowed or returned, but we will continue to provide the service, and will periodically review the needs of the congregation. The trend of little use of our library probably reflects the wider worldwide preference for the use of electronic sources for reading and listening.

The library is open almost every Sunday after the service until about 12 noon, materials may be borrowed for one month, and the librarians are very lenient with those who don’t return material on time.

Any questions or requests can be directed to Donna Goepfert or Ven. Peter M Potter.

*Donna Goepfert*

## CHURCH BUILDINGS

### Building Manager

First of all I would like to thank everybody who keeps our premises clean and tidy.

We had a garden cleaning up in early Summer and one in late Autumn where both the Churchyard and garden have been sorted out and bushes trimmed. A big thank you to our Volunteers. The ones who regularly help in the cleaning of the garden are paid with a big smile and a free coffee at the end of their work but of course their work is never ending.

There are other things we cannot do by ourselves and we need to ask professionals. In summer we had the relaying of the gravel in the Churchyard and the checking and trimming of some of the trees. A lightening conductor has been added, for safety reasons, to the big tree near the Church.

The installation of the LED lights in the Upper Hall was just in time for the Junior Church Sleepover and at the end of November the lights in the corridor at the entrance were changed too. It was decided by Council to “go green” on the choice of lights. LED bulbs are extremely long-lasting lights and can reduce energy consumption by 80-90%. The installation was more expensive than normal lights but we shall surely save in the future.

In August the gutter and the roof were cleaned and cleared from moss and the spotlights in the Churchyard have been reinforced - so no more danger of our Sunday footballers breaking them!

For this coming year some important expenses are envisaged; first of all the changing of all the chairs in the Church. As some of you rightly mentioned to me the floor in the Upper Hall needs to be freshened up too. Last but not least, due to new regulations we will have to change our heating system and Walter Bisig our Environmental officer is looking into different options so that we can choose the one best suited to our needs whilst taking care of the environmental impact.

Although, a church belongs to the Almighty God, it is our duty and legal obligation to keep it up in the best possible way and we need the help of each of you.

*Edi Wildhaber*

### Church Caretaker

My aim is to keep the Church buildings in order with, considering our financial situation, as little cost at possible. I have done most of the repairs and improvements in coordination with the Church office or Peter Potter. I very much appreciate people reporting any damage by E-Mail to the Church Office or by putting a note into the letterbox beside the Church Hall entrance.

### Heating

In general the heating has been functioning okay. I usually pre-programmed the control one week in advance using the Church calendar, I do however need to

know any last minute use of the church. Please note that temperature in the Church Halls is entirely controlled by the Danfoss valves on each radiator (there is no room thermostat). In most cases there is no need to alter the setting of the Danfoss valves (usually '3' is sufficient).

### **Church Lighting**

The outside floodlights have been re-installed inside concrete tubes to protect the lamps from damage. The ceiling and the lights in the upper Church Hall have been completely replaced with long-life LED modules! Thanks again, Edi! We now have excellent light, low energy consumption, a good-looking ceiling and hopefully no maintenance - thanks Edi!

### **Rubbish Recycling**

The recycling containers for glass, metal and PET-bottles are well used. There is still broken glass put in the glass container. Please remember that broken glass must be wrapped in newspaper and disposed of through the household rubbish.

### **Cupboard Door in the Lower Church Hall**

Unfortunately the cupboard door has been irreparably damaged, so, for the time being there is now one cupboard without door.

*Rolf Klingler*

## **MASTER ROTA FOR EUCHARIST SERVICES**

The master rota combines all rotas directly connected with Eucharist services: duty council, sidespersons, readers, intercession, beamer/audio, servers at the altar and chalice assistants. It is compiled six times a year and based on a list of 31 helpers as of December 2011. Many of these are available for more than one task and can be quite busy at Christmas time or during holidays. However, I try to spread assignments evenly among volunteers and take personal preferences into account. There is a coordinator for each individual rota whose task it is to make sure there are enough people available, provide information as well as training, and maintain a list of instructions.

This is above all the time and place to say THANK YOU to all rota members for replying to my queries for dates, accepting and fulfilling the duties assigned without fail, and helping out when needed in unexpected situations.

Three new helpers have been found for duty council, reading and chalice assistance, and two readers have agreed to take intercession occasionally as well. While this is certainly good news, we are still looking for more volunteers. Most urgent is the need for additional servers at the altar, but new members for all rotas would help relieve the burden on the present group. The coordinators are listed on the address page at the end of the church magazine, they will be happy to answer any questions.

*Ruth Freiburghaus*



## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

I am pleased to report that no incidents relating to Safeguarding were reported in 2011.

The scope of "child protection" has been widened to include the protection of "vulnerable adults" (hence the change of name from Child Protection to Safeguarding Officer). The regulations on the protection of vulnerable adults apply mainly to authorised pastoral assistants carrying out duties on behalf of the church and as such do not affect the pastoral policy at St Ursula's.

Nevertheless, recent legal changes adopted by the Church of England have made the requirements more stringent and complicated. The criminal records clearance required by new Junior Church teachers and helpers will be more far-reaching. These have not yet been adopted but when they are, our own policy will need to be radically amended.

We have no choice in the matter as the Diocese's legal liability insurance cover depends on all chaplaincies adhering to the diocesan requirements.

*Shareene Potter*

## **WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

"I'm here because I found you on the Web". Quite a number of people have discovered St Ursula's by clicking links on the internet, and one of the webmaster's tasks is to make us easier to find, both by people who know just what they are looking for (checking A Church Near You, or Googling for English-speaking churches in Switzerland), but also by people casually looking for information about visiting Berne, or living here, who don't instinctively think in terms of "church".

For this, it is important that the church's website answers their questions accurately and attractively. If it can provide extra useful information, or aids to Christian living, so much the better. We are constantly trying to ensure that this happens - and it is important to keep the site up to date, fresh and attractive. You can help us to do this, and all suggestions are welcome - even negative ones! Email them to [webmaster@stursula.ch](mailto:webmaster@stursula.ch).

In addition to basic information about services and events, rotas and contact people, there is a large amount of other material on the website. That sermon from two months ago, the electronic version of the magazine, what the duties of sidespeople or intercessors are, the history of our buildings, today's order of Evening Prayer, pictures of the most recent Book Sale - they are all there.

We maintain a Facebook page and also a blog and a wiki. We even occasionally tweet. We have 62 albums of pictures on Picasa. The basic website contains over 800 pages. In February 2012, 1053 separate visitors paid 1991 visits to the site, looking at 7766 pages (not including some 21000 pages trawled by Google and Co) - though only 261 of these visits lasted longer than five minutes.

People find us by googling for all sorts of things, from the obvious “english church berne” to “can you have an english speaking registrar wedding in switzerland?” or “sermon on jeremiah 31 15-17” (the mind boggles at some of the search concepts, such as “was kosten essensabfälle entsorgen” or “blue line parking in berne switzerland”!)

So why not pay us a cyber-visit, and browse around - and let us know what is good and what is less good - or even downright bad! With your help, we can serve God's purposes even better!

*Hector Davie, Webmaster*

## CHARITY AND MISSIONS

The task of the Charity and Mission Team is fourfold:

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

For many years St. Ursula's church has set aside 10% of the pledged giving for charitable and missionary work. Again, in 2011 the Church Council decided to set aside the Advent collections for charity in addition to the 10% of pledged giving. Together this amounted to Fr23'100. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed as follows:

### Charity and Missions - List of Payments in 2011

Local	Fr	
Discretionary (to be used locally by Chaplain)	300.00	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3500.00	
Zentrum 5	1000.00	
AKiB Passantenhilfe (Seev Levi)	1000.00	
<b>Regional</b>		
Family Life Mission (Wołochowicz)	2500.00	
Train a priest	1000.00	£700
<b>International</b>		
Church Mission Society	1500.00	£1,050
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1500.00	£1,050
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Finland)	1000.00	£700
Bishop's Advent Appeal (...)	1000.00	£700

Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	1600.00	
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	1000.00	
Street Children's Mission, Thailand, Gröbli, OMF	1000.00	
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	1000.00	
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	1600.00	
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	1600.00	
Anglican Health Network	1000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>23100.00</b>	

Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events and are not shown in the above table. These amounted to Fr9'434.55 (2010: Fr 9'364.40), as follows:

Remembrance Day	729.85	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday / Rosenaktion	568.40	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organisation
Bake sale 8 May	345.05	TearFund Schweiz (Sudan)
Harvest Festival	862.00	TearFund Schweiz
Thun Carol Service	540.00	Cecily's Fund
Christmas Collections	5'702.20	TearFund Schweiz
Junior Church Collections	687.05	TearFund Schweiz

The Charity team tries to maintain a balance between local, regional and international projects and keep in touch with the recipients. We have been supporting most of our projects for a number of years. This year the decision was made to support a new project, the Anglican Health Network (AHN). Paul Holley visited one of our Charity & missions team meeting to present the aims and work of AHN to us.

The Junior Church, together with the Charity and Mission Team continue to support schools in Sudan through Tear Fund Switzerland. The Junior Church had Bake Sales last May and on our Missions Sunday this January. Two of our young adults were involved in TearFund Work projects in Uganda last year. From last February, Philip Klingler spent 6 months in Kabale, Uganda, working with the Diocese of Kigezi Water and Sanitation project as part



of his Swiss civil service. TearFund Schweiz supports this project. Agatha Pfister (Philip's wife since last August!) also participated in a 3 week Swiss TearFund work project in Uganda, working together with local villagers to build a water reservoir in the little village of Kitooma in the Diocese of Kigezi.



The Cecily's Fund is supported by a team of active helpers who have organised various fundraising events such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup lunch, throughout the past year.

This year on January 29, we again had a Missions Sunday service with the overall theme of 'Bringing Light into the world' as this Sunday was also Candlemas. The Charity and Missions team's aim was to present all of our charities and missions we support at St

Ursulas and to pray and give thanks for these. Power point presentations of our charities as well as our revised charity brochure presenting all of our charities and missions were produced for this Sunday (thanks to Hector Davie & Pieter Perrett). Representatives from some of our charities (TearFund Schweiz, Cecily's Fund, Family Life Mission Poland, Zentrum 5 from Bern and the Anglican Health Network) were also able to join us as guests for this Sunday. During the coffee time, our guests had displays and some power point presentations about their work available for our church members to see. After the coffee time we had a Pot Luck meal - a happy time of fellowship and sharing between our church members and our guests.



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

### **The Charity and Mission Team:**

(Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Esther Hutchison, Cecily Klingler, Pieter Perrett, Rev Peter Potter) Contact person: Cecily Klingler, 031 302 48 59 or [cecily@klinglerfamily.ch](mailto:cecily@klinglerfamily.ch)

*Cecily Klingler*

## BOOK AND FOOD SALES

### Second Hand Books

Our four annual book sales (including the Christmas Bazaar) continue to be extremely popular and are an important source of income as well as a means of outreach. In 2011 our income from the book sales totalled approximately CHF 8,280. This was nearly the same as 2010 (CHF 8,380). Since all the books are donated and we have virtually no expenses (apart from the occasional disposal charge from the local *Entsorgungshof*), the money we earn from the book sales is clear profit.

In a drive to improve the sales we decided last year to focus on quality rather than quantity. That meant we stopped accepting hardbacks (because they do not sell very well) and started concentrating on **English paperbacks** in good, clean condition. Although we have tried to communicate this on several occasions, we still receive far too many hardbacks, which we have to take to the disposal yard and pay for.



New to our book team are Jenny Haller and Tricia Carrick. I would like to welcome them officially and thank them for all their help throughout 2011. My sincere thanks also go to our long-standing helpers, Mary Mead, Katrina Fenner, Judy Chisholm, Donna Goepfert and Diane Lohri. Without all these very hard-working and committed ladies, the books sales would not be possible. On a very sad note we lost our dear friend, Jackie Hediger, who passed away in December. Jackie had been a very committed and reliable member of the team for many years and will be sorely missed.

As we prepare for the 2012 book sales we are always on the lookout for new helpers. If anyone would like to join the book team either to help sorting or selling (or both) please contact me on 079 343 2165.

### British Food Stall



In 2011, we sold British Food at the Book and Food Sales in the spring and late summer, at the newly restored “Summer Bazaar” as well as at the Christmas Bazaar in November. There is also a smaller stall after church on the 2 Sundays following each Saturday sale. As ever, the Christmas Bazaar sale had the biggest sales and we're very, very lucky to have such willing and enthusiastic helpers for this and all the other sales.

Running the food stall is a year round activity and, unbelievably, we rely on just 4 main shoppers who ensure that we have sufficient stock for all the sales, however, if you are travelling abroad and think you might have space to bring something back, please, please let me know - all shopping is very gratefully welcomed! And don't forget to ask your visitors from the UK too!

Another important part of the stall are all the delicious homemade jams and pickles and I'm very thankful to all those who take the time and make the effort to keep us so well stocked.

The food stalls are not only an important fund raiser for St. Ursula's - raising a record Fr 14,000 after costs in 2011 - but are also an important and friendly outreach to the wider community.

### Catering

No Book and Food sale would be complete without a restaurant and we are grateful to the many volunteers who organise and help with the restaurant at each sale. Each sale has offered a different and varied menu catering for all - very few people leave without being tempted by the delicious food on offer.

*Allison Masciadri and Jana Kutesko*



## SUMMER BAZAAR



In 2011, we decided to turn our scheduled Book and Food sale into a fun event for all the family. We still had second hand books & British food for sale along with lots of games and activities for children, an outdoor grill, a plant stall with a



tremendous range of plants, competitions, a book reading and lots of other stalls. We were blessed with wonderful weather and a fantastic day was had by all - so much so, that we will once again be having a summer event in 2012 on 16 June with St Ursula's Queen's Jubilee Fête, an event that will celebrate the 60 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

*Jana Kutesko*



## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar in 2011 was our most profitable ever and, of course, to be able to achieve this wonderful result, many, many people had to dedicate hours of their time and skills along with a very generous amount of their good will thrown in too!



This year we tried to make the bazaar especially inviting, starting as soon as you approached St Ursula's, with candles in the church windows, as well as lighting up the path on Friday evening, followed by a lovely Christmassy atmosphere in the Church - thanks to the lovely stalls there, a few scented candles and festive music.

Following the success of our Summer Bazaar, we decided to have more things for children with face painting, crafts and competitions and, of course, Father Christmas who included us in his very busy social calendar.



We also had all our usual and "old favourite" stalls and once again the British Cheese Centre was a very welcome visitor. We had Raclette in the restaurant on Friday evening and



then a very popular traditional "Christmas Dinner" in the restaurant on Saturday. Our glühwein and mince pies' bar downstairs was also very well patronised!

I would like to conclude by once again thanking all those dozens of helpers who tackled - with good humour and patience - the many jobs needed to stage the Christmas bazaar from the initial "volunteering to be a stall holder" right through to the clear up and cleaning at the end - all of you played a vital rôle, no matter how minor you thought it was.



I hope everyone who helped and attended the bazaar had a wonderful and joyous start to the Christmas period.

*Jana Kutesko*

## PATCHWORK

Once again the Patchwork ladies have been very busy throughout 2011. The results could be admired at the annual Bazaar. The Patchwork Stall draws people interested in buying unique presents for Christmas, coming from many parts of Switzerland

A big **THANK YOU** goes to all ladies who, every week and year after year, are working so hard. We just hope we can manage again for the next Bazaar in the autumn. If you would like to join the group (there are some vacant chairs) we would be delighted to welcome and help you in your project.

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

At the Bazaar the Patchwork Group is making a significant contribution to the church in outreach, fellowship and money from the sale of the items small and large that have been designed, assembled, stitched together and quilted throughout the year. These works of art are also very good value for money, considering the time and all the fabrics that go into all the shapes and sizes for all sorts of uses.



If you wish to find out more please get in touch with one of the patchwork ladies. They meet on Friday mornings in the church hall, or make a phone call to Elisabeth Pfyffer on 026 4920 326

*Elisabeth Pfyffer*

## ARCHDEACONRY



Together with Zurich, Basle, Lugano, Montreux, Vevey, Lausanne, Geneva, La Côte, and sister congregations in Neuchâtel, Chateau d'Oex and elsewhere, we make up the Archdeaconry of Switzerland.

### Archdeaconry Synod

The Diocese in Europe stretches from Iceland to Sakhalin, from Tbilisi to Tangiers. It is divided into seven archdeaconries, of various sizes. The Swiss Archdeaconry is the smallest of these, and coordinates the work of the nine "full-time" chaplaincies in Switzerland.





Peter, our chaplain, is the current Archdeacon, and acts as the bishop's eyes and ears in coordinating the work of the Church of England in these chaplaincies and their associated congregations (for just as Berne has a daughter congregation in Thun, so does Zurich in St Gallen, Vevey in Château d'Oex and La Côte across the border in Divonne). The clergy all meet together twice a year in what they call "Chapter", to discuss common challenges and opportunities, and both clergy and laity meet twice a year in Synod, to do the same.

Berne sends three lay representatives to Synod. During the year under review, they were Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Janet Wenger. Janet, alas, is standing down for health reasons. Jenny Veenendaal represents Neuchâtel. Passive observers are also welcome, especially when we invite a speaker to address us on a matter of joint importance. It is good to meet people from the other Swiss chaplaincies and to discuss matters of common interest.

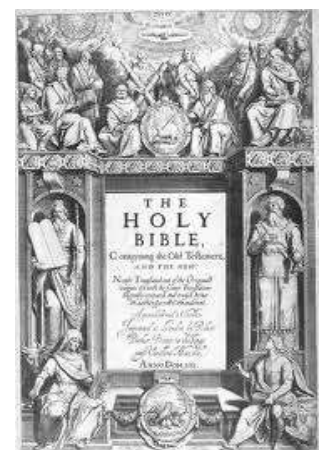
During the period since St Ursula's last AGM, Synod has met twice, on 25 June 2011 in Vevey, and on 28 January 2012 here in Berne.

After some essential internal business, the morning session in our June meeting was devoted to an address by the Revd Jim Sharp, a Church of Scotland minister now working full-time at the world Scout headquarters. He spoke on child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable people, noting that Britain and America now had strict procedures in place, both in law and in practice to minimize risks and dangers. This was followed by a discussion, to which the safeguarding officers of the various chaplaincies had also been invited.

Jim Sharp noted that the safeguarding was more difficult in our congregations, owing to a laxer legal framework and our more mobile population, but outlined sources of help, both from cantonal and city authorities and from the diocesan Child Protection Adviser in Britain. In the discussion that followed, there was general agreement that it was important for each congregation to have protective measures in place, but agreement also that the standard procedures used in Britain were inappropriate in a Swiss context. Because the very complex approval that would be necessary before new volunteers could work with young and vulnerable people, we felt that this would reduce the number of new Sunday school teachers and workers in other areas, and we asked the diocese to review the policies they were proposing.

In the June afternoon session, we heard reports on the Archdeaconry education programme (a fascinating symposium was held in Basle in September on the King James Bible and its place in modern society), on relations with the National Council of Churches and with the Old Catholic church and on plans for the 2012 retreat.

Our discussions then turned to wider issues. The diocese hopes to restructure itself, with four full-time archdeacons available



to give assistance with problems and to start new initiatives in worship and ministry in their area (Switzerland, in current thinking, would be served by an archdeacon in Nice, though the current archdeacons would also be there to assist) - we heard of progress, as the changes need to go through General Synod, and through the UK Parliament, before receiving the Queen's assent.

We also discussed briefly the proposed Anglican Covenant, setting up machinery for handling disagreements between the various Anglican provinces, and, at slightly greater length, the consecration of women as bishops, where Synod sent a message to the diocesan Bishop's Council in support of this measure.

At our January meeting, we heard feedback from the diocese about child protection and about women in the episcopate. Insurance issues meant the diocese could not easily relax its policy on criminal record checking, though as a concession, existing volunteers would not need to be vetted until a possible (read probable!) decision to require five-yearly checks. The clerical and lay members of Bishop's Council had voted in favour of women as bishops, but our two bishops themselves had voted against. Council as a whole had asked for reconsideration of the position of clergy unwilling to serve under a woman bishop.

The archdeacon reminded synod of the procedures for obtaining faculties (permission to alter the structure or fixtures of a church), of the importance of obtaining copyright permission, and a number of other matters. You can see these in detail by looking at the minutes of the meeting itself, which is at [www.anglican.ch/Synod](http://www.anglican.ch/Synod). He also updated members on the diocesan restructuring, due to come before General Synod in February.



We discussed future events, in particular celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. The official celebrations are in June, and several chaplaincies are planning events then.

In the afternoon, Synod discussed a paper presented by Rev Roy Farrer calling for an extension of lay ministry in response to a decline in the number of ordained clergy. Only by empowering lay people to realize their skills could the church have adequate leadership. We broke into small groups to discuss this idea, and drew matters together in a slightly less radical motion, asking the diocese to consider the “celebration, empowerment and training” of all forms of authorized ministry to ensure “adequate future leadership”, which passed with a large majority.

As I mentioned above, Janet Wenger is retiring this year after only one year of her three-year term. We offer her our best wishes for a speedy return to health. There is, however, now a vacancy, and perhaps you, if you have read to the end of this (!), could consider standing. If you would like to know more about the work of the archdeaconry, who better to ask than the Archdeacon, the Venerable Peter Potter - but you can also ask any of our other representatives - Linda Bisig, Hector, Donna, or Janet herself.

*Hector Davie*

## Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2011 at St Ursula's Church Berne

The traditional Archdeaconry Choir Festival of the Anglican Churches in Switzerland was held at the last weekend of May 2011 ( 28 / 29<sup>th</sup> May) at St. Ursula's Church in Berne. 39 singers from the Anglican Chaplaincies of Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Zürich met for intensive practices on Friday Evening and on Saturday Morning and Afternoon. On Saturday Evening the joint choir sang a choral Evensong, and on Sunday Morning a choral Communion Service (Eucharist with a Baptism).

At Evensong the music included an Introit, a Psalm, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis, the Preces and Responses and the Anthem 'Christ the Lord is risen again' by Sir David Willcocks. On Sunday the joint choir sang a special setting of the Communion Service, a Psalm, Motets during



Communion, and finally a Post Communion Anthem. On Sunday afternoon the combined choirs led the congregation of St Ursula's in learning a variety of new hymns to enrich future worship.



Gordon Appleton from Ripon, Director of RSCM Voices (North), was Festival Director of Music, and Keith Dale from Holy Trinity Church in Geneva was Festival Organist. Both of them contributed significantly to achieving a high standard of choral music in worship. The Festivals also serve as an element of cohesion between the various



Chaplaincies in Switzerland. They have been held annually since 1982 with the chaplaincies taking it in turns to host the festivals.

Many volunteers had been called upon for organising the Festival, such as catering, setting the stage, printing, making everyone welcome (were they singers, visitors or coming to attend the services), and last but not least clearing everything up again. A big THANK YOU is extended to all who have contributed to making the event a success and a memorable occasion.

*Hans-Karl Pfyffer*

