

# **St Ursula's Church Berne**



**Annual Reports  
for 2012**

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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

Chaplain:	The Ven. Peter M. Potter
Honorary Assistant Chaplain:	Rev Linda Bisig
Youth Coordinator:	Mrs Mary McKinley



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## WARDENS

As one might say that every year brings its own challenges and blessings so it was for our church. Speaking about the vision of St Ursula's during our monthly churchwarden meetings brought us to the conclusion that a vision can only be accomplished through an optimistic faith which views obstacles as opportunities and turns defeats into victories. Our faith should be lived out with commitment, which in turn will also become our common denominator. We should be an example of people who are loving, caring, learning, sharing and living in harmony together. As Bishop Geoffrey pointed out during the Swiss Synod meeting here at St Ursula's: "Congregationalism" is very important but we should not forget that we also belong to the wider Anglican World. Our vision should expand to the outward and be open to God's creation. We approached the past year bearing our vision in mind.

We had many regular events like our Book and Food Sales which proved once again that people need and enjoy good fellowship. Such events are not just vital to bind us together as a church but they also sustain us financially. We would like to extend our gratefulness to all those faithful people who make this possible with their tireless help on every occasion.

The "Diamond Jubilee Fête" on 16 June was another opportunity for young and old alike to meet with enthusiasm and joy. But, the main event during summer was the confirmation of six teenagers and five adults. Bishop Geoffrey blessed the congregation with his presence and the day was very joyful. We held a Bring and Share lunch after the service which gave us further opportunity for fellowship.

Unfortunately, both the "Council Day Away" and the "Church Day Away" had to be cancelled because there were not enough participants. We firmly hope that this will not happen in 2013. It is essential for our church family not just to meet from time to time but also to deepen our faith together. We are sure that the Holy Spirit will always inspire and strengthen us as it was the case with Jesus' first disciples.

As discussed during the last AGM we urgently needed to buy new chairs. We were very happy to see that fund raising for chairs caught people's imagination and everyone worked so hard towards the same goal. Thanks to all the work and the generosity of our congregation 120 chairs were delivered to St Ursula Church from the UK by Autumn 2012.

In September St Ursula's was present at the Expat Expo. Council felt that the presence was useful for making contacts with other groups. We also discovered that many Christian communities face similar issues. The discussions with other groups present at the Expo and with visitors brought to light that the most important source for making a church known is by word of mouth. So please remember, that we all can do our part in making St Ursula's known.

The hospitalization of Sonia Klein right after the service on 28 October was a

shock to everyone alike. The whole congregation continues to pray for her recovery and we hope to see her back in church soon. The prayer and support is well valued by Sonia's family and a big encouragement.

Advent / Christmas is a rather busy time. We thought it would be nice to build in a time of fellowship and relaxation to prevent people from being exhausted. So for the first time after many years, Standing Committee decided to have a Christmas Parish Party again. It was a pleasant occasion which helped us to discover many talents and spend joyful time together.



Father Peter led a series of Advent Meditations and people appreciated this peaceful time to stand aside from the Christmas rush whilst Tricia kept everybody busy with her Nativity Play which for the first time involved adults as well as children, which proved to be a great success. Some people suggested that we could do something similar for Easter. Tricia kindly took that idea forward and is busy preparing a "Rolling Easter play" which we shall all enjoy during Holy Week.

Our Christmas Bazaar was as usual a success not just among our congregation but also among the Swiss community. Fellowship plays an important role during this event and we would like to thank everyone for all the help we received.

Soon after Christmas St Ursula's found itself preparing for Easter. Shrove Tuesday marked the beginning with our pancake evening. More than 20 people attended the event despite the incredible snowfall in the afternoon. On Ash Wednesday we had a combined service with our Swedish Church. That was an interesting experience of exchange and getting to know each other. It definitely should be repeated in the future. Peter's study on the Stations of the Cross during Lent brought us back to our main aim in life. The journey of our faith as modern Christians is a journey of our own personal commitment to God, of our own growth. Growth leads us to understand that in Jesus' sufferings our own sufferings are reflected in him. We are led to communion with God who draws us closer to His love for us.

Moreover, we would like to hand over more tasks around the church to the youth this year, assuming that they will take over responsibilities of the church as they grow older. We encourage them to participate in church activities and to join different rotas. As young learns from old, so old learns from young too. Hence, we request everyone to encourage our teenagers and to get to know their views and suggestions on St Ursula's role as part of Christ's body. We ask for your continuous prayer as our young ones get more involved.

Our job as churchwardens would be almost impossible without the assistance of many other people within the church fellowship. So we would like to end by thanking everybody, especially those who helped in so many, often unseen ways.

It's an honour to be part of God's body and to have support from such exceptional people. We are therefore very grateful to all of you and ask you for your continued prayer for us.

*Maxine Wildhaber & Archana Jacob*

## COUNCIL

This church year the council met eight times from April 2012 to January 2013 and the outgoing council will meet two more times before this report is published for the AGM in April. Council, led by Father Peter, discusses a wide range of issues important to church life and affecting the smooth running of the church facilities.

The Church Council generally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, but this year some dates were changed and no meetings were held in August 2012 or February 2013. Also, this year we were unfortunately forced to cancel the "Council Awayday" because not enough could attend.

Discussions about youth activities and Junior Church have been numerous as Council wants the children and their spiritual growth to be a priority. The new Safeguarding Policy was adopted, with its challenges, and teachers are striving to comply. Topics at Council meetings included Junior Church children as helpers, the Nativity and Easter plays, Rev. Paul Holley as youth coordinator, reducing the number of Junior Church classes, organizing the Confirmation party and having Mary McKinley return as Youth Coordinator. Brian Morgan talked to us about mentoring programs for young people and we are working to start one. Very helpfully, Father Peter provided us with a paper containing extensive thoughts on "A Future for Youth at St Ursula's" in which he encouraged a holistic strategy.

The church year must be thoughtfully planned so council constantly approves dates, changes traditional events such as deciding to hold Pledge and Harvest Sunday on separate Sundays and adds events to the calendar such as the Christmas party on 1 December and manning a stand at the Expat Expo in September.

The church facilities are always on the council agenda because repairs need to be made, the garden maintained and the martens in the attic discouraged. This year saw the fund appeal for and purchase of new church chairs, with many of the old chairs being sold or donated. Refinishing the Upper and Lower Hall floors is a recurring topic.



Council welcomed a new house group on Tuesdays and is delighted to support Archana as a Lay Reader candidate.

The treasurer has an important job reporting at every council meeting on the financial situation of the church. Pledges are down and we regularly discuss the wise use of funds and ways to be more frugal. Council has formed a stewardship committee to look more closely at the question of tithing.

Council coordinates with the Charity and Missions Committee in deciding on the recipients of our 10% charity giving. We also regularly review the Action Points aimed at helping St Ursula's decide on the direction it can (and should) take.

Each council member is expected to be ready to be on "duty council" approximately once every two months on a Sunday. It includes arriving early, being the last to leave, and seeing that everything runs smoothly during the morning.

The above report includes only a part of council's work. In addition it addresses Archdeaconry and Diocesan topics, ecumenical issues, and many more interesting things. You are welcome to attend council meetings as an observer or if you have ideas or input that council could consider please speak to a council member. Their names are listed in the church magazine. Please continue to pray for the work of the council and its members.

*Donna Goepfert, Council Secretary*

## **CRÈCHE REPORT**

The crèche is held in the Lower Hall on most Sundays of the year, starting at 09.45 and provides an opportunity for parents of babies and pre-school children to worship while their children play. Parents collect them after the end of the Service or sometimes before Communion. The crèche provides a valuable facility for both parents and the congregation alike.

It is run on a rota basis with two helpers at a time. The adult volunteers are generally parents of children attending the crèche, but anyone may volunteer and offers of help are always welcome.

The number attending the crèche has declined as children grow older and join the Junior Church. We are very thankful that we still have a fair number each Sunday and feel very blessed that some more families with toddlers joined our Church and we can continue this service.

A special thanks to all the volunteers for their work with the children, for their gifts of time, talent and energy given to this ministry.

*Maxine Wildhaber, Creche Coordinator*

# JUNIOR CHURCH

## Classes

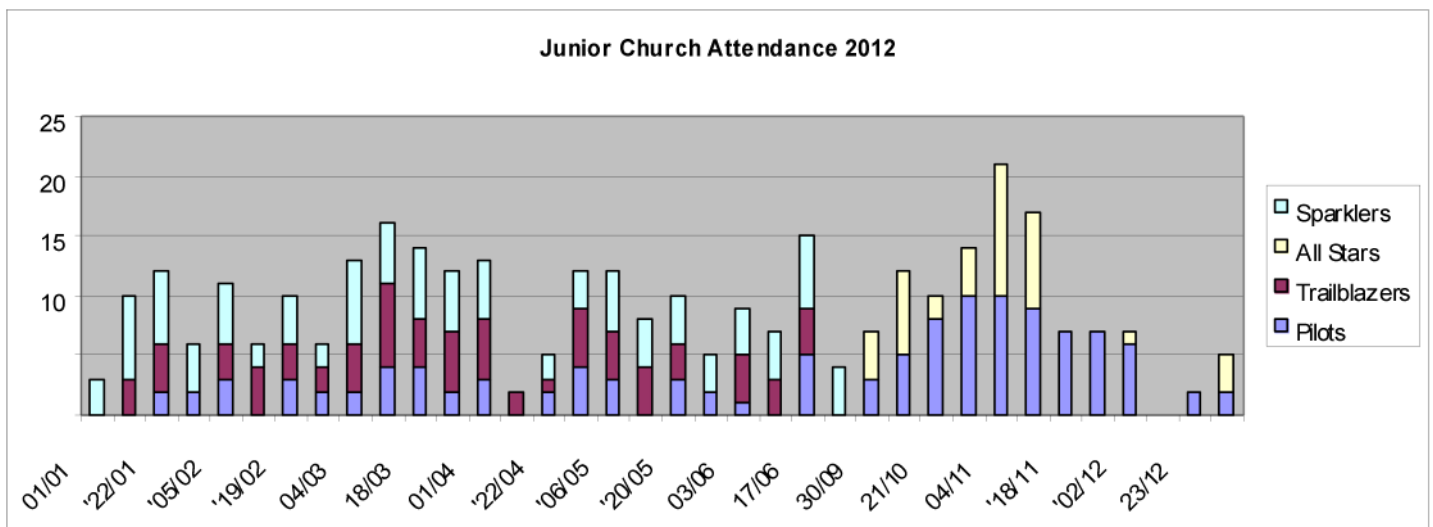
At the start of 2012 there were three Junior Church classes: Sparklers for those aged 3 to 7+, Trailblazers for those aged 7 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+.

However there was a feeling that attendance numbers, particularly in the Pilots class, were too low to justify the three classes. So for the last three months of 2012, there were only two classes: All-Stars for those aged 3 to 9 and Pilots for those aged 10 to 14+. This experiment did not work, mainly because of the difficulty of teaching such a wide age range, so the teachers agreed to go back to three classes from January 2013.

## Numbers

There was Junior Church teaching on 42 Sundays in 2012; on the other Sundays there was All-Age worship.

Attendance picked up slightly in 2012, compared with 2011, with an average of nine children each Sunday, not counting the summer holidays when attendance was not recorded. Just for interest I've included a simple graph of attendance - for people who like such things.



The number of committed teachers remained constant throughout 2012 at nine.

## Teachers' Meetings

Again in 2012, 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 five such meetings in 2012 with an average attendance of five teachers.

## Pilots in Church

During 2012, 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.

## Sleepover

The theme of the 2012 Junior Church sleepover was “Servants of God”. One teaching session was based on part of the letter to the Ephesians.-



We thought about the different parts of armour mentioned in chapter 6, verses 14 - 17 and prepared a living illustration for the Sunday service.

Of course there were the usual fun activities too starting with barbecued burgers and including the fire in the forest, pancake breakfast and lots of games.

During the craft time, we made some of the scenery for the Nativity Play.

This year the sleepover was held at the end of August. It was attended by 11 children, aged 6 to 13, and 9 helpers.



## Tear Fund

Tear fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with the weekly collection going to the project we support. The church collections at Harvest and at the Nativity Service also go to this project. In November 2012 we changed from supporting a school project in South Sudan to supporting the “Uganda Water and Sanitation” project.



## “Hark the Herald Angel”

This was the title of this year’s Nativity Play held on 9 December. It was a new venture involving children, teenagers and adults - around 50 people took part in one way or another.

Everyone remembers the inquisitive young angel called Hark; the Archangels preparing for something important; and the choir of angels being trained for a special performance. This musical presentation looked at the build up to Christmas from an angel perspective, shedding new light on a familiar story.



*Tricia Carrick*

## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding procedures have been changed to bring them into line with the diocesan requirements. All the relevant documents have been placed on the St Ursula's website: <http://www.stursula.ch/Safeguarding/index.html>. I would encourage everyone to read these documents as safeguarding is a matter for the whole congregation.

I have met the council and the junior church teachers to discuss certain safeguarding issues.

I am pleased to report that there have been no incidents requiring action.

Finally a reminder to all parents that they are responsible for supervising their own children once the Junior Church session has ended.

*Shareene Potter*

## 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.



The youth confirmation course, started in November 2011 and continued in the first half of 2012, concluded with the confirmation service on 25 June when four of the five participants were confirmed.

Because Darcy was too ill to attend the service, a special service was held in the afternoon at the Wildhabers' house so that she could also be confirmed.

In 2012, there were nine Sunday morning sessions with an average attendance of 4.44. Only one girl attended all sessions, but no one missed more than two. Five of the sessions were attended by all five girls. In addition, there were some Friday evening meetings with Father Peter.



As part of the course, there was a weekend away at the start of June 2012 attended by all five girls. This weekend included various study, discussion and fun sessions. On the Saturday afternoon we went on a walk to a beautiful chapel in the woods. The Sunday morning worship was prepared by the young people themselves.

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 GROUP



I picked up the running of the youth group in July 2012 following the confirmation service for Georgina, Sabrina, Gemma, Darcy and Emily. With some introductory sessions over the summer holidays, we then launched into a series called 'The Good Life'. This was based on readings in Romans 12 and looked at different insights into what makes life good.

In September the younger teens joined us for a rafting trip. This was a lot of fun and will no doubt be a popular repeat opportunity in the future. Thanks to Philip and Agatha for helping out with this, as well as those parents who came along for the ride.



Another highlight was the baptism of Benjamin in November. It was good to celebrate this special event with Mary and her family. In the New Year we had a session on faith and science.

Christian mission has also been a significant feature of the programme over my period of leadership. The group were present for the services led by both Tear Fund and Us. With my work in Anglican health mission, I hope this gave the group members a wider picture of the work of Christian people around the world.

*Revd Paul Holley, locum youth leader, July 2012 to January 2013.*

# MUSIC

## Music in our services

### Worship and Music Planning

Father Peter Potter leads a small group (the organist, the music group co-ordinator and a member of the Congregation) 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 is 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 2012 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.

### Choral music in services and at events

The choir of St Ursula's has about 12 -14 people of all voices. On a number of occasions the choir has enriched our services by singing in parts, for example with a Psalm, an Anthem or a Motet, or the liturgy in a Communion Service. Saturday choir practices have become a fairly regular activity for enthusiastic singers. Some of the choir's contributions in 2012 include:



- Several Psalms in Anglican Chant Style.
- A 'Nunc Dimittis' and a 'Magnificat' by Margaret Rizza, a Benedicite (traditional).
- Parry's '*I was glad when they said unto me*' on the occasion of the Summer Fete / Queen's Jubilee.
- Anthems / Motets by Archer, Lindley, Purcell, Stainer, Vaughan Williams.
- The Communion Service set by Merbecke (in commemoration of 350 years

of the Book of Common Prayer).

- A traditional choral Evensong with music by Ayleward, Batten, Noble, Pitoni, Stainer. A few choir members from Basel and Zürich joined us for this event.
- Responsorial parts of the Liturgy on Good Friday, and on Easter Day an Easter Anthem and a Motet.
- At Christmas a special Christmas Gloria, a Hymn and Carols sung in four parts.

Three choir members from St Ursula's Church have attended the traditional RSCM Singing Break in Dunblane (Scotland), widening the musical skills and the musical repertoire.

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 or organisational skills, and who devote a lot of their time and effort for 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 informal Eucharist, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month. Additionally the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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).



This last year our numbers have often been a bit reduced but we still have a solid core of 5-6 regular contributors (both musicians and singers) with occasional attendance by some of the younger members of the congregation, which is highly appreciated. 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 year - many thanks to those (especially Tricia) who took over often at short notice. 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*

## CHURCH LIBRARY

St Ursula's church library, located in the Upper Hall, offers a wide variety of books, as well as a few DVD's, CD's and a selection of weekly sermon cassettes. There are reference aids, books on spirituality, family and Christian living, children's books, youth fiction, Bible study and reference aids, adult Christian fiction as well as historical/biographical/autobiographical books.

Although not all the library 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. It is hoped that the books and other materials will encourage a deeper understanding and love of God and the Bible

Heartfelt thanks go to the church library helpers including Andrée Kamarys, Adorée Weibel and Annemarie Walthert. These volunteers not only attempt to aid people in finding and borrowing books but also enjoy providing a corner for welcoming church members and visitors for conversation.

Although only a limited number of people take advantage of the library, especially young children, we will continue to provide the service and will periodically review the needs of the congregation. Recommendations of books, DVDs or CDs are welcomed.

The library is open most Sundays after the service until about 12 noon. Materials may be borrowed for one month although the librarians are very lenient with those who don't return material on time.

Any questions or requests can be directed to library coordinator Donna Goepfert or to Peter Potter. New library volunteers are always welcome.

*Donna Goepfert*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

2012 was the year of the chairs. Over the course of time, our old wooden chairs had become increasingly less solid and less comfortable, and Council agreed they should be replaced. The church community responded magnificently to the challenge of financing this - even Harris the dog did his bit. The contributors, with their dedications where appropriate, are recorded on the wall in the church. Thanks to this generosity, we raised Fr16,100, which allowed us to completely furnish the church - and indeed, once we had sold off many of the old chairs, to achieve a surplus of some Fr3,000 to be used for further essential replacements.



The day-to-day finances of the church were not quite so impressive. For much of the year, all the indications pointed to a deficit. While our expenditure was very similar to the previous year's, corresponding closely to the budget, income lagged behind. A better-than-expected response to the pledge appeal at the end of the year meant we finished with only a small deficit of Fr1,638.58, but still a deficit.

Regular giving, either through the pledge scheme or through the collection bag, provides the basic income of the church, and it was disappointing to find that this was some 9% lower than last year. Income from collections, at Fr31,220, was slightly up on last year, but regular donations through the pledge scheme, at Fr13,8312.40 were significantly down. We rely on direct giving for over 69% of our income, and any drop in this potentially reduces our effectiveness as a church.



Apart from direct giving, we have three other main sources of income to make up the remaining 31%. The chief of these are our regular Outreach events: the book and food sales, our Christmas bazaar and other smaller events. Here it is a pleasure to report that takings only varied by a few hundred francs from those in 2011, when the takings at the summer bazaar and autumn book sale had been exceptional. 2012's Summer Jubilee Fête was a source of enjoyment and fellowship, as well as being financially

satisfying. And by a narrow margin, the bazaar recorded a record year, with net takings of Fr13,121, plus the profits from Jana's food stall.

The UK food stall has been shown separately for two reasons. Firstly, it operates between sales as well as at them - speak nicely to Jana if you want a Fray Bentos pie or a box of Yorkshire tea in between sales. And secondly, while we can record the gross income at any event, we cannot say how much of this is profit without valuing the stock sold, which would require a complex till system or a complete stocktaking after every sale - neither of them worth the effort.

Our second subsidiary source of income is the money we are given for use of the hall and church by outside bodies. These can be anything from other churches using the church for worship, through choirs and drama groups using the premises for practice, to individuals giving courses or holding social events.

We also receive a grant of Fr5,000 from the Archdeaconry to compensate us for the use of Peter's time on archdeaconry business. Then there are small miscellaneous items - donations for tea and coffee, magazine income, proceeds from the sale of books and cards. After expenses, none of these amount to large sums, and nor, in the current economic climate, do interest payments on our bank deposits, but cumulatively the Fr6,000 or so they total is a handy sum.

Although our total income fell by 6%, we were able to contain expenditure to an increase of less than 0.2%. Paying our staff (Peter, Jana, Mary and Paul, our youth workers, and Julieta, our cleaner) was as ever the largest item here, and amounted to 65% of our total outgoings - slightly higher than last year, mainly because we have paid Julieta to clear up after some of our major events.

Although employment costs tend inexorably to rise, we saved where we could, and our health and social security costs were marginally lower. The archdeaconry also continues to help with Peter's travelling expenses when on archdeaconry business.

A lack of major repairs or replacements last year meant our expenditure on premises remained within budget, despite the higher cleaning costs mentioned above and greater heating costs caused by a colder winter than the year before. There was no weekend away in 2012, and no large expenditure on youth or junior church.



**mobility**  
car sharing

I reminded you a year ago that some of the church's plant is underused, and this is a good place to repeat that any church member can make use of our church Mobility subscription (as long as Peter is not using it), and that we offer very favourable rates for photocopies - including colour copies, well below those charged by shops or post offices.



We aim to give “at least” 10% of our directly-given income (collections, pledges and donations) to charity. The target figure given in the budget is Fr23,000, which is 13.3%. Last year's figure, Fr25,205, was actually 14.6%, but this was artificially high because it included a payment of Fr1,000 agreed in 2011 which required additional research in 2012 before it could be made, and an extraordinary payment from the chaplain's discretionary fund.

In addition to this figure of Fr25,205 from our own resources, a number of collections each year are dedicated directly to particular charities - Harvest and Christmas collections to Tear Fund, Junior Church collections likewise, Remembrance Day collections to Earl Haig's Fund for the Royal British Legion, Trinity Sunday collections Sein, and these totalled a further Fr6,149.55.



to Partner



It is surprising how many people imagine that the church is subsidized by the Church of England, or by the British Government, or by some Anglican trust fund. This is far from the case, though for the past couple of years we have had the contribution mentioned above to cover Peter's stipend for times when he is away on archdeaconry business. In fact, we paid out Fr12,227.35 last year as our share of the expenses of running the Swiss Archdeaconry, the Diocese in Europe, and indirectly the Church of England as a whole. This was slightly less than in 2011 because of the favourable exchange rate - in

sterling terms there was a small increase.

Keeping the church's finances running on an even keel is generally a pleasant challenge for the Treasurer - in spite of the 2,582 entries recorded in the accounts. But it is the support of the church community which keeps the church running. I try hard to thank everyone for the part they play, and to remember them in prayer, but inevitably some people “fall through the net”. Whatever you do for St Ursula's, whether it is attending worship on a Sunday morning, paying your magazine subscription on time, or donating tens or hundreds or thousands of francs, be assured that your contribution to the life of the church is worthwhile and appreciated!

*Hector Davie*

**ST URSULA'S CHURCH, BERNE**  
**CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2012**

<u>INCOME</u> (2011 figures in small type)			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Income from Community	172,717.85	189534	Personnel-related costs	146,493.44	144920
<i>Pledged giving</i>	138,312.40	155915	<i>Stipends and remunerations</i>	107,170.00	104630
<i>Donations</i>	3,185.45	3163	<i>Travelling expenses</i>	4,125.00	3737
<i>Collections</i>	31,220.00	30455	<i>Rent</i>	0.00	0
			<i>Other personnel costs</i>	35,198.44	36553
Income from events	36,706.40	37618	Running costs (Note 7)	51,508.42	54732
<i>Book Sales</i>	8,317.85	9484	<i>Premises</i>	36,741.40	39912
<i>Bazaar</i>	13,121.00	12675	<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	331.27	804
<i>Food Stall</i>	13,921.05	14072	<i>Office</i>	5,429.93	5025
<i>Other events</i>	1,346.50	1387	<i>Telephone</i>	1,866.15	2112
			<i>Insurance</i>	3,239.50	3240
Income from other sources	24,047.75	21907	<i>Property tax</i>	1,606.80	1607
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	22,197.75	20245	<i>Vestry</i>	1,134.73	841
<i>Other</i>	1,850.00	1662	<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	1,158.64	1191
			Youth and Junior Church	1,093.72	1836
Thun	1,092.30	641	Library	0.00	0
			Diocese/Deanery	12,227.35	12563
Other income	9,149.50	8875	Other expenditure	4,257.85	4252
<i>Magazine</i>	6,586.00	6163	<i>Magazine</i>	3,750.05	3567
<i>Book table</i>	40.00	127	<i>Book table</i>	40.00	115
<i>Card table</i>	167.50	160	<i>Card table</i>	29.30	92
<i>Coffee</i>	2,356.00	2426	<i>Coffee</i>	438.50	479
			<i>Miscellaneous</i>	0.00	0
Grants	5,000.00	5000	Charity (Note 6)	25,205.00	22500
Miscellaneous Financial	0.00	243	Financial Expense (Note 5)	194.48	199
			Miscellaneous Financial	441.85	0
Interest/dividend income	1,339.73	2026	Depreciation	0.00	0
TOTAL	<u>250,053.53</u>	265844	Transfer to Building+Dev Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>	10000
DEFICIT	1,368.58		TOTAL	<u>251,422.11</u>	251002
			SURPLUS		14842

**EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Chair fund donations	16,160.00	0	New chairs	13,045.71	1278
Legacy	<u>0.00</u>	9846	Building Work	<u>1,395.50</u>	37413
TOTAL	<u>16,160.00</u>	9846	TOTAL	<u>14,441.21</u>	38691
EXTRAORDINARY DEFICIT		28845	EXTRAORDINARY SURPLUS	1,718.79	

**BALANCE SHEET 31.12.2012**

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash on hand CH	10,440.35	8922	Payments received for 2013	0.00	0
Cash on hand GB (Note 3)	31,473.13	31863	Miscellaneous Creditors	18,509.65	29890
Short term accounts CH	217,688.85	201943			
Stocks on hand (Note 4)	6,285.66	8150	Non-liquid capital	8,485.66	12900
Amounts receivable	936.60	670	Building and Development Fund	81,653.33	39935
Fixed assets (Note 2)	2,200.00	4750	Ministry Training Fund	20,608.67	20609
Advance payments made	<u>4,451.40</u>	18207	Accrued capital (Note 1)	<u>144,218.68</u>	171173
TOTAL	<u>273,475.99</u>	274506	TOTAL	<u>273,475.99</u>	274506

## NOTES

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

Accrued capital on 31.12.2011	+	171,172.92
Transferred to Building Fund 3.2012	-	30,000.00
Surplus from ordinary activities	-	1,368.58
Decrease in stocks and assets	+	4,414.34
Accrued capital on 31.12.2012	+	144,218.68

2. The church's fixed assets are:

	Acquisition cost	Value 31.12.2011	Acquisitions during year	Depreciation for year	Value 31.12.2012
Photocopier	12,749.90	4,750.00	0.00	2,550.00	2,200.00
TOTAL	12,749.90	4,750.00	0.00	2,550.00	2,200.00

3. Sterling balances on 31.12.2012 are converted at the rate of SFr 1.50 = £1 (2010: 1.45).

4. Book stocks on 31.12.2012 were valued at SFr 460.00 (31.12.2011: SFr 500.00). Card stocks were valued at SFr 669.50 (31.12.2011: SFr 679.00). (Oil, UK food, and parking tickets account for the remainder.)

5. Miscellaneous financial items include an exchange loss of SFr 728.70 (2011: gain: Sfr 380.88).

6. Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events, which are not shown in these accounts. These amounted to SFr 6,149.55 (2011: SFr 9,434.55), as follows:

Remembrance Day	519.65	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday / Rosenaktion	300.10	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organization
Confirmation Service 25 June	998.90	Diocesan Ordination Fund
Harvest Festival	905.40	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Collection 17 September	946.05	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Christmas Collections	1,730.20	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Junior Church Collections	749.25	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)

7. Running costs for our premises include:

Electricity and water	5,494.60	5,268
Heating system	9,726.75	7,848
Caretaking, garden, etc	0.00	6,116
Cleaning	17,918.00	14,934
Kitchen	902.45	1,647
Repairs to premises	619.15	1,482
Equipment and repairs	749.50	1,253
Use of premises (Thun)	420.00	420
Other	910.95	944

Office costs include:

Materials	460.08	463
Postage	380.15	738
Photocopying	4,589.70	3,825

Chairman  
P M Potter

Treasurer  
H C M Davie

Auditors  
A R Carrick      K Chittazhathu

## 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.

According to the Church Representation Rules, a new Electoral Roll had to be prepared in 2013. This meant that everyone, whether on last year's Electoral Roll or not, had to apply.

The council approved the new Electoral Roll on 9 April. The number of members is now 105. The Electoral Roll has been displayed on the Notice Board in the Church Hall since 14 April.

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

*Tricia Carrick, Electoral Roll Officer*

## THUN GROUP

The Thun church has about 8 regular members. We meet at the Pavillon on Bubenbergstrasse in Thun at 7.30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of every month. We also have some social evenings, either at a member's home or elsewhere.

Our meetings take the form of a church service followed by fellowship. We have, in the past, had a time of bible study after the service and this is something which I feel the group would like to do again. We also intend to have more social evenings this year.



Our annual Christmas service of Lessons and Carols at St Beatus church in Göttibach, Thun attracts quite a large congregation and many join us afterwards at the Pavillon for our traditional buffet and fellowship. The collection at this service raised Fr 500 for Cecily's Fund - a charity supporting AIDS orphans in Zambia.

For more information about the Thun services, please contact the church office (031 352 8567) or [bern@anglican.ch](mailto:bern@anglican.ch).

*Rachel Huguenin*

## MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

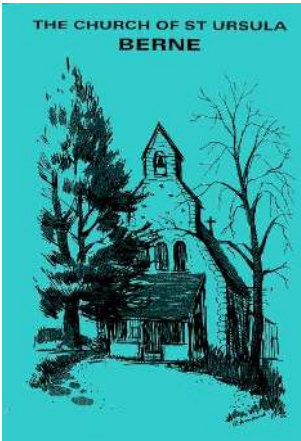
The master rota combines all rotas directly connected with services: duty council, sidespeople, readers, intercession, beamer/audio, servers at the altar and chalice assistants. It is compiled six times a year and based on a list of 32 helpers as of December 2012 (two lost, three new). Several volunteers are available for a number of tasks and have been supporting St Ursula's in this special way for many years.

Rota members are very busy at Christmas and during holidays. This is why we are always looking for new helpers (sidespeople and beamer operators are especially welcome), to relieve the burden of the present group. There is a coordinator for each individual rota who provides information as well as training, maintains a list of instructions, and will be happy to answer any questions. The list of coordinators can be found on the address page at the end of the church magazine.

A big THANK YOU goes to all rota members for their commitment, accepting and fulfilling the duties assigned without fail, and helping out on short notice when needed.

*Ruth Freiburghaus*

## ST URSULA'S CHURCH MAGAZINE



### **Editing**

The magazine's purpose is to inform readers of church services and events and to teach about the Christian faith. It is published six times a year and is available in paper and electronic form. 350 paper copies are printed and a further 80+ people receive an e-mail notification when the latest electronic version is made available.

### **Collating**

About 300 magazines are sent out every second month.

Although they come from the printers already folded and stapled we still need volunteers to help insert the flyers and put the magazines into the envelopes, however this all goes quickly with about 6 people helping.

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

Many thanks to all the faithful helpers!

*Querida Long & Annemarie Walthert*

## WEBMASTER

Most churches today have some sort of presence on the world wide web. St Ursula's was one of the first churches in Switzerland to do so. Having our own website, using social media like Facebook and Twitter, are all tools for making our church's work known. The target may be people looking to find us (checking *A Church Near You*, or Googling for English-speaking churches in Switzerland). Or it may be the unchurched - perhaps people curious about visiting or living in Berne or thinking of a church wedding.

A website needs to be accessible, attractive and up-to-date, and the webmaster must try to ensure that our site and our pages on Facebook and elsewhere are easy to find. Good design is important - and something of a moving target, for what was important ten years ago (speed of loading, for example) is less relevant today (when ease of printing seems to be one goal) or tomorrow (when access from mobile devices is a growing need). And we are still in the Stone Age as far as managing content goes, though the calendar, the rota and the weekly notices have generally been kept up to date!

We hope the church's website meets people's needs and answers their questions. You can help us by giving feedback, - even negative feedback is welcome! Email any comments to [webmaster@stursula.ch](mailto:webmaster@stursula.ch).

In addition to basic news of services and events, rotas and contact people, the website has a large amount of other information. Recent sermons, the on-line version of the magazine, the duties of sidespeople, the hymns for the current month, details of past chaplains, today's order of Morning Prayer, photographs taken at recent events - they are all there.

Our basic website contains over 800 pages. In 2012, around a thousand separate visitors per month paid a total of 22,096 visits to the site, looking at 77,036 pages (not including the pages trawled by Google and Co) - though only 17% of these visits lasted longer than two minutes. Our picture gallery on Picasa comprises 70 public albums.

People find us by googling for all sorts of things, from concepts like *english church booksale* to *english wedding in switzerland* or *bern christmas carols* (the mind boggles at some of the search concepts, such as *how are the anglicans so special* or *lord make speed to save me translated into greek!*)

So why not browse around our site, click round the links, or see what the latest news is on our Facebook page. We'd like to know your reactions as we use these modern media in God's service!

*Hector Davie*

## PASTORAL TEAM

The purpose of the Pastoral Team is to support others in prayer and to encourage the congregation as a whole in its pastoral care for each other.

During the past year we held prayer evenings, at which a few gathered to share concerns and to pray for people on our minds. Those who came found it a valuable experience and we intend to repeat it again before long.



In addition we have continued our get-togethers, so that people can meet and perhaps learn more about how we can help each other.

An important role is our prayer ministry. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, you can speak to one of the Team or write a request in the book in the porch. We will then pray about it. No need to go into details - God knows them anyway.

*Shareene Potter*

## CHURCH BUILDINGS

### Building Manager

This year's main item on the agenda was the buying of new chairs for the Church. Thanks to your generosity we were able to buy new chairs which are comfortable and fit our needs.

The blue chairs which we had for a short time found a new place in a Church in Nigeria. The transport was free for us and I personally would like to thank John Eze for organizing everything.

### **2012 Maintenance Summary**

In both early Summer and late Autumn there was a garden tidy-up with a trimming to some plants. A big thank you to all the regular volunteers for their faithful work and passion for gardening. Nevertheless there were certain tasks where we had to call a professional gardener such as the pruning of the very high hedge in front of the kitchen.

Several repairs have been done such as replacing the Church broken window panes, repairing the shutters in the upper hall, substituting the flush in the men's toilet and other minor repairs such as plugs, bulbs etc.

### **Looking Ahead in 2013**

The martens, as we know, found a cosy place in the roof of the Church house. They are coming and going as they like. We will have to cut some of the big branches near the house to make it more difficult for them to climb into the loft

Council decided for a new lectern which would match the altar and also would be easier to move. Its delivery should be soon.

A Church bell pulling mechanism will be added to the bell rope, as it is now the pulling of the rope that is ruining the ceiling.

Our next big project will be the renewing of the floor both in the Lower and Upper hall. We are in contact with several professionals and have different options.

The main investment in the future will be the heating system. We are still looking at various ideas and we are very fortunate that we are not under time pressure.

The stones of our buildings are not ours, but God's, so I thank everybody for helping in a way or another in keeping up our Church.

If you are interested in helping please contact me.

May we continue to work together for his Glory.

*Edi Wildhaber*

### **Church Caretaker**

#### **Aim of Activity**

To keep the church building in order, keeping maintenance costs low and within our budget.

#### **General maintenance and improvements (odd job repairs)**

I have done most of the repairs and improvements in coordination with the Church office or Peter Potter.

I appreciate people reporting damage (E-Mail, letterbox beside the Church Hall entrance) or give suggestions to the Church Office. The sooner Jana or I know about problems, the sooner they can be solved.

#### **Heating**

I think in general the heating has been functioning okay. I usually pre-program the control one week in advance according to the Church calendar on the Internet. Please let me know about unforeseen activities arranged at short notice (such as funerals).



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 '2-3' is sufficient). The problem is that some people occasionally change the setting and leave it on maximum, wasting energy.

### **Church lighting**

The Church lighting is sort of a struggle against Swiss law and market changes. It takes some research to find a near-optimum solution to replace the original light bulbs. I noticed that the dimmable lights we had used so far are no longer available. Therefore I have started to replace defect energy saving lights with LED. These are dimmable and the expected longer lifetime should balance the higher purchase price. Hopefully!

### **Garbage recycling**

The recycling containers for glass, metal and PET-bottles are well used. The notice that broken glass should be wrapped in newspaper and disposed through the household garbage had the wanted effect: There is hardly any broken glass in the container!

I am grateful to Edi Wildhaber who can step in and help with problems and to Hector for setting the heating control when I am not around.

*Rolf Klingler*

## **BOOK AND FOOD SALES**

### **Second Hand English Books**

2012 was a see-saw year with regard to the book sales. After a good start in March, the next two book sales in June and September were much quieter, which led to speculation on why fewer people were coming to buy our books: lack of publicity, perhaps; competition from kindle downloads, thought someone else; too many book sales throughout the year, was another suggestion; competition from other book shops selling second hand English books,



suggested somebody else; or maybe people just didn't like buying books in rainy weather (the September sale had been a rather wet affair). Whatever the reasons for the fall in sales in June and September, the Christmas book sale was a huge success, breaking all previous records with an astounding total of over Fr 3,000. In the end, our income from the book sales in 2012 (Fr 8,050) turned out to be only

slightly down over the previous year (2011: Fr 8,280). So, all in all, it was a very successful year.

Throughout last year we continued to try and improve the quality of our books, focussing on the condition of the donations we receive. At the sales, we distributed flyers with information on the type of books we can accept and what we would rather not receive as donations. Although there has been an improvement in the quality of the donations, we do still receive too many “grotty” books, which we have to dispose of (and sometimes pay for) at the local waste-disposal yard. On a positive note, we now receive far fewer hardbacks, so the message is slowly getting across. Also, in a drive to be more customer-friendly, we undertook the mammoth task of shelving all the books in alphabetical order. This required a few extra sorting sessions, but it makes life much easier for our customers, especially if they’re looking for favourite authors. And, in addition, we now provide our customers with nice blue shopping baskets.

We had some new helpers on our team last year: welcome to Jennifer Hockley, Sarah Miescher and Mary Wittwer. Once again, I am extremely grateful to my “old faithfuls”; Mary Mead, Katrina Fenner, Judy Chisholm, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller and Diane Lohri; and to all those who help when they can (Tricia Carrick, Rachel Huguenin and Sue Higson, when she’s visiting from Germany). Without all these very hard-working and committed ladies, the books sales would simply not take place.

As we prepare for the 2013 book sales, I am always on the lookout for new ideas or helpers. If anyone is interested, you can call me on 079 343 2165.

*Allison Masciadri*

### **British Food Stall**



In 2012, we sold British Food at the Book and Food Sales in the spring and late summer, at the Summer Fête and at the Christmas Bazaar in November. There is also a smaller stall after church on the 2 Sundays following each main 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.

An important part of the stall are all the delicious home-made 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.

Running the food stall is a year round activity and, unbelievably, we currently rely on just a handful of shoppers to buy the tremendous amount of stock we need for all the sales and, unfortunately, as personal circumstances change, it is unlikely that this “handful of shoppers” will be able to supply the food stall in 2013 with all the stock needed. We are now having to consider alternative and more costly ways of importing our stock, which could lead to either a reduction in the number

of food sales each year or lower profits and/or higher prices - so if you are travelling to the UK, Australia or USA etc or are having visitors from there, and think that you or your visitors might have space to bring some shopping over, please let me know so that I can give you a list of items needed - every little bit helps!

The food stalls are not only an important fund raiser for St Ursula's - raising almost Fr 14,000 after costs in 2012 - but 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 and scrumptious cakes.

*Jana Kutesko*



## ST URSULA'S QUEEN'S JUBILEE FÊTE



We had a brilliant day, the sun was shining and we had plenty of activities to keep everyone amused - both young and the young at heart. The choir sang pieces from the Queen's Coronation whilst the exhibition, quiz and

films about the Queen's life were appreciated by all.

Financially, the Jubilee Fête did very well, contributing some Fr 7,000 to church funds.

The Summer Fête for 2013 will be held on Saturday 25 May.

*Jana Kutesko*



*Some memorable moments from the Jubilee Fête*



## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2012



The Christmas Bazaar in 2012 once again proved to be a very popular event with lots of visitors and a wonderful atmosphere throughout the 2 days.

All our usual and “old favourite” stalls were present along with a couple of new stalls including Usborne books which has now become a regular feature of our Book and Food sales.

I would like once again thank 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 help” right through to the clear up and cleaning at the end - all of you played a vital rôle in the success of the bazaar.



This year our Bazaar Christmas tree logo was

drawn by a member of our Junior Church showing how the organisation of the bazaar encompasses ALL members of our church!





I hope everyone who helped at and attended the bazaar had a wonderful and joyous start to the Christmas period. This year's bazaar will be held on Friday 22 & Saturday 23 November.

*Jana Kutesko*

## PATCHWORK

The ladies of our patchwork group have been very busy again. At the annual Bazaar we were able to sell a lot of unique items which enabled us to make a significant contribution to the church.

As several babies have arrived during the year, Grandmothers and Godmothers were glad that we had some baby quilts available; they are such beautiful presents. This is very rewarding for the ladies, as patchwork is such a wonderful hobby. You can play with colours and patterns and create something very unique and special. Come and see us and have a look at what we are doing.



We meet on Friday mornings in the church hall, there is coffee ready, also for visitors.

*Elisabeth Pfyffer*

## 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. Together this amounted to Fr 23'100. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed as follows:

### Charity and Missions - List of Payments in 2012

Local	Fr	
Discretionary (to be used locally by Chaplain)	1,300.00	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3,500.00	500 Archdeaconry
Zentrum 5	1,000.00	
AKiB Passantenhilfe (Seev Levi)	1,000.00	
<b>Regional</b>		
Family Life Mission (Wołochowicz)	2,500.00	
Train a Priest	2,030.00	2011 payment held over
<b>International</b>		
Church Mission Society	1,522.50	£1,050
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1,522.50	£1,050
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Finland)	1,015.00	£700
Bishop's Advent Appeal	1,015.00	£700

Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	1,600.00	
Child Development Centre, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	1,000.00	
Street Children's Mission, Thailand, Gröbli,	1,000.00	
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	1,000.00	
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	1,600.00	
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	1,600.00	
Anglican Health Network	1,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,205.00</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 Fr 6,149.55 (2011: Fr 9,434.55), as follows:

	Fr	Organisation
Remembrance Day	519.65	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday / Rosenaktion	300.10	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organisation
Confirmation Service 25 June	998.90	Diocesan Ordination Fund
Harvest Festival	905.40	TearFund Schweiz (Uganda)
Collection Sept 17 (Rev Reueben's visit)	946.05	TearFund Schweiz (Uganda)
Christmas Collections	1,730.20	TearFund Schweiz (Uganda)
Junior Church Collections	749.25	TearFund Schweiz (Uganda)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,149.55</b>	

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 continue to support the Anglican Health Network (AHN) begun last year.



On Sunday, 17 September we had a visit from Rev Reuben Byomuhangi from the Water and Sanitation Project of the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda. He was our guest preacher at the service and was present to meet our church members at an apéro afterwards.

The Cecily's Fund is supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of active helpers who have organised various fund raising events such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup lunch and the Lent Soup Lunch, throughout the past year.

At the end of 2012 it was decided that Junior Church would change their TearFund Schweiz project from the project in Sudan to support the Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale Uganda. TearFund Schweiz supports this project. The Junior Church Activity group had a very busy activity afternoon on 25 January where they helped prepare 4 colourful and lovely banners for charities for our Missions Sunday event. Their leaders helped them learn a bit about Uganda & the other countries for the banners as well as preparing several Ugandan food dishes which we were then able to taste at our Missions Sunday Pot Luck meal the next day!

This year on 26 January, we again had our Missions Sunday service. The Charity and Missions team's aim is to present all of our charities and missions we support at St Ursulas and to pray and give thanks for these. This year we had a different approach as we had decided to have a special focus on one particular charity. The Junior Church activity club children and some of the charity team had prepared colourful banners for each of our charities/organisations we support. The banners were carried in by the children and hung up in the church. We were privileged to have a guest speaker from the Us (was USPG!) organisation, Zoë Bunter came all the way the UK for this event. She gave the sermon as well as the short talk for the children. During the service the Junior Church children had their own special talk by Philip Klingler and his wife Agatha on the Uganda Water and Sanitation project. The service was followed by a well attended Pot Luck meal with a happy time of fellowship and sharing. Between the mains and dessert Zoë Bunter gave us a more detailed lively all age talk about the work of the 'Us' with the church of Bangladesh with the hospital of Bollophur as our church support will now be earmarked for Us projects in Bangladesh.

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 M Potter

Contact person: Cecily Klingler, 031 302 48 59 or [cecily@klinglerfamily.ch](mailto:cecily@klinglerfamily.ch)

*Cecily Klingler*

## ARCHDEACONRY

### Archdeaconry Synod



*Bishop Geoffrey*

The Diocese in Europe covers all of Europe (except the British Isles), as well as Morocco in Africa, the Canaries and the Asian part of the former Soviet Union. This is too much for our bishops, Geoffrey Rowell and David Hamid, to oversee, and a measure is currently before Parliament which will allow the creation of four archdeaconries, each with a full-time archdeacon who will take a lead in mission, the provision of resources and planning for the future - for the Diocese in Europe is one of the fastest growing parts of the Church of England.

At the moment, however, there are seven archdeaconries. Switzerland is the smallest, and with nine “full-time” chaplaincies and their associated congregations (just as we have Thun, Zurich has Zug and St Gallen, Vevey has Château d'Oex, and La Côte has Divonne in France, for example). Peter, our chaplain, is the current Archdeacon. He acts as the bishop's eyes and ears, coordinating the church's work. The clergy meet together twice a year in what they call “Chapter”, to discuss challenges and opportunities, and both clergy and laity meet twice a year in Synod, to do the same.

Berne has three lay representatives on Synod, currently Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Janet Wenger. 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 23 June 2012 in Montreux, and on 19 January 2013 here in Berne.

Bishop Geoffrey attended both of these, and addressed us. At Montreux his subject was Christianity and the internet. Among the hallmarks of the church are the three Cs - communion, community and communication. These need to be kept in balance. Just as the vine and its branches illustrate the bonds of communion and love between all Christians everywhere, so does the concept of a network. But the internet can stress communication at the expense of community - emails, tweets, entries on Facebook can be impersonal and sometimes hurtful. As Christians, we need to recognize the humanity of our fellow Internet users.

Our business session at Montreux considered the implementation of the most recent Diocesan provisions for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. We heard a report about the work of St George's church in Athens and agreed that the archdeaconry would contribute €200 a month towards their work in alleviating the plight of people affected by the economic crisis there.

We listened to and discussed reports about several activities. SACEP, the Swiss Archdeaconry's Continuing Education Programme, had had a successful course for youth leaders in May, was holding a "Day with the Psalms" in September, and planned a training session in 2013 for council members. We heard reports from our choir festival and our archdeaconry retreat, news of collaboration with the Old Catholic church. We asked what the National Ecumenical Council (AGCK) was doing about Sunday trading and about euthanasia. We heard from the charity Partner Sein and about the principles by which they select their aid projects ("Where a little can go a long way").

To round off the meeting, Cynthia Gunn, Ecumenical Accompanier at the World Council of Churches, gave a talk based on her experiences working among the Arab population of Palestine. Alas, the time was too short for a detailed discussion of the situation in that confused corner of the Middle East.



In January, we met here in Berne. The bad weather delayed Bishop Geoffrey's arrival, and we began by discussing the presentation about Palestine at the previous synod, with the aim of ensuring that enough time was available if contentious issues were discussed.

We agreed on our budget, with planned expenditure of Fr27,600 - including continued support for Athens and contributions to clergy in-service training: a burden which formerly fell on chaplaincies. Each chaplaincy contributes towards this in proportion to its size and financial health.

Peter brought us up to date with the latest developments in creating the changes to our diocesan structure. This should come into force in January 2014. Our new Archdeacon will be based in Nice, though some of his day-to-day tasks will be delegated to an Area Dean here in Switzerland.

There were further reports on associated activities. We had also paid part of the cost for Sara McVane, from Zurich, to attend a training course on Godly Play, and she outlined the principles of this and the resources available.

Bishop Geoffrey's plane arrived in time for him to address the afternoon session on the theme of a vision for chaplaincies. Are we open-minded and outward-looking? Do we listen to people's opinions? What was the "DNA" of our chaplaincies?

In the few minutes that remained, our Bishop also fielded questions about the acceptability of gay bishops and the question of women bishops. Despite some erroneous reports in the press, good progress was being made in the House of Bishops in resolving these issues.

*Hector Davie*

## Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2012 in Basel

The traditional Archdeaconry Choir Festival of the Anglican Churches in Switzerland was held at the last weekend of April 2012 (28 / 29 April) and was hosted by the Anglican Chaplaincy St Nicolas in Basel. Choirs and singers (a total of 45 on Saturday and about 40 on Sunday) from Anglican Chaplaincies in Switzerland met for intensive practices and singing at two choral services. These were held at the Predigerkirche of the Old Catholic Community in Basel. On Sunday the Communion Service was held jointly by the Anglican and Old Catholic Community in Basel. From the choir of St Ursula's Church 12 singers took part in this event.

At Evensong on Saturday the music included works by Batten, Tallis, Ayleward and Scheidt. On Sunday the joint choir sang the choral elements of the Liturgy by Gabrieli, and works by Batten and Scheidt.



Mark Duley from Galway (Ireland) was the Festival Music Director. David Blunden (Basel) was Festival Organist. They both contributed significantly to achieving a high standard of singing choral music in worship. Four young soloists singing parts of the music by Scheidt and Gabrieli added some extra musical flavour to the services.

These 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 turn in hosting the Festivals.

*Hans-Karl Pfyffer*