

St Ursula's Church Berne



**Annual Reports
for 2013**

Contents

Archdeaconry	34	Master Rota	23
		Music	15
Book and Food Sales	28		
Buildings	25	Pastoral Team	24
		Patchwork	34
Charity and Missions	37		
Christmas Bazaar	32	Safeguarding	14
Council	7	St Ursula's Summer Fête	30
Crèche	8		
		Thun	22
Electoral Roll	22	Treasurer and Accounts	17
Junior Church	9	Wardens	5
Junior Church Activity Club	12	Webmaster	23
		Worship, Teaching & Prayer	3
Library	28		
		Youth Group	13
Magazine	23	Youth Confirmation Group	14

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
Associate Priest:	Rev Mark Pogson
Youth Coordinator:	Mrs Mary McKinley



Postal Address:	Jubiläumsplatz 2 3005 Bern
Church Office:	031 352 8567
Email:	berne@anglican.ch
web-site:	www.anglican.ch/berne

WORSHIP, TEACHING & PRAYER

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42)

Worship

The Church exists to give glory to God through its worship together. The Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles, as well as other documents from the Early Church, make it clear that a weekly celebration of the Eucharist (“the breaking of bread”) has been the distinctive feature of Christian worship from the beginning.



The Church's worship is our way into fellowship with our fellow-Christians and with God. Our new pattern of services, when we are All in Church Together on the second Sunday, is intended to make it easier for all ages to feel at home in our services. We offer our worship to God but God is also doing something when we gather for worship.

The Prayer Book refers to worship as “our duty and our joy”. We do not gather for worship only because we want to get something out of it. If that were so, it would reduce our services to entertainment - and there is a whole industry which can do that job much better than the Church ever can. There may be times when we feel that a particular service did not do anything for us. But it may have been just what someone else needed (and they may not have got it if you had not been there). We must also believe that God had done something for us in that service, even if we did not notice it at the time.

We should constantly remind ourselves of these things - and use them to encourage others.

This is not to say that our services could not be improved. As I have said in the current magazine, confidence is a key factor in this. Being confident about why, what and how we worship makes a huge difference. I intend to start some information and training sessions later in the year.

Teaching

The Sunday Eucharist is the most important time for teaching. I do not just mean the sermon. The prayers and the actions of the liturgy are powerful teaching tools. From “Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open...” to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord” we are being taught about the nature of God and about how we should response to his love. Sometimes we do not even need words: seeing the bread being broken can say something powerful to us. If our hearts are open, all these things will speak to us.

Over the past year the teaching focus at St Ursula's has been on prayer. In Advent

we looked at the Church's heritage of prayer. We do not have to make up our own prayers every time we turn to God when there are so many tried and tested prayers for us to use. Prayers learnt by heart are always there for us if we feel too tired or upset to pray, or they can help to get us started in our prayer time.

When we pray, we are not alone. “The voice of prayer is never silent” and it is there like the electric current in the socket. We can connect to it when we need to. During Lent we have been aiming to keep our prayers going round the clock. This is something anyone, of all ages, can join in with. Although God has given us “an hearty desire to pray”, not everyone feels confident about it. At the Council's suggestion there was an information session before Lent.



Later on in the year, there will be more opportunities for teaching. It is important to remember, though, that teaching is more than imparting knowledge or providing answers. In fact, one of the major lessons we need to learn is that the Bible and the Christian faith cannot be reduced to a package that has the answer to everything. We need to learn to leave room for mystery in both our worship and our teaching.

Ministry

We are all called to ministry through our baptism. To be a “minister” means to be a servant. It does not necessarily mean doing something visible (or audible) up front in the church. To be seated in the congregation, joining in the prayers and the singing, is an important form of ministry for in this way you are serving others around you. People who only come to church when they are on duty have a distorted idea of ministry.

Because all are called to ministry, it follows that ministry takes many different forms. The various activities featured in this booklet are examples of how you can fulfil your call to ministry in the Church. There are other forms too, both in church on Sundays and in other places during the week. In the Body of Christ, all are dependent on the ministry of the other members. As St Paul makes clear, our calling to ministry is not for our own self-esteem or comfort but to serve the whole body.

At St Ursula's and in Thun, we are fortunate in having faithful and dedicated members but there are also other parts of the body that are struggling. Once again you have examples in these reports. Are you being called to help these parts work better?

Ven. Peter M Potter, Chaplain

WARDENS

Last year's survey on the seven disciplines for the Church placed "learning and teaching the faith" second in importance. As Father Peter mentioned in one of his articles all Christians should be well informed and confident in their faith. Yet learning the faith is not like learning a law book. We should see what Jesus taught us and understand his parables as they illustrate God's relationship with us. We came to the conclusion that worshipping together is essential. Moreover we thought it's important to examine our church and ourselves with fresh eyes, build on our strengths, and recognise our areas that need improvement.

During this year we had many regular events that brought people together to enjoy good fellowship. There were events like the Summer Fête in May where everybody worked together to make it a big hit. It's wonderful to see members of the church family work alongside and enjoy this time of fellowship. We also had our regular Book & Food Sales throughout the year. St Ursula's is really blessed to have volunteers who give their talents and hours to organise and run these events.

As one of our church members mentioned the other day we (the older members of our church family) will fade away eventually. The future of this church lies in the hands of the children! Sometimes we don't seem to be aware of the vital part the Junior Church plays in our church family. We thank our Junior church teachers and other leaders who so patiently and passionately prepared all the classes and events like the Junior Church sleepover or the Nativity Play. It makes us happy to see that the children are really in their hearts. The theme for the Junior Church Sleepover was "The Church Worldwide Family" and as usual lots of planning and organising was required. The Social Activities Group for the 7-12 year olds kept on going tirelessly and a new Confirmation Class lead by Tricia Carrick started last autumn. Moreover, Janiffer Kingori and Françoise Hänggi started a choir with the children.

The Youth Group is going strong too and we thank Mary McKinley for her patience, positive attitude and the interesting themes she discusses with the youth group. The youth also launched a fund-raising project to help young members of our Church to be sent abroad to volunteer their time to help people in need.

In June, the annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Montreux at the Church of St John the Evangelist. It was an occasion to meet, exchange ideas, worship together and to enjoy music, of course.

In October, Council started to discuss the Vision and Values of our Church. The idea was taken from a seminar led by Keith Lamdin in April 2013. Father Peter explained that "vision" is telling our story about the future and he encouraged us to look at where we stand now. We tried to define the purpose of our Church, our strengths and our weaknesses. Council agreed that we have values to share and don't want to be available just for Christians. All agreed that being welcoming and encouraging integration are important aspects of our church life. We hope for more and more enriching and fruitful ideas in the months to come.

In November, Bishop Geoffrey retired. Every chaplaincy, including St Ursula's, sent their feedback regarding the new Bishop for the Diocese in Europe and we hope that the Holy Spirit will guide the Committee in this difficult and lengthy process. This entails some consequences too. As long as the new bishop is not appointed new Archdeacons cannot be appointed either. When Ven. Jonathan Lloyd decided to leave the Diocese at the end of March to take up a parish appointment in England it left a vacancy in the post of Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe. Bishop David asked Father Peter, who is the Archdeacon of Switzerland, to take on a temporary role as acting Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe until the new Bishop makes an appointment. Our church family can be proud that we do have a very capable and devoted chaplain who is used by God in many different ways. On the other hand, Father Peter is aware of the additional responsibilities and he only agreed to accept on the basis that he could delegate most of the day to day duties to the two Area Deans in the archdeaconry. He will, however, be overseeing the appointment process in Copenhagen and Freiburg im Breisgau. We pray that God helps Father Peter to manage his time well and will continue to strengthen him in his ministry.

The theme for the Advent course was prayer and we analysed together different prayers and hymns. It is always astonishing to see how words can be interpreted by people in so many different ways.

The Christmas season was rather busy and our Christmas Bazaar was, as always, an opportunity for fellowship and getting to know the congregation better. There were lots of laughs, lots of prizes and months of hard work beforehand. For the second successive time we had a Christmas Parish Party where people had either to perform or read something about the Christmas season. It was a lot of fun and another occasion to spend time together.

Throughout the last year new families kept coming and our Christmas Services broke all records! Our Services are well attended and we are fortunate that more children joined. We look forward to our Pancake evening which is our traditional event to welcome new joiners as well as to fellowship with existing ones.

Sometimes we seem to be stuck with the thought that St Ursula's is a small parish. But looking back at the past year we realise how God chooses "the weak things of the world to shame the strong". God worked through many miraculous ways to help us do much with the little we have. Especially, we remember all those who have taken on a new responsibility within the church for the first time this year. We pray that their contribution will enrich the church family as well as themselves.

As church wardens we would like to thank all who helped us week after week by supporting us with prayers and encouraging words. We also thank the entire church family for their faithfulness and generosity and we pray that our Church will continue to grow, to prosper and to be transformed.

Maxine Wildhaber & Archana Jacob-Chittazhathu, Church Wardens

COUNCIL

This church year the council met nine times from May 2013 to February 2014 and the outgoing council will meet one more time before this report is published for the AGM in March. Council, led by Father Peter, discusses a wide range of issues important to church life and worship and affecting the smooth running of the church facilities.

The Church Council generally meets on the first Tuesday of each month although again this year some dates were changed and no meeting was held in August.

Council wants the work with all children regarding their spiritual growth and integration in church life to be a priority. It noted that recruiting teachers is a challenge and because there aren't enough, Junior Church has done some restructuring. On the second Sunday of each month all children remain in church for ACT (All in Church Together), formerly called All Age worship. And on the fourth Sunday of the month all children, after gathering in the Upper Hall, stay together for a common service consisting of a Biblical message and singing. The teachers are working on forming a children's choir.

Some topics discussed at council meetings were the Safeguarding Policy (Cecily Klingler took over from Shareene as Safeguarding Officer) which we were required to approve, youth work (led by Mary McKinley), crèche, the Nativity Play and the Pancake Supper as outreach.

Bishop Geoffrey retired at the end of 2013 and each council in the European Diocese was encouraged to present a statement of needs and wishes regarding a new bishop. St Ursula's Council recognized the importance for a bishop to understand the challenges to churches in continental Europe which may be quite different from challenges to those in the UK. The statement from the Swiss Archdeaconry, along with those from the other involved European Diocese, has been forwarded to the selection committee in the UK.

Following a helpful SACEP seminar last April on "How to be a Good Council Member", council has been reflecting on vision and values and will continue to have in-depth discussions on this important subject. Formulating a vision tells a story about our future and recognizing values help our church move towards the vision.

Council approved dissolving the Bern-Neuchâtel church link so Neuchâtel could link up with Lausanne which is physically closer to them.

Since Father Peter continues to serve as both chaplain and part-time Archdeacon, council approved use of extra funds, allotted to churches whose chaplain is also a part-time Archdeacon, to pay for an increase in Jana's office hours by 1 ½ hours per week and to pay Mark Pogson for his duties in assisting Father Peter. Mark, licensed by the bishop and a member of our congregation, is responsible for the Thun church and will take services when Father Peter has to be away on archdeaconry duties or for other reasons.

The treasurer compiles a detailed monthly report for every council meeting presenting the financial situation of the church. Pledges are somewhat down so it is especially necessary to continue to discuss the wise use of funds and ways to be more frugal. Since the church tithes 10% of its money to charity giving, that also means coordinating with the Charity and Missions Committee in deciding on the recipients.

One way to be more frugal is to improve the energy efficiency of the church, halls and chaplain's house. To this end a core energy efficiency team was formed and is gathering data for a three-phase project. The first phase involved detailing the existing infrastructure, the second phase, in progress, is a thermo-physical analysis of the three building complexes and recording of their heating pattern and the third phase will be deciding on sub-projects including compiling cost-effect information. Council receive a monthly report on the progress of the team.

There is always much about church property to discuss and approve: from purchasing new appliances and a photocopier to having the floors resurfaced to upgrading the telephone system to installing a microphone at the back of the church for those leading intercessions from the back. There are also always the garden and various repairs to tend to.

Council recognized that the church library is not well patronized and discussed ways of encouraging its use. An awareness campaign is under way and all the books are being catalogued to be available on St Ursula's website so church members can easily check what we have and possibly suggest books to order.

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

This report includes only a part of council's work. Anyone is welcome to attend council meetings as an observer. If you have questions, or suggestions that council could consider, please speak to a council member. Their names are listed in the church magazine. Importantly, please continue to pray for the work of the council and its members.

Donna Goepfert, Council Secretary

CRÈCHE

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

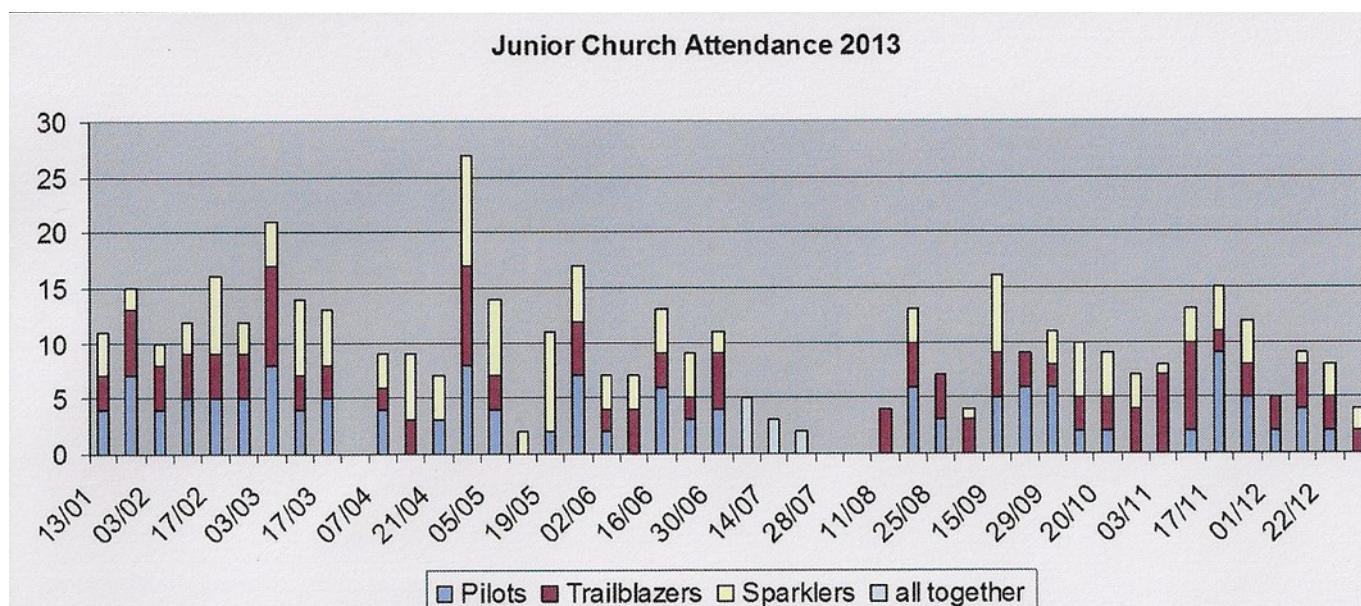
During 2013 there were again three Junior Church classes: Sparklers for those aged 3 to 7+, Trailblazers for those aged 7 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+.

From October the Trailblazers and Pilots classes were combined on the Sundays when the confirmation class met. This was done as several members of the Pilots class are also members of the confirmation class.

Numbers

There was Junior Church teaching on 46 Sundays in 2013; on the other six Sundays there was All-Age worship.

Attendance continued at around the same level as in 2012, with an average of 9.5 children each Sunday. However there were four Sundays when there were no children, two during the summer holidays. Just for interest I've included a simple graph of attendance - for people who like such things.



Teachers

The number of committed teachers remained constant throughout 2013 at nine. However, three teachers stepped down at the end of 2013 - for various reasons. As they could not be replaced immediately, some changes in meeting plans had to be made for the first part of 2014.

In the first half of 2013, the teachers held coordination meetings. However the attendance was poor and it proved impossible to find times and dates that suited the majority, so these meetings were discontinued from July.

Pilots in Church

During 2013, 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, including one of them training as a server. However, their participation dropped off towards the end of the year.

“Good News”

Following on from the success of involving adults and children and young people in the 2012 “Hark” Nativity Play, a “rolling Passion Play” was planned. This started on Palm Sunday and continued on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The play was called “Good News”, after the events we celebrate at Easter. The information about Jesus' miraculous resurrection was narrated in the style of a news bulletin by a reader and on-the-spot reporters who interviewed key characters in the events.



It was such a success, that we wrote additional parts for Ascension Day and Pentecost.

Many children, young people and adults were involved and the whole series of services was appreciated by many members of the congregation as well as those who took part.



Sleepover

The annual Junior Church sleepover was held on 30 August, the theme this year was “The Church - God's Worldwide Family”. 16 children and several teachers “slept” over in the upper and lower halls and took part in various activities ranging from worship, craft, campfire activities and preparations for the Sunday service.

We were fuelled by a fabulous grill (thanks to Edi) and pancake breakfast (thanks

to Christina). This year the weather was kind and we were not rained off in the woods! Many thanks to all those who came and made the sleepover such a success.

On the following Sunday, the children contributed to the All-Age worship.

Tear Fund

Tear Fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with the weekly collection going to the “Uganda Water and Sanitation” project which we have supported throughout 2013. The church collections at Harvest and at the Nativity Service also go to this project.

Nativity Play



This year’s Nativity Play was held on 8 December. It included a short sketch performed by the youth group after which the heavenly host told the



traditional Christmas story. Prophets, shepherds, wise men, and, of course, Mary and Joseph are all caught up in God’s plan.



The production reminded us of last year’s “Hark the herald angel” musical and, once again, involved adults as well as children.

More Information

The Junior Church teachers aim to include a short item in each church magazine giving up-to-date information about the Junior Church.

Tricia Carrick

JUNIOR CHURCH ACTIVITY CLUB

Activity Club was initiated in December 2009 with the following aims:

Community Building

- offer opportunities for the 7-11s to serve the church and form positive relationships with other children and adults in the congregation
- create an opportunity for the 12-18s to serve the church by taking on leadership responsibilities appropriate for their age and experience

Social Development

- offer opportunities for children to develop skills in cooperation to achieve a common goal
- support development of leadership skills of younger teens in the congregation

The Activity Club able to fulfil most of its goals in 2013, however, due to the irregular attendance of the “youth” leaders (the 12 year olds in Activity Club), the leadership training aspect of Activity Club was difficult. Taking up responsibility is something that will be more explicitly communicated and encouraged in 2014.

Attendance

This was rather mixed in 2013 with numbers ranging from 6 to 14 children per event, excluding the Sleepover. For the first time, Activity Club now has members who no longer attend the church but keep the contact with St Ursula’s through the club.

The drop in numbers does not seem to correlate with a drop of numbers in Junior Church. Attendance numbers were generally higher on family events. This could be an indication that some children are still too new or too shy to come to Activity Club without their parents. In 2014, Activity Club will organise more family events to give new children a chance to integrate themselves into our church family more easily.

Events

- East African Afternoon (cooking, songs and games) with input on Uganda Tear Fund project. Help with pot-luck lunch on Missions’ Sunday
- Ice-skating after Junior Church at KaWeDe
- Goldwashing and river games at Rotache river, Heimberg (cancelled due to rain)
- Football and minigolf afternoon at UPD
- Family BBQ and picnic at Aare River

- Schwarzwasser Canyon hike with BBQ and evening swim
- Sleepover at St Ursula's Church
- Film evening at St Ursula's Church with pizza
- Visit to Emmental cheese factory and cheese-making workshop
- Ten pin bowling in Rubigen after the Christmas Bazaar.

Our main social service project was the buffet contribution and help on the day at Missions Sunday in January. Due to bad weather, one event was cancelled (gold-washing). The programme was "evaluated" with the children in the final event of the year. The programme seems to have covered all the needs and interests of the group. A particular wish was expressed to organise another family cycling event for 2014, in a similar form to the one organised in 2012.

Françoise Hänggi & Sharon Batley

YOUTH GROUP

In April 2013, the Youth Group welcomed back Mary McKinley and said goodbye to Rev'd Paul Holley, who had led the group since Mary's baby arrived in June 2012. Mary was happy to return and continue the important work with the teens, and during the year there has been many changes and new projects.

Several young adults moved on from Youth Group to being active members of the church, while several young people graduated from Pilots, in Junior Church, and joined Youth Group. We now have eight active members, with five being the average number to attend our bi-monthly meetings. Given that several members of the group also attend the confirmation course twice a month, these figures show a strong motivation from the teens to grow within our church family.

Throughout the year, the Youth Group has been exploring issues that affect them as teens, Christians and Swiss residents. These issues included bullying, suicide and modern-day slavery. Our wish, besides discussing these topics on a personal level, was to find a project that we could all work on to make a positive change in the world. The project we have started is to help one of our youths, each year, fulfill his or her dream of helping others in need. Since October, the teens have been fundraising through a bake sale twice a month to build a Youth Group fund, and the money raised this year will go to Ruby Wildhaber, who is going to Tanzania in October 2014 with Raleigh International.



2013 was an exciting year in Youth Group, with new faces and new projects for the future. I expect 2014 to bring great things.

Mary McKinley, Youth-Coordinator

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 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 October 2013, with ten members. This was preceded by an information meeting for potential members and their parents in August.

This time we have gone back to a previous pattern, meaning that the course will last almost two years with an opportunity for confirmation in summer 2015. We normally meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays during the time of the main service

in church and continuing during coffee time. Father Peter leads the group approximately once every two months and the other meetings are arranged by Tricia.

Unfortunately, during 2013 two members had a prior commitment on Sunday mornings so could not join the group. On two occasions we arranged a separate meeting for them and they made up the other sessions using the material provided. Otherwise attendance has been very good - 100% many times. We hope this continues in 2014.

The first block of the course, which started in 2013 and will continue until Easter 2014, focuses on God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As well as the teaching and discovery meetings, we aim to hold an occasional social event.

You can read regular reports of the group in the church magazine. It is important that the church family knows about this group so that they can support and encourage the young people and their leaders.

Tricia Carrick

SAFEGUARDING

At St Ursulas we are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving

environment where there is a culture of ‘informed vigilance’ as to the dangers of abuse.

Many thanks to Shareene Potter for having served her term as Safeguarding Officer for St Ursulas. Since the middle of 2013 I have been officially installed as the safeguarding officer and ID checker.

At present I believe that we can be confident that all our Junior Church teachers, Youth Group leader and Crèche helpers do meet with the Diocesan safeguarding guidelines and that they have been informed and have read our safeguarding procedures. Hopefully soon there will be a Diocesan training session on safeguarding issues available online which will be helpful.

All the relevant safeguarding documents can be found 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. Should you ever feel there is a concern in our church about a safeguarding issue then it is essential to report this. Such matters are always kept strictly confidential.

I am pleased to report that since I took up office, there have been no incidents requiring action. My only observation is that with our present situation with more limited numbers of junior church teachers or crèche helpers that this does sometimes provide a challenge for our safeguarding procedures to be followed but this does not mean that we can compromise here.

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

Cecily Klingler, Safeguarding Officer

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 2013 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 2013 include:



- Several Psalms in Anglican Chant Style.
- A 'Nunc Dimittis' by Margaret Rizza, a Benedictus and a Benedicite (traditional).
- A traditional choral Evensong with music by Tallis, Brewer, Rizza, Sanders, Weaver. 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.
- Anthems by Chilcott, Rutter, and a Kiev-setting of Kontakion
- 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 2nd Sunday in the month. Additionally the service on the 4th Sunday in the month often has several modern songs accompanied by the group to complement the traditional organ music. 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 will be experimenting with more instrumental pieces in the new “ACT” services.



This last year our numbers have increased again and we now have a solid core of 7-8 regular contributors (both musicians and singers) with occasional attendance by some of the younger members of the congregation, which is highly appreciated. We welcome Belle Täuber who re-joins the group this year and we hope to attract more musicians to provide more variety, perhaps with additional instruments. 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 again in the last year - many thanks to those (especially Tricia) who took over the lead, often at short notice. All members 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. 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

At first sight, the financial statements for 2013 show a disappointing result. Freewill giving to the church declined, income from events declined, hall income declined, while general running costs rose, so that the deficit on our regular activities increased sixfold, from SFr1,369 to SFr7,662. And work on our buildings

and major replacements cost us SFr13,961, more than swallowing up the SFr10,000 we transfer annually to the building fund to cover such expenses.

This was not the impression I had during the year, however, and an absence of cash-flow problems and financial conundrums meant that it was nearly always possible to see the silver lining through the clouds. So the keynote for 2013 was one of hope.

Our basic income is from our pledge scheme, and this still covers over half our total expenditure. We rely on your regular giving and on your response to our annual pledge appeal to keep the church running smoothly. The pledged giving figure provides a barometer of our financial - if not our spiritual - health. This figure declined by 8.2% - a continuing trend.

Looking at the figures in detail gives a more encouraging picture. Many of our most generous givers are retired people, who are currently feeling the effects of the economic situations. Some have died. But encouragingly, a number of newer, younger members of the congregation are joining the pledge scheme. In addition, from the larger notes in the collection, it seems that some people prefer a less formally planned way of giving. So collections rose, by 21.7%, meaning that our overall income from freewill giving was only SFr4,370 less than last year - in percentage terms, a little over 2.5%.

Our various events - bazaar, fête, book sales, toy sales - produced good results, though not quite so impressive as in 2012. Despite the spring showers, the summer fête was a success, and in a world of Kindles, tablets and e-books, the second-hand books continue to do surprisingly well. Many thanks to those who organized and who helped.

Jana's food stall also followed this pattern. The results are shown for the whole year, because without detailed and frequent stocktaking it is impossible to allocate them precisely to particular events - and anyway, income from food sales also comes in sporadically during the whole year.

Outside groups and other churches are welcome to make use of our buildings when we are not using them ourselves. They may be rehearsing for a concert, holding a meeting or a service, throwing a party, following a language course. Their presence makes a useful contribution to our funds (around 8% of our total income), and helps to make the church more widely known. Income in 2013 was lower than the previous year, but higher than in 2011. (The SFr850 shown as "Other" was from weddings and funerals - a figure which fluctuates unpredictably from year to year.)

The Swiss archdeaconry generously pays us a grant of SFr5,000 to compensate for the loss of Peter's time when he is away on archdeaconry business. This is set to increase in 2014, as archdeacons' tasks become more demanding. We also received a trickle of income from the magazine, whose production costs were exceptionally low last year for reasons connected with the delivery of our new photocopier, and from donations for tea and coffee - your generosity enables us to

subsidise the cost of some of our other social activities. Card sales were also satisfying. (The “miscellaneous financial” receipts included things like the CO₂ compensation paid out through the AHV, and various coins (and even notes) found in unlikely corners of our premises.)

On the expenditure side, staffing costs remained our largest outgoing, amounting to 57% of the total. With Mary returning as our youth worker with a reduced commitment, actual stipends and salaries were less than in 2012, although the extra charges that fall on us as an employer rose slightly.

Running costs for our infrastructure rose by 9.6%. This was largely due to some necessary (and expensive) repairs to our 20-year-old blinds, modifications to our floodlighting and problems with our drains. We also replaced the chaplain's and the office computer, and upgraded the telephone system, allowing us to take advantage of a new glass-fibre connection - this should reflect itself in much lower costs in 2014. Oil and electricity remained major items, but Council has now set up a group to examine our use of energy and to make proposals. We hope these will reduce our carbon footprint, and reduce our expenditure.

We try to give at least a tenth of our income to charity. In 2012, for various reasons, we gave well over the budgeted SFr23,000. This year we gave slightly less, but the SFr22,314 shown in the accounts was augmented by a further SFr6,818 (shown in note 6 to the accounts), received largely as a result of dedicated collections.

Not only do we receive no money from the government, or (apart from the SFr5,000 compensation payment mentioned above) from the Church of England, but we also contribute to the running costs of the diocese and of the Swiss archdeaconry, helping to develop worship, ministry and teaching throughout Europe. The “quota” which we pay to the diocese increased in 2013, reflecting a greater stress on resources to protect the vulnerable (though the stronger pound was also partly to blame).

We set aside SFr10,000 each year from our running budget to add to our Building and Development Fund. Last year, this was more than accounted for by the renewal work on the hall floors - which should last for many years, and by the replacement of the dishwasher and washing machine in the chaplain's house. As a result, our Building and Development Fund now stands at just under SFr77,700.

The year's book-keeping entailed 2,509 entries - a few less than last year. As always, I have to thank all those who have made my work easier, and especially the church family as a whole, who have given generously to support the church's work. Through working together in harmony, we can breathe life into St Paul's image of the church as a body, with each part contributing to the life of the whole - both financially and spiritually!

Hector Davie, Treasurer

ST URSULA'S CHURCH, BERNE

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2013

INCOME (2012 figures in small type)

Income from Community	168'348.30	172718
<i>Pledged giving</i>	126'975.00	138312
<i>Donations</i>	3'370.40	3185
<i>Collections</i>	38'002.90	31220
Income from events	35'075.45	36706
<i>Book Sales</i>	8'580.70	8318
<i>Bazaar</i>	12'198.20	13121
<i>Food Stall</i>	13'415.65	13921
<i>Other events</i>	880.90	1347
Income from other sources	21'467.60	24048
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	20'617.60	22198
<i>Other</i>	850.00	1850
Thun	683.65	1092
Other income	8'997.06	9150
<i>Magazine</i>	6'150.00	6586
<i>Book table</i>	0.00	40
<i>Card table</i>	307.25	168
<i>Coffee</i>	2'489.75	2356
Grants	5'000.00	5000
Miscellaneous Financial	245.05	0
Interest/dividend income	1'006.88	1340
TOTAL	240'823.99	250054
DEFICIT	7'818.20	1369

EXPENDITURE

Personnel-related costs	142'597.43	146493
<i>Stipends and remunerations</i>	99'375.00	107170
<i>Travelling expenses</i>	4'387.90	4125
<i>Rent</i>	0.00	0
<i>Other personnel costs</i>	38'834.53	35198
Running costs (Note 7)	56'486.05	51508
<i>Premises</i>	40'070.38	36741
<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	485.62	331
<i>Office</i>	7'158.85	5430
<i>Telephone</i>	2'101.73	1866
<i>Insurance</i>	3'238.45	3240
<i>Property tax</i>	1'606.80	1607
<i>Vestry</i>	931.72	1135
<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	892.50	1159
Youth and Junior Church	1'028.44	1094
Library	0.00	0
Diocese/Deanery	13'080.50	12227
Other expenditure	2'987.96	4258
<i>Magazine</i>	2'436.35	3750
<i>Book table</i>	0.00	40
<i>Card table</i>	96.60	29
<i>Coffee</i>	414.35	439
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	40.66	0
Charity (Note 6)	22'314.41	25205
Financial Expense (Note 5)	147.40	194
Miscellaneous Financial	0.00	442
Depreciation	0.00	0
Transfer to Building+Dev Fund	10'000.00	10000
TOTAL	248'642.19	251422
SURPLUS		

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Chair fund donations	0.00	16160			
Legacy	0.00	0	Major replacements	4'344.60	13046
TOTAL	0.00	16160	Building Work	9'616.75	1396
EXTRAORDINARY DEFICIT	13'961.35		TOTAL	13'961.35	14441
			EXTRAORDINARY SURPLUS		1719

BALANCE SHEET 31.12.2013

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash on hand CH	19'099.03	10440	Payments received for 2014	0.00	0
Cash on hand GB (Note 3)	29'924.34	31473	Miscellaneous Creditors	24'338.88	18510
Short term accounts CH	197'227.95	217689	Non-liquid capital	13'276.50	8486
Stocks on hand (Note 4)	5'476.50	6286	Building and Development Fund	77'691.98	81653
Amounts receivable	438.00	937	Ministry Training Fund	19'979.79	20609
Fixed assets (Note 2)	7'800.00	2200	Accrued capital (Note 1)	132'238.52	144219
Advance payments made	7'559.85	4451	TOTAL	267'525.67	273476
TOTAL	267'525.67	273476			

NOTES

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

Accrued capital on 31.12.2012	+	144'218.68
From Ministry Training Fund (Note 8)	+	628.88
Deficit from ordinary activities	-	7'818.20
Increase in stocks and assets	-	4'790.84
Accrued capital on 31.12.2013	+	132'238.52

2. The church's fixed assets are:

	Acquisition cost	Value 31.12.2012	Acquisitions during year	Depreciation for year	Value 31.12.2013
Photocopier	12'749.90	2'200.00	7992.00	2'392.00	7'800.00
TOTAL	12'749.90	2'200.00	7'992.00	2'392.00	7'800.00

3. Sterling balances on 31.12.2013 are converted at the rate of SFr 1.47 = £1 (2012: 1.50).

4. Book stocks on 31.12.2013 were valued at SFr 460.00 (31.12.2012: SFr 460.00). Card stocks were valued at SFr 620.50 (31.12.2012: SFr 669.50). (Oil, UK food, and parking tickets account for the remainder.)

5. Miscellaneous financial items include an exchange loss of SFr 45.50 (2012: SFr 782.70).

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 6,818.20 (2012: SFr 6,149.55), as follows:

Remembrance Day	604.05	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday / Rosenaktion	239.00	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organization
Mission Sunday 27 January	833.70	United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel
Collection 18 November	1'005.65	Us Philippine Emergency Fund
Harvest Festival	1'265.05	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Christmas Collections	2'260.55	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Junior Church Collections	610.20	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)

7. Running costs for our premises include:

Electricity and water	5'577.25	5'495
Heating system	9'762.50	9'727
Caretaking, garden, etc	523.20	0
Cleaning	17'895.08	17'918
Kitchen	936.75	902
Repairs to premises	2'988.55	619
Equipment and repairs	921.00	750
Use of premises (Thun)	420.00	420
Other	1'046.05	911

Office costs include:

Materials (including PCs)	2'314.80	460
Postage	425.45	380
Photocopying	4'418.60	4'590

8. Payments of SFr 628.88 (2012: SFr 0) were made from the Ministry Training Fund during the year.

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.

Every year, the Electoral Roll is revised under the direction of council. This year, the revision was completed on 8 March. There were no deletions and one addition meaning that the number of members in 2014 is 105.

Since the revision the Electoral Roll, together with the list of changes, has been displayed next to the principal door of the church and 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

THUN GROUP

The Thun church meets on the first and third Thursday of each month, except for July when we have a break.

Our aim is to worship together, listen to the word of God and to deepen our faith. We also enjoy the opportunity to enjoy fellowship after our service. We have a number of social evenings throughout the year, although less than in the past due to our members' family and work commitments. In 2014 we hope to be able to share longer opportunities for Bible study and fellowship after our service on the evenings when Mark, who is not tied to train timetables, will be taking our service.



We are hoping to attract more members to the group and are putting up flyers and are also planning a purely social evening where we will invite friends to come along. Our annual Christmas service is also a chance to make people aware of our church and gives us the opportunity to share a joyous celebration of Christmas together as well as a chance to chat in an informal setting. We had a major hiccup in the organisation last year and hope that next year we will be provided with a key a few days beforehand so that the choir, organist and congregation don't have to wait outside in the cold. Our Christmas service collection normally goes to Cecily's Fund and this year we raised approximately Sfr 360.

We are looking forward to Mark's services and are very pleased to have a new regular member of our small group. We hope that we will have time for Bible study in future. We also always appreciate Peter's services and sermons.

Rachel Huguenin

MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

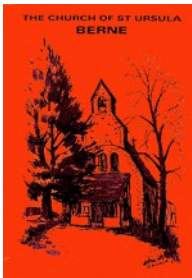
The master rota combines all rotas directly connected with services: duty council, sidespersons, readers, intercession, beamer/audio, servers at the altar, chalice assistants and flowers. It is compiled six times a year and based on a list of 37 helpers as of December 2013. The flower rota has been published with the master rota since September 2013.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the rota members for their support. We are very fortunate in having such a committed group of volunteers who make it possible for our services to run smoothly. You take them for granted when you see them, but can you imagine how the church would get on without them?

We are always looking for new helpers to share the burden - servers and beamer operators are especially welcome. 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. Names and phone numbers can be found on the last page of the magazine.

Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator

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 read it on-line.

Collating

About 300 magazines are sent out every 2nd month. Although they are already folded and stapled we still need volunteers to help insert the flyers and put the magazines into the envelopes, however, with enough volunteers this goes quickly.

Many thanks to all the faithful helpers!

Querida Long & Annemarie Walthert

WEBMASTER

The church's website, www.stursula.ch, tries to inform, to teach, to help and to make St Ursula's known to others and to our own church family. Do you want to know what the readings at next week's service will be? Do you want to know the date of the Christmas bazaar? Would you like the words of today's Morning or Evening Prayer? Or a copy of July 2009's church magazine? They're all on the website.

So, too, are many other items, and you are encouraged to look around and see what you can find. Perhaps one of Peter's or Mark's sermons made an impression on you and you'd like to hear it again. Perhaps you'd like a trip down memory lane, and would like to browse our photo gallery of past events.

Keeping this body of data up to date is one challenge. Making it easily accessible and attractive to a casual visitor is another. In this, we value your comments and suggestions. We also try to keep a presence in the social media - our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/st.ursula.berne) tries to bring current events to people's notice, and we event tweet occasionally (@stursula)

The website receives around 100 visits a day - in January 2014, 1,291 visitors made 2,959 visits and accessed 5,370 pages, containing 2.39 gigabytes of information. The most visited pages are the electronic version of the magazine, the news page, the rotas, the weekly notice sheet, but also the guidelines for leading intercessions and the street directions for finding us. Although 64% of our visitors use their Windows computer, an increasing number access us from tablets and smartphones, and future plans include handheld-friendly pages - any volunteers for designing a St Ursula's app?

Clearly not all these visits were intentional (one visitor landed after entering in a search engine "We learned how to skate at the Ka-We-De in Bern in 1959"!) But they are all opportunities to get the church's witness into practice. For this reason, the church's website will continue to play a role in the years to come.

Hector Davie, Webmaster

PASTORAL TEAM

Day to day the Pastoral Group offers prayer for all those we know to be in need in our congregation and beyond.

Clearly that means that the needs have to be made known to us. All such information is always treated with complete confidentiality. (Incidentally, the same applies to anything that is said when you come forward for prayers for healing during a Sunday service.)



We also pray for St Ursula's as a community. We remember too those who come to us as visitors or when attending the "occasional" services (that is, baptisms, weddings and funerals). We keep the young and the old, our regular groups and all on our rotas in our prayers.

If you have a concern, please let us know.

Shareene Potter

BUILDINGS

Building Manager

I believe the best way to tackle the long term care of our church building, as we all do in our own houses, is to concentrate on regular maintenance.

In 2013 the main works have been the Upper and Lower Hall floor refurbishment. The parquet on both floors has been sanded and oiled and the result has been very satisfying indeed. A big thank you to everybody who helped to move furniture back and forth. The floor is easy to clean, nevertheless, I wish people to take more care especially with coloured pencils, some stains are difficult to remove.

In April 2013 the new metal lectern arrived in our Church. It is lighter than the old eagle, which has been moved to the church porch, and is more in the style of our altar.

Thanks go to Rolf and Hector who have upgraded the telephone system and changed our provider to a cheaper one, resulting in a cost saving every month. Some computers crashed irretrievably and had to be replaced. We also got a more efficient printer and now we are able to print our own Church magazine and save on the costs. Thank you to everybody who helped us in this task.

During the year we had some problems with our beamer mainly because cables are often changed by groups renting the church during the week and we sometimes experience problems on Sunday as a result.

In late springtime a gardening session was scheduled. A big thank you to everyone who helped me and this time there were many helpers. It was a big success and I am looking forward to the next one.

Looking Ahead in 2014

In February we had all the blinds in the upper and the lower halls checked and if necessary repaired - we hope that they will last another 30 years.

The martens are still in the Church house. We will have to cut some branches and bushes. Hopefully the access to the roof will be more difficult, if not impossible.

The bell pulley system will be installed in the near future.

A team is looking at the heating and electricity costs and what would need to be done to improve energy efficiency in the Church. Results will be soon discussed in Council.

In the near future I shall give some dates for a new gardening session. It was a pleasure to see so many faithful helpers last time. Thank you so much.

May we continue to work together for his Glory.

Edi Wildhaber

Church Caretaker

Aim of Activity

To keep the church building in order and do minor repairs whilst keeping maintenance costs as low as possible.

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

In general the heating in the Church has been functioning okay. I usually pre-program the control in the Church one week in advance according to Jana's Church calendar on the Internet. Please let me know about unplanned activities (such as funerals). In the worst case the heating can be turned on manually with the switch beside the controller in the church, however it is vitally important to reset the switch back to Position 1 in order to switch the heating off afterwards.

Unfortunately, the radiators and the hot air blower are controlled by the same control. It would be better if the radiators could be used for keeping a minimum temperature in the Church and the hot air blower for boosting up the temperature for when the Church is in use. The challenge for the Church Energy team is to work out a suitable and cost effective solution.

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. Unfortunately, the valves have no timer and the temperature remains the same, day and night, regardless of whether the Halls are occupied or not. Ideally both the Upper and the Lower Church Halls should be controlled by independent heating controls as used in the Church. Then not only day and night temperature could be set differently, but also occupancy/non occupancy could be taken care of. The current solution has scope for improvement and it is again hoped that the Church Energy Team comes up with reasonable proposals.

Telephone and Internet

Some major changes have been undertaken:

- The Swisscom ISDN connection has been removed.
- The FAX has been removed.
- The Internet has been moved from Swisscom to I-Way which uses an optical

fibre recently installed by the power company (EWB). Advantages are a more stable Internet connection (the speed is not dependent on the activity of neighbours), the same high speed (20 MBit/s) for up- and downlink and a subscription for the Internet alone, without obligation to bundle with fixed-net telephone or Cable TV.

- The existing two fixed numbers (Church Office and the Chaplain's home) are now handled by SIP-call (VoIP over the Internet). The existing telephone exchange could be maintained, protecting the investment made earlier.
- The Church Hall telephones (including the one at the entrance) got a new number provided by SIPCall free of charge.
- Calls are considerably cheaper, calls to fixed telephones within Switzerland and to most European and some intercontinental destinations are now included in a flat rate.

After some initial teething problems the telephone and internet set-up seems to function well.

Church Lighting

I have been replacing burned-out light-bulbs and energy saving lights (fluorescent ones) with LED's. LED's for light-bulb replacements up to about 1100 lm (correspond to about a 75 W light-bulb) are readily available (Migros) and the prices have come down considerably. Dimming is not a problem with these LED's.

Garbage Recycling

The recycling containers for glass, metal and PET-bottles are well used. Remember that broken glass should not go into the recycling container, but should be carefully wrapped in paper and disposed through the household garbage.

Rolf Klingler

Environmental - Energy Optimising Initiative

In June 2013 the Church Council agreed to commission a project team to analyse and propose measures to improve overall energy efficiency.

The proposed measures will be formulated as partial, independent projects and will include cost-effect information or organisational recommendations and be submitted in the form of a report to the Church Council as decision-making body, to decide on further steps.

The first phase of the project consists of the compilation of data and information about today's infrastructure. This includes the examination of the building structure and the heating systems for rooms and water (age, condition, efficiency and operational aspects), and an overall energy usage analysis. This first phase is still in progress.

Hans Goepfert

LIBRARY

St Ursula's church library, located conveniently in the Upper Hall, has been offering a wide variety of books, as well as a few DVDs and CDs, for many years. There are Bible study and reference aids, books on spirituality, family and Christian living, children's books, youth fiction as well as historical/biographical/autobiographical books.

It is hoped that the books and other materials will encourage a deeper understanding and love of God and the Bible. Not all our library books reflect the theological views held by all members of the congregation. Rather, they are included on their own merit to challenge thinking and enlarge understanding of the world and the church.

Many thanks to Annemarie Walthert and Andrée Kamarys who help man the library as well as to Isabelle Wienand who has recently joined the team and is helping catalogue all the books. We hope to publish the completed book list on our website so readers can check if we have a book they want or see what is available.

Only a limited number of people take advantage of the library but we hope, with the book list and an awareness campaign, to increase readership. To this end, purchase recommendations of books or other media 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 lenient with those who don't return material on time.

Any questions or requests can be directed to library coordinator Donna Goepfert, to Peter Potter or to the other helpers. New library volunteers are always welcome as are suggestions on how we can better serve the congregation.

Donna Goepfert

BOOK AND FOOD SALES

Second Hand English Books

160 hours. That was the total of women-hours invested in the book sales (including the sorting sessions) in 2013! And an income of about SFr7,731 from all four sales. With such overwhelming figures, my thanks go out to all the helpers who make St Ursula's book sales possible: Tricia Carrick, Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Rachel Huguenin, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead, Sarah Miescher and, with a guest appearance at the bazaar, as usual, Sue Higson!



We continue to try and improve the quality of our books, focussing on the condition of the donations. Unfortunately, we still receive far too many tatty or old books, German books or hardbacks, which we have to take to the local rubbish tip. Once, when I turned up at the rubbish tip at the Egelsee with the car bursting at the seams with books to throw away, the man asked me if I had read them all, to which I replied I had indeed; twice, in fact! Jokes aside, I would kindly ask, once again, that people only donate recent, clean paperbacks in English. The rest just does not sell.

Our alphabetical shelving system continues to reap complements and our customers are always pleasantly surprised when they are handed a nice blue shopping basket: two improvements which have paid off.

As we prepare for the 2014 book sales, I am always on the lookout for new ideas or helpers. You can reach me on 079 343 2165.

Allison Masciadri

British Food Stall



In 2013, we continued our pattern of selling 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.

At the end of 2013 we said a sad farewell to two of our year round helpers - Gaynor and Toby Broome - who have moved to the UK. We wish them all the best in their new location and hope that they too will make regular guest appearances at the Christmas Bazaar.



Running the food stall is a year round activity and, unbelievably, in 2013 we relied on just 4 main shoppers to buy the tremendous amount of stock we needed for all the sales - there's certainly no space left in our cars when we leave the UK!

For 2014, I have managed to find a wholesaler who can supply us - if necessary - with British

food, however if we have to go down this route - due to a shortage of shoppers - it will mean that prices will have to increase - 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 over SFr13,000 after costs in 2013 - 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.

Usborne Books

Usborne Books has now become an established part at each of our four sales a year. With Usborne's representative, Sarah Miescher, providing a well stocked stall and a friendly welcome, it has proved to be a very popular addition.



Jana Kutesko

ST URSULA'S SUPER SUMMER FÊTE



The summer fête in 2013 was held in "typical" British summer fête weather - cold with the occasional showers - however we were able to move some stalls inside and those left outside were all under cover. The weather didn't dampen the mood and as you can see from the photos a good time was had by all and we managed to take an excellent SFr7'500 for church funds SFr500 more than in 2012.

The Spring into Summer Fête in 2014 will be held on Saturday 17 May.

Jana Kutesko

Some memorable moments from the Summer Fête





CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2013



The Christmas Bazaar in 2013 proved once again to be a very popular event on the “Berne Calendar” with lots of visitors and a wonderful atmosphere throughout the 2 days. We even managed a bit of snow to get into the Christmas mood!

All our usual and “old favourite” stalls were present along with a new welcome stall displaying information about St Ursula's and all the charities we support.





I would like to 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 and helped make 2013's Christmas Bazaar such a joyous, welcoming and profitable event.



The final Christmas bazaar tally was just over SFr22,000 - an excellent result!

This year's bazaar will be held on Friday 21 & Saturday 22 November.

Jana Kutesko

PATCHWORK



The ladies of the Patchwork Group are meeting regularly; they 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.

A suggestion for Grandmothers and Godmothers: The Patchwork Group has always some baby quilts available which can be sold during the year; they make 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, all are welcome to come along - the coffee is always ready!

Elisabeth Pfyffer

ARCHDEACONRY

Archdeaconry Synod

Switzerland is a part of the Church of England's Diocese in Europe, which ministers to Anglicans living outside the British Isles, whether in Valetta or Vladivostok, Reykjavik or Tenerife. This vast area is too complex for a bishop to oversee efficiently, so it is broken into seven archdeaconries, of which Switzerland is the smallest.



At present, the seven archdeacons are all working clergy, each running a chaplaincy as well as carrying out duties in the rest of their area - pastoring the other clergy, mediating in problem areas, ensuring that worship, teaching and ministry are working effectively in all the churches in their archdeaconry. So Peter is our chaplain, but he is also our archdeacon, helping to oversee other chaplaincies in our archdeaconry. In the case of Switzerland there are nine of these "full-time" chaplaincies, but also daughter congregations, like Thun or St Gallen, and also seasonal chaplaincies, like Zermatt or Mürren.

This system of organization has its shortcomings. Archdeacons are usually so concerned with their own chaplaincy that they have little time for developing a wider strategy in adapting the church to new needs and creating resources for growth. This is why the diocese has been working on a plan for installing four full-time archdeacons in strategic locations, each being a focus for the development

of the church's ministry. However, the plan depends on finance from central church funds to support these four new posts, and it has now become clear that no funding will be available for the next few years. All that can be hoped for is a small additional contribution to make the work of the existing archdeacons easier.

The Swiss archdeaconry synod, at its meetings in June 2013 in Lausanne and January 2014 in Berne, provided input and voiced its reactions to these plans and to their virtual rejection by the Church of England's Central Board of Finance. Any developments will probably have to await the appointment of a new diocesan bishop, to succeed Bishop Geoffrey Rowell - and two of our members have a place on the Vacancy in See committee, which has been drawing up guidelines for choosing our new bishop.

Synod meetings provide an opportunity for people from the different chaplaincies to chat and compare the way other congregations deal with issues. But we also make plans at a national level. So at our June 2013 meeting, we decided that there would be no general Anglican commemoration here of the centenary of the outbreak of war in 1914, although we would give support to events organized by the Swiss churches. We agreed to support the chaplaincy in Athens with its charitable work organizing help for people there affected by the economic crisis. We voiced our support for the Council of Swiss Churches (AGCK), in particular for its stance on Sunday trading, and for its agreement over the mutual recognition of baptism. We also exchanged thoughts with our sister church, the Christkatholische Kirche der Schweiz, who send a representative to our synod, as we do to theirs.

We also give support to the Old Catholic aid foundation, Partner Sein, and at national level, we encourage musical expression in our various churches by holding an annual choir festival - in 2013 in Montreux. We have also arranged an annual retreat. However, last year's retreat was not well attended, and may be the last to be held in the current format.

Nationally, we also organize training courses for church members. SACEP, the Swiss Archdeaconry Education Programme (minds differ as to whether the C is for Christian or Continuing!) arranges a number of events each year. One, in April in Berne, led by Canon Keith Lamdin from Salisbury, gave many of us food for thought, and the council here is still chewing over some of its ideas.

We were fortunate to have Adrian Mumford, the diocesan secretary from London, with us in June. He guided us through some of the procedures which would lead to the appointment of a new bishop, and also gave useful input to a discussion on whether we needed to meet twice a year (other, larger, archdeaconries meet annually, over a weekend) and whether we could separate the discussion of "big" issues from the purely administrative business we transact. The general consensus was that the current arrangements work.

Our afternoon sessions often feature a general discussion. June's session was a presentation by our visiting professor, Canon Douglas Pratt, on interfaith relations, especially with Islam, stressing the various threads involved - a shared affinity, a mutual antipathy, and a spirit of mutual enquiry and dialogue, particularly over

the last century. These three strands remain present, and it is important for relations to remain constructive.

The January synod developed several of these themes. A lot of our business session was given to our budget - support for Athens and for Partner Sein, as well as compensating Berne for the loss of some of Peter's time. The afternoon session was devoted to a presentation on safeguarding our vulnerable members - not only children but others too. This is an issue where the diocese is developing resources and training programmes to ensure that children and vulnerable adults in our congregation are not exposed to danger. The presentation led to a lively discussion, especially about the guidance we give on use of the internet - some of the nastier forms of cyber-bullying place our vulnerable members at greater risk than the more obvious threats which we as a church must take into account.

Synod members are elected for a three-year period, and this year's AGM gives you a chance to select the three lay members who will represent the laity of St Ursula's at archdeaconry level. Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Janet Wenger have served in this role since 2011. But fresh ideas and fresh minds are always welcome! Don't be shy!

Hector Davie

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2013 in Montreux



The annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Montreux at the Church of St John the Evangelist. It was attended by 45 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Zürich. The choir of St Ursula's was represented with 14 singers. The Festival Director of Music was Peter Fairgrieve, Choir Master at St John's, Montreux, supported by Richard Townend as Festival Organist. A choral Evensong on Saturday and a choral Communion Service on Sunday Morning were the highlights of the occasion. The choral music included works by Byrd, Durufle, Händel, Rawsthorne, Rutter, Stanford, Tallis and Wood.

Thanks are extended to the Chaplaincy of St John's, Montreux for having hosted this Festival, and to all who have supported and contributed in many ways to making it a great event.

As usual this Festival has been one of the few occasions where members from the different chaplaincies are meeting and joining forces in a common cause: enriching worship with meaningful music.

Hans-Karl 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 SFr23'100. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed as follows:

Charity and Missions - List of Payments in 2013

Local	SFr	
Discretionary (to be used locally by Chaplain)	300.00	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3,500.00	
Zentrum 5	1,000.00	
AKiB Passantenhilfe (Seev Levi)	1,000.00	
Regional		

Family Life Mission (Wolochowicz)	2,500.00	
Train a Priest	1,000.00	£700
International		
Church Mission Society	1,800.00	£1,200
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1,800.00	£1,200
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Finland)	1,000.00	£700
Bishop's Advent Appeal (Peru San Mateo Mission)	1,500.00	£1050
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2,000.00	
Child Development Centre, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	1,500.00	
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	
Total	23,100.00	

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. We made the decision to discontinue our support for the Baan Nok Kamin Project in Thailand as well as our support for the Anglican Health Network.

Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events and are not shown in the above table. These can be found in the treasurer's AGM report.



The Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund is faithfully supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of active helpers who have organised various fundraising events at St Ursulas such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup lunch and the Lent Soup Lunch, throughout the past year. We were treated to a wonderful Swiss Friends of Cecily' Fund benefit concert with Synagogue Music of the Romantic Period in Bern in October.

The Junior Church continues to support the Tear Fund Schweiz Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda. Proceeds from our, as ever, lively Harvest Festival auction, the Christmas service collections as well as the Junior Church collections go to this project.



This year on 26 January, we 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 special focus on Partner Sein/Partners. The charity banners were carried in by the children and hung up in the church. We were privileged to have a guest speaker from Partner



Sein (Partners), Robert Amstutz. He gave a talk in church for the Junior Church children as well as talking about the work of Partner Sein during the sermon slot. The service was followed by a well-attended Pot Luck meal with a happy time of fellowship and sharing. During the Pot Luck meal Robert gave us an informative talk about Partner Sein projects in Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo from his hands on experience visiting the projects with the Swiss

Partner Sein delegation. We also had a display of information about our charities in the church hall.

The Charity & Missions team is also happy that one of our Youth Group members, Ruby Wildhaber, is preparing to spend time with a charity project in Africa this year. She is being well supported with fundraising by the Youth Group under the leadership of Mary McKinley with regular sales of cookies and cakes during coffee time in the hall. We prayerfully support Ruby as she prepares for this special and important undertaking.

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, Ven Peter M Potter

Contact person: Cecily Klingler, 031 302 48 59
or cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

Cecily Klingler



Family Life Mission in Poland



Refuge Egypt



Life Skills, South Africa



Peru San Mateo Mission



Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan



Child Development Centre, Talagolla, Sri Lanka