

St Ursula's Church Berne



**Annual Reports
for 2014**

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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

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VISION AND VALUES OF ST URSULA'S CHURCH

PURPOSE - WHAT DOES ST URSULA'S EXIST TO DO?

1. To be the Church

- proclaiming the Gospel through worship and service
- providing the sacraments of the new covenant (Eucharist and baptism)
- making disciples, i.e. people who try to model their lives on the teaching and example of Jesus
- nurturing and equipping disciples, mainly through fellowship and example.

2. To provide a specific context

- worship in English
- being Anglican - part of a larger body
- finding and valuing unity in diversity (age, nationality, church background)
- offering fellowship, care and a familiar setting for people away from home

3. How does the context limit who we are?

- we often lose the second generation (“third culture children”)
- we cover a wide area
- limited opportunities for activities other than Sunday worship
- limited local networking (schools, work etc)
- limited involvement as a church in the local community
- we need to welcome people quickly and be willing to integrate them
- communication - who knows whom? How do people know we are here?
- dangers - becoming inward-looking; fragmentation

4. Opportunities - what does St Ursula's have to offer?

- we are used to welcoming the stranger and newcomer
- we offer worship within a framework
- we have a distinctive place among the churches of the area
- we invite people to join us on a Christian journey, recognising that we are all on the way.

WORSHIP - PURPOSE AND PRACTICE

Worship is

- offered to God
- for the benefit of the worshippers, because it gives us access to God's saving grace
- a means of God's self-revelation (in both word and sacrament)
- a matter of intellect, emotion and perception
- participatory, involving all the senses, with parts for the whole congregation to join in
- common - the forms of worship connect us with other congregations past and present
- a way of expressing what we believe
- the best we can offer: if worship matters to God, it should matter to us too.

At St Ursula's worship is

- Anglican, using the range of authorised forms of service
- universal, our own but also part of the worship of the whole Church
- verbal and non-verbal
- developing, open to a range of resources (texts, music, drama etc) within the framework of recognised Anglican structures
- inclusive: everyone is welcome and may participate as seems fitting to them (everyone has a part to play, even when they are not on duty)
- part of our mission, it is our “shop window”
 - it is to nurture believers in their Christian mission and discipleship throughout the week
 - it is a way in which we present God's love to others (e.g. baptism, absolution)
 - it aims to show newcomers and visitors something about our community and aims to be a means to attract them to join us

OUR MISSION AND BELIEF

The five marks of mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We will seek to incorporate these five marks into lives, both individually and corporately:

- through our worship; shaped by the transforming power of God's love made manifest in the celebration of the sacraments
- by fashioning our lives according to the way of Christ and by promoting unity, peace and love
- by welcoming newcomers and visitors and, where appropriate, by preparing them for baptism, confirmation or reception into the Church of England
- by supporting the charity and mission agencies sponsored by St Ursula's and taking an interest in their work
- by fashioning wherever possible our consumer choices with regard to environmental sustainability and trade justice.

Our statements of belief

- The Apostles' Creed
- The Nicene Creed

We affirm that these historic statements of belief set forth the faith revealed in Holy Scripture.

EXPECTATIONS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

I commit myself to live day by day

- as a disciple of Jesus Christ
- guided by the Holy Spirit,
- to the glory of God the Father.

I promise to

- pray every day
- read the Bible regularly

- attend the Eucharist faithfully
- commend the Christian faith, fashioning my life according to the example of Christ in care for others and for God's creation
- give generously, as God has given to me, to St Ursula's and to other charitable causes
- take part in educational, social and other activities in the Church
- nourish Christian fellowship at St Ursula's through mutual care, support and respect

COMMUNITY

What are the norms that guide and shape our congregation?

- We are welcoming
- We nourish family fellowship
- We are inclusive, while remaining Anglican

Which features of our congregation are less helpful?

- A lack of motivation and an assumption that someone else will take care of it
- A closed shop
- Wary of change (“We've always done it this way”)

What are the minimum standards we are entitled to expect of each other?

- Not judgemental
- Mutual caring
- Dedicated and supportive

Statement produced and developed July 2014 - March 2015 by St Ursula's Church Council

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

During the past 12 months we have gathered for worship every Sunday. We have welcomed newcomers and visitors and we have seen the steady growth of recent years continue.

We have been pleased to welcome guest preachers, including Bishop George from Kigezi Diocese in Tanzania (where we support a water project through Tearfund), the Rev'd Falko von Saldern from the Lutheran Church in Berne in the 100th anniversary year of the outbreak of the First World War, and of course Robert Innes, our own bishop. In March Bishop Henry Scriven from CMS was here and inaugurated our latest mission outreach project in Argentina.

As well as the regular Sunday services, we had standing room only on Easter Day and a full church on Remembrance Sunday. Our afternoon service on Christmas Eve continues to grow. These occasions show that we are meeting a need, even in this so-called secular society. My thanks go to all who help to make our worship what it is (which, of course, means everyone in the congregation - and the Holy Spirit, who we pray to be with us in every service).



In August we took to the streets, along with other churches in Berne, to showcase what we do and what we are for. Again and again people who come to us for the first time say what a warm and friendly church we are. In other words, we ourselves are our main resource for outreach and growth. This is not to say that everything is perfect, however. (As the saying goes, if you find a church that's perfect, don't go there, you will only spoil it!) During the year we have had sessions to see how we could do what we do well better. We were fortunate to have Claudia Slater lead us on how to speak in church: we looked at the theory and practice of intercession; there

was a SACEP day on music, and we are now using some of the pieces in our services. There will be a refresher session for servers (and a taster for anyone else interested) soon and on 30 May SACEP will be holding a day workshop on liturgy, which should deepen our understanding of what we do and why.

We have also seen the arrival of the church breakfasts, which have proved a good way for people to enjoy each other's company in a relaxed way. Thanks to Tricia for coming up with the idea and to everyone else who helps with the preparations. We also held another successful Christmas party and our pancake suppers on Shrove Tuesday have now become a firm fixture. We had our Lenten Soup Lunch for Cecily's Fund, and potluck lunches for Back to Church Sunday and Mission Sunday. You can see photographs of these and other events on our church website. Thanks



again to all concerned. Some people might say all this activity, along with the bazaar and the book and food sales, just makes us an expat club but that is very far from the truth. All this is to build us up as the Body of Christ and to equip and motivate us in our Christian life and witness.

Teaching is an important ingredient in our own spiritual growth as well as a resource for our mission. In Advent we continued the tried and tested format of a lunchtime group sharing a simple meal together. We followed a course on the creeds. This is part of the "Pilgrims" series recently produced by the Church of England and written by leading theologians of today. These courses have much to offer and there are accompanying videos that you can watch at home. Go to www.pilgrimcourse.org/the-course to find out more.

It is good to report that we have nine teenagers and four adults preparing for confirmation. The teaching they receive at this stage is obviously crucial as it is more about being a member of the Church and living a Christian life than about learning facts.

Our Council meetings are business-like and conducted with mutual respect and support. I am grateful to all who give their time to help the running of the church in this way. Over the year we have been looking at our vision and values. This is an exercise that has helped us clarify what the purpose of St Ursula's is, our identity as an Anglican church in mainland Europe and what are the commitments we can expect of each other. This is still work in progress and it will help us as we consider how we can put the new diocesan strategy into practice here.

On the personal front, this has been a busy year as my area of responsibility as Archdeacon has expanded - from the Alps to the Arctic! Although it has been fascinating and spiritually enriching to see more of the Diocese, I am glad that it is only a temporary assignment. I am particularly grateful to Mark for covering for me in my absence and making it possible for me to carry out these other duties. All the same, being able to celebrate the sacraments regularly with you here has upheld me in this busyness. Thank you.

Ven. Peter M Potter, Chaplain

ADDRESS BY BISHOP ROBERT AT SYNOD 7 FEBRUARY 2015

Bishop Robert spoke firstly about himself, his family, what a bishop is expected to do and what he has learnt so far. He then went on to talk about developments in the national church. This is a moment of great opportunity for the Church of England. Instead of a gradual decline, we are looking now at a programme of renewal.



Reform and Renewal

- Developing discipleship: discipleship of the whole people of God, establishing a check-list for every diocese; using fresh theological resources; working on a revised catechism for the Church of England.
- Resourcing for the future (funding) and the distribution of funds.
- Resourcing ministerial education: poor quality leadership brings nothing, good leadership produces growth; a large number of clergy will be retiring in the near future so there is a commitment to keep up the numbers of ordinations; a rapid development of lay ministries will help to cover the shortage of clergy in many churches.
- Simplification to reduce bureaucracy and facilitate flexibility: This applies mostly to the UK, not so much in Europe.
- Breaking the Commissioners' promise on Inter-Generation Equity i.e. not using tomorrow's money today: we should be ready to spend heavily to generate growth in the coming years.

Diocese in Europe

- Importance of strategy: a working group is "working" on this with a bottom-up approach. We can walk together in faith, with a common purpose throughout the Diocese in the knowledge of being beloved children of God. Let us share the good news with a shared sense of direction and a focus on all we do.
- Building up the Body of Christ and fostering growth within the Anglican tradition and in partnership with other churches; by deepening our faith and practice in prayer and worship; by teaching the faith and education at all ages and encouraging new disciples.
- Sharing with other churches in the evangelisation of Europe; proclaiming the good news; encouraging a culture of welcome, invitation, hospitality; seeking opportunities for growth.

- Striving for the creation of a just society and a sustainable environment: defending the poor, disadvantaged and those in need; promoting safeguarding; combating slavery; challenging the inactivity of comfort; encouraging care for the creation.
- Working for reconciliation within churches at all levels, among nations, ethnicities and religions, by valuing European solidarity.
- Resourcing: through stewardship; encouraging vocation of all who are baptised; increasing the number of clergy. The aim is 50% more. Having well-structured archdeaonries.

On the subject of archdeaonries, the Bishop regretted that the plans for 4 full-time archdeacons had fallen through. We probably had too many illusions. However, there is enough money for one full-time post to cover Germany, the Nordic and Baltic States. This will relieve Peter Potter of his temporary assignment in the northern archdeaconry, hopefully as from September 2015.

CHURCHWARDENS

For sure one of the joys of being a Warden is the awareness of the many things that are happening within the life of the church. Sometimes, we have to admit, that it can also be a source of slight stress. 😊

To start with we would like to thank everybody for their contribution. The danger with attempting to list the people and groups for whom thanks are due is the possibility of missing people - and clearly we do not wish to do this. Thus we would like to thank all those involved in keeping the church functioning day-by-day and throughout the year. Every little contribution makes a difference to the life of our church. And we feel that it is a real blessing to be part of such a lively church like St Ursula's.

Council has taken further the definition of the visions and values of St. Ursula's. We have had many fruitful discussions which helped us to answer some important questions. The final aim will be to form a vision statement, which in fact is the story we tell about our future.

In May the idea came up of having a Church breakfast and after the first enjoyable breakfast it was decided to have a breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. Tricia and Hector are the organisers of our Church breakfast and it has been very successful with an average of 20 people each Sunday. We are all very blessed to arrive at Church on a Sunday morning and find a whole breakfast ready for us.

On 3 August the choir led by Elisabeth Pfyffer sang a special memorial Service for the World War I centenary and our English Ambassador was present too.

In August St. Ursula presented itself at the Kirchenfest. It was a great experience

to be out in the street and meet many other Christians. The aim of the event was to draw attention to the range of activities provided by the churches in Berne and this is what St Ursula did and we had a good response, we hope to participate another time.

In July and September we had our SACEP training courses.

The first one was about the world of communication and the Church. We discussed how we publicise news of our activities and how we can use social media to build and grow congregations. By the way - How many of us are checking the St. Ursula page on Facebook or regularly check our website??? Everybody can do this and maybe give us some new ideas for improvement. The second course was on music and it was open to everybody and not only to choir members. Everyone enjoyed the singing as it helped to widen their musical repertoire.

Our Advent course was on the Creeds, mainly the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. The course started end of November and at the beginning of each session everybody attended a Bring and Share lunch.

Our Christmas Bazaar as every year was a great success. We are glad that there were many people who gave a lot of time and effort for all the preparations involved. We are very grateful to all who helped organising this event and for the good fellowship everybody had. Especially we also thank Jana for organising the British Food stall (and much, much more) every year.

Christmas has been very busy with our different Services. Not to forget our Christmas Party with a delicious buffet and how we all enjoyed this precious time spent together.

The Nativity Play, Come to the Stable, directed by Tricia Carrick was very well received and we all enjoyed the humour and its setting in a modern-day family preparing for Christmas.

On Shrove Tuesday we had our Pancake dinner. More than 35 people were present and Tricia, our Chef, had indeed a very busy time. It was a meaningful outreach as also some people joined us who are not members of St Ursula's.

Our Synod was in February and we had the chance to meet Dr. Robert Innes, our Bishop of Europe, for the first time. His talk was very interesting and he will surely bring some fresh and new ideas to the whole diocese.

In March we started our Lenten course 'The Possible World' -an interesting study to make us all aware that we are responsible for the whole cosmos. In the study we learned that everybody plays a part in God's plan and that we all are asked to participate in a practical way. The study challenges us to live out our faith in Jesus. All Christians are called to join in God's mission to stop injustices, to care for the weak and to preserve our environment. Human beings are the custodians and trustees of creation. Our role is to act as 'stewards' of the world God has

created for us and look after the planet and maintain it for future generations. Therefore let's take action! "One drop of water in the sea cannot be seen; but put the drops together and you get an ocean".

These are just a few events of our Church. Let's not forget all our Food and Book Sales, Toy Sales, our Archdeaconry Choir Festival, our Confirmation course and many, many more events which take place in our Church.

We are blessed to have such a vibrant and helpful congregation but we have to admit that every year we are getting a little older and we need to pray that a younger generation will slowly take over.

We have to enrich and support our Junior Church and Youth group. For that more teachers and volunteers will be needed. Being a mother myself I know is not easy to convince teenagers to come to Church on a Sunday. I believe one of the ways is that they understand that God's love for them is so great that He sent his Son to redeem them and that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and their Best Friend. Our example is vital to them, so let's enjoy our Church, appreciate the fellowship we have every Sunday and provide in our families a positive Christian environment for our youth.

We especially thank the teachers in Junior Church for their constant work with the children, Mary McKinley our Youth worker for her commitment and Tricia who faithfully leads the Confirmation Course.

Last year Mary helped Ruby raise funds to take part in a very special project with Raleigh International, a charity which enables youths to get involved helping local communities in needy areas and preserve the environment. This year the youth group is planning to raise funds for buying laptops to send to a Kenyan school. This project can be realized thanks to Edi Kingori and his family who have contacts in Kenya.

Archana has advanced in her studies as Lay Reader. Being a Lay Reader and a Church Warden at the same time is not allowed. She could continue to be Church Warden until she is licensed as a Reader but motherhood is also keeping her on her toes. Hence she will be stepping down this year.

We also take this opportunity to thank Father Peter too for his work here in St Ursula's. It has been an extremely busy year for Peter. As we all know, he is not only the Archdeacon of Switzerland but also the acting Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe - an area which covers 9 countries from Iceland to Estonia! We appreciate his commitment and pray that God blesses and strengthens him as he faithfully takes care of God's children.

Especially we also thank Rev. Mark Pogson, our associate priest, for being with us and assisting Father Peter in his duties when he is absent.

For the new Church year we pray that we all shall continue to be united as

Christ's body, that we will appreciate the work of the Lord among us and that more people will join us to rejoice in the Lord.

Thank you to each of you for what you do for our St Ursula's Church. **Amen!**

Maxine Wildhaber & Archana Jacob-Chittazhathu, Church Wardens

Last, but not least, my goodbye to Archana as a warden. We spent some good years together. Archana being a lot younger than I am brought new ideas and also wisdom. When I worried, she told me that everything was going to be fine, in moments of stress she was always there. Thank you Archana! I shall miss you a BIG lot!! At the same time I look forward to your sermons full of spirit, power and Christian insight. I wish you a brilliant future led by the love of God together with your amazing family.

Maxine Wildhaber

COUNCIL

This church year the council met eleven times from May 2014 through March 2015. Council, led by Father Peter, discuss 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 regular meeting was held in August. However, there was an extraordinary council meeting in August at which Junior Church teaching was discussed. Council recognises the importance of a vital children's ministry and wants the work with all children regarding their spiritual growth and integration in church life to be a priority. Hence, the extra meeting was planned in order to look at ways to support the existing classes, youth group and teachers and ways to recruit new teachers.

Some topics discussed at council meetings were the Safeguarding Policy and the challenge of doing background checks, monthly church breakfasts, celebrating the 100th anniversary of WW I, and the Nativity Play and the Pancake Supper as outreach.

Following a helpful SACEP seminar in April 2014 on "How to be a Good Council Member", council has been reflecting on vision and values by having in-depth discussions on those important subjects at most council meeting. Recognising values helps our church move towards the vision and our final stage will be to form a vision statement which is "the story we tell about our future".

The treasurer compiles a detailed monthly report for every council meeting presenting the financial situation of the church. Pledges and donations are lower than budgeted 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. The energy efficiency team has been gathering data for its three-phase project. The first phase involved detailing the existing infrastructure, the second phase was 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 report every month on the progress of the team.

There is always much about church property to discuss and approve: making necessary repairs; keeping the buildings and garden safe; encouraging ecological practices; doing garden work.

Council discussed ways of encouraging use of the church library and an awareness campaign is under way. All the adult books have been catalogued and are available on St Ursula's website so church members can easily check what we have and possibly suggest books to order. Council is encouraging members to write book reports for the church magazine or give oral reports during the Sunday service about books in the library.

Council planning discussions covered important events such as St Ursula's participation in the summer Kirchenfest in Berne, running Advent and Lenten courses, encouraging participation at the ecumenical service in the Münster in January and contributing musically to the Nacht der Religionen. We were also involved in helping plan Bishop Robert's welcome visit which allowed us to get to know him. He attended the Saturday, 7 February Synod meeting at St Ursula's and preached on Sunday.

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.

Heartfelt congratulations went to council members Archana Jacob and Isabelle Wienand who had babies during the church year. Both have faithfully continued with their duties.

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

THUN GROUP

The Thun Church meets at the Reformed Church Hall in Bubenbergstrasse in Thun on the first and third Thursday of each month (except for July when we have a break).

The purpose of coming together is to worship the Lord and to have fellowship with each other. The meetings are generally short - from 19.30 to about 20.15. This is then followed by tea or coffee and a chat.



We are a small group but I get the impression the meetings are appreciated. We all enjoy visits and messages from the Ven. Peter Potter who comes about every third meeting. On the other occasions I normally preside over the service and present a short message from the Word.

Each Christmas we have a carol service which is well attended at Göttibach Church, Thun.

We also have occasional social activities on the fifth Thursday of a month.

We are trying to attract new members but with limited success.

Rev Mark Pogson

CRÈCHE

St Ursula's Crèche is for children aged from birth to three years old. The Crèche provides a caring environment where children can play alongside other children whilst parents attend the 10.00 Service.

Helpers of the Crèche team are either parents who have children in the Crèche, or members of the Congregation who have volunteered to help take care of our toddlers. Crèche meets every Sunday except the 2nd Sunday of the month (All in Church Together Sunday) and for a few weeks in the summer holidays.

We have a mixture of playing together, reading some short stories, playdough, colouring-in, and pasting. It all depends of how many toddlers we have and their interests. One cannot forget that some are still very young and we have to adapt to their needs.

Parents are encouraged to stay in the Crèche until their child is comfortable to be left, and they are comfortable to leave them!

Parents can drop the children in the Lower Hall before the beginning of the Service and collect them straight after the Service or if they wish before Communion. We usually ask parents to sit close to the Church's entrance so we can find them easily if their child needs them.

Every Sunday we have two volunteers on a rotating basis and I take the occasion to thank everybody who so faithfully helps me in this ministry. This year we shall have a smaller group of helpers but as usual a very dedicated one.

Attendances vary depending on the Sunday. Sometimes we have 4 children and other times either 2 or 1 or no children at all.

I would also like to thank the parents for supplying us with toys. The Crèche is always in need of safe and clean toys for our toddlers.

In summer I am planning a cleaning up and sorting out of old and new toys. Thanks to the generosity of a sponsor, new cupboards will arrive. I am personally very grateful for this gift as at last all the toys will be stored away neatly.

When God told us to teach the children, He knew that investing in children was the best way to perpetuate, grow, and expand His Church. A Church where children are welcome, safe, and well cared for.

Maxine Wildhaber, Crèche Coordinator

CHURCH BREAKFASTS



On 4 May 2014, we started a new social event - a church breakfast. About 20 people attended. So we continued after the summer holidays with a monthly breakfast, held on the first Sunday of each month. Attendance is fairly stable at around 20 people.

Food is provided, so people only need to come along and enjoy.

Tricia Carrick



JUNIOR CHURCH

Classes

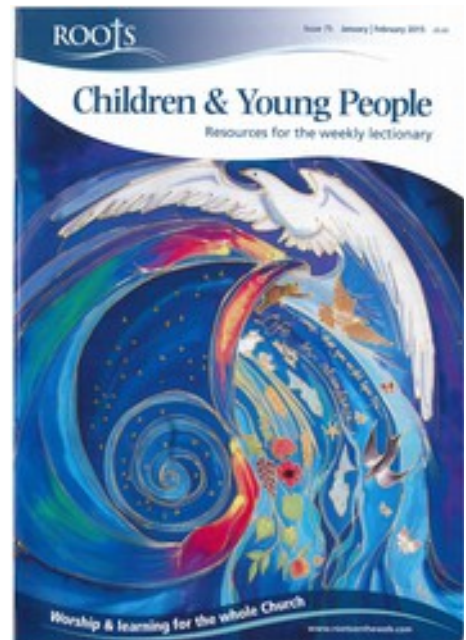
St Ursula's offer three Junior Church classes: Sparklers for those aged 3 to 7+, Trailblazers for those aged 7 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+.

In 2014 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.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, the Junior Church remains in church to partake in the "All in Church Together" service. On other Sundays we leave for our classes shortly after the start of the 10.00 service. On the 4th Sunday of the month we hold our all-age Junior Church choir practices and the JC Choir has participated in several services during the year.

Resources

In 2014 we started to use some new teaching materials called "ROOTS". These ecumenical and lectionary-based resources are produced by a Christian charitable company - ROOTS for Churches Ltd - which is based in the UK. Each teacher gets his/her own bi-monthly magazine with access to more teaching resources on the ROOTS website.



Teachers

The number of committed teachers remained constant throughout 2014 at six. Ideally we would like a pool of teachers of between nine and twelve - this would ensure that we can offer 3 weekly Junior Church classes even after the Confirmation course has finished. Walter Bisig has agreed to join our team in 2015 and we offer him a very warm welcome.

Tear Fund

Tear Fund remains the focus of our charity efforts, with the children's weekly collection going to the "Uganda Water and Sanitation" project. In 2014 the church collections on 1 June (when Bishop George Bagamuhunda and Rev Reuben Byomuhangi from the Diocese of Kigezi, Uganda visited St Ursula's), at Harvest and at the Nativity Service also went to this project. In total, over Fr4,800 was raised for this project in 2014.

Nativity Play

This year's Nativity play was not really a children's play, although there were certainly children involved. It was called "Come to the Stable", loosely based on a musical written by Derek Haylock but significantly adapted for the people and abilities available at St Ursula's.



There were two action scenes - one a modern-day family preparing for Christmas and the other the first Christmas in Bethlehem, linked by a "magic" Christmas card. This was the traditional Christmas story - with a difference, including a reminder of why Jesus came to earth.

The play took place on 14 December. It included new songs and well-known carols. Beforehand and afterwards, three members of the confirmation class played traditional carols on saxophones and piano.

If I have counted correctly, 16 children, 17 adults and 5 members of the confirmation class took part.

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 & Jana Kutesko

JUNIOR CHURCH ACTIVITY CLUB

The Activity Club has continued to meet regularly throughout 2014 with many diverse activities from ice-skating to a drumming workshop.

For more information please contact one the leaders - Françoise Hänggi and Sharon Batley.

Jana Kutesko

YOUTH GROUP

Through the year, the Youth Groups meet two Sundays a month, except for when all the teens were away which was mostly during school holidays. As directed by Father Peter, Mary McKinley, our Youth Coordinator, followed the liturgy of the

church and worked with teens towards greater inclusion in the church events and the congregation.

The Youth Group consisted of eight members, though one of the eight goes to school abroad, and so could only attend sporadically, and another member was focused on finishing Gymnasium and “graduated” from the group when she achieved her Matura. Of the remaining six members, the main difficulty for attendance was the overlap between Confirmation Course and Youth Group. In 2014 there was an overlap of four youths, and as attendance in confirmation course is mandatory, some absences on Youth Group Sundays were to be expected. That said, attendance varied between two and five teens, with four or five teens in attendance about half of the time.

As a special project for the year, the Youth Group committed itself to raising money to support Ruby Wildhaber, a former member of the Youth Group, in her goal of volunteering for a charity in Tanzania. Towards this end, we hosted twice



monthly bake sales, with a different member of the group providing the baked goods each time. I’m proud to say that our sales were very successful, and the congregation was very generous in their donations. At the end of our efforts, we raised a total of Fr1,595.55! The amount raised was announced at a special ceremony during tea and coffee after the service the week before Ruby left on her 9 week program.

We have already begun a new fund-raising project for 2015.

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.

The current youth confirmation course started in October 2013, with ten members. We normally meet twice a month, except

during holidays, 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.

During 2014, attendance was very good. There were 17 meetings: 7 were attended by all 10 members, on 2 November only 6 could attend, the rest were attended by 8 or 9 participants.

The focus of the teaching in the first part of 2014 was to continue our exploration of the nature of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We then moved on to looking at "What is the Church?".

In 2015, we have visitors who will talk about some aspect of their life as a Christian. In June we have a weekend away. Then there will be a confirmation service on 21 June, led by Bishop David.

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 - and, most importantly, pray for them.

Tricia Carrick

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

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.

At present I believe that we are doing our best to ensure all our Junior Church teachers, Youth Group leader and Crèche helpers do meet with the Diocesan safeguarding guidelines/policies. The Diocesan Guidelines have been updated and this has meant that we have also to meet these new criteria and are having to upgrade our own safeguarding records at St Ursulas. Safeguarding checks for those working with children and young people at our church now need to be reviewed every 5 years and it is essential that we achieve this in time for the first council meeting after the AGM. Our council has to certify to the Diocese of Europe that we are following the safeguarding policy.

We are also in the process of updating our St Ursulas Safeguarding documents to

conform to changes both at Diocesan levels and also certain Swiss policy changes that affect our Church Safeguarding policies.

There will be a Diocesan training session on safeguarding issues available online very soon and it will be mandatory to have completed this for all who work with our children and have safeguarding clearance.

All our 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 in the past year there have been no incidents requiring action. Our present situation with more limited numbers of Junior Church teachers or crèche helpers 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.
Tel: 031 3024859 or 076 4254859, Email: cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

MUSIC

Music in our Services

Worship and Music Planning

Ven. 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 2014 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 temporary 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 2014 include:

- Several Psalms in Anglican Chant Style.
- A 'Nunc Dimittis' by Wood and a Canticle (traditional).
- The 'Coventry Litany' (Father forgive) on Good Friday and on Remembrance Sunday
- Responsorial parts of the Liturgy on Good Friday, and on Easter Day an Easter Anthem and a Motet.
- Anthems by Stanford and a Kiev-setting of Kontakion
- Carols and the Christmas Gloria at the Carol Service in Thun
- At Christmas a special Christmas Gloria, a Hymn and Carols sung in four parts.

Two 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.

Special Ecumenical Service remembering the beginning of World War One



On 6 April 2014 a special ecumenical service was held at Lausanne Cathedral. An Anglican ad-hoc choir with singers from several Anglican Chaplaincies in Switzerland sung the Beati Quorum by Stanford, the Anthems: The Lord bless you and keep you by Rutter, and God so loved the World by Stainer, and Psalm 46. St Ursula's Choir took part with about 10 singers.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Music Group

The Music Group is now in its 9th year and continues to provide a regular accompaniment for the more modern songs, chants and hymns at our services. It is also an intention to include more people in the regular support of our services.



Our main contribution is to the “ACT” (All In Church together) services - usually

on the 2nd Sunday in the month. Additionally we often contribute on the 4th Sunday in the month with more “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) and we have recently included some of the Iona chants.

During this last year our numbers have fluctuated between a maximum on 9 and sometimes just 2 but we have a solid core of about 5 regular contributors (both musicians and singers). We have been joined by Hans-Martin Griepner with flute and Chika Asiegbu with bongos, occasionally adding more variety which has met with appreciation. We always hope to attract more musicians to provide better flexibility and perhaps with additional instruments. It would be nice to include younger members of the congregation when suitable.

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

Tony continues to organise the group but is often away on business - many thanks to Tricia who has taken over the lead several times at short notice. Tamar Usenashvili has also supported us on a few occasions and delighted the congregation with her expertise on piano. All music group members practice the planned music individually and we have group practices in the church hall, starting well before the Sunday services.

It is most encouraging when we receive feedback from the congregation, including new suggestions. Please don't hesitate to give your feedback and provide 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

A quick survey of the final figures for 2014 suggests that the year was less than successful, with the deficit on our general running costs almost doubling, from Fr7,818 to Fr15,405, with expenditure on the church's infrastructure of a further Fr6,978. But all is not doom and gloom, and I am looking forward to this year with cautious optimism.

First, then, the good news. Our income from events - our book and food sales, our Christmas bazaar, and the percentage we glean from toy and equipment sales, increased, though only slightly. All credit to the tireless teams who manned stalls and prepared and served food, and to those who came and spent their money.

Our income from other sources also rose, though mainly because of donations for weddings and funerals. The hall was used by a wide range of groups, which benefited us financially, as well as making people aware of us and bringing them into contact with St Ursula's. At the same time, our general running costs were almost a tenth lower than in 2013 - back to below the level in 2012, which was itself a year of low expenditure.

The not-so-good news is that our total income from pledges, donations and collections declined by almost a tenth. Indeed, the last time freewill offerings were so low was in 1986, when prices were 30% lower than they are today, and a restaurant could still serve a cup of coffee for under Fr2! These are not easy times for many families, and the church owes thanks to those of you who have maintained and even increased their level of giving. There is a trend to give via the collection bag on Sunday morning as and when one has spare cash. This is good as long as there is a plan behind it! And people still forget that donations to the charitable association's Postfinance account, 60-666488-7, can pay for many of our running costs, and the amounts we pass on further to outside charities, and qualify the giver for tax relief.

We sold no books in 2014, and a policy decision taken five years ago acknowledges that folk can buy books more effectively from specialized bookshops or on line. We have finally written off our small remaining stock: our church library provides an excellent source of Christian reading, and I recommend it to you.

There is a small but steady demand for greeting and condolence cards, and scope for raising our revenue from this and similar things. Jana's food stall is an example of this, and a small supply of goodies is always available in between our main sales. (Note, too, that you can gladly use our photocopier at a very competitive rate, and, if Peter is not using it, you can make take advantage of the church's Mobility subscription to hire a vehicle very cheaply.)

People are often surprised to hear that we receive no financial support from any official government or church body. We are entirely self-supporting. In 2014

though, Peter took on additional responsibilities when the Archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe fell vacant, and the Bishop called on him to take on the work of acting archdeacon there as well as for Switzerland. Compensating for our loss of his time has meant that we have appointed Mark Pogson as his associate, taking services when he is away, and giving him a closer oversight of the congregation in Thun. It has also meant more work for Jana in the office, and other minor expense. This showed itself in an unbudgeted increase in personnel costs. Fortunately, this has happened in the context of a general reorganisation of the finances of the diocese and of the whole Church of England, and has meant that a grant of some Fr9,500 was made available as compensation. The extra income and extra expense balance each other out. (It's worth noting, though, that the Fr14,555 support we get for Peter's work as archdeacon, is only a few hundred francs more than the Fr13,840 support we give to the diocese and archdeaconry in return! This latter amount contributes to the cost of administering the diocese, higher in 2014 because of new safeguarding rules, and of archdeaconry training days and other events.)

The reduction in our running costs was mainly due to cheaper oil and fewer repairs. The switchover to internet telephony has led to permanent savings - our bills here are a third of what they used to be. A few costs were higher - it was 20 years since the hall was rebuilt, so a full electrical inspection was due. A major item of extraordinary expenditure was some Fr4,500 for an overdue replacement of the hall blinds. On lighter matters, we invested in our own raclette grill (again, we'll gladly hire it out to you for parties).

We aim to give a tenth of our income to external charities. In addition to the Fr22,835 shown in the accounts, dedicated collections and events raised a further Fr9,000 - and the Charity report will show that the money was well spent.

The deficit in 2014 has reduced our "accrued capital" to just over Fr117,000, or four and a half month's expenditure, while the building and development fund has risen slightly, to Fr80,714. A committee is looking in depth at the church's energy needs, and this will eventually entail some major expenditure. Although this will pay for itself as time goes on, we shall be appealing in due course for your help with this project.

As always, book-keeping has been a demanding (but pleasurable) task, with 2,564 transactions recorded in 2014. My thanks to the many of you who have made the load lighter, and especially to all whose generosity has kept the church's finances on a steady path. May 2015 be a year of growth, not only financially, but in faith, witness and fellowship.

Hector Davie, Treasurer

ST URSULA'S CHURCH, BERNE
CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2014

<u>INCOME</u> (2013 figures in small type)			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Income from Community	151,763.95	168348	Personnel-related costs	148,566.45	142597
<i>Pledged giving</i>	112,495.00	126975	<i>Stipends and remunerations</i>	106,506.70	99375
<i>Donations</i>	2,773.00	3370	<i>Travelling expenses</i>	4,380.00	4388
<i>Collections</i>	36,495.95	38003	<i>Rent</i>	0.00	0
			<i>Other personnel costs</i>	37,679.75	38835
Income from events	35,113.90	35075	Running costs (Note 7)	51,019.01	56486
<i>Book Sales</i>	8,988.45	8581	<i>Premises</i>	39,514.40	40070
<i>Bazaar</i>	12,126.20	12198	<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	398.70	486
<i>Food Stall</i>	13,260.60	13416	<i>Office</i>	2,814.90	7159
<i>Other events</i>	738.65	881	<i>Telephone</i>	616.51	2102
			<i>Insurance</i>	3,210.35	3238
Income from other sources	22,605.00	21468	<i>Property tax</i>	1,606.80	1607
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	19,793.00	20618	<i>Vestry</i>	1,227.19	932
<i>Other</i>	2,812.00	850	<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	1,630.16	893
			Youth and Junior Church	756.85	1028
Thun	715.70	684	Library	0.00	0
			Diocese/Deanery	13,840.56	13081
Other income	9,166.50	8997	Other expenditure	4,017.10	2988
<i>Magazine</i>	6,274.00	6150	<i>Magazine</i>	3,146.65	2436
<i>Book table</i>	0.00	0	<i>Book table</i>	460.00	0
<i>Card table</i>	215.80	307	<i>Card table</i>	16.80	97
<i>Coffee</i>	2,656.70	2490	<i>Coffee</i>	353.65	414
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	20.00	50	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	40.00	41
			Charity (Note 6)	22,835.20	22314
Grants	14,555.00	5000	Financial Expense (Note 5)	149.21	147
Miscellaneous Financial	1,315.85	245	Miscellaneous Financial	0.00	0
			Depreciation	0.00	0
Interest/dividend income	543.00	1007	Transfer to Building+Dev Fund	10,000.00	10000
TOTAL	<u>235,778.90</u>	240824	TOTAL	<u>251,184.38</u>	248642
DEFICIT	15,405.48	7818			

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Chair fund donations	0.00	0	Major replacements	1,512.00	4345
Legacy	0.00	0	Building Work	5,466.10	9617
TOTAL	<u>0.00</u>	0	TOTAL	<u>6,978.10</u>	13961
EXTRAORDINARY DEFICIT	6,978.10	13961			

BALANCE SHEET 31.12.2014

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash on hand CH	12,315.53	19099	Payments received for 2015	0.00	0
Cash on hand GB (Note 3)	36,689.50	29924	Miscellaneous Creditors	14,984.35	24339
Short term accounts CH	174,867.60	197228			
Stocks on hand (Note 4)	7,410.80	5477	Non-liquid capital	13,650.80	13277
Amounts receivable	643.38	438	Building and Development Fund	80,713.88	77692
Fixed assets (Note 2)	6,240.00	7800	Ministry Training Fund	19,361.66	19980
Advance payments made	7,620.75	7560	Accrued capital (Note 1)	117,076.87	132239
TOTAL	<u>245,787.56</u>	267526	TOTAL	<u>245,787.56</u>	267526

NOTES

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

Accrued capital on 31.12.2013	+	132,238.52
From Ministry Training Fund (Note 8)	+	618.13
Deficit from ordinary activities	-	15,405.48
Increase in stocks and assets	-	374.30
Accrued capital on 31.12.2014	+	117,076.87

2. The church's fixed assets are:

	Acquisition cost	Value 31.12.2013	Acquisitions during year	Depreciation for year	Value 31.12.2014
Photocopier	7,992.00	7,800.00	0.00	1,560.00	6,240.00
TOTAL	7,992.00	7,800.00	0.00	1,560.00	6,240.00

3. Sterling balances on 31.12.2014 are converted at the rate of Fr 1.52 = £1 (2013: 1.47).

4. Book stocks were written off at 31.12.2014 (31.12.2013: Fr 460.00). Card stocks were valued at Fr 644.00 (31.12.2013: Fr 620.50). (Oil, mugs and UK food account for the remainder.)

5. Miscellaneous financial items include an exchange gain of Fr 336.05 (2013: Fr 45.50 loss).

6. Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events, which are not shown in these accounts. These amounted to Fr 9,000.20 (2013: Fr 6,818.20), as follows:

Remembrance Day	857.40	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday	285.50	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organization
Mission Sunday 26 January	477.50	United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel
Collections 4 / 9 March	1,327.50	Bishop's Lent Appeal (Afghanistan)
Collection 30 March	516.30	Family Life Mission
Collection 21 September	726.15	Caritas Syria Appeal
Collection 1 June	727.30	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Harvest Festival	1,740.50	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Christmas Collections	1,972.80	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Junior Church Collections	369.25	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)

7. Running costs for our premises include:

Electricity and water	5,982.85	5,577
Heating system	7,531.45	9,763
Caretaking, garden, etc	337.00	523
Cleaning	18,614.90	17,895
Kitchen	951.35	937
Repairs to premises	2,098.70	2,989
Equipment and repairs	1,086.65	921
Use of premises (Thun)	420.00	420
Other	2,491.50	1,046

Office costs include:

Materials (including PCs)	290.90	2,315
Postage	547.90	425
Photocopying	2,005.90	4,419

8. Payments of Fr 618.13 (2013: Fr 628.88) 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

16/04/2015 16:32

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 31 March. There were 0 deletions and 6 additions meaning that the number of members in 2015 is 112.

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

MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

The master rota combines all eight 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 30 volunteers as of December 2014. These faithful helpers supported a total of 61 services in the past year and deserve a big

THANK YOU.

We are always looking for new volunteers to share the burden. There is a coordinator for each individual rota who provides information as well as training and will be happy to answer any questions. Names and phone numbers can be found on the last page of the magazine, or talk to one of the helpers to find out more.

Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator

MAGAZINE

Editing



The St Ursula's Church magazine is published six times a year. Currently, 383 people subscribe to the magazine, with 294 receiving a hard copy and 89 receiving it electronically.

The purpose of the church magazine is to inform readers of the services and events at St Ursula's, to teach about Christianity and to reach out to the English-speaking community of Berne.

Tricia Carrick, Hector Davie, Jana Kutesko and Father Peter make up the core team of content providers and proofreaders.

Articles and other content are also submitted by groups within St Ursula's (Junior Church, Charity and Missions Committee and Housegroups, for example), individual church members as well as people who are not members of the church. Hector Davie handles the electronic distribution and advertising, Querida Long does the layout and Annemarie Walthert is in charge of collating the magazine.

Contributions to the magazine can be sent to magazine@stursula.ch

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 four to six people helping, the job goes smoothly.

Many thanks to all the faithful helpers!

Querida Long & Annemarie Walthert

WEBMASTER

Would Jesus have used the internet? And if so, how? Would he have tweeted, blogged or established a presence on Facebook or Google Plus? And would he have done it himself, or would he have got a firm of specialists to do it for him?

These are not idle questions. Over the past twenty-five years, the internet has made far-reaching changes in the way people interact. The crowds who followed Jesus by the shores of Galilee now “like” and “follow” people on Facebook. Proclaiming news “to the ends of the earth” is simply a matter of putting it on the World Wide Web. Or is it?

Jesus' ministry, and the church's, was all-embracing. It was personal, and showed compassion. The work of healing, of forgiving sins, and ultimately of dying and rising again to save us all from the power of evil, involved real relationships and a real touch - no app yet known can breathe sight into the blind, or life into the dead. But at the same time, his ministry proclaimed the kingdom to all, it showed people how to live, how to pray, how to follow Christ.

The internet opens exciting possibilities for the church to carry on this task of witness, and for more than 20 years, St Ursula's has used the web as part of our ministry. Our current website, www.stursula.ch, tries to proclaim, to inform, to guide and to promote fellowship. Take a look at our sitemap to see what is there. Listen to a recent sermon, browse some of the pictures in our online gallery, find out what future events are planned, learn about the charities we support, follow links to the work of the worldwide church.

The internet is not just a repository of information. With Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and a host of other applications, it has become a network for fellowship

and communication. One of our challenges is to make the best use of these new social media to encourage others to join us in our work. We try to keep a close eye on developments in communication - and if you have skills, contacts or resources in these fields, we'd like to know about them - a quick mail to webmaster@stursula.ch or a quiet comment on Facebook (st.ursula.berne) or a tweet (@stursula) would be helpful.

Our website receives over 100 visits a day - 3,484 in January 2015, a 17% increase on last year. In that month, visitors accessed 6,274 pages - 5.72 gigabytes of information. As in previous years, the electronic version of the magazine, the news page, the notice sheet and rotas were popular targets.

The web has changed enormously since we waited for minutes 20 years ago for our telephone modem to download a simple page of text. Now we expect instant video streaming on our Smartphones and an internet that responds to our needs. Keeping abreast of these developments is the challenge that faces all the churches today, and, as I said above, we need to make the best use of the skills available to us - to witness to the Good News.

Hector Davie, Webmaster

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Group comprises Donna Goepfert, Anne-Marie Walthert and myself. Our main activity is to offer prayer for all those we know to be in need in our congregation and beyond.



Any requests for prayer are always received in complete confidence. (Incidentally, the same applies to anything that is said when you come forward for prayers for healing during a Sunday service.) We are there to pray for long-term needs as well as sudden emergencies.

A possible gap in our pastoral care is English-speakers in old-peoples' homes in the area, especially people who were perhaps once worshippers at St Ursula's but who have "slipped off the radar". This means that we and the clergy rely on people passing on information.

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

In May 2014 a switch controlling the blinds in the Upper Hall was repaired and later in the summer Rolf Klingler and I installed some panels to exclude the martens from the church house attic. It seems that this has discouraged them from visiting us again.

In June the hall door lock jammed, making access to the hall difficult. A locksmith repaired the mechanism.

In the same month we also had an inspector from the EWB to do the 20-yearly electrical inspection of the church, hall and Church House. He reported that 23 items needed attention. Rolf helped in obtaining the necessary supplies needed and an electrician came to complete the work.

We replaced nearly all the lights with LED and in Autumn the gutters were cleaned from a big amount of leaves.

I'd like to give special thanks to both Beat Hodler and Rolf Klingler for their regular garden and maintenance work around the church.

In March 2015 a bookshelf was put up in the church for the Swedish congregation to use and a new bell pulley system and cord have been installed.

Looking Ahead in 2015

Soon, in springtime, a gardener will come to repair the back gate and the uneven slabs going down to the parking. The tiles are being lifted by tree roots and urgently need attention from a specialist.

After Easter I shall organise a team of helpers to come and help in pruning and cleaning the Church garden. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

In the crèche (Lower Hall) the toy and Junior Church cupboards will be replaced. Thank you to a sponsor who has come forward to help us. The cupboards need to be deeper and custom made and at the moment I am in touch with a few carpenters but I am still waiting for their cost estimates.

I do sincerely hope that any organisation booking the use of our church premises will have the responsibility for taking care of the Church and its premises. I personally believe that the Church, ground and facilities don't belong to us but to God. We can use them but we shouldn't forget to whom they belong to, please don't forget to take good care of them.

*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.
Proverbs 19:21*

Edi Wildhaber, Building Manager

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 (preferably by E-Mail to me or to the Church office), preferably as soon as you notice the problem. One concern has been the cupboard doors in the Upper and Lower Church Halls.

Heating

In general the heating in the Church has been functioning well. 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). We do have to compromise in the Church between individual comfort requirements and economy in saving energy. As far as the Church halls are concerned, the hall users should contribute to saving energy by keeping doors and windows closed in the heating season. The Church Energy team is currently analysing ways to reduce energy consumption throughout our buildings.

Church Lighting

As an energy saving procedure, all 10 light fittings in the two Church chandeliers have now been replaced by LED's. Dimming is not a problem, however dimming down to zero as was possible with old incandescent light bulbs can no longer be achieved. Other lights (hallway, stairs, toilets) are gradually being replaced by LED's. Priority is being given to lights where full brightness is required immediately (e.g. stairs).

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 of in the household garbage.

Telephone and Internet

The new telephone installation (see Annual report 2014) seems to perform well and without any major problems. Swisscom has announced giving up the ISDN service by 2017 - however we will not be affected by this change. It is interesting to see that Swisscom is also giving up classical analogue telephony and moving all services to the Internet - just what we have already done more than a year ago.

Rolf Klingler, Church Caretaker

Environmental - Energy Efficiency

In Autumn 2013 the Church Council (CC) launched an initiative to improve energy efficiency in St Ursula's Church. The objective was to investigate measures to reduce the energy cost burden on our budget. The ultimate project aim was to submit a report to the CC with concrete improvement proposals, complemented with cost-effect information. A project team was constituted and charged with this task. The first activities consisted of carrying out preliminary analyses of the building body and the energy consuming infrastructure and apparatus. The very limited availability of structural plans for the building complex, the electrical installation, the heating circuits and the control systems complicated this task and proved to be more time consuming than anticipated. In order to collect the required basic data, extensive measurements needed to be carried out, done manually for cost reasons. The Data collection phase was terminated this February and the analysis phase is now in progress.

Preliminary examination of the collected information indicated to a potential for reducing energy consumption in the order of 50%. However, to get there would necessitate considerable renovation works on the building complex, mainly the Chaplain's house, and the heating infrastructure. Some of these improvements would have to be carried out anyway in the not too distant future as part of long-term building upkeep or due to new regulations on fossil heating systems.

The final report is expected to be delivered to the CC before this year's summer vacation.

Hans Goepfert

LIBRARY



St Ursula's church library, located conveniently in the Upper Hall, offers a wide variety of books for children, teens and adults (ca. 400 books). 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 will help readers develop 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 Isabelle Wienand who was instrumental in helping catalogue all the adult books which Hector Davie subsequently published on the church website. Annemarie Walthert, Andrée Kamarys and Donna Goepfert help man the library on most Sundays during coffee time. It is usually open until 12 noon and

books may be borrowed for one month although the librarians are lenient with those who don't return them on time.

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, we are encouraging members of the congregation to give short "book reports", during a special slot in the Sunday service, about books they have read and want to recommend. Mark Pogson started us off by presenting the book "Spiritual Depression" by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. We also welcome written reports which can be printed in the church magazine.

Any questions or requests can be directed to library coordinators Isabelle Wienand and 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

We had another hugely successful year with the book sales, taking more than Fr7,600 from all four sales. Once again, all this would not be possible without the continuing and dedicated support of all the helpers, who are not only on hand to help sort and sell for the sales

themselves, but also come in at regular intervals throughout the year to sort the growing number of donations. My thanks go therefore to our regular helpers; Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Rachel Huguenin, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead and Patricia Schwager. Thanks also to those ladies who come to help whenever they can.

We continue to try and improve the quality of our books, focusing 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.

We have a few new ideas for 2015 (look out for the "special theme tables"). If anyone has any further suggestions or would like to join our team of helpers, just give me a call.

*Allison Masciadri,
Tel: 079 343 2165*



British Food Stall



In 2014, 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. We also usually sell food 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.

Running the food stall is a year round activity and a great deal of thanks must go to Jackie Wilkinson and Andrew True who both bring back a tremendous amount of food from the UK for the sales throughout the year. However, as ever, 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 Fr13,000 after costs in 2014 - but also an important and friendly outreach to the wider community.

**Please note that, due to the Confirmation on 21 June and other commitments on 28 June, the food stall is unlikely to be open on the 2 Sundays following the Summer Fête in 2015.*

Catering



The purpose of the catering team is to organise and provide food for the various Church functions which occur throughout the year, from the Synod in January to the Christmas Bazaar in November. Covering all the different aspects of providing food for large groups, it demands good co-ordination and time-management, as well as budgeting skills.

2014 was another busy year for all those involved in their varying capacities in the Catering Team. The core group has a loyal and reliable team around them. However, we need

to acknowledge that some of those on the team need increasing support so it is clear that this year we need to actively recruit more Helpers.

The number of meals vary, but for the booksales and Baazar it is between 50-60 meals, plus coffee, teas and, particularly, scones. Here Tricia has developed a ticketing system which allows us to see what we have sold most of - thank you, Tricia.

I believe our aims for 2014 were achieved in that we provided delicious food while at the same time being in fellowship with the team as well as all those who came into St Ursula's to support our various events.

Our aim for 2015 will be to build a good catering team and to continue to serve the Lord through St Ursula's .

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.

Lynn Morgan & Jana Kutesko



ST URSULA'S SPRING INTO SUMMER FÊTE



After a long spell of rainy weather the sun returned in time for our Spring into Summer fête in 2014 but, unfortunately, not the heat of past summer events. Attendance wasn't as good as in previous years but we still managed to take well over Fr6,000 for church funds.

Our Summer Fête in 2015 will be held on Saturday 20 June.

Jana Kutesko



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2014



The Christmas Bazaar in 2014 proved once again to be a very popular and looked forward to event with lots of visitors and a wonderful atmosphere throughout the 2 days.

This year our "Great Christmas Cake Bake" even made it into the "European Anglican" and the "Church Times" with a picture and short report in both publications.



Many of our usual and "old favourite" stalls were present along with a couple of new very popular craft stalls.



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 2014's Christmas Bazaar such a joyous, welcoming and profitable event.

The final Christmas bazaar tally was just over Fr22,000 - an excellent result!

This year's bazaar will be held on Friday 20 & Saturday 21 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.

In addition to working with fabrics, thread and needle, we are also supporting each other by sharing joys and concerns.

All through the year we are working on new items. We always

have something beautiful in stock ready for selling at any time of the year, and most important, a great display at the Bazaar.

Patchwork is a very rewarding hobby, playing with colours and patterns for creating something unique and special, very often out of odd scraps of fabric.

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

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury during the Second World War, is said to have remarked that the Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members. With Christ at the head, with bishops and clergy carrying on his ministry, its members put the Gospel into practice - for the benefit of the whole world.



This cannot be done without organisation. The Church of England has its own system of government, different from the hierarchical structures of the Catholic and Orthodox churches, and from the do-it-yourself or follow-my-leader approaches of some of the free churches, and it involves bishops, clergy and laity at four levels - national, diocesan, deanery and congregation. Nationally, there is the Church of England's General Synod, debating major issues of structure and strategy. Diocesan Synods do the same in each diocese - there are 42 of these in England, plus one covering the Isle of Man, and one covering congregations in most of the rest of Europe, and a few places beyond. Within the diocese, deaneries, or in Europe, archdeaconries, translate this government at a more focussed level, and at the most intimate level, each parish or chaplaincy has its own structure of government, through its General Meeting and Chaplaincy Council.

Each of these four tiers is represented on the tier above. So our clergy at St Ursula's join the clergy from the other chaplaincies in Switzerland, and representatives of our congregation meet representatives of other congregations in Switzerland at the Swiss Archdeaconry Synod. Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Janet Wenger are our lay representatives. Our clergy also attend and vote, and Peter, of course, is also our archdeacon.

Archdeaconry Synod meets twice a year, and in the year under review it met at St Andrew's, Zurich on 28 June 2014, and at St Ursula's on 7 February 2015.

The June meeting looked back at recent developments - the appointment of our new bishop, Robert Innes; services commemorating the centenary of the Great War; Peter's taking on, for the time being, responsibility for the archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe; the recent choir festival; information from the diocese about safeguarding, about cookies on websites and other details. We also agreed to plans for the future - seminars on communications (led by Paul Needle, our diocesan communications officer), music in worship (led by Alison Adam of the Iona Community), and one planned for the end of May this year, on "Words for Worship" (led by Alison and Peter Callway from the Diocese of Rochester). We discussed issues of ethical investment, and the problems our youth groups have in establishing contact with similar groups nearby.

A useful item, which seems set to become a regular feature of our meetings, was “news from the chaplaincies” - a chance for each chaplaincy to say what has been going on, and for others to get ideas and to ask questions. This was enthusiastically received.

Each meeting has one or more keynote talks. The June talk was by Catherine Jackson, the Diocesan Appointments Secretary, with advice on how to handle the selection of a new chaplain - and how to manage the transitional period.

In February, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Robert, and it was he who gave our keynote address.

He told us a little about himself, and then described the processes of renewal which were reversing the decline in the church at a national level. There were fresh resources for discipleship, and new stress on leadership education, and a changed allocation of money which would not penalise success and would not penalise the current generation in the distant hope of benefiting people in the future. Within the Diocese in Europe, a group had been set up to plan new strategies for renewal and for encouraging discipleship. The diocese was seeking ways to work together more effectively with other churches to proclaim the good news, to encourage a culture of welcome and to seek opportunities for growth, as well as to combat injustice and complacency about the state of God's world.

The bishop also outlined the strategy for overseeing his vast diocese, now that the Church of England had rejected a plan for four full-time archdeacons. There was enough funding for one, who would be a resource for Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic, and would liberate our Peter from what threatened to be a second job!

Bishop Harald Rein, of the Old Catholic Church, which has been in full communion with the Church of England since 1931, talked about how the churches could work together, and what some of the implications of unity might be. Fulfilling Christ's will “that all may be one” had practical consequences that merited deeper study.

We heard reports from the Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme (SACEP) - after the Callways' training day this May, further seminars are planned in October and in 2016, suited to all church members; from Partner Sein, the charity we actively support; from the Willibrord Society, who work at local level to put some of Bishop Harald's ideas into practice; and from the Swiss Council of Churches. Archdeacon Peter passed on information about the bishop's Lent Appeal, about the retirement of the diocesan environmental officer, about voting rights for the General Synod elections due this year.

The February synod also approved our budget, with support for the choir festival and for SACEP, and also support for the chaplaincy of St Paul's, Athens, who have a major project to deal with the poverty in that city, and for Partner Sein.

We also discussed the archdeaconry's website, www.anglican.ch. Hosting

arrangements have to be changed, and we need to think how to make the best use of this resource. Our internet presence serves several purposes, and one of these is to make our minutes and reports available to all - so for a fuller account of all our proceedings, follow the links at the foot of www.anglican.ch/Synod!

If you feel a calling to join this wider forum, discuss it with Peter or one of the lay representatives - your views are always welcome in any case.

Hector Davie

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2014 in Geneva

The annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Geneva at Holy Trinity Church (HTC) on the weekend of 17/18 May 2014. It was attended by 45 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Zürich. From St. Ursula's Church 11 singers were able to join the choir in Geneva. The Music was led by Christopher Thomas and Mark Charles (both of HTC Geneva), who both took their turn as Conductor and 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 Anerio, Bairstow, Darke, Ireland, Purcell, Smith and Tallis. In addition the choirs also supported the Matins on Sunday Morning with choral music.

Thanks are extended to the Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity

Church 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 Fr23,000. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organisations supported in previous years the funds were distributed in 2014 as follows:

List of Payments in 2014

Local	CHF	GBP
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 (Wołochowicz)	2,500.00	
Train a Priest	1,000.00	700
International		
Church Mission Society	1,800.00	1,200
Us - United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1,800.00	1,200
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Christian Aid, Afghanistan)	1,000.00	700
Bishop's Advent Appeal (Boat People)	1,000.00	700
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	
Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation (St George's, Baghdad)	400.00	300
Total	23,000.00	

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. This year we decided to make a one-off donation to the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation (St George's, Baghdad). We also made the decision for our funding for the CMS to go specifically to CMS mission Partners, Andrew & Maria Leake in North Argentina. Also for 'Us' our support for 2014 is going to the Connect Church partner program helping provide healthcare in rural communities in Jobarpar, Bangladesh.

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 who, with her team of helpers, has organised various fund-raising events at St Ursula's such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup lunch, the Lent Soup Lunch and concerts throughout the past year

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.



On Sunday, 30 March 2014 we had a visit from Piotr Wotochowicz from the Family Life Mission (FLM) in Poland. He gave the sermon on this Sunday and told us about the ministry of FLM.

On 1 June 2014 we had a visit from our Ugandan friends, Rev Reuben Byomuhangi Programme Coordinator of the Diocese of Kigezi water and Sanitation project and Rt Rev George Bagamuhunda, Bishop of the Kigezi Diocese, accompanied by Ueli Bachmann from TearFund Schweiz. We appreciated Bishop George's sermon and Rev Reuben talked to the Junior Church children and teachers during their Junior Church session. During the Pot Luck meal Rev Rueben gave us a presentation on the Diocese of Kigezi Water project.

Recently, on 8 March 2015, we had our yearly 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 the CMS (Church Mission Society). The charity banners were carried in by the children and hung up in the church. We were privileged to have a guest speaker from CMS, Bishop Henry Scriven, CMS Mission Director for South America and he gave the sermon. The confirmation class under Tricia's guidance presented the intercessions. The service was followed by a well-attended Pot Luck meal with a happy time of fellowship and sharing. During the Pot Luck meal Bishop Henry gave us a talk about the work of our new CMS Missions partners in North Argentina, Andrew and Maria Leake and launched our new church support for them. We also had a display of information about our charities in the church hall.



The Charity & Missions team was also happy that the dream of one of our Youth Group members, Ruby Wildhaber came true and she was able to go on a special trip to Tansania with Raleigh International Charity program, leaving in early October. It was special to see how she was supported by the Youth Group with their regular bake sales at coffee time.

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

INFORMATION ABOUT ST URSULA'S CHURCH

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

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

The hall and the house were added in 1959 and then extended (thanks to a windfall grant from the Canton of Berne) in 1992. An English Missionary Society, the USPG, helped to support the church from its earliest days. Since 1977, however, the chaplaincy has been fully self-supporting, relying solely on its members and well-wishers for its financial support.

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

Current Members of the Church Council

Churchwardens:

Archana Jacob: 031 859 6412

Maxine Wildhaber: 076 349 4042

Lay Members:

Tricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

John Eze 079 489 58 46

Donna Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

Isabelle Wienand 079 864 0383

Edi Wildhaber 079 460 61 15

