

St Ursula's Church Berne



Annual Reports for 2020

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

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

St Ursula's Church

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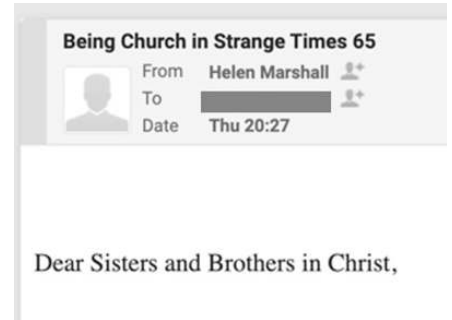
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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

We have now been living with the Corona virus for more than a year. Few of us realised when the first lockdown began last March that we would still be so affected by the pandemic a year on, with so many activities banned or curtailed. We have all been affected in many, and often different, ways, in our individual family and work situations, but it has also affected us as a church community.

We can see from the reports of the different groups and activities of the church that many activities have cancelled or postponed. Others have been continued in new and creative ways. Thank you to all leaders of different aspects of church life: even when activities have had to be cancelled I know you have done your best to maintain relationships and a sense of connection. We have endeavoured to continue to 'be church in strange times'.



Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

Opening Hymn: AM 131: Love divine, all loves excelling



Our worship has continued in a different way, with all our services available online even when we have been able to hold services in church for restricted numbers. We may not be aware just how much time and effort has been put into organising these online services. We are all hugely thankful to Hector, Martin and Art for their skill, effort, patience and commitment. The service has been very greatly appreciated and a lifeline for many. Thank you to our readers and intercessors, who have had to record their readings and intercessions in addition to reading them in church. Many of us, myself included, have had to learn new skills!

Alongside the online services, we have been able to hold services in church, at least for some periods during this last year. Despite the many (and often changing) restrictions, it has been good to be able to meet to worship together. Organising these services has been quite a challenge and I am very grateful for the support of Maria in the office; for her cheerfulness, calm and efficiency. It has certainly not been the easiest first year for her in this post, but she has risen to the challenge with great grace.

Although some things have had to stop during this year, many things have continued, albeit differently. The church council has of course continued to meet, although all meetings have been via Zoom. I am very grateful to members of council for their patience and support, as we have often had to make difficult decisions in challenging conditions. Thank you especially to Johannes who took on the role of council secretary in September and has worked hard, and graciously, to learn all the responsibilities of that post.

I want to say a special thank you to my two churchwardens, Martin Browne and Sue Higson, who have worked tirelessly to support the work of the church and also to support me personally. I am very thankful for their positive attitude, loyalty and commitment. I also want particularly to thank Sue for the huge amount of work involved in being treasurer as well as churchwarden! She does the work of treasurer with energy, cheerfulness and thoughtfulness. I am also grateful to Ruby who has taken on the role of assistant treasurer over these last six months.

Thank you to members of TCom who work behind the scenes on our buildings and technical issues, and for the gardening team who have done a huge amount of work on our church grounds (and Church House garden) this year, even during the lockdown. Thank you to our magazine team who have continued to produce the magazine faithfully during these difficult times, when it has, perhaps, been even more significant to many people. Thank you to Cecily and Maxine, our safeguarding officers, for their hard work in this area of church life and for their reminder that we all need to be involved in making sure we offer a safe, welcoming church environment for all people, including children and vulnerable adults.

Other activities have continued in different ways and some of them have in fact grown and developed, including the Bible Study group, the Men's group, the Lectio Divina group, and the Thun congregation. Please see my Worship, Study and Prayer Report for a full account of these activities.

We have tried over this last year to emphasise the link between faith and everyday life, following the Everyday Faith project in the Archdeaconry. In council meetings, the Men's group, the Sunday coffee time, and the Thun group, there have been opportunities to get to know more about one another's life and faith, through interviews, and the sharing of testimonies. I hope this will continue to grow and develop.

Some new things have happened this year. We have had three Prayer and Fasting Days, in Advent, in Lent and in Holy Week, with a group committing themselves to fast and pray for their own growth in faith, for the life of the church, and the needs of the world. I know that for some people the very restrictions of this last year have offered more time for prayer and spiritual reflection and they have valued this time as one of deepening faith and growth.

Of course, for others it has been extremely difficult, and many people have suffered through isolation, loneliness and stress. Visiting has not always been possible, but I am grateful for the many people in the church who have offered pastoral care and support to others through phone calls, emails and committed prayer. Thank you especially to the members of the pastoral care team. I have spent a lot of time on the phone, and praying on the phone has become an



important new ministry! The sense of connectedness, care and community has certainly not been lost even while we have been unable to meet in person. I have developed deeper relationships with some people through this time and my weekly email messages are received by more and more people, including those beyond our church community.

Alongside prayer, study, pastoral care and concern, our social and fundraising events have continued in new and creative ways. I want to thank the events team for all their tremendous hard work and commitment in putting on the Autumn Sale, the Christmas Bazaar and Spring Sale online. I know how much these events have been appreciated by church members and the wider community.

A particular concern this year has been how we maintain and develop our ministry with families and children. This has been a challenge as we have not been able to hold our Junior Church and Crèche or to have interactive children's activities as part of our Sunday services as we would usually do. We have tried to find other ways to keep our connections with families. I want to thank Tricia, Ruby, Marc and Kathy for their hard work, time and effort in putting together the wonderful Nativity Service which involved so many children and families. A similar online Easter Service is currently being prepared. I have recently started a short, monthly online Family Service which includes prayers, songs and a talk or activity for the children and enables the families to 'see' each other and stay connected.

The confirmation service planned for last June sadly had to be postponed but the young people have continued to meet (usually via Zoom) from time to time. Currently we are planning the baptism of Delali, Joana and Edem-David Agoba, which will be a joyful occasion for the whole church family.

Despite all the restrictions and challenges facing ordinary church life, we have also sought to look outwards during this last year. Support for charities and the Passantenhilfe has continued. We were privileged to listen to Manuel Sager talk after church about justice and environmental issues in his talk: 'The best of times, or the worst of times? How can we tell, and how can we make the difference?'. We also welcomed Sarah French from the Christian environmental charity A Rocha to lead an online seminar. The church engaged with the RVI (Responsible Businesses Initiative), and while this led to some heated discussion, it also prompted us to think about how we fulfil our call, as Christians, to be involved in caring for the environment and the needs of the most vulnerable in our world.

So I am very thankful to all those who have helped maintain and develop our church life during this difficult year. Thank you especially to David, Archana and James for all they have contributed in preaching, teaching and pastoral care. We are very blessed to have such a gifted team of people involved in the ministry of our church! Thank you also to Peter Hawker for his wisdom and constant prayerful support. I am aware that dealing with a continually changing situation and

regularly having to adapt to new regulations has been very exhausting for all of us and that many people are very weary. This long and unforeseen trial has demanded, and continues to demand, a new depth of faith, a new resilience, patience, imagination, care and sense of community from us all.

As we now look ahead to this coming year, I hope that we will soon be able to increase the numbers of people attending services and that we can celebrate the Eucharist again with all ages in a full church. As restrictions are slowly lifted, we look forward to resuming many of our church activities and developing new ones.

My priorities for this year are to renew and develop our work with families and children. It will be wonderful to be able to welcome the children back into our Sunday services and hopefully to develop new initiatives with our families. I am aware that several babies have been born over this year and I look forward to welcoming them into our church family through baptism.

Bible study, prayer and fellowship remain a priority and I hope that, in due course, we may be able to put together a new programme of study, reflection and prayer on Sunday mornings after our services.

I hope that the church will be able to consider more fully the Anglican Communion's five Marks of Mission and find practical ways to live out more faithfully these Marks of Mission at St Ursula's:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.



At some point over the next few months, we are asked to follow a Church of England course called 'Living in Love and Faith' which looks at themes of sexuality, identity, relationships, and marriage from a Christian point of view. I know there are likely to be different opinions among us on these issues, so please pray for humility, grace, patience as we discuss these things and seek to discern what it means to live as faithful Christian disciples today.

So we look back with thankfulness and we look ahead with trust, remembering that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews 13 .8) As his people, and in his company, we look to the future with hope, praying that we will learn together more about his love and life and share that love and life with the wider community.

Revd Helen Marshal

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND STUDY

Worship, Prayer and Study have remained central priorities over this past year but they have had to be done differently! I am very thankful to all those who have enabled this to happen.

Worship in Strange Times

- Before Lockdown: We began 2020 with our regular pattern of services. But with the increase of Covid cases, numbers of people attending services began to fall in February, and by March 21st the church was closed for in person services.
- Online Services: From that point onwards until today, we have put all our services online. This has been a huge amount of work and we are especially grateful to Hector, Art and Martin. Lay involvement in reading and leading intercessions has continued with people recording their readings or prayers.
- Easter and Christmas services: Sadly these were held online only, but we managed to keep to our usual pattern of services, sometimes in very creative ways e.g., the Nativity Service and Ecumenical Carol Service (see details below).
- Services reaching beyond our community: Others from beyond our community (sometimes in other parts of the world) have been joining in our online services, and we have, on occasion, welcomed other church communities to particular services: e.g., St Andrew's Zurich. The ecumenical carol service was produced together with Bruder Klaus Roman Catholic Church.
- Services in church: From 21st June - 25th October, we held services in church with our Schutzkonzept in place. Seats had to be booked in advance. Up to 40 people were able to attend these services. (A big thank you to Maria for organising this.) It was a joy to be able to celebrate communion together and (at times) to be able to sing quietly! It is very good again to be back in church and we hope that we will soon be able to increase the numbers.
- Children and Families: Welcoming and involving our families and children in worship has been challenging this year as Junior Church and Crèche have not operated most of the time and we have not been able to have children moving freely round the church. However, many people worked hard to produce the online Nativity Service which involved 28 children and 25 adults and was greatly appreciated by many. A huge thank you to Tricia, Kathy and Marc for their hard work. Children were also involved in drawing pictures for our online Mission Sunday Service. We are now starting online Family Services (via Zoom) once a month so that families and children can see each other.
- Thun Services with a difference: These have continued, in person when possible, and online, via Zoom, when not. The numbers attending these services has kept up and even increased. We have adapted the format to allow for more personal sharing of our faith and our concerns. Holding services online has also

enabled one of our members who has recently moved to New York to continue worshipping with us!

- Diocesan Services: There have been several online Diocesan services during this strange year and several people from the congregation have enjoyed attending these.

Prayer in Strange Times



- Lectio Divina: A group has continued to meet on Thursday mornings to meditate on a short passage of Scripture and use it for prayer. This has been successfully held via Zoom and the number of people attending has generally been higher than when held in person. Many people have said just how significant this time has been in providing spiritual nourishment and strength during these hard times. It has also provided an important opportunity for mutual encouragement.

- Prayer and Fasting Days: In Advent, we had our first Prayer and Fasting Day with 9 participants meeting on Zoom three times a day for brief prayers and sharing together. I provided readings and prayers for people to use at home. This was greatly appreciated and we had another such day on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday. Several people who were unable to fast still used the material for prayer.

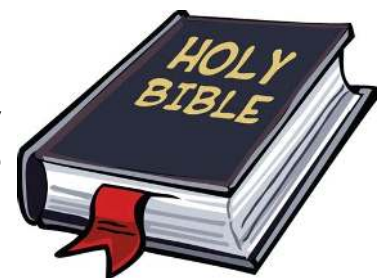
- Intercessions in church or online: I am very thankful for those who have led the intercessions in church and recorded them for online services. The intercessions are always very thoughtfully prepared and encourage us to respond prayerfully to the scripture readings and to pray for the church, the world, and those in need.

- Prayer on the Phone: I have never prayed on the phone so much as in this last year! When visiting has been difficult, praying on the phone or sending prayers by email has been a means of spiritual and pastoral support.

Study in Strange Times

- Lent Course: Last Lent, we ran four sessions studying the Psalms. These began in person and then continued via Zoom. This Lent we are running five sessions, studying five Old Testament prophets.

- Bible Studies: A pattern of regular Bible studies has developed over this last year, meeting twice a month (via Zoom). This involves input from either myself, David or James, followed by discussion over what the scripture passage has to say to us as individuals and us as a church. We have had several studies on one of the Sunday readings; a series of studies on Paul's letter to the Philippians; a



study on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4), and with Mary and Martha (Luke 10), and now we are studying five prophets. The numbers attending these sessions has ranged from 14 - 28, which is a greater number than had attended such studies in person. I have been very encouraged by the level of commitment and engagement.

- Men's Bible Study: This group has continued to meet either in person or via Zoom, twice a month. The meetings usually include a Bible Study, an interview with one of the members, and a general sharing of concerns. The group has been a source of fellowship and encouragement for many. A big thank you to David and James who have led the group and Dominic for helping to organise it.
- Other Talks and Studies: Manuel Sager gave a very interesting talk entitled 'The best of times or the worst of times? How can we tell and how can we make the difference?' This was held in person in church (with social distancing!). Some of the other talks we had planned with outside speakers had to be postponed. However, a good number of us met with Sarah French (from A Rocha, a Christian environmental charity), via Zoom, for a very thought provoking presentation on climate change and care for the environment. We hope to be able to invite more speakers and run more studies in the church this coming year.

I am very thankful to Archana, David, James and others, for their contributions to these areas of our church life.

Revd Helen Marshall

THUN SERVICES & CONGREGATION

Our services are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Chapelle Romande on Frutigenstrasse, which is conveniently situated for the station and the town centre. After our services we often enjoy a time of fellowship together in a nearby restaurant.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, we had to move our services to Zoom for a large part of 2020, but they have been well attended and we have been able to offer one another support in this difficult time.

Our congregation is also active in the bazaars, book sales, pub/afternoon quizzes, gardening group etc at St Ursula's.

Sadly, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we were unable to hold our annual Christmas Carol Service and fellowship buffet in December 2020.

We hope that things can soon once more be held in the chapel.

Rachel Huguenin

CHURCH COUNCIL

1. Report from March 2020 - September 2020 (by Donna Goepfert)



As will surely be the case with all the other AGM reports, this report reflects a year influenced by Covid 19. The Chaplain Helen Marshall, Church Warden Martin Browne and council attempted to be flexible and creative in decision making, adhere to Swiss and Anglican directives and encourage the

life of the church while eventually learning to worship together in virtual times.

The normal council term is one year, but at the expected time of meeting in March of 2020 it was clear that we could not hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) then and therefore not hold elections. Indeed, the meeting was postponed until September. That meant council members and our Warden had unexpectedly long terms of service.

There were seven council meetings from March to September 2020 when the new council took over. Our new Administrator, Maria Avdikou, had only begun work in February 2020 and was challenged in adjusting to unusual and constantly changing demands. We had to be flexible in planning, never knowing if church and activities/events could be carried out and if so, in what form. Council supported our Chaplain in all decisions, spent time discussing pastoral support, Junior Church, finances and many more issues. Council encouraged putting together online services.

For the times when we could meet live in church, council had to formulate plans for distanced, reserved seating, giving of Communion, singing or lack of, mask wearing, Sidespersons and other issues. Council also prepared an online survey for church goers asking if and under what conditions they would be willing to return to live services when they were permitted.

Synod meetings were cancelled as was the use of the premises by external groups. Safeguarding training was partly done by Zoom. All these things were discussed and decided by council.

Finally, in September 2020 we held our AGM. A new council was elected and Johannes Hewel agreed to be the new council secretary. Therefore, his council report from September 2020 until March 2021 follows mine here.

2. Report from October 2020 - February 2021 (by Johannes Hewel)

From October 2020 to February 2021 there were four more council meetings held via Zoom. The new technology was working out quite well for all council members. However, the personal interaction was missed by everyone. Many council meetings now include opportunities for members to share in twos or threes something about their faith with each other. Discussions have also included concerns like the KVI (“Konzernverantwortungsinitiative 2020”) and the Everyday Faith project, as well as how to maintain and develop the ministry and mission of the church in these strange times. The different sub-groups of the council report back at every meeting.

During the pandemic, Christmas time was especially challenging for everyone in church. The council made the difficult decision not to hold services in church over Christmas. To ease the strange times of distance during the pandemic, the council agreed to take Christmas cards and cakes to members of the congregation. The council thanked all volunteers for distributing the Christmas cheer to the congregation.

For me, as a new council member and new council secretary it was a remarkable experience to witness such dedication, thoughtfulness, care and love for each other and the spiritual life of the church, even during strange time of keeping distance. In addition, it was for me a learning experience for the new duties of the secretary to take accurate notes. I have gotten tremendous help from everyone through feedbacks and suggestions.



I am deeply thankful for all the patience and help I received from everyone in the council and the church, especially I am thankful for the help from Patricia Carrick and Helen Marshall to proofread and correct my council minutes so carefully.

This report covers only a small portion of the council’s work. If you have questions or suggestions of things council could consider, please speak to a council member. Their names are listed in the back of the church magazine.

First part of report written by Donna Goepfert, second part written by Johannes Hewel, Council Secretary

CHURCHWARDEN

The year 2020 has been a very strange time for all members of our Church. The first case of Corona virus infected person was recorded in Canton Ticino in February of 2020, after which the virus spread very quickly. St Ursula's was closed for the first lockdown in mid-March. From that point on we held online services, which were designed and developed by Hector Davie, who was supported by Art Funkhouser and belatedly by the Churchwarden. These online services continue.

The church was reopened in mid-June with a 'Schutzkonzept'. We had to remove all our upholstered chairs, replacing them with metal chairs with easily cleanable plastic seats and backrests, spaced 2 metres apart. This reduced the numbers of places in the Church to approximately 40 seats. People had to book seats in advance.



We also had the windows and doors open back and front to ventilate the main area. This measure was stipulated by the Federal Office for Public Health, affecting the need for warm clothing in cold periods.

The church was kept open for services with up to 40/45 people until 25 October when, unfortunately the church was closed again. Online services continued throughout the whole period.

All council meetings were held on Zoom, as well as most Churchwarden meetings. Another setback was the postponement of our AGM which was held on the 13th of September, following all the guidelines of our Schutzkonzept. One positive point during the meeting was the acceptance of a new and second Churchwarden, Susan Higson. Welcome Sue!



Very little else happened in church due to the sporadic nature of our attended services. But a large number of online meetings, discussions and Bible Studies continued. One bright interlude was the Online Christmas Bazaar which offered Christmas decorations and pre-cooked Christmas dinners, which were well thought-out and could be deep frozen until the day of placing in the oven. In the writer's opinion it was very successful and tastefully arranged. And as Churchwarden, I would thank those people for their hard work and care. Thank you very much indeed!

Martin Browne, Churchwarden

GARDEN

The Gardening Team spent many happy hard working hours together, (a blessing in the first year of the Covid Pandemic) maintaining the hedges, lawn and gravel. A number of dead and forgotten tree/shrub roots were removed as well as all the old wood, iron, grills and general heavy rubbish which had been banished to the Car Park Area. Invasive plants were removed and then two trucks loaded with fresh earth were dug into the garden. Subsequently, new (mostly) indigenous plants were planted and a Watering Team cared for them throughout the long hot summer.



The patio area/pathways were tidied and cleaned and two new benches were purchased for the stone table. In Autumn, two brand new metal benches arrived, and many types of Spring bulbs were planted. Our many leaves are now composted tidily behind the car park.

The team gardens together as and when required and everyone is welcome to join us. We are blessed with our large Church Community Garden, offering a number of 'social distanced' areas for contemplation, meditation and prayer throughout.



Alison Beindorff

JUNIOR CHURCH



Teachers

2020 was a challenging year for all of us. An incredible big THANK YOU to all the Junior Church Teachers. Without all of you, we would not have been able to go on so well. Further, I want to thank John Hutchinson, Sharon Batley and Françoise Hängi for being a part of the Junior Church for such a long time. We wish you all the best and hope, if God desires, to welcome you back to our team in the future. A warm welcome to Isabelle Wienand, who has been already a great asset to our team. To Mary Lou and Richard Gugelmann, a great thank you for the tremendous support in every way.

If you have a big heart for our Youth, some spare time and the drive to teach, we are looking for you. Our team is looking to grow in faith and number. Please contact Rev. Helen Marshall or any JC teacher for further information.

Junior Church Resources

‘ROOTS’ gives us the material we, teachers, can use for our Junior Church classes and create a structure during the year. These ecumenical and lectionary-based resources are produced by a Christian charitable company and give us excellent teaching input.

During the lockdown, these materials were available to all parents to use at home and encourage their children to continue to grow in faith: www.rootsontheweb.com.



Charity

For several years our Junior Church supports Tear Fund Charity with its weekly collections and the events they organize throughout the year. During our readings and projects, we incorporate this Charity and learn more about what they do. From a very young age, children learn to help and be thankful for what they have.

Classes

During our usual 10.00 Service, we enjoy joining the congregation at the beginning and the end of the Service. We like to gather, pray and be sent out for the week altogether.

Before going out to Junior Church classes, the young ones enjoy the short introduction to the topic, which they will learn in their classes by either Rev. Helen or by our Reader Archana.

In 2020 we had to make a few changes; Junior Church classes met directly outside and did not join the Sunday Service. As soon as the lockdown started, we were not able to meet in person anymore.

We tried to keep in touch with everyone and thanks to the excellent organization of ROOTS, we could send out to all the parents information to help their children with the Sunday teachings.

The Confirmation Class met via Zoom, led by Rev. Helen Marshall and Tricia Carrick. Unfortunately, the Confirmation day is postponed due to Covid19 and its regulations.

Nativity Play

Our 2020 Nativity Play was unique. Tricia Carrick wrote the Nativity Play, as she does most of the time, but this year it was to be produced online; we had an online play.

The young kids were asked to draw pictures for our video. At the same time, the Youth was invited to read the Story and record it. With both drawings and storytelling, and the Patton family's generous help, we could



present a fascinating project to our congregation. The Patton family played a part in the music and sung too.



A BIG THANK YOU to them and to all who helped organize and create such a unique experience. For everyone who has not seen the video or would like to see it again, you can watch it under: www.stursula.ch/albums.html.

Don't miss an event!

The Junior Church Team tries their best to organize throughout the whole year different events for the Youth and their families. For 2021 there are already Projects planned. We are looking forward to them. So, don't miss an event! Please read our magazine, see the weekly Notices or talk to an active Junior Church teacher.

Ruby Wildhaber

CRÈCHE

There are a couple of children in the age for Crèche. They are the age group for whom it was least feasible to create an alternative way to connect during the pandemic. We look forward to when they can come back to the church building again.

Dominic Roser, Crèche coordinator

NATIVITY SERVICE

Our Nativity Service last year took place virtually on 13 December. Unfortunately, we couldn't meet in church, so we had to come up with a different idea. This service included readings and pictures from around 28 children (which means about 60 people if you count their parents and other adults who contributed).



The recording was put together by Kathy, Marc and Jillian - many thanks to them. It is very special, so if you haven't seen it yet do go and have a look (<http://www.stursula.ch/Services/20201213.html>).

It was a simple account of the birth of Jesus - starting with creation and ending with the birth of Christ. It included the traditional carols and readings, some recorded by the children. And illustrated with drawings they prepared. Many people were involved in the preparation. I hope it will remain in many people's memories for a long time. But I also hope and pray we can celebrate in church the next time.

Tricia Carrick

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 new youth confirmation course started in February 2019. We had hoped to hold the confirmation in June 2020, but because of the current situation this has been postponed indefinitely.

This year we were able to meet in the church hall a couple of times in the summer. But since then we have been meeting via Zoom, which is not ideal. However, we have benefited from some church members who were able to join us and tell us something about their Christian life.

The group appreciate the support of the whole church family in prayer and in encouragement.

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

Tricia Carrick

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Aim: We at St Ursula's are committed to:

- The care and nurture of a 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 that provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.



Our council has to certify each year to the Diocese of Europe that we are following the Diocesan safeguarding policy.

We are pleased to report that in the past year there have been no serious incidents requiring action. Of course, Covid 19 restrictions have meant that for many weeks we had no Junior Church and services were replaced by online services.

Maxine Wildhaber is Assistant Safeguarding Officer. Cecily Klingler really appreciates having Maxine as a right hand in safeguarding matters. St Ursula's can also be proud that Maxine is also one of the Archdeaconry Safeguarding Trainers.

The Diocesan Chaplaincy Past Case Review was completed at the beginning of the year.

Full safeguarding checks are required for all those working with children and young people or vulnerable adults (pastoral care team) at our church and need to be reviewed every 5 years.

A wider group of people in our church, i.e. those who are in a visible position in their role during the Sunday worship, e.g. sidespersons, readers, intercessors, servers etc. also need to undergo a more basic form of a safeguarding check.

Safeguarding training days by our Archdeaconry Safeguarding Trainers no longer take place and are replaced by online or virtual video training sessions.

Diocese in Europe Training Pathway

Basic Awareness - C0 Online Course: This course is recommended for anyone who wants to achieve a basic level of awareness of safeguarding.

Foundation Course - C1 Online Course: The Foundation Course is required for everyone who has safeguarding responsibilities, or if the church role requires contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.

Leadership Course - C2 Virtual training: The virtual C2 training course is required for anyone who has safeguarding leadership responsibilities or is responsible for leading activities involving children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.

Risk assessments should be completed for all church meetings and events at St Ursula's. This is part of ensuring that our church is a safe place for all at all times.

All hall users must also agree to following our safeguarding policies unless they can show that they have their own adequate safeguarding policies in place. This is not such an easy matter to achieve but we are working on this.

A link to safeguarding is found on the front page of our St Ursula's website with further links to relevant information. As well, safeguarding documents can be found on the Diocese of Europe website: www.europe.anglican.org under the heading of Diocesan Policy and Guidance/Safeguarding. A revised Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Guidance was released in October 2019, aligned with the National Safeguarding Team's Parish Safeguarding Handbook, and adapted and expanded to suit the requirements of our international diocese. Our St Ursula's Safeguarding policy is displayed on the noticeboard in the church hall.

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 to the Chaplain or the Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding. Such matters are always kept strictly confidential.

Finally, looking forward to a return to having regular normal church services including Junior Church and the Crèche, a reminder to all parents that they are responsible for supervising their children once the Junior Church and Crèche sessions have ended.

Cecily Klingler, St Ursula's Safeguarding Officer

Tel: 031 3024859 or 076 4254859, email: safeguarding@stursula.ch

TREASURER'S REPORT

We will all remember 2020 as the year that changed everything. Covid19 turned all our plans on their heads, and had a big impact on our Church life. The closure of our premises back in March had a financial impact as well as the spiritual impact. We lost income from collections and from renting out our premises. However, the flip side of less hall rental, was lower heating costs, less cleaning and lower repair costs. It also meant that we were able to allow the Kita to use our lower hall throughout September, which helped them in their need and forced us to clean up and move out all the chairs that had been stored downstairs.



Our deficit in collection income was covered by the generosity of our members. Our income from events was down, but as the costs generally were lower this meant we received just enough to cover our needs.

Our overall result is a plus in the charitable association and also in the Church. We were very fortunate to receive some legacy income, and with the lowered costs we felt so blessed that council made the decision to give some of the extra income from the Church to Tear Fund who normally would receive the Junior Church collection funds, as well as the Harvest collection and Auction proceeds. We covered the shortfall so that their projects would not be impacted, and we also gave a small amount to the Diocese Hardship Fund to help out those chaplaincies not as fortunate as us. And we are very fortunate at St Ursula's. We have Helen as our chaplain, with the added bonus of David as an extra resource. We became very creative in the year with our online services, online sales, online bible studies, quizzes and coffee mornings. Council meetings moved to Zoom which became our best friend, and many of our members surprised themselves by mastering it. Even the nativity play was online, and the plus is that it is something we can watch again and again.

We will be able to transfer Fr 20,000 to the building fund again from the results in the Association for 2020. This allows us to start considering other projects, for example painting the downstairs hall and making it more youth friendly, or renovating the kitchen which would benefit us for events and hospitality and improve the experience for those who rent our premises.

The forced downtime during the lockdowns gave me more time for prayer and spirituality and I feel that my Faith has strengthened a lot in the last year. I became warden at the AGM that we managed to fit in-between lockdowns, and I am grateful to Ruby for stepping up to be assistant Treasurer. This allows me a little bit more time, although as I took a new job also in 2020, time is something that I find I need to use carefully.

Nevertheless, I believe that the last year has shown us that we can rise to meet challenges, and learn new things no matter our age. It also proved once again to

me that our community is strong, and the needs of the Church will always be met.

The accounts are available on the website to download as well as in the hall. Many thanks to the auditors Beat and Diane for their time, as well as to all who have contributed to the result in the last year, in all ways.

The Budget 2021 is based on several assumptions which include a return to church sooner rather than later, as well as an increase in our expenditure for outreach and charitable activities as we focus on what we can do more as a church under the five Marks of Mission. I have split the budget to show the Church and Association separately. The Association has only the expenses related to the upkeep of the building as well as giving to Charity. The Church has the rest, but does not receive enough income to cover them all. Therefore I am forecasting a deficit of around 8k for the Church and an excess of around 24k, excluding any transfers to the building fund, for the Association. There might be a legacy or some other unexpected income for the Church, and it might be possible to transfer some funds from the Association to cover pastoral work of a charitable nature. If Covid restrictions continue, then the impact on our collections, events and rental income might mean that the deficit on the Church side is higher than budgeted.

Whatever happens I remain confident that God will provide for our needs and that our Church will continue to grow and thrive in the next years.

Susan Higson, April 2021

Report 31.12.2020
St Ursula's Church and Association

Balance sheet as at 31.12.2020		Church	Association	Total	Church	Association
CHF	note	31.12.2020	31.12.2020	31.12.2020	31.12.2019	31.12.2019
Assets						
Cash and Bank						
Current accounts + Petty cash						
CH		28,431.02	12,243.04	40,674.06	30,351	8,844
UK		20,209.11		20,209.11	18,377	
Deposit accounts						
CH		114,000.00	100,000.00	214,000.00	110,501	90,000
Total Cash and Bank		162,640.13	112,243.04	274,883.17	159,229	98,844
Stocks on hand	B1	872.35	-	872.35	1,333	-
debtors and monies due	B2	-	14,449.00	14,449.00	1,731	-
Total other assets		872.35	14,449.00	15,321.35	3,064	-
Fixed assets	B3	-	3,161.59	3,161.59	-	1,432
Prepayments & deferred expense		1,246.41	1,003.00	2,249.41	74	1,080
Pension assets		118.90		118.90	119	
total Assets		164,877.79	130,856.63	295,734.42	162,339	101,356
current liabilities						
creditors		- 8,180.73	- 5,397.35	- 13,578.08	- 5,991	- 1,708
collections to be paid out	B4	- 694.95	-	- 694.95	- 5,853	-
due within 1 month		- 8,875.68	- 5,397.35	- 14,273.03	- 11,844	- 1,708
owed between the Church and Association		- 800.00	800.00	-	2,422	- 2,242
provisions incl charity	B5	- 7,278.93	- 8,465.00	- 15,743.93	- 435	- 9,970
funds held for others	B6	- 1,512.70	-	- 1,512.70	- 3,357	- 2,355
excess of assets over liabilities		146,410.48	117,794.28	264,204.76	149,124	84,901
Capital reserves before allocations						
Contingency reserve		- 117,260.07	- 10,453.34	- 127,713.41	- 116,759	- 12,183
Ministry Training Fund	B7	- 12,385.34	-	- 12,385.34	- 15,992	-
Building and Development Fund		- 15,000.00	- 71,286.44	- 86,286.44	- 15,000	- 71,286
non liquid capital	B8	- 872.35	- 3,161.59	- 4,033.94	- 1,373	- 1,432
		- 145,517.76	- 84,901.37	- 230,419.13	- 149,124	- 84,901
<i>result not yet allocated (- is excess)</i>		-925.92	-23,653.38	-24,579.3		
<i>extraordinary net not yet allocated</i>		33.20	-9,239.53	-9,206.33		-
net worth		- 146,410.48	- 117,794.28	- 264,204.76		
Allocation proposal, minus is increase in reserve						
Building fund		-892.72	-32,892.91			
contingency reserve			-20,000.00			
		-892.72	-12,892.91			

FINANCIAL REPORT

St Ursula's Church/St Ursula's Charitable Association

INCOME	note	current	Prior year	Budget 20
Income from Community	1	175,075	175,253	167,750
<i>Pledged giving</i>		134,825	135,250	133,000
<i>Donations</i>		28,819	21,818	21,000
<i>Collections</i>		11,431	18,185	13,750
Income from events (2020 before food cost)	2	27,736	33,662	25,000
Income from other sources	3	18,970	24,888	20,500
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>		18,014	24,548	20,000
<i>Other</i>		956	340	500
Donations for charitable use	4	1,290	4,199	
Legacy	4	12,413	3,000	
Income from Thun		2,110	1,348	1,120
Permanent activities income	5	6,302	7,490	6,550
<i>Magazine</i>		5,825	3,996	4,000
<i>Books and Cards</i>		64	895	450
<i>Coffee</i>		381	2,305	1,920
<i>Other</i>		32	294	180
Financial income		153	265	240
Forex		171		-
TOTAL		244,219	250,106	221,160
DEFICIT		-	-	2,780
EXTRAORDINARY Income		23,379	334	12,000
Eco garden appeal		6,453		
defibrillator appeal		2,477		2,000
Building appeal		14,449	334	10,000

The notes to the accounts are available from the treasurer upon request.

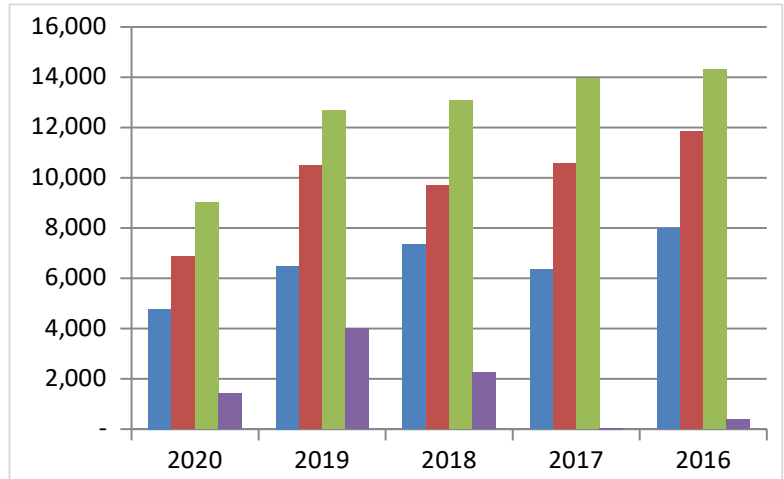
31.12.2020

EXPENDITURE	note	current	Prior year	Budget 20
Personnel-related costs		130,785	126,595	138,300
Stipends and remunerations		94,155	81,541	99,000
Travelling expenses		2,819	5,255	6,300
Other personnel costs		33,811	39,799	33,000
Running costs		35,661	53,675	41,620
<i>Premises</i>	6	27,378	45,792	34,000
<i>Office</i>		1,033	659	900
<i>Telephone and Internet</i>		872	1,106	800
<i>Insurance</i>		2,309	1,800	2,310
<i>Property tax</i>		1,607	1,607	1,610
<i>Vestry</i>	8	1,785	1,148	1,000
<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>		164	1,035	500
<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>		512	530	500
Youth and Junior Church		123	460	500
Cost of food sold	2	5,657	-	-
Permanent activities expense	5	2,549	3,575	3,580
<i>Magazine</i>		2,378	2,795	2,800
<i>Books and cards</i>		5	230	200
<i>Coffee</i>		167	472	400
<i>Other</i>		-	77	180
Diocese/Deanery		18,215	19,053	18,500
Charity incl allocations	9	26,287	26,199	21,000
Financial Expense		364	403	440
Forex loss			101	
TOTAL		219,640	230,063	223,940
excess	10	24,579	20,043	-
Extraordinary Expense		14,173	3,491	19,000
eco garden		5,484		5,000
defibrillator		3,953		4,000
Building Expenditure		4,736		10,000

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Our events are very important in our church year, as they bring in new people, provide fellowship for our current members and raise vital funds for our Church. 2020 was of course very special as we could only have some events physically, with strict precautions like mask wearing and disinfectant, and then some events were purely online. We learnt a lot on the way, especially about how to run an event where the goods are collected in timed slots. We also raised Fr 22,079 for church funds.

Income from Events	CHF
Book Sales	4,772
Bazaar	6,871
Food Stall	9,026
Other events	<u>1,410</u>
Total	<u><u>22,079</u></u>



The chart above shows how 2020 was impacted by Covid, but still made a positive difference to our life in this time. The blue line is Book Sales, the red is Bazaar, the purple Other events and the green is Sale of Food. Sales of second hand books was the hardest hit, as we had to restrict numbers downstairs and when we had virtual sales, then it was difficult to sell books as well. However, our book team is dedicated and the bookcases were sorted and out for several weeks at a time in order to help people get their books and for us to make over Fr 4,000 from books alone.

We were able to have our March sales physically when we used bands to restrict the flow of people in each area, and all had to wear masks. Everyone complied and it was a good event.

The Summer Fête was online and was our first try at offering meals to collect with pies from Jana and chilli and shepherd's pie from Sharon. Our team of talented bakers produced lots of super cakes, which we also sold at following Sundays. We kept the food stall open through July for Sunday browsing.

Our September event was a mix of pre-ordering to mitigate the rush, and a physical sale when we were able to use the garden



which the eco garden team had been working on all year. It was a fantastic day, much enjoyed by all.

The Christmas Bazaar was really well supported as so many people could not go back to the UK, and Lynn was rushed off her feet preparing Christmas dinners to go. There was so much creativity this year. Our Patchwork team spent hundreds of hours making masks that are not only beautiful but also effective, having been extensively researched.



Georgina mastered the art of making crumpets when we could no longer get them from the UK. Jackie made over a 100 mince pies, which were very well received, and our wreath team produced fresh wreaths and also we had glass decorations as a new twist on the original. Jana and Jane produced and iced over 70 Christmas cakes, which all sold. Unfortunately the crackers did not get through.



We have a great fundraising team who all work together on our events. The food corner is very well run by Caroline, Agnes and Sue and the process has been refined so that the order process for the customer as well as the team is made easier each time. There are

regular calls and what's app messaging for the whole team.

We had to cancel our Irish night, as well as our quiz nights so instead we moved them online, they are included in the other events. Our last quiz of the year was offered for free and raised money for charity. Online quizzes are very popular and we will be doing some more of those in 2021.



Huge thanks to all who made our events possible, and all who supported them. They are a valuable source of outreach and fundraising.

Sue Higson

BOOK SALES

Second Hand English Books

Well, what a year 2020 turned out to be! Who would have thought after the successful Christmas Bazaar in November 2019 that our food and book sales from spring 2020 would turn out to be very different from anything we could ever have imagined?

Despite some reservations, we decided to proceed with the Spring Book Sale on the first weekend in March. Switzerland had not yet gone into lockdown but the mood was one of nervousness as we made plans for a book sale that would implement a series of precautionary measures that included disinfecting hands, shopping baskets, surfaces and door handles, wearing masks, social distancing, spreading out the book cases, and controlling the numbers in the downstairs hall (12!) using a system of lanyards and a person at the top of the stairs ensuring people 'waited their turn'. The sale was a success nonetheless. As Corona began to gather speed and Switzerland went into lockdown, people withdrew into their homes (and gardens/balconies) and it became clear that the Summer Fête would have to be cancelled. Then, as Switzerland emerged from the 'first wave' and began enjoying the summer (at home rather than on some exotic beach halfway across the world), we started to believe that life might be returning to normal. Autumn approached and with the R-number low we went ahead with the Autumn Sale under strict but by now familiar 'Corona-safe' measures. The euphoria was short-lived however. By late autumn when the number of infections began rising again, it was clear the Christmas Bazaar couldn't go ahead in its usual format. This time the Book Sale opened for people collecting pre-ordered food and on two further Saturdays for everyone else. However, the number of visitors remained low.

The pandemic has had a major impact on our Book Sales: not only has the number of book donations fallen noticeably, but so has our income: from Fr 6,493 in 2019 to Fr 4,772 in 2020. Also, we are no longer able to send our surplus books to Gambia for the Brusubi Community Library because shipping to Africa is no longer possible. And our book sorting sessions (8-10 times per year), which for many years have been a very enjoyable behind-the-scenes part of the sales, have all but ceased.

Throughout these difficult times, my wonderful team of helpers - Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead, Patricia Schwager, Rachel Huguenin and Alison Beindorff - have been incredibly supportive and flexible. My thanks go to them and everyone else who continues to support us. I, like most others, am looking forward to 'getting back to normal' (whatever 'normal' may look like post-Corona) and to welcoming our customers in the lower hall once again.

Allison Masciadri

BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The activity of the Technical Commission (TCom) covers the following areas:

1. Status and maintenance of building and infrastructure
2. Recurring maintenance tasks
3. Responding to support calls
4. Technical support for and during events
5. Technical evaluation for infrastructure renewals and projects
6. Organizational aspects
7. The final chapter of the energy project



Activity reporting

1. Status and maintenance of building and infrastructure

One of the TCom tasks is the supervision and maintenance of the building and infrastructure. The good message is that the building complex is in good condition, without any major deficiencies that need attention. During the energy projects new doors were installed in the lower hall and chaplain's house basement. As they didn't fit into the existing key plan, new cylinders and a 3-bolt locking mechanism in the entry door of the chaplain's house were installed. For planning purposes, a list of measures and projects is kept up to date and shared with the treasurer. It provides a medium-term overview of activities to maintain, update and improve the infrastructure and allows to prioritize projects and financial resources.

The infrastructure is basically in good repair and, except for some minor dishwasher and the refrigerator issues in the hall kitchens and a blind in the lower hall, is working as expected. Earlier in the year, council decided to purchase a defibrillator and TCom was asked to install it. The obligatory triennial inspection of fire extinguishers was due in 2020 and carried out. Additionally, operating instructions were hung up at each extinguisher.

2. Recurring maintenance tasks

Part of the early roof maintenance is the cleaning of the gutters in autumn by removing leaves, pine needles and branches. Every few years the moss needs to be removed from the roof of the northern entrance to the church. This is due again in 2022. Ahead of the heating period the heating system needs attention by purging the radiators and the garden irrigation system. In spring it needs to be made operational again.

3. Responding to support calls

TCom provides a technical support service during 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm. To assure prompt responses, TCom members take turns for support duty during a week, reachable by phone or e-mail. Contact details are posted at the notice board.

During the past year, 28 interventions were carried out to respond to reported problems. The main issues concerned the bell tower, the church IT and telephone system, failures of the electrical main supply and Internet access, blinds jamming, refrigerators, door locking and access control system, lighting, leaking toilets and water taps, faulty vacuum cleaners, garden irrigation system and others.

4. Technical support for and during events

- Technical setup and shutting down of video/sound system for Sunday services.
- Video/sound system setup and operation for archdeaconry meeting.
- Sound system setup and operation for Mostock Group event.
- Video/sound system setup and operation for funerals (2).
- Sound system setup for Tea & Quiz (2).
- Training of KITA personnel to operate lower hall room divider.
- Moving and restoring of book shelves in and out of the lower hall for book sorting and sales.

5. Technical evaluation for projects and infrastructure renewals

No activities in 2020.

6. Organizational

In 2020, TCom proposed a discussion with council to clarify its role and future.

The team consists presently of 5 members. 3 of them are in a position to provide technical support duty 7/12 (7 days per week from 8 am to 8 pm) and technical support on Sundays. As a result of personal shortages during summer 2020, the team decided that an additional member should be recruited. This was successful when Johannes Hewel joined the team at the beginning of 2021.



Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, no TCom meetings were held in 2020.

7. The final chapter of the energy project

Over 2 years we negotiated with the 'Städtische Denkmalpflege' over a subsidy. The objective was to partially compensate St. Ursula's church for the extra costs that arose as a result of complying with the regulations of the City of Bern during the energy project. The effort finally came to a good end a few weeks ago when the agreed amount of Fr 14,449 was transferred to our account.

For TCom, Hans Goepfert

MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

The challenges and changes with which our church was faced in 2020 because of Covid-19 had their effect also on rota planning. Looking at the master rotas I produced during the twelve months, I find five different versions of the format. As the services in the church were adapted or stopped, replaced or accompanied by online services, the master rota had to be changed too. The number of duties listed went from nine at the beginning of the year down to only two for recording readings and intercessions for the internet service while the church was closed from March 22 to June 21. For the rest of the year there have been four duties involved in parallel church and online services.

A special Thank You goes to the rota members willing and able to record readings and prayers, as well as to all who help put together the online services.

In June we lost our faithful helper Kathy Hoag. For many years we enjoyed her beautiful flower arrangements; in addition she was also coordinator for sidespersons and took care of church linens until the end of 2019.

To conclude, here are the basic figures: the master rota is based on a list of 37 volunteers, of which 23 were actively involved at the end of the year. (Because of age restrictions due to Covid, some members were no longer allowed to participate.) Together they supported a total of 56 services in 2020, with 44 of these online. For their loyal support rota members deserve a big THANK YOU.



New helpers are always welcome; I will be happy to explain what we do to anyone interested.

Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator

MUSIC

Like many other activities, music in services also fell victim to the Pandemic. As from mid March the services have been subject to lock-down restrictions, except for a few services with severely limited numbers in the congregation and almost no music being played and or sung (through masks). Hymns included in the On-line services on St. Ursula's website were based on material available from the Internet.

The last choral contribution by the choir was the choral Evensong on February 1st, 2020 with the traditional Magnificat (setting by Margaret Rizza), the Nunc Dimittis (set by T. Noble), the Responses (Ayleward), the Anthem (Save us O Lord by Bairstow), and finally Psalm 118 in Anglican Chant style. Afterwards the choir had to be on hold. For various reasons, choral singing by ICT means would not have been practicable. We are now hoping for more relaxed times for resuming choral singing again, as joyful singing is beneficial for body, mind and spirit.

The annual Archdeaconry Choir Festival (planned to be held in Zürich) also became victim of the Pandemic restrictions. Currently it is planned to be postponed until 2022.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

MUSIC GROUP

Well - there is really not much to report from this strange last year! Most of the information below is from the previous year and so probably only interesting to new readers.

The Music Group is now in its 15th year but could only support a few services in the last 12 months due to the Corona restrictions, forcing church closures and then some services with limited or no singing. Many thanks to Tricia for holding the fort.

Our main contributions have been to the informal Eucharist services, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month.

The music for the mostly contemporary songs, chants and hymns at our services was chosen from the "Worship Today" or "Junior Praise" song books but other sources have also often been used (e.g. Taizé, Iona, Hymns Old & New). Some of the music group members also supported the worship at the Thun Church services on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

We are happy that Manuel Sager joined us again with guitar last autumn. Additionally, Judith Eigenmann came with her accordion a couple of times (Judith runs an accordion school in Thun).

Our active members during the previous year:

Agatha - flute, Belle - 6string guitar, Eva - voice, Hans-Martin - flute, Paul - Ukelele, Peter - Clarinet, Philip - 6string guitar, Tawna - bass guitar, Tricia - piano, Tony - 12string guitar.

Many thanks to all music group members for your talents, flexibility and support.

Tony Read

CATERING

The Catering team had to be reorganised due to my departure to America, which Sue Higson managed well.

An Events Team was created, drawing on the different skills and resources available of the various people who willingly offered their time and energy: Sue, Jana, Agnes, Tricia, Jacqui, Jane and others.

The Pandemic arrived and Lockdown prevented the Spring Sale being held and the summer event was held under Covid rules.



Baked good were being offered online, which proved to be a good base to build up on as the Christmas Bazaar became a completely online event. It was very successful, not just from the monetary aspect but also to see how well it all came together. The brunt of the organisation was carried by Caroline, Agnes and Sue. Jana, Georgina and Jane provided the delicious home-baked goods. I was able to, with help from the Chef at the British Embassy, offer Turkey with trimmings.

So, it has been an interesting year and 2021 seems to be continuing in much the same way.

Though we may continue to be restricted this year, we have gained experience in all sorts of ways.

Because we did go online, I would like to emphasize that this put the kitchen space under enormous pressure and it is clear that we need to plan in the not-too distant future for changing the space to make it more user-friendly.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the Catering Events, especially in 2020 with its most particular challenges.

Lynn Morgan

PATCHWORK

An extraordinary year. From March 2020 onwards no more regular meetings, no traditional Christmas Bazaar. However, an amazing sale of patchwork items including masks via the Church's website at the 'Virtual Christmas Sale'. The result produced a welcome contribution to the finances of the Church.



The current time of the pandemic is also a time for reflection. Looking back at the many years of the patchwork group, it may be of interest to note a few highlights.

In the March 1979 Magazine I found an encouraging notice: 'Let`s start a Patchwork group, no experience necessary, only the ability to thread a needle.'

So about 8 ladies started to get busy and within a short time we had finished our first quilt, mainly made of scraps of materials. A beautiful joint effort.



The group grew and grew and the output of quilts and small items was quite considerable. Over time we staged various exhibitions, some in the Church Hall and in 1986 a big five-day event at the Wittikofenzentrum. There we had about 50 quilts on show and for sale, various stalls with small items, workshops, Ploughman`s lunches, tea and cakes, a visit from Bishop Satterthwaite (as he happened to be in Berne) and of course the Barndance. With the help of many people it was a great Church event. The display at the Patchwork Group's stall at the annual Church Bazaars regularly attracted many people; the proceeds of the sold items have always been a very welcome contribution to the Church's finances.

We have been a very mixed group of ladies, up to over 20 at one time. There was a stable core, but many came and went again, according to their situation. We helped and supported each other in many ways, laughed together and also wiped tears away - a very caring group.

Now I am the last one of the original group at St Ursula's. It is time for me to retire after 41 years. I am very grateful for many friendships started through the group's activities, and I am happy to say, I am still in touch with a number of friends at various corners of the world.

Elisabeth Pfyffer

PASTORAL CARE

I am very grateful for all the pastoral care and support that goes on within St Ursula's. I am especially grateful to Lynn, Archana and the pastoral care team.

During these Covid times things have been very challenging for many people. Members of the pastoral care team have offered regular care and support, especially to those who are most isolated, through phone calls, emails and cards. I am very grateful to Lynn for organising this.

At Christmas, several members of the pastoral team were involved in delivering Christmas cake and cards to the older members of our congregation and to those who live on their own. This was very warmly appreciated by many. A big thank you especially to Lynn and Brian, and Martin and Johannes for their time and effort in delivering the cake (in some cases to those living at a fair distance from the church).

The pastoral care team pray regularly for those in need. Thank you again to Lynn for organising this. If you would like prayer for yourself or a neighbour, please get in touch with me or Lynn. Any details given are kept confidential to the pastoral care prayer team.

We hope and pray that St Ursula's will be a welcoming and caring community and that we will support and encourage one another in our joys and sorrows. I know many people offer care and support to others on an informal basis in all kinds of ways, and I am very thankful for that. Members of the pastoral care team have been especially generous in giving of their time to keep in touch regularly with those who live on their own or who particularly value a listening ear.

Visiting is more problematic if the team members are representing the church officially, rather than simply visiting friends. For pastoral team members to visit in a more 'official' capacity, they need to have safeguarding training and have current police checks, and preferably to visit in twos. This process has been difficult in some cases. The pastoral care team needs to decide whether it remains primarily a prayer group who support people via emails and phone calls, and who visit friends, or an official group who visit on behalf of the church with all the regulations in place. These discussions are ongoing.

Some of the plans for the pastoral team have had to be put on hold due to the Covid situation and also strict safeguarding regulations:

1. Involving members from the pastoral care team and some of the regular intercessors we started offering prayer after the Sunday service once a month. This has been on, hold during Covid times but we hope to begin to offer that again soon.

2. The possibility of training up members to take communion to those who are sick will be reviewed. Anyone involved in this would be subject to the same rigorous safeguarding guidelines mentioned above.

The current members of the pastoral care team are Lynn and Brian Morgan, Chloë Hodler, Art Funkhouser, Donna Goepfert, Barbara Winfield, Archana Jacob and Cecily Klingler.

Let us all 'rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep' (Romans 12:15) and 'bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ' (Galatians 6: 2).

Revd Helen Marshall

FLOWERS

The year began with sadness, for we had lost our beloved flower team leader Vreni Hawker in November 2019. Vreni had been involved with flowers for as long as I can remember (some 40 years at least). In summer we lost Kathy Hoag and soon afterwards Jean White. These gifted and creative ladies gave much to enhance our church services with beautiful flower arrangements over the years.



Mid-March brought the Corona virus lockdown and no services were held in Church till mid-June. The remaining three ladies took on a summer month each and we found original and flexible ways to manage.

By autumn it was clear that a new team was needed, especially as Rosemary Schelker and Judith Josi wished to retire. They too have been faithful artistic ladies and we have enjoyed many a harvest festival and Easter decoration together!



In due time, we gathered a new, enthusiastic team of six persons and started our rota. However, the next lockdown, closing the church put a stop to this ministry.

A large arrangement of silk and synthetic flowers has been produced which can be used when hitches happen.

On 25th November the flower team and others got together to make hanging wreathes and candle decorations for the Advent Sale in the Bazaar. This is always a creative and fun time, making a net of Fr 900 towards the church funds.

The pandemic continues to dictate to our world but we look forward to resuming our weekly flower arrangements when the virus allows.

Chloë Hodler

ECO CHURCH

The highlight of 2020 was receiving our Bronze Award from A Rocha, the international environmental charity that initiated the Eco-Church scheme. Eco-Church is a plan to encourage churches to live sustainably - by reminding congregations of the need to honour God's creation, by taking practical steps to reduce waste, to eliminate sources of pollution, to encourage biodiversity and to cut carbon emissions to zero by 2030. Gaining the Bronze Award was only possible thanks to a group of conscientious people who contributed plans, ideas and practical help.



The pandemic made meeting difficult, but one effect during the less infectious summer was to encourage a group of keen gardeners to work on developing our project for an eco-garden. Last year we made contact with Brigit Baumberger of Verein Natur and together made a plan to eradicate invasive plants - especially those that were unattractive to wildlife, and to increase green cover. Thanks to generous donations - one of them large - and to the initiative of Agnes Derory, Sue Higson, Alison Beindorff, Martin Browne, Richard King, Cecily Klingler and our regular gardeners, areas of our grounds have been replanted - and we have even helped with Helen's private garden. Arrangements for watering have been improved, and areas for relaxation have been set up. We look forward to having an area for meditation, as well.

The lockdown has meant that we have had to spend much of the year being ecological by Zoom. Our Diocesan Environmental Officer, Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, has been tireless in encouraging us to view seminars - a recent one on plastic waste was particularly telling, and a further set of talks is planned for April 2021.

News of all this is on the eco-section of our website (www.stursula.ch/Eco). Producing our regular Tip of the Week has proved too challenging at the same time as producing online services. So we expect you to recycle them.

We plan to become even more involved, and even greener. This is not to win Silver or Gold Awards, though that would be nice, but to show our respect and love for God's creation and to ensure the survival the whole planet!

Hector Davie



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. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed in 2020 as follows:

Charity and Missions - List of payments 2020

Local	CHF
Discretionary (to be used locally)	700.00
AKiB Passantenhilfe	1400.00
AKiB Zentrum 5	1400.00
Regional	
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Mumias, Krynna, classroom building)	1000.00
Bishop's Advent Appeal (Covid-19 Support to the Anglican Communion)	1000.00
International	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3500.00
A Rocha International	2000.00
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	2000.00
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	2000.00
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	2000.00
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2000.00
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	2000.00
Total	21000.00

Dedicated Collections

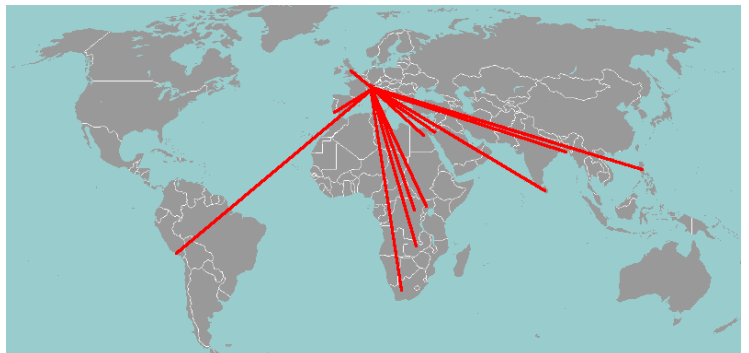
Bishop appeals from Congregation	175 Sfr
Mission Sunday (Zentrum 5)	431 Sfr
Tear Fund junior church collections	671 Sfr
Christmas collections - Tear Fund	359 Sfr
Total	1,636 Sfr

Note that our dedicated collections were generally considerably down due to only online worship being possible for several months.

The charity committee decided to pay out the amount remaining from the discretionary fund from 2020, and to split it between the Passantenhilfe (Fr 500.00) and for relief work in Yemen (Fr 1,275.54 to Caritas Schweiz's 'Forgotten Disasters' fund, earmarked for 'Yemen').

We are continuing to support A Rocha International, an international charity focussing on environmental issues around the globe. This is also in connection with our efforts at St Ursula's as an Eco Church, a scheme coming through A Rocha. St Ursula's has achieved the Bronze Award. We were grateful that a group of interested St Ursula's members could meet with Sarah French through a Zoom meeting on September 14 and learn more about Eco Church and the work of A Rocha International.

The Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund is faithfully supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of helpers who organise various fundraising events at St Ursula's and elsewhere in Switzerland. Some of these annual events could not be held because of the Covid restrictions.



The Junior Church supports the Tear Fund Schweiz Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda. A visit to Switzerland from Bishop George Bagamuhunda and Revd Reuben Byomuhangi had been planned for May but had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Normally proceeds from the Junior Church collections as well as Junior Church Bake Sales and the Harvest Festival Auction go to this project but due to the Covid 19 restrictions our usual St Ursula's support was considerably down. Instead of our Harvest Festival Auction we were able to bring all the produce from the Harvest Festival service to the Passantenhilfe office. They were very grateful for all the generous gifts of produce from St Ursula's. Thankfully our Treasurer Sue Higson was able, due to a favourable balance in the St Ursula's Charitable Association, to forward Fr 2,000.00 to our Tearfund Schweiz Water and Sanitation project in Uganda.

Our local charity project, the Passantenhilfe Food and Toiletries Collection was well supported by our congregation who brought items along to church on Sundays when we could have worship. During our periods with only online worship, we suggested that church members could bring their food items directly to the Passantenhilfe office. The numbers of needy persons have increased with the continuing Covid Pandemic.

Our Mission Sunday 2020 took place on February 16. The Mission focus was for the work of Zentrum5 in Berne with Mr Jürg Trefzer as guest speaker and he was accompanied by 2 of his co workers. The Junior Church worked hard with a project to make new posters for our charities and so were also involved in the Mission Sunday.

This year's Mission Sunday took place on February 7, 2021 and was an online service. This year we could not have a speaker. David Marshall preached on the 5 Marks of Mission of the Church which is the mission of Christ and about God's mission and our mission. A slide show was prepared with photos of the posters for our charities drawn by our Junior Church children. A video about our TearFund Schweiz project, the Diocese of Kigezi Water and Sanitation project, was also shown.



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: Chaplain, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Esther Hutchison, Cecily Klingler, Pieter Perrett

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

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD

St Ursula's is part of the Swiss archdeaconry, the smallest of the seven archdeaconries of the Diocese in Europe. In normal times, representatives from Geneva, La Côte, Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Neuchatel, Berne, Basle, Zurich, Lugano and their satellite congregations meet twice a year in a Synod. Synod members also send representatives to the Diocesan Synod, and vote on the diocese's representatives on General Synod.



Our electoral roll slipped below 100 last year, so in 2020 St Ursula's chose two lay members for the Archdeaconry Synod - Hector Davie and Maxine Wildhaber. Our clergy are also ex officio members. Adèle Kelham is the current Archdeacon.

Synod discusses issues of common concern, and passes ideas between the diocese and individual churches. In addition, our Christian education programme, SACEP, holds regular training sessions and seminars. We arrange an annual choir festival and an annual retreat. And we support the charitable work of Partner Sein, and the work of the chaplaincy in Athens in the Hestia Hellas project, to assist the refugees and the poor there.

Needless to say, the pandemic threw the past year's plans into confusion. A SACEP seminar on persecuted Christians to be held here in May had to be cancelled, and the same happened to our choir festival, scheduled for the same month in Zurich. The retreat planned for October met the same fate. The summer synod meeting in Lausanne could not take place, and we could not meet in Berne in January as we normally do. Instead we met by Zoom on 20 February 2021.

Fortunately our Standing Committee were able to meet by Zoom and carry out the regular business of giving support for clergy training, co-ordinating church-wide projects, and joining in the work of the Swiss Council of Churches (Arbeitsgemeinschaft christlicher Kirchen in der Schweiz - AGCK).

These church-wide projects are wide-ranging. The Swiss archdeaconry is involved in pilot schemes for the current mission initiative, Setting God's People Free - now rebranded as Everyday Faith. This focuses on enabling the whole church (not just the clergy or "those in charge"!) to live out and witness to the Good News. We are also involved with Breathing Life, a new endeavour for greater racial justice in the church and in society, and in the ecological goal of care for creation, on which there will be a series of workshops in April, as we continue our journey towards net zero carbon emission by 2030.

The constraints of meeting by Zoom limited our February meeting to a very full 90 minutes. Bishop Robert joined us at the beginning, reminding us that the season of Lent was a time to practise God's gifts of compassion and love. At the beginning we also had a video presentation of "Highlights of 2020", compiled from one-minute contributions from each chaplaincy - a very interesting overview of how

our various churches see themselves.

We also had a presentation of the vision for the Church of England in the 2020s given for General Synod by the new Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell - a call for the church to be simpler, humbler and bolder - Christ centred and Jesus shaped.

Because of the Zoom format, most of our consideration had to be of written reports, but we did have time to hear a talk on Living in Love and Faith, popularly thought of as the church's reaction to LGBTI+ issues, but described more accurately as raising questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the context of the Gospel. We shall be discussing this sensitive issue, with the aid of facilitators, at a future synod.

For more details about the topics we discussed, ask any of our synod members, or look at the archdeaconry website, www.anglican.ch.

Hector Davie

MAGAZINE

Editing

The St Ursula's Church magazine is published six times a year. Currently, 357 people subscribe to the magazine, with 243 receiving a hard copy and 114 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, Maria Avdikou and the Chaplain made up the core team of content providers and proofreaders. Articles and other content are also submitted by groups within St Ursula's, individual church members as well as people who are not members of the church. Hector Davie handles the electronic distribution and advertising, Querida Long is the magazine editor and Annemarie Walthert is in charge of collating the magazine. Contributions to the magazine can be sent to magazine@stursula.ch.

Magazine Collating

Every second month about 250 magazines are sent out. Even when they are already folded and stapled it is good to have some volunteers to help insert the flyers and put the magazines into the envelopes. Usually we are two to three doing the job.

Because of Corona we were not able to do the collating always. Maria did the job for us. Many thanks, Maria!

Annemarie Walthert & Maria Avdikou

WEBMASTER

One of the tasks of the church is to communicate - to spread the Good News of God's love, of God's redeeming mercy, and of the joy of the resurrection. Our website, www.stursula.ch, is only one of many ways we can do this. In an ideal world, the webmaster is one of a team who coordinate this activity.



Over the last year, our website has taken on an increasing importance as a way of keeping our own congregation together in these COVID times. Ever since 15 March 2020, we have offered on-line worship every Sunday - and on other occasions too. This has been a challenge, and without the help of Art Funkhouser in sourcing suitable hymns for inclusion and of Martin Browne in editing text and recordings to a consistent and useable format - not to mention the dozens of our members who have prepared readings, liturgical responses or intercessions, and our preachers - we would have been hard put to do it!

After a year, we have ended up with over 780 Megabytes of readings and prayers, over 800 Megabytes of video recordings, and over 670 Megabytes (over eleven hours' worth!) of sermons. Our services have been shared with congregations in Lausanne and Zurich, and watched by worshippers in New Zealand, California and the Outer Hebrides. I feel we have used our resources well.

The average number of visitors to our website is currently around 110 a day, lower than last year, but with a sixth of them staying with us for more than five minutes. 48% of visitors use Firefox and 12% use Safari, suggesting that more people are using their laptops to access data (or that Firefox have had success with their mobile app!). The most visited pages are those with news, information about events, and the online services - also our magazine and our past sermons.

There is always something to be added, something to be kept up to date. A lot of you have given feedback, which is very valuable in keeping us on our toes. But even in these "strange times" the internet is no substitute for human contact. Nevertheless, it can help us to share thoughts, prayers and ideas. It will continue to grow in significance.

Hector Davie, Webmaster

VESTRY



The vestry supplies everything needed for church services: candles, the church silver and linen, communion wafers (regular and gluten-free) and wine.

Due to the Corona virus, in February hand-disinfectants and masks became necessary for all involved in preparing for communion and cleaning up according to the federal regulations and St Ursula's Schutzkonzept.

An important change happened in February, when Maria Avdikou succeeded Jana Kutesko in the church office. Thank you, Jana, for making sure we were always fully stocked for as long as I remember. Now Maria is in charge of buying all supplies and we are grateful for her reliable support.

From the end of March, when we had to stop services in church and servers were no longer needed, Chaplain Helen and Maria dealt with all vestry business.

In the summer, Adorée Weibel took over the care of linens from Annamma Chittazhathu, who had to step down for health reasons. Thank you both for your valuable help.

I have been looking after the vestry 'temporarily' for two years now as coordinator for servers, since we use what the vestry supplies. I would be happy, however, to hand over this responsibility to someone new who would take definite charge of the vestry.

Ruth Freiburghaus & Maria Avdikou



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 an offering of thanks 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 Church Wardens or any member of the Church Council.

Current Members of the Church Council

Churchwardens:

Martin Browne	079 953 9676
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88

Lay Members:

Michael Agoba	078 811 19 46
Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Tricia Carrick	031 971 27 71
Johannes Hewel (secretary)	078 949 39 86
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88
Lynn Morgan	031 971 13 36
Belle Täuber	079 369 94 26
Ruby Wildhaber	078 808 75 15

Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:

Hector Davie (vice chair)	031 971 27 71
Maxine Wildhaber	076 349 40 42