

St Ursula's Church Berne



Annual Reports for 2015

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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
Assistant Chaplain:	Rev Mark Pogson
Youth Coordinator:	Mrs Mary McKinley



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WORSHIP, PRAYER AND STUDY

“It is sometimes said that conduct is supremely important and that worship helps it. The truth is that worship is supremely important and that conduct tests it.” (Archbishop William Temple)

“My prayers are rooted in the historical church ... because I'm touching the faith, the belief, the words of those who began it.” (David Suchet, actor “Hercule Poirot”)

During 2015 we had a refresher session for eucharistic assistants (chalice bearers) and several members of our congregation went to Neuchâtel for a SACEP study day on worship. Archana continued her training and we look forward to her licensing as a Lay Reader very soon. It was pleasing to see her enthusiasm while she followed the demanding study course and her sermons have been widely appreciated. I am also grateful to the Rev'd Mark Pogson for his part in our worship. It is good to have a home team with contrasting styles.

We also welcomed a number of guest preachers, including Bishop Henry Scriven from CMS, the Rev'd Elizabeth Bussmann, the Diocesan Environmental Officer. We had Bishop Robert with us in January and in June Bishop David presided and preached at a packed Confirmation. Other special services included two Sung Evensongs, our services with times of prayer for healing (four times a year) and a memorable service to admit eight young people to Communion. We also held our second Service for the Blessing of Animals. Strangely and disappointingly, this proved controversial to some people. If you google “Animal Blessing Services” you will see that churches of all shades are holding these services. In my previous parish in Largs the animal blessing service was an annual event and the local Church of Scotland minister came regularly with his dogs. In fact he preached one year.

By definition, worship should challenge our preconceptions by confronting us with the unknown and the unknowable. It is, after all, not meant as a weekly dose of “the opium of the masses” (to quote Karl Marx), but to afford us a glimpse of the glory of God (see Isaiah 6:1-8). That being so, in our worship we should know that we are standing with the whole company of saints. When the language seems difficult or the music old-fashioned, then we should be challenged to learn, not merely a new word, but also how to ponder the things of God more deeply when we sing his praises. As it has been said “There is nothing worse than a church energetically trying to keep up with the latest fad, only to catch up just as it's going out of fashion.”

STUDY

During Lent we followed the CMS course “A Possible World”, with a number of groups throughout the area. The course proved inspiring to most of those who followed it and it has inspired us in our vision of being a caring church - caring for

the environment, caring for the poor and needy, caring for each other.

By way of contrast, our Advent course was about Christian spirituality, sampling the works of great spiritual writers of the British Isles, from St Patrick to the present day. These are the people on whose shoulders we stand and their insights into God, the Bible and the Christian life have so much to teach and inspire us.

Over the years study groups have come and gone. Some came to the end of their natural life; others, however, took themselves away because, it seems, what was on offer was not in keeping with their preconceptions. Like worship, learning about the faith should challenge us to see God and his word in new and imaginative ways, rather than being primarily about ourselves.

Ven. Peter M Potter, Chaplain

CHURCHWARDENS

First of all, we wish to address our deep gratefulness for the continuous support that we receive from St. Ursula's congregation. We thank particularly the members for their faithful commitment without which St Ursula's would not be able to offer the worship and many other Church activities, like Junior Church, choir, patchwork, mission work, book sales etc.

As wardens we have the particular privilege to witness the amount of time, care, faith and love that each of you spend for our Church, and more universally for our Lord. Thank You.

2015 was a very busy year in terms of activities, events, and projects. To name a few: breakfast at Church (every first Sunday of the month from 8:30), the organisation of the Archdeaconry Choir Festival (23-24 April 2016 at St Ursula's), the energy and sustainability project of the Church buildings and the setting up of a fund-raising committee for this project, etc.

Early June the Confirmation group had their weekend away in Sargans and on the 21 June groups of both young adults and adults from different Anglican Churches in Switzerland were confirmed by Bishop David.

Many thanks to Tricia and Father Peter for preparing our youth to this big step in their faith

The Church was filled with godparents, family and friends but above all with the Holy Spirit. It was a lovely Christian reunion and thanks to the families for organising the delicious buffet.

In May we also had the chili cook-off fundraising event which was a great success, and raised over Fr2,000. Many thanks to Mary McKinley for all her work behind the scenes.

At the beginning of September we had our Pets' Service, in the spirit of Francis of Assisi. It was an opportunity to remember that animals too are fully part of God's Creation.

On the 14 November council had a day away at the Convent de la Visitation in Fribourg. Clare Amos nourished and led our thoughts on environment and creation. It was a fruitful day and also a time of great fellowship among the members of Council.

In November, a group of young people received Communion for the first time. Prior to the ceremony, they followed a preparation course led by Tricia Carrick. We are very thankful to Tricia for the time and work she spends with our youth and for helping them to get to know the Lord.



The Advent's course led by Father Peter was devoted to reading important spiritual texts in the Christian Tradition, from Antiquity to our time.

The Christmas period was very busy. At the end of November we had our Christmas Bazaar and it was, as usual a big success.

Mid-December we had our traditional Nativity Play organised by Mary McKinley with the help of Françoise and Tricia. On Christmas Eve, we had the Crib Service in the afternoon and in the evening the First Eucharist of Christmas.

On Christmas Day we also had two Services. The 10.00 service was with carols and many of you attended and enjoyed the singing.

In January Mark Pogson was officially licensed as Assistant Chaplain. The congregation congratulated Mark on his licensing and thanked him for the great assistance he has offered to St Ursula's and Thun over the past couple of years.

Shrove Tuesday was well attended, attracting both pancake and quiz lovers. Thank you to the kitchen team, to Hector and to all the participants for this enjoyable moment of fellowship.

During Lent, Father Peter held a series of devotional studies on the miracles in St John's Gospel, followed by Compline.

In February was our traditional Spring Food and Book Sale. It was well attended, by anglophiles - attracted by British delicacies - by members of our congregation, as well as friends and passers-by. Thank you for all your loving efforts.

A special thank you goes to Jana for her successful food stall and for her impeccable work as Church Administrator.

Mission Sunday and Mothering Sunday was on 6 March. For this occasion the Mission team invited Canon Medhat Sabry (Casablanca and Cairo) to present the work of Refugee Egypt. His two-day visit in Berne was highly appreciated. On Saturday Canon Medhat gave a talk on the Refugee Situation in North Africa. On Sunday he co-celebrated the Eucharist and gave a vibrant sermon.

This is by far not an exhaustive list of what has been done during this last year at St Ursula's.

We feel blessed to be part of such a friendly, committed and open-minded Christian congregation. However we need to think ahead and make sure that St Ursula's continues to exist for many, many years. In order to offer to the generations to come what we have received, we need your help, your prayer, and your generous support. We also need new and younger people ready to commit themselves.

We need leaders and teachers for our Junior Church and Youth group. Being a mother of teenagers (Maxine) I know that the youth is not easily convinced 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 also need mothers and fathers to help in the crèche. Being a mother of a young child (Isabelle), I am very thankful that such a possibility is available to parents. Without your help, the crèche service cannot be offered!

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 Communion and Confirmation Course.

I take the occasion to say once more thank you to Mary as she will soon step down as our youth worker, but surely we shall see her again in our Church.

Archana has now completed her studies as Lay Reader. In the name of the whole congregation we congratulate you on your great achievement, as we all know that being a Lay Reader and a working mother at the same time is not easy.

We also take this opportunity to thank Father Peter for his continuous and faithful work in our Church and with each of us. 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 & Isabelle Wienand, Church Wardens

COUNCIL

This church year the council met eleven times from May 2015 through March 2016. Council, led by Father Peter, had a very busy and challenging year discussing a wide range of issues important to church life and worship and affecting the smooth running of the church facilities.

The Church Council usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month although some dates were changed and council met twice in June with no regular meetings being held in July and August.

Subjects that recur every year for discussion and planning include participation in Nacht der Religionen, joining in an ecumenical service in the Münster, holding a Christmas party, what kind of Lent and Advent studies to offer, finding helpers to cater for events held at St Ursula's such as Synod, SACEP, the Christmas Bazaar and the pancake supper before Ash Wednesday. Traditionally council has a day away and it was decided to hold it in November and have Claire Amos come and speak on "environment".

Council also plans for the future, discussing the 2016 Choir Festival to be held in Berne, the 2016 AGM, and continuation of projects that are ongoing such as following the diocesan strategy, sprucing up the garden, and caring for the church buildings.

As follow-up on our Possible World Lenten study, council is attempting to develop a plan, which includes Junior Church and Youth, for beautifying the church grounds with appropriate plantings and possibly a bee hotel. One of the Upper Hall boards will feature a "Green Corner" with ideas about how to be ecological on the church premises as well as at home.

Council was asked to approve having Mark Pogson apply for licensing to officiate as well as approve the updated list of Eucharistic Ministers (chalice bearers) who will continue serving for another period of three years.

Junior Church and Youth are always important topics. Council was involved in planning for Confirmation Sunday where Bishop David officiated as well as for a communion course offered in the autumn. It is an ongoing challenge that teachers and crèche helpers are always needed and assuring that those working with youth and vulnerable adults have complied with all the Safeguarding requirements.

The treasurer produces a detailed monthly report for every council meeting presenting the financial situation of the church. St Ursula's operates with a deficit, and council discusses ways to be more frugal as well as ways to encourage generous pledge giving. There is close coordination with the Charity and Missions Team regarding the church's 10% yearly tithe.

The church property needed lots of attention this year from small fix-it projects

to having new cupboards installed in the lower hall and having tree maintenance done. Garden tidy-ups are done regularly and helpers are much appreciated.

One of the biggest projects council tackled was doing an energy study. A team gathered extensive data on energy patterns regarding electricity and heating and a Sustainability Appeal was planned with the goal of raising a considerable sum of money to improve buildings and modify heating patterns. It is estimated that the church could reduce energy consumption by 70% and save substantially on heating costs.

Facts show that church attendance is dwindling in most congregations and the number of people going forward for ordination is low. Bishop Robert approved an Agreed Diocesan Strategy and all chaplaincies are asked to be familiar with it and attempt to adopt it and “comply” with it. In short, it urges the building of a common purpose throughout the diocese by building up the body of Christ and fostering growth, sharing with other churches in the evangelisation of Europe by proclaiming the Good News, striving for the creation of a just society and a sustainable environment and working for reconciliation with the church at all levels. Council will be responsible for keeping the strategy under discussion and for developing concrete ways to comply.

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, and to support them in as many ways as possible.

Donna Goepfert, Council Secretary

THUN GROUP

The Thun Church meets 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 have been generally short from 19.30 to about 20.15. This was then followed by tea or coffee and a chat. However we changed the time and format of the meeting during the year so we now meet from 18:30- 20.00 with tea or coffee in the middle and a bible

study in the second part of the evening.

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 lead the meeting.

Early on in the year we had a well attended evening about Pakistan. We also have had occasional social activities on the fifth Thursday of a month. Each Christmas, we have a carol service which is well attended at Göttibach Church, Thun.

Our numbers vary and depend on the time of the year. We have had some new members but have lost others.

Rev Mark Pogson

CRÈCHE

Our crèche is for children up to age 3 and sometimes older, after that they are encouraged to move to the Sparklers group in Junior Church.

Crèche is not meant to necessarily be a teaching time, it is a time to play, colour, listen to stories and enjoy different kinds of puzzles. It is also a meeting point for parents to have a chat and exchange ideas.

Attendances vary depending on the Sunday. Sometimes we have up to 5 children and other times 2 or no children at all.

In accordance to the Child Protection Policy we do take great care of the well being of children and the choice of helpers for our toddlers. We always have two helpers at each session, which is why it is very important to have committed helpers every Sunday. At the moment we have a rota of 13 helpers, unfortunately many of them are also helping in other Church activities and are not always free. For the future we hope that more parents will join our rota and help us in this service.

We now have new custom made cupboards in our Crèche and we are very thankful to the sponsor for this very generous gift. We now have two cupboards for both the Parents and Tots group on Wednesdays and the crèche.

Thanks again to all the mums who helped in cleaning and sorting toys when the new cupboards arrived. We eliminated duplicate toys, broken toys and toys that children did not use for some time. If you have good quality toys and puzzles that your children no longer play with please donate them to our Crèche as at the moment we are in need of new toys. Thank you!

I would like to end by thanking all our helpers for their faithfulness, patience and the work they do for our children's development and relationship with Jesus.

Maxine Wildhaber, Crèche Coordinator

CHURCH BREAKFASTS



Church breakfasts continued in 2015. They are held on the first Sunday of each month (except during holiday time). These are normally attended by around 12 - 15 people. In 2015 Easter Sunday was the first Sunday of April, so there was a special breakfast (with eggs, of course), including readings and prayers.



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+.

During the first half of 2015 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 were also members of the confirmation class. After the confirmation in June we reverted, apart from during the school holidays, to 3 separate classes.

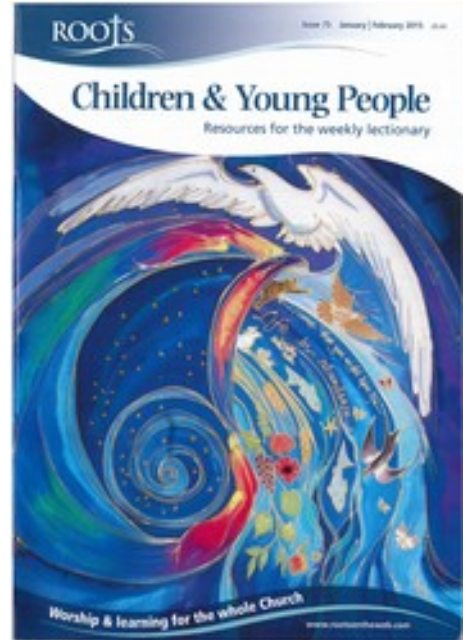
On the 2nd Sunday of each month, the Junior Church remains in church to partake in the "All in Church Together" service. On other Sundays we leave for our classes shortly after the start of the 10.00 service. On the 4th Sunday of the month we hold our all-age Junior Church choir practices.



During Lent we created a “Lenten Cross” which involved adding symbols each week to build up a powerful image of the cross.

Resources

We continue to use “ROOTS” for our teaching materials. 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

During 2015 we welcomed Walter Bisig as a Junior Church teacher, he teaches Trailblazers and Pilots. Ideally we would like a pool of teachers of between nine and twelve - this would ensure that we could offer 3 weekly Junior Church classes.

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 2015 the church collections at Harvest and at the Christmas Services also went to this project. In total, over Fr2,800 was raised for this project in 2015.

Nativity Play



The Nativity service in 2015 was a traditional Christmas reading of the Christmas story from the Gospels, voiced by members of the Youth Group, who also contributed to the music and technical work. Narration was interspersed with carols sung by the entire congregation plus several songs performed by the Junior Church, dressed either as angels or shepherds. The Junior Church also

contributed with colourful drawings, which were projected on the wall along with the song lyrics. It was a “full house” and enjoyed by all.

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.

Mary McKinley & Jana Kutesko

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group met twice a month throughout 2015, except for times of school holidays when most of the teens were away or unable to attend. The aim of the meetings, as always, was to follow the liturgy of the Anglican church, apply lessons from the Bible to our own lives, and encourage each teen to become an active member of the congregation. Attendance varied between two and eight participants, not counting the Youth Coordinator, with an average of four teens in attendance.

The special project for this year was the Chilli Cook-Off, an American tradition of a cooking competition, get-together and fundraiser. This was organised and led by the Youth Group to support Edi Kingori with his Eagle Scout project. The Chilli Cook-Off took place 30 May 2015 and was a huge success! The event raised enough money to start a computer lab, organised by Edi, for a school in Kenya.

In addition to their regular Youth Group meetings and the Chilli Cook-Off, the teens of our church also volunteered their time at the 2015 summer fête, the Junior Church summer sleep-over, and the Christmas bazaar. Some of the teens also did the intercessions at our special animal service, and the narration of the Nativity service. I am sure everyone is very proud of our youths.

Mary McKinley, Youth-Coordinator

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

Since 2005, St Ursula’s has been admitting children to communion before confirmation. This marks their place in the church family and allows them to make a public commitment. In baptism, a person is marked as Christ’s own and begins his / her journey of faith. Admission to communion is a step on this journey.

In 2015 we again held a preparation course with eight children. The course consisted of four Sunday sessions where the main theme was “Belonging” - belonging to God, belonging to the church (part of the body), the food of belonging (Passover, Communion). In addition, there was an all-day session for the children and their parents when we looked in some detail at the structure of the

communion service.

The admission service was on 29 November for six of the children. The other two were admitted on 6 December.

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 to the Christian faith.

The youth confirmation course started in October 2013 and continued throughout 2014 and into the first half of 2015. It concluded with the confirmation service on 21 June led by Bishop David. At this service nine young people, who had regularly attended the meetings, were confirmed.

In 2015, there were nine Sunday morning sessions with an average attendance of 8.1. Three of the young people attended all sessions, and there were only two occasions when more than one person was missing.

In March and April, we were privileged to have adult members of the congregation come to talk to us about their Christian life - there were a variety of topics, based on experience, which were all relevant to the young people.



As part of the course, there was a weekend away at the start of June supported by several members of the congregation. The weekend theme was “The Bible” and it included various study, discussion and fun sessions. The Sunday morning worship was prepared by the young people themselves.

It is a privilege to be able to spend time with these young people on this important leg of their Christian journey

- we all profit from the time spent together.

Tricia Carrick

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

At St Ursulas we 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.

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 very recently and this means that we have also to meet these new criteria and are having to upgrade our own safeguarding procedures, records and documents at St Ursulas. Safeguarding checks for those working with children and young people at our church now need to be reviewed every 5 years. Our council has to certify to the Diocese of Europe that we are following the Diocesan safeguarding policy.

The Diocesan training session on safeguarding issues became available online last year. As it is mandatory for all who work with our children have safeguarding clearance, most of our helpers have already successfully completed this.

All our relevant safeguarding documents can be found on the Diocese of Europe website: www.europe.anglican.org under the heading of Diocesan Guidelines and Policies/Safeguarding. You can find our St Ursula's Safeguarding policy 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. 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

Father Peter 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 2015 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.

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 liturgical items in a Communion Service. Saturday choir practices have become a fairly regular activity for enthusiastic singers.

The Choir contributed choral music, amongst other occasions, at the following services:

- A Lenten Evensong on 1 March
- A Choral Evensong in Lent on 29 March
- An Anthem at the Confirmation Service on 21 June
- A Choral Evensong at the beginning of Advent
- Carol Service in Thun in December

Some of the choir's choral contributions in 2015 include:

- Several Psalms and Canticles in Anglican Chant Style
- A 'Magnificat' and 'Nunc Dimittis' by T Noble, a 'Nunc Dimittis' in E_b by Brewer
- The 'Coventry Litany' (Father forgive) on Good Friday and on Remembrance Sunday

- Anthem: 'Thou knowest Lord' by Purcell on Remembrance Sunday
- Anthems: 'The Lord is full of compassion' by P Moore and 'Lead me Lord' by S S Wesley
- Responsorial parts of the Liturgy on Good Friday, and on Easter Day an Easter Anthem and a Motet.
- Anthem: 'Beati quorum' by Stanford and a Kiev-setting of Kontakion
- Carols by J Rutter and the Christmas Gloria by Ledger at the Carol Service in Thun
- At Christmas a special Christmas Gloria, a Hymn and Carols sung in four parts.

Three choir members from St Ursula's Church attended the traditional RSCM Singing Break in Dunblane (Scotland), widening the musical skills and the musical repertoire, not least for the benefit of our church and choir.

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

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

Music Group

The Music Group is now in its 10th 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 active support of our services.

Our main contribution is to the "ACT" (All in Church Together) services, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month. On the 4th Sundays, we also help to provide a good mix of new and old by accompanying the contemporary songs while the more traditional hymns are accompanied by the organist. Our music is mostly chosen from the "Worship Today" or "Junior Praise" song books but other sources are also often used (e.g. Taizé and Iona).

During this last year our numbers have fluctuated between a maximum of 8 and sometimes just 2 but we have a solid core of about 5 regular contributors (both musicians and singers). We are delighted to have been joined this year by Rebecca with her alto saxophone and it is great to have Belle Täuber with us again. It is lovely to have a younger member of the congregation joining in and we hope to include other younger members of the congregation when suitable.

Our active members during the last year: Adoree, Agatha, Belle, Chika, Eva, Hans-Martin, Rebecca, Peter, Philip, Tricia, Vanessa and Tony.



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

Tony continues to organise the group but is still sometimes away on business - many thanks to Tricia who has taken over the lead several times. 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 any new suggestions. Please don't hesitate to give your inputs.

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 look at our finances in 2015 presents a very unsatisfactory picture. The church spent just over Fr29,400 more than it received - a deficit almost twice as large as in 2014. More troubling, if this were to repeat for the next three years, we would run out of money, and would be forced to live from hand to mouth.

Fortunately, this "bottom line" figure does not tell the whole story. To start with, it needs to be seen in proportion, as 13% of our income - a sizeable amount, but not overwhelmingly large. We have seen deficits like this before - in 1995 or 1998, and indeed in 2006, a shortfall of over Fr50,000. But more importantly, it is the product of a number of figures, some of which are just as gloomy, but others of which give cause for satisfaction.

One cause for concern is the drop in our most basic income - what we receive from the church community as a whole. The people who are involved in church life are the ones who share most closely in the practical side of what we do. (I won't say that they "get the most benefit", as I am mindful of Archbishop William Temple's remark that the church is "the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members".) Many of you pledge to give regularly, and provide us with a reliable flow of income through the banking system. Others give generously in the Sunday collection. Income from the community sank by 6½%, to Fr141,891 - the lowest it has been since 1985, and less than half of what it was in 2004.

This is something which needs prayerful thought. Over the same 30-year period, giving in the Church of England as a whole has increased fourfold in money terms, or, adjusted for inflation, it has doubled. Of course, each statistic is influenced by

many factors, and the numbers need closer analysis to reach a conclusion about what is happening. We are watching the situation closely.

The average parish in the Church of England receives about 10% of its income from “trading” : bookstalls, sales, renting out premises, etc., and here we are doing rather better than average. We currently receive 30% of our income in this way. For some people this is a way to give to the church painlessly - get your tea bags from Jana and help the church at the same time! It only becomes unhealthy if we rely on this “trading” for our income.

The book sales and the bazaar did well in 2015, coming within a hair's breadth of last year's total. There is no evidence of a particular trend here - each event is different, and a lot depends on the date, the weather and the enthusiasm of the individuals who run the stalls - which seems to be unflinching.

Income from use of the hall by outside bodies increased, as the use itself has increased. This use has its drawbacks, but the financial rewards outweigh the higher wear and tear and extra maintenance costs. The new cupboards in the lower hall, a generous anonymous donation, have also allowed us to rationalize our charges and make better use of our resources - which can't be bad.

(The item “Other” reflects the number of weddings and funerals that were held. Over these the treasurer has little control!)

There is little to say about the miscellaneous income items. In accounting terms, the magazine costs us less to produce than we sell it for, but where else would you find such good value for your money? It cross-subsidizes the cost of our photocopier, although this situation has been further improved in the last year as we have taken on largish jobs for outside people - if you need something copied, use the church's copier: we can undercut the rates in town. Books and cards are now a trivial source of revenue - ten years ago we were taking Fr2,500 a year from these, and twenty years ago double that. The coffee table after church provides a chance to give, and the reduced takings in 2015 reflect the lower attendances over the thirsty summer months.

Although we are self-financing, and receive no support from either the Swiss or the British government, we have received a small compensation (Fr5,000) from the Anglican churches in Switzerland for the time Peter spends on archdeaconry business, for it is not fair that we should shoulder the burden of this. Additionally, during the first eight months of 2015, Peter was also acting Archdeacon of Germany and Scandinavia, and was often away fixing problems in Hamburg, advising councils in Copenhagen or installing chaplains in Tallinn. We paid Mark Pogson a regular allowance to cover for Peter while he was away, and continued this up to the end of the year. The diocese compensated us for this (up to the end of August), and for the extra drain on our resources and on Jana's time.

So altogether, our income in 2015 was some Fr10,000 lower than in 2014, or 4½%.

Our expenditure was also slightly higher, by some Fr3,300, or 1⅓%, but comparing the differences between the current and last year's figures reveals some relevant details.

Our spending on our regular personnel - Peter, Mark, Jana and Mary rose by 1.9% - mainly because of such one-off factors as a rise in Church of England pension contributions and insurance rates. A 5% reduction in our general running costs compensated for this. This reduction was chiefly due to more efficient use of the photocopier, as mentioned above, and the return of our publicity spending to a lower level than 2014 (when the city Kirchenfest inflated the figures). There is still scope for larger savings, especially when the sustainability project gets under way, since electricity and oil for heating account for a third of our general maintenance costs.

With the confirmation in June, we spent more than usual on our younger members, and contributions to the diocese also increased by some 10%. The reason for this lay in a greater stress within the diocese on safeguarding issues, and hence a higher expenditure, of which we had to pay our share.

Our giving to charity was higher than budgeted, mainly due to a change in the timing of payments to one mission partner, meaning that they had two payments in 2015 and none in 2014. Without this payment, we would have been only narrowly above our budgeted target of Fr23,000. This figure has been our budget target for the last six years, and it has been good that we have been able to keep to it even though our income has declined. If the decline is not reversed, though, we may have to look at this figure again.

The Fr24,344 shown in the accounts is not the total sum that we gave to charitable causes. A further Fr7,631 came from collections through the year which were dedicated to specific charities (and this does not include a further Fr3,375 raised at the Heiliggeist service, which is a joint undertaking with the Bruder Klaus congregation, and hence does not feature in the accounts).

As always, the deficit is stated after the transfer of Fr10,000 from our general reserves into the Building Fund. Last year, the Building Fund spent only Fr2,726, but as the new sustainability appeal reminds us, the church was built in 1906 and the hall and house in the late 1950s, and none of them is getting any younger. We now need to dig deep into our resources to enable us to make St Ursula's truly "a church for the future."

With 2558 transactions in last year's journal (six fewer than 2014!), keeping the church's finances is an ongoing task, made easier by your help - in paying money on time, in forbearance (I am very aware that there are people whom I should have thanked more often for what they contribute), and in general support. Thank you all.

Hector Davie, Treasurer

ST URSULA'S CHURCH, BERNE
CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2015

<u>INCOME</u> (2014 figures in small type)			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Income from Community	141,890.85	151764	Personnel-related costs	151,386.47	148566
<i>Pledged giving</i>	111,298.00	112495	<i>Stipends and remunerations</i>	106,440.00	106507
<i>Donations</i>	5,317.75	2773	<i>Travelling expenses</i>	4,480.40	4380
<i>Collections</i>	25,275.10	36496	<i>Rent</i>	0.00	0
			<i>Other personnel costs</i>	40,466.07	37680
Income from events	34,740.27	35114	Running costs (Note 7)	48,507.98	51019
<i>Book Sales</i>	7,745.37	8988	<i>Premises</i>	40,484.28	39514
<i>Bazaar</i>	11,973.25	12126	<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>	113.10	399
<i>Food Stall</i>	14,228.45	13261	<i>Office</i>	278.20	2815
<i>Other events</i>	793.20	739	<i>Telephone</i>	826.59	617
			<i>Insurance</i>	3,227.95	3210
Income from other sources	26,102.50	22605	<i>Property tax</i>	1,606.80	1607
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>	24,266.50	19793	<i>Vestry</i>	1,055.12	1227
<i>Other</i>	1,836.00	2812	<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	915.94	1630
			Youth and Junior Church	1,070.96	757
Thun	707.50	716	Library	22.40	0
			Diocese/Deanery	15,164.10	13841
Other income	8,680.30	9167	Other expenditure	3,843.32	4017
<i>Magazine</i>	6,223.00	6274	<i>Magazine</i>	3,381.25	3147
<i>Book table</i>	17.00	0	<i>Book table</i>	0.00	460
<i>Card table</i>	119.10	216	<i>Card table</i>	14.00	17
<i>Coffee</i>	2,187.20	2657	<i>Coffee</i>	357.60	354
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	134.00	20	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	90.47	40
			Charity (Note 6)	24,344.41	22835
Grants	11,586.66	14555	Financial Expense (Note 5)	136.35	149
Miscellaneous Financial	1,065.71	1316	Miscellaneous Financial	0.00	0
			Depreciation	0.00	0
Interest/dividend income	293.89	543	Transfer to Building+Dev Fund	10,000.00	10000
TOTAL	225,067.68	235779	TOTAL	254,475.99	251184
DEFICIT	29,408.31	15405			

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Chair fund donations	0.00	0	Major replacements	0.00	1512
Legacy	0.00	0	Building Work	2,725.90	5466
TOTAL	0.00	0	TOTAL	2,725.90	6978
EXTRAORDINARY DEFICIT	2,725.90	6978			

BALANCE SHEET 31.12.2015

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Cash on hand CH	9,379.84	12316	Payments received for 2015	0.00	0
Cash on hand GB (Note 3)	40,130.96	36690	Miscellaneous Creditors	16,080.00	14984
Short term accounts CH	154,871.90	174868			
Stocks on hand (Note 4)	6,768.40	7411	Non-liquid capital	11,448.40	13651
Amounts receivable	756.00	643	Building and Development Fund	87,987.98	80714
Fixed assets (Note 2)	4,680.00	6240	Ministry Training Fund	18,563.35	19362
Advance payments made	8,161.90	7621	Accrued capital (Note 1)	90,669.27	117077
TOTAL	<u>224,749.00</u>	245788	TOTAL	<u>224,749.00</u>	245788

NOTES

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

Accrued capital on 31.12.2014	+	117,076.87
From Ministry Training Fund (Note 8)	+	798.31
Deficit from ordinary activities	-	29,408.31
Decrease in stocks and assets	+	2,202.40
Accrued capital on 31.12.2015	+	90,669.27

2. The church's fixed assets are:

	Acquisition cost	Value 31.12.2014	Acquisitions during year	Depreciation for year	Value 31.12.2015
Photocopier	7,992.00	6,240.00	0.00	1,560.00	4,680.00
TOTAL	7,992.00	6,240.00	0.00	1,560.00	4,680.00

3. Sterling balances on 31.12.2015 are converted at the rate of SFr 1.50 = £1 (2014: 1.52).

4. Stocks include cards, valued at SFr 630.00 (31.12.2014: SFr 644.00), oil: Fr2,452.80 (31.12.2014: Fr4,386.00), mugs: Fr1,174.80 (31.12.2014: Fr20.00) and UK food: Fr2,412.00 (31.12.2014: Fr2,257.00)

5. Miscellaneous financial items include an exchange gain of SFr 984.81 (2014: SFr 336.05).

6. Payments to charities do not include the proceeds from dedicated collections and events, which are not shown in these accounts. These amounted to SFr 7,631.46 (2014: SFr 9,000.20), as follows:

Remembrance Day	634.70	Royal British Legion
Trinity Sunday	336.35	Partners - Old Catholic Relief Organization
Mission Sunday 8 March	605.90	Church Mission Society
Collection 8 February (+Robert)	1,327.50	Diocesan Ordination Fund
Confirmation Collection 21 June	989.06	Diocesan Ordination Fund
Collection for Advent Appeal	847.45	Bishop's Advent Appeal
Harvest Festival	853.60	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Christmas Collections	1,684.60	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)
Junior Church Collections	352.30	Tear Fund Schweiz (Uganda)

7. Running costs for our premises include:

Electricity and water	6,087.15	5,983
Heating system	7,598.50	7,531
Caretaking, garden, etc	1,170.30	337
Cleaning	19,732.50	18,615
Kitchen	770.70	951
Repairs to premises	3,279.63	2,099
Equipment and repairs	403.70	1,087
Use of premises (Thun)	402.50	420
Other	1,039.30	2,492

Office costs include:

Materials (including PCs)	94.55	291
Postage	133.25	518
Photocopying (net)	50.40	2,006

8. Payments of Fr798.31 (2014: Fr618.13) were made from the Ministry Training Fund during the year.

Chairman
P M Potter

Treasurer
H C M Davie

Auditors
A R Carrick K Chittazhathu

ELECTORAL ROLL

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

Every year, the Electoral Roll is revised under the direction of council. This year, the revision was completed on 22 March 2016. There were 2 deletions and 6 additions meaning that the number of members in 2016 is 116.

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

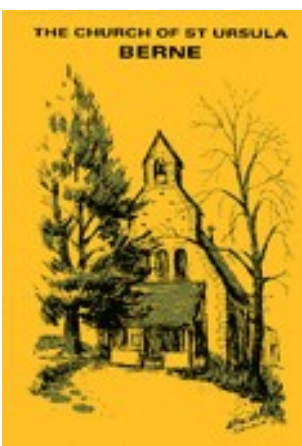
MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

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 35 volunteers as of December 2015. These loyal helpers supported a total of 62 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 you can 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, 375 people subscribe to the magazine, with 287 receiving a hard copy and 88 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 three to six people helping, the job goes smoothly.

Many thanks to all the faithful helpers!

Jana Kutesko & Annemarie Walthert

WEBMASTER

Like it or hate it, the internet has become part of our daily life, and a church without a website is like a restaurant without a menu - how do you find out what is going on inside unless you are one of the absolute regulars?

From being one of the first churches in Switzerland to use the World Wide Web, we now have to keep up with a mass of websites promoting everything from the neighbourhood pizzeria to the rantings of foreign religious fanatics. Keeping up to date, and ensuring that people know about our activities is a major challenge, and consumes more time than there is available. But an out-of-date message is a negative message, and nobody wants to search for news of our latest services to be met with the worship schedule for December 2014!

There really is a lot of information on the website itself. The service plan, rotas, news of current events, old photographs, links to useful information, electronic copies of our magazine, past sermons, all are only a click away. Even some really obscure stuff - while I was writing this, I received an email from someone who had inherited a gold watch given to her grandmother by Lucy Castleman, the American who contributed much of the sum needed to build the church back in 1906 (there's food for a magazine article! ☺). She had been reading one of our history pages.

Our site, www.stursula.ch, is not the only channel of communication we have on the internet. People can find us, as they can most Anglican churches, using the site "A Church Near You" (achurchnearyou.com). And we try to keep our Facebook and Twitter presence lively and interesting - each week Facebook send us statistics to tell us how effective we have been, which are often a spur to even more activity!

In January 2016, there were 2429 “visits” to stursula.ch, accessing 5749 pages with 3.88 gigabytes of information - a drop on last year's figures, perhaps showing a trend towards getting information from social media. As always, our rotas and news pages, our store of past sermons, the magazine and details of contact people were the most visited pages.

Interestingly, a number of people came to our site by entering concepts like “prayer points for leading intercession” into their search engine. It is good to reflect that “getting noticed” is also a part of evangelism. These people didn't seek us out, but they found us, and what can we do with them to meet their needs?

The time will soon come for a radical redesign of the church's web presence, as browsing the web increasingly involves smartphones and other mobile devices. If you feel you have a talent in this area, step out from under your bushel, and offer your services to the church!

Hector Davie, Webmaster

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team is busy being invisible....
You may wonder what I mean.

Well, we are happy praying for people and situations “in the background”. We hope that anyone may feel they can ask us to focus those prayers on a specific situation. You can also use the book in porch to request prayers and we check it regularly to see if there are any additions.



Just let us know the needs we may have missed.

Shareene Potter

BUILDINGS

Building Manager

2015 has been a year with minor but constant small works in our Church.

At the end of March we repaired the back gate and the uneven slabs going down to the parking.

In May three roof tiles were replaced on the chaplain's house maybe it was due to the wind or the martens we are not sure who was the guilty one.

Later we had our regular spring garden clean-up. I would like to thank all the volunteers who came and this time there were many.

A big thank you also goes to Chlöe & Beat Hodler as they donated two new garden benches and the trees which are now outside the church porch. The third bench has been repaired and we hope it will last for another 10/15 years.

In summer all the trees were checked by a tree specialist because of safety reasons and some were also trimmed. Tree inspection and work should be done every four years.

The blinds in the upper and the lower hall had to be repaired and we hope that people in the future will handle them with more care, in autumn there was another garden clean-up and we had lots of help from everybody.

All the cupboards in the lower hall have been replaced. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. A very big thank you from all of us to such a generous supporter. I believe our Church would need many more of them.

At the end of the year the glass door in the porch had to be urgently repaired as most of the hinges were broken.

2016 will be the year of a big plan for our Church, St Ursula's Appeal for energy and sustainability. Many people are involved in this project and we need everybody's support but above all your prayers.

In Christ

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 large concern was been the cupboard doors in the Upper and Lower Church Halls - thankfully this has now been resolved with the installation of the new cupbaords.

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 in 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. For further information on this topic I refer to the recent results of the Church Energy Group headed by Hans Goepfert.

Church Lighting

A problem has popped up with the fluorescent lights in the lower Church Hall. It seems that the induction coils in the light fittings are getting weak such that the lights fail even with new tubes and starters. A good way around this problem is replacing the fluorescent tubes with compatible LED tubes. 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

Unfortunately the City of Berne has given up their de-centralized recycling plants, in particular the one close to the Church. Due to lack of suitable transport for the glass, PET-bottle and metal containers the Church's own collection can no longer be offered. Church users (in particular third parties renting our Church) are asked to take their recyclable waste to appropriate public collection places (e.g. Helvetiaplatz). Special solutions for Church events (i.e. Bazaars, book sales etc.) are worked out on a case by case basis.

Telephone and Internet

Our internet based telephone system seems to perform well and without any major problems.

SIPCall has announced an increase to the charge for provided telephone numbers (Church office, Church Hall and Church House) from April 2016. However this will not affect our expenses significantly.

Rolf Klingler, Church Caretaker

Environmental - Energy Efficiency Initiative

In 2013 council decided to take a closer look at the ever growing costs for energy. A project team was nominated in June 2013 and commissioned to carry out an energy efficiency analysis. The objective was to look at ways to reduce our energy usage and the financial burden that goes with it. By that time we hoped to finalize the report in late 2014/early 2015.

However, the task to look at all aspects of energy consumption proved to be more time consuming than anticipated, mainly because of the mild winters and the additional GEAK analysis we decided to carry out. This is part of the energy efficiency promotion program of the Kanton of Berne and necessary to apply later for subsidies.

Works were finally terminated in autumn 2015 and the report was presented to Council during the November 2015 meeting. The report summarized that we use over 70% more energy than necessary.

The reason is our wonderful church with the adjacent buildings, built at a time when energy costs were insignificant and insulation wasn't considered important. Additionally, our heating infrastructure from the 1980's, doesn't work correctly any more and is inefficient and outdated.

Council discussed the findings that came out of the Energy Team's report and agreed to go ahead with the project. The envisaged measures would allow to reduce our energy consumption by more than 70% and to eliminate the long standing heating problems and the draughts in the church.

But all this comes at a price and to get there needs the help of all. We are therefore encouraged to be generous when the Sustainability and Energy Appeal campaign is officially launched at the AGM on 9 April.

Hans Goepfert

LIBRARY



St Ursula's church library continues to be open most Sundays in the Upper Hall during the coffee time after the church service. It offers a wide variety of books for children, teens and adults. There are Bible study and reference aids, books on spirituality, family and Christian living, children's books, youth fiction as well as historical, biographical and autobiographical books.

A complete book list (except children's books) became available on the church website last year so it is easy to check if the book you are looking for is in the library or just to browse the titles for something that interests you.

Several members of the congregation have produced book reviews for the church magazine, and more will be coming. If anyone has a book to recommend they are welcome to write a review of it for the magazine or give a short live presentation in church. Any suggestions for book acquisitions are very welcome!

Sadly, only a limited number of people take advantage of the library, mainly children. It is easily accessible and books may be borrowed for one month although librarians are lenient with those who don't return them on time!

Any questions or requests can be directed to library coordinators Isabelle Wienand (isabelle.wienand@unibas.ch) and Donna Goepfert (dgo@secunet.ch), to Peter Potter or to the other helpers, Andrée Kamarys and Annemarie Walthert.

Donna Goepfert

BOOK AND FOOD SALES

Second Hand English Books

We had another very successful year with the book sales, taking around Fr7,000 from all four sales. This is only possible with the continuing and dedicated support of a great team of helpers, who are on hand to help sort the hundreds of book donations at regular intervals during the year and to sell on the day. My thanks, therefore, go to our regular book team (Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead and Patricia Schwager) and also to those ladies who come to help whenever they can.



Our new “theme tables” look attractive and produce a few sales, although most people come primarily to buy second-hand paperback novels. The children’s books are also hugely popular and seem to be expanding.

We continue to receive far more books than we have room for or could possibly sell. While some of the donations have to be thrown away because of their bad condition, we have found an outlet for the dozens of books which are still in good condition but for which we have no space. Since summer 2015, we have been sending them to a charity in Addis Abeba called “Addis Guzo” (Neue Reise - Neue Fahrt) which supports people with disabilities in Ethiopia. The charity runs a wheelchair workshop (unique in Ethiopia) and, since October 2015, a new centre with therapy rooms, a day centre and a library. Our books go towards building this library.

I would like to thank everyone who supports our book sales. They are extremely popular, attracting people from as far away as Lausanne and the Bernese Oberland, and are an important source of outreach and income for St. Ursula’s. If anyone has any suggestions for our sales or would like to join our team of helpers, I would be delighted to hear from you.

*Allison Masciadri,
Tel: 079 343 2165*

British Food Stall

For over 10 years, we have had a stall 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 after the 10.00 church service on the 2 Sundays following each sale.



The Christmas Bazaar always has the biggest sales and we're very, very lucky to have such willing and enthusiastic helpers for this and all the other sales. A special thank-you must go to Caroline Trippas and my daughters, Georgina and Eleanor, who rarely miss helping at a sale

Running the food stall is a year round activity and a great deal of thanks must also 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 Fr14,000 after costs in 2015 - but also an important and friendly outreach to the wider community.

Catering

Once again 2015 was a busy year. Fortunately we had a good reliable team and were able to maintain our reputation for providing good food and service.

This year our goal will be to maintain this and to this end we are well on the way.

However, the need to develop a younger team of helpers has arrived. Some of our wonderful helpers are no longer able to physically cope, though their hearts are in the right place.

We are fortunate to have a trained chef in our midst who was an amazing resource for the Christmas Bazaar.





We are at this point in time - thank you Tricia - trying to bring order into the kitchen cupboards. One measure will be to have a locked cupboard to which Tricia, Jana and I will have access. Sadly, many utensils have disappeared which we rely on to be there as needed. This measure will ensure that indeed they are.

We also intend to replace various kitchen utensils and acquire some new ones.

As the Choir Festival approaches we will be requiring everyone's support.

And finally, a word of thanks to all those who have responded to our calls for help in all the various ways.

Lynn Morgan & Jana Kutesko

ST URSULA'S SUMMER FÊTE



This year's Summer fête was held over a very busy weekend, not only did we have to compete with the Tour de Suisse in Berne but also with our Confirmation service that was re-scheduled, at relatively short notice, to the following

day. However, despite the distractions, we still managed to have plenty of visitors and were pleased to take over Fr6,000 for church funds.



Our Summer Fête in 2016 on Saturday 4 June will be celebrating the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II - don't miss it!

Jana Kutesko

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2015

The Christmas Bazaar in 2015 proved once again to be a very popular and looked forward to event with lots of visitors throughout the two days.



The bazaar requires an immense amount of organisation starting months in advance of the actual bazaar.

The “action” really starts to intensify from the beginning of “set-up” on Thursday night when a team clears the church and halls and makes sure that all the tables and stands etc are moved to their correct positions ready for the arrival of the stall holders on Friday morning.



By 16.00 on Friday, all the stalls are set up and looking beautiful ready for the 17.00 opening.





The bazaar was busy right from the start and all the visitors were welcomed enthusiastically by all.



Two days of smiling faces from both the helpers and visitors made the 2015 Christmas Bazaar an enjoyable and joyous event.



I would like to once again thank all those dozens of helpers who tackled - with good humour, tolerance 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. The final Christmas bazaar tally was over Fr23,600 - our best ever!

This year's bazaar will be held on Friday 25 & Saturday 26 November.

Jana Kutesko

PATCHWORK



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

A big THANK YOU goes to all ladies who are working so hard. We just hope we can manage again for the next Christmas Bazaar in November. If you would like to join the group (there are some vacant

chairs) we would be delighted to help you in your project.

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

At the Bazaar the Patchwork Group is making a significant contribution to the church in outreach, fellowship and money from the sale of the items small and large that have been designed, assembled, stitched together and quilted throughout the year.

If you wish to find out more please get in touch with one of the patchwork ladies. They are meeting on Friday mornings in the church hall, or make a phone call to Elisabeth Pfyffer on 026 492 0326.

Elisabeth Pfyffer

ARCHDEACONRY

Archdeaconry Synod

Nine “full-time” Anglican chaplaincies work together to proclaim the Gospel to the English-speaking people of Switzerland. We are joined by seasonal chaplaincies in the mountain areas, and are closely supported by the American Episcopal congregation in Geneva, and by our partners in the Swiss Old Catholic Church.



A lot of this collaboration takes place behind the scenes, formulating a joint approach to common problems. Essential to this is the work of the archdeacon, coordinating and ministering on the Bishop's behalf, and we are lucky that he is located here in Berne in the person of Peter.

Some of the work is more public, particularly the annual choir festival, and the regular meetings, courses and seminars held as part of SACEP - the Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme. In the year under review, SACEP held a day course on planning worship, a seminar on conflict resolution and a study on “what it means to be an Anglican.” Future meetings are planned on the migration situation and on discipleship.

Each chaplaincy elects representatives to the archdeaconry synod, which meets twice a year. Our lay representatives are Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Richard King. Our clergy also all take part. Synod met on 20 June 2015 in Vevey, and on 6 February 2016 in Berne.

The Diocesan Secretary from London, Adrian Mumford, addressed the June meeting, and reported on the latest developments at diocesan level. There had been important steps taken in the field of safeguarding, with new courses for online training, which received a positive response. These were being extended, and guidelines were being centralized, which meant that individual chaplaincies did not have to reinvent the wheel in matters of protection.

Adrian also reported on the new diocesan strategy for growth, mission, resourcing and evangelism - you can find it on line at the diocese's website - and on the financial relations between the central church and the Diocese in Europe, which had allowed the appointment of a full-time archdeacon to cover northern Europe, as well as much greater flexibility.

The June meeting also heard reports from Elizabeth Bussman, the diocesan environmental officer, on the latest ideas for a greener church. We heard from Adèle Kelham, chaplain in Lausanne, on relations with the Old Catholic Church - a task of practical ecumenism which is was suggested should be tackled both at local and national level. Just as relevantly, we continued with something we have started doing, two-minute reports from each chaplaincy. This time the reports

concentrated on the question of how we could bring our scattered congregations together for events. Should study groups be centralized or local? Do chaplaincies organise their members in local clusters, or provide car pools - it was interesting to hear the various approaches.

In February, our guest speaker was Rev'd William Gulliford, who is Diocesan Director of Ordinands, in charge of training new ministers - members of congregations in Europe who have felt a call to serve as priests or deacons. He described the current procedures for selecting and training people for the ministry. Many people in Europe found the selection procedure too "British" and the actual training posed problems for candidates who were a long way away from Britain. The diocese aimed to encourage more people under the age of 32 to come forward. There was a discussion about how lay ministry fitted into this, but this was not part of Fr William's brief!

We also discussed our budget, covering the choir festival, SACEP, support for the archdeacon's work, and the contributions we make as an archdeaconry to the work of Partner Sein, the Old Catholic aid agency, and to the Anglican chaplaincy in Athens, which is actively involved in projects to help the people of Athens in the current economic crisis, and also to assist in the local refugee situation as well.

A set of group discussions allowed members to hear from people in other chaplaincies how individual churches were translating the Diocesan Strategy Plan into action. It is useful to meet semi-formally and say to each other "We're doing this, what are you doing?", and interesting to hear how many different ways there are of "nurturing new disciples", "sustaining a culture of welcome, invitation and hospitality" or "encouraging care for Creation" (to name only three of the eighteen detailed goals in the Bishop's Plan).

If you have questions, do ask your synod members. You will find the relevant synod minutes on line at www.anglican.ch. It is always good to recall that St Ursula's is not a closed group - we are part of a wider church, and the archdeaconry synod is one of the places where we can put our own church life into perspective.

Hector Davie

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2015 in Zürich

The annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held in Zürich at St. Andrew's Church on the weekend of 11 April - 12 April 2015. It was attended by 55 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 Zürich. The Music was led by David Hill (Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers) with James Orford (Organ Scholar, Truro Cathedral) at the organ.



A choral Evensong on Saturday and a choral Communion Service on Sunday morning were the highlights of the occasion. On Saturday the choral music included works by Howells, Palestrina, Sanders and Rheinberger, and on Sunday the Missa Brevis, K221, known as the 'Spatzenmesse' by Mozart together with Anthems and Motets by Batten and Bainton enriched the liturgy of the Communion Service.

Thanks are extended to the Chaplaincy of St. Andrews in Zürich for having hosted the Festival in 2015 and making us so welcome, and to all who supported and contributed in many ways to making it a great event.

These Festivals are some of the few occasions each year where members from the different chaplaincies meet together and join 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 2015 as follows:

List of Payments in 2015

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)	1,000.00		Phasing out
Regional help for refugees Middle East	1,500.00		New project
Train a Priest	1,000.00	700	
International			
Church Mission Society	1,800.00	1,200	For Argentina
Us - United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	1,800.00	1,200	For Bangladesh
Bishop's Lent Appeal (Athens)	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		

It was our turn to nominate the charities supported by the collection at this year's Carol Service at the Heiliggeist Church - this was split equally between Syrian Refugee families and Passantenhilfe.

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 again to make a 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 2015 is now 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

with her team of helpers who have organised various fundraising events at St Ursula's such as the traditional November Pumpkin Soup Lunch, the Lent Soup Lunch and concerts/events 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 (some of the Junior church children helped by baking and making produce themselves!), the Christmas service collections and the Junior Church collections go to this project.

Recently on 6 March 2016 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 Refuge Egypt. We were privileged to have a guest speaker, Father Medhat Sabry come from Casablanca. He grew up in and served in the ministry in Egypt for 27 years and has now been serving in Casablanca for 3 years. On the Saturday evening he gave an interesting and challenging talk in the church hall on 'Refugees from a North African and Arabic view'. The meeting was well attended. Our Missions Sunday service took place in our now established pattern. The charity banners were carried in and hung up in the church, the charity team did the intercessions and reading (this time a dramatised reading for the children) and Father Medhat gave the sermon. As it was also Mothering Sunday, the children handed out lovely seed pots they and their helpers had prepared to the mothers. The service was followed by a well-attended Pot Luck meal with a happy time of fellowship and sharing. During the Pot Luck meal Father Medhat gave us a lively talk about the work of Refuge Egypt. We also had a display of information about our charities in the church hall.

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 Klinger

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 Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

Current Members of the Church Council

Churchwardens:

Maxine Wildhaber 076 349 4042

Isabelle Wienand 026 321 5814

Lay Members:

Tricia Carrick 031 535 53 28

John Eze 079 489 58 46

Sue Faillettaz 031 832 4245

Donna Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Hans Goepfert 031 931 27 42

Tony Read 033 243 34 32

Edi Wildhaber 079 460 61 15