

St Ursula's Church Berne



Annual Reports for 2017

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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:

Rev Prebendary Stephen Stuckes



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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

I arrived almost a year ago and began by establishing a rhythm of prayer building upon that already started by Henry Hope. Prayer and worship are a priority for me and though it took me a while to discern how the community here is worshipping, I gradually began to discern what is possible and necessary. A weekday eucharist on a Thursday morning is a regular event and this Lent we are seeking to widen the practice of daily prayer through the use of a simple office book.

In the late autumn we began a short series of Bible Study Groups at Church House. These were supported by a faithful group of church members who could attend but a means of extending the involvement in Bible Study is needed. There is a Lent Course underway using a contemporary Book of Lent Talks from the BBC as a basis of the reflection and discussion.

Christmas Worship was reasonably well attended. If we are to capitalise on contact with those who come for these seasonal occasions then we would need to consider further how, as a community, we respond to the opportunity this presents. I was struck by how many of our regular community are not present for Christmas Services.

On a positive note there is a warm and welcoming community at St Ursula and people are drawn to worship here primarily because we are 'English speaking'. Is it possible that we can do more to connect with those who come for the first time in order to help them establish as more committed members? Our coffee and fellowship after church is important. I am diligent about speaking with and obtaining contact details from new folk who come but this is a task we all need to engage with. It would be good if those seeking to establish themselves in our church found friendship and invitation at an early stage.

A group of seven travelled to the monastery at Bose in Italy in February. I want to help people explore different aspects of our faith and tradition. It can be enriching to discover how other Christians live and worship. I have been described as a 'natural pilgrim' and shared excursions to holy places can be inspiring. It challenges us to ask how much we want to share in and grow with the Christian community to which we are called.

From the perspective of a priest there is a great deal to be done here and many things that can legitimately require my time and attention. I can only minister effectively here if I can build a ministry team. We need to develop new vocations in the community and establish a pastoral team - a priority for the coming year. Henry Hope's own exploration of his call and vocation is an example of how enriching it is in community when people begin to ask what God is calling them to do and be. But there will be many other types of vocation to discover than that of a priest if we want the Church to grow. This will also mean supporting people in recognising their vocation as Christians in what they are already doing in life and

work.

It is important for me to thank those who carry responsibility in our church. Maxine and John as Church wardens, Members of Council, Jana as Administrator, Hans-Karl, Elizabeth, members of the choir and Music Group for their contribution to our worship. The Catering team for hospitality, Ruth and those who organise the rotas and Ruby for taking on the sometimes vexing task of producing beamer slides. Tricia and Hector for many and various tasks. Hans, Edi and Rolf for the significant care, maintenance and development of our buildings. Sue, as Treasurer, for keeping our finances in order and all our generous benefactors. The flower ladies. All who assist at our events and sales. The leaders of Junior Church and crèche and those who work with children here.

Our work with young people and families must be a priority. We need someone with a dedicated focus on this area of ministry to support those already doing such good work in this area. I cannot think of anything that deserves our time, attention and resources more than the encouragement of young people in the Church. I welcome your support in every way as we seek to take this task forwards.

Thank you for being a part of St Ursula's. It is a church worth supporting. Day by day, week by week we are seeking to be faithful, living a rhythm of prayer and worship, seeking to discern God's will for this church, visiting the sick and those in need, teaching the faith, studying the scriptures. I ask you to commit again to the coming year. Dig a little deeper and ask God if you can be more of the person he has made and called you to be in the world. You have my friendship and commitment as priest. Please continue to support me in this task.

Rev Prebendary Stephen Stuckes, Chaplain

CHURCH WARDENS

It has been another year of landmark occasions to celebrate for St Ursula's Church.

Surely the main event of the year was the installation of our new Chaplain, Stephen, on 27 May. The British Ambassador, Berne city dignitaries and clergy, including those from all the other Anglican chaplaincies in Switzerland were invited.

A day of joy and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our church and we



wish to thank all the people who made this day a memorable one for our congregation. We are truly blessed to have Stephen and Jane with us at St Ursula's.

The influence of our Energy project was felt on several levels this year. The installation of the new central heating system in the church and the insulation of Church House have brought cosy warmth. Thanks to the project we will not only



be saving on energy bills, but also have a smaller impact on the environment. This did mean that during most of the Autumn months services were held in the upper hall, while the heating elements were being installed. The building committee members did an exceptional job to see this project through. Thank you all for the professionalism and expertise that you collectively brought to the table, without your support and guidance this project would not have come to fruition. Special thanks goes to Hans

Goepfert, who spent countless hours on-site and paid constant attention to every detail of the project.

Additionally, we were able to update the ground floor of Church House. It now has an open-plan layout with new flooring and a much needed new coat of paint.

Thank you to our generous donators and everyone who attended our fundraising events. Thank you Jana, Sue, and all the others who organised special events for the building fund. And there were many more events this year - the traditional, well loved ones, such as: Breakfast at Church, every first Sunday of the month; the Christmas Bazaar, a big thank to Jana for the organisation and running the Food Stall; several Food and Book Sales that are always appreciated by the congregation and also by other people not related to the Church; the Summer Fête, a must in the springtime season and always welcomed.





There were special fundraising events such as the Pub Quiz night, the Beauty Day and the evening at the Embassy in July. It was a lovely summer evening and we all appreciated the Ambassador's hospitality and generosity. These were not only profitable events that helped pay for St Ursula's buildings and running costs, but above all were occasions to meet

and build stronger ties within the Church family.

Prof Douglas Pratt led us in a four week Autumn study course on Religion and Extremism. We focused on the three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We analysed that the ideological rejection of diversity underlies religious extremism resulting in violent behaviour in all religions and we discussed on how extremism today might be countered. Thank you, Douglas, for the very interesting course and discussions.

Our stall at the Nacht der Religionen was well attended and we thank Henry Hope for producing a poster about our Energy project that drew a lot of attention.

The Christmas Afternoon Tea Party was a success and we would like to thank Sheila Berger for organising it and also all the other helpers who came to give a hand. It was an enjoyable moment of fellowship.

Shrove Tuesday attracted both crêpes and quiz lovers. Thank you to Tricia and Hector who so faithfully organise this event every year.

Stephen is currently leading a Lent course based on the "Lent Talks" broadcasts on BBC Radio 4 and we are very blessed to have a big group attending it.

I, Maxine, would personally like to thank you Stephen, for organising a lovely trip to the monastery of Bose during the first week of Lent. We were a small group but each of us loved the quietness and spirituality of this place.

The lay brothers and sisters of Bose live according to monastic rules inspired by the Benedictine, devoted to prayer and work. All the members of the community work at the monastery doing various tasks such as working in the vegetable garden, painting icons, in the wood works, pottery works or managing the typography. Some work outside the community, but still have time to pray and share in the community life.

We hope that in the future we can organise another trip to Bose with a bigger group and I am sure we will all appreciate a few days away from the hustle and bustle of our everyday life.

Although he would not want to call attention to himself, we would like to give a special thank you to Henry Hope. Following his calling to ministry he has supported and helped us out in a myriad of ways, many unseen. With Stephen's support he has been exploring the next steps towards his goal and we wish him every success.

Another very important date for Council was our "Away Day", where members of Council met to reflect on the different ministries of our church. Stephen has brought many new ideas to our church which we have slowly started to implement. Together we hope to prayerfully and carefully reshape our community to bring out its potential in sharing God's love and word.

St Ursula's Church is not only a place of gatherings and events but above all should be a place where we find God. God is among us in every moment and every Sunday, in the breaking of the bread, we are reminded to live in right relationships with each other. There is a vitally important "one another" element to our breaking bread and sharing one cup together.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (Corinthian 12-27)

We are truly blessed here at St Ursula's Church, our family is replete with such an array of gifts and talents that are so generously shared. Some work quietly behind the scenes and may sometimes go unnoticed, but everyone's work is deeply appreciated.

Thank you all for your gifts of time and talent, expertise, generosity and commitment. We are looking forward to another exciting chapter at St Ursula's in the coming year.

Maxine Wildhaber & John Hutchison, Church Wardens

CHURCH COUNCIL

This council met ten times in the council year stretching from May 2017 through March 2018. Vice-Chair Tricia Carrick presided over the meeting for the last time in May before council welcomed our new chaplain, Stephen Stuckes. The interregnum period was very ably filled by locums who helped give continuity to our worship, but council was looking forward to working with Stephen towards formulating our vision and mission strategy and beginning to carry it out.

Council usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month, and there was one Standing Committee meeting in December. Council also held an "Away Day" in January where we discussed spirituality and worship and other aspects of church life such as welcome, music, pastoral care and healing.

The events which affect the life-and-running of the church are discussed in

council meetings. Council supported Douglas Pratt in his leading of a four week course on Religion and Extremism and helped in the planning of an Advent Bible Study. Council also discussed communication in the church and Stephen helped us look at issues such as the wise use of e-mails. Music is discussed, as are the organising of events for the older members of the congregation and St Ursula's contribution towards Nacht der Religionen.

Sue Higson, who headed fundraising efforts for the Energy Project, worked with council in helping to coordinate an evening at the British Ambassador's residence, an Ethiopian night and in 2018 an evening featuring the author Diccon Bewes, among other things.

Junior Church and Youth are important topics for council. Council is thankful for the dedication of the teachers and hopes to find ways of encouraging more children to come. Linked to this is the important subject of safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Officer, Cecily Klingler, continues to help St Ursula's work towards safeguarding compliance and the filling out of Risk Assessments for everything that happens in any of our buildings.

Council member Henry Hope is going forward for ministry selection and council desire to support him in prayer and other ways in the process.

Church property requires maintenance and renewal which council is responsible for overseeing. Edi Wildhaber, with the support of Rolf Klingler and Beat Hodler, organises the work including the big job of garden care.

The Energy Project is coming to a close. Churchgoers were accepting about holding services in the Upper Hall for many weeks in autumn while the church renovations were going on. Painting the outside of the chaplain's house is one of the last remaining jobs to be done. It was delayed by decisions of the Denkmalschutz and then by inclement weather. Hans Goepfert and his team had many planning meetings and both Edi Wildhaber and Rolf Klingler were there for much of the hands-on work. One positive occurrence was having some refugees from a centre come and help remove gravel from the basement. They were happy to have work and then share lunch together.

This report covers only a part of council's work. Observers are welcome to attend council meetings. If you have questions or suggestions that council could consider, please speak to a council member. Their names are listed in the back of the church magazine. Importantly, please continue to pray for the work of the council and its members as they strive to facilitate worship, fellowship and outreach at St Ursula's.

Donna Goepfert, Council Secretary

THUN GROUP

For more than a year we have held our services at the Chapelle Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22 close to the station in Thun. This chapel is more convenient than our previous venue.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at 18.30. Stephen leads us in worship with a Eucharist service followed by a time of fellowship.

Elizabeth Bussmann has also led us in worship when Stephen has not been available.



We feel fortunate to be supported by St Ursula's, Berne and to have three musicians, Patricia Carrick, Tony Read and Henry Hope who play for us regularly.

Last year we held our service of Lessons and Carols at the chapel for the first time and we were grateful to have Hans-Karl Pfyffer, Hans Kimmich with Jessica Wipfli as well as the St Ursula's Choir to play and sing for us. We enjoyed a wonderful buffet with mulled wine with the whole congregation after the service.

The Thun group try to also support St Ursula's by helping at Book and Food Sales, the Christmas Bazaar and also other St Ursula events whenever possible.

We are grateful that, despite only being a small group of worshippers, we have managed to maintain regular services in Thun for the past 34 years!

Sharon Bachmann

CRÈCHE

St Ursula's crèche looks after the youngest members of the congregation during the 10.00 Sunday service, so parents can focus on their worship. In the past year, we had on average 3.4 children attend crèche - on the busiest Sunday we had nine. We managed to offer crèche on every Sunday that had a 10.00 service, including 24 and 31 December, and hope to continue doing so this year. We couldn't do this without the help of a committed group of crèche helpers. A big thank you to all of them!

Sara Hutchison, Crèche Coordinator

CHURCH BREAKFASTS



Church breakfasts continued in 2017. They are held on the first Sunday of each month (except during holiday time). These are normally attended by around 10 - 12 people.

It is an informal time for people to meet each other. Everyone is welcome, with no need to sign up beforehand.

Tricia Carrick

JUNIOR CHURCH

Classes

In 2017 St Ursula's offered two Junior Church classes: Sparklers/Trailblazers for those aged 3 to 9, Trailblazers/Pilots for those aged 9 to 14+.

During 2017, the older children (11 and upwards) remained in church on the 2nd Sunday of each month for an Informal Eucharist and on these Sundays just one Junior Church Class is offered. We also have a few "All-Age" services during the year.

We leave for our classes shortly after the start of the 10.00 service.

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.

Teachers

With the welcome addition of Ruby Wildhaber to our team the number of teachers remained at seven during 2017. Ideally we would like a pool of teachers of between nine and twelve.

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 raising approximately CHF 250. In addition, the church collections at Harvest and at the Christmas Services also went to this project.

Nativity Play

Parents, grandparents, step-parents, siblings, or simply our Church community in general formed the audience for our Nativity Play on 10 December.



We focused on the stories of the shepherds and the angels - each group told the story as they had experienced it. This was interspersed with bible readings and carols. Each participant - child or adult - was a shepherd or an angel.

The play included lots of well-known carols and also one we had learned a few years ago from “Hark!”. The music group accompanied the carols and we had (our now becoming traditional) saxophone music beforehand. The Nativity Play is one of those moments where time stands still and the whole congregation unites in that magic moment when Christ is born.

If I have counted correctly, 19 children, 17 adults and 3 youth took part. There are more photographs on St Ursula’s website - www.stursula.ch.

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.

Jana Kutesko, Tricia Carrick & Ruby Wildhaber

YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Since September 2016, members of the Youth Group have been meeting on the first and third Sunday of each month to study the Bible. Our initial topic was “Fruit of the Spirit”. We had a long break over the summer in 2017 and resumed in September to look at various “Old Testament Characters”. This has proved to be very interesting, however, only a few (2 - 4) young people attend regularly.

At Christmas we joined the Junior Church to help with the Nativity Play.

Tricia Carrick

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

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. The Diocesan Guidelines have been updated 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 Ursula's. Safeguarding checks for those working with children and young people at our church now need to be reviewed every 5 years. A wider group of people in our church will also now need to complete safeguarding checks if they are involved with children or vulnerable adults.

Diocesan training sessions on safeguarding issues for children and for adults are available online. It is mandatory for all those who work with our children even if they already have safeguarding clearance, and most of our helpers have already successfully completed this. Once it is set up, those involved in St Ursula's Pastoral Care will also need clearances and need to complete the online training. A training day on Safeguarding led by Archdeaconry trainers took place at St Ursula's in November 2017.

Risk Assessments and Activity Plans are now required for all church meetings and events. This is part of ensuring that our church is a safe place for all at all times. We have begun to undertake completing these and a small team is working on helping to make this procedure clear and simple for everyone and so that it can also to be available online.

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 upper 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. 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 and Crèche sessions have ended.

Cecily Klingler, Safeguarding Officer

Tel: 031 302 4859 or 076 425 4859, E-mail: cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

MUSIC

Music in our Services

Worship and Music Planning

In 2017 the hymn and music planning for many services was done by the organist in consultation with the clergy.

The music for informal services has usually been planned by those leading these services together with members of the music group.

Organists

Organ music continues being an important, but not exclusive, part in the services and worship at St Ursula's church. The contribution for assistance in substituting for the organ playing (on a few occasions, 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 15 singers of all voices. Two new members have joined the choir; sadly one member has seriously fallen ill and is not able to continue in the choir for the time being. Saturday choir practices are a regular activity for our enthusiastic singers.

On a number of occasions the choir has enriched our services, for example with a Psalm, an Anthem or a Motet, or liturgical items in a Communion Service:

- Nunc Dimittis (as part of the readings: Song of Simeon to a setting by T Noble);
- Father forgive (Coventry Litany, Paul Leddington Wright);
- Easter Anthem;
- Psalms: e.g. 51, 97 (Anglican Chant, usually as a post communion anthem);
- Anthems / Motets, such as: The Lord is full of compassion (Ph. Moore), Thou

knowest Lord (H Purcell), Now the green blade riseth (Linley);

- Christmas Gloria (Ledger), Angel's Carol (J Rutter);

At the Christmas Carol Service in Thun: Angel's Carol (J Rutter) and O Holy Night (A Adam);

At the first service of Christmas: the Gloria (Ledger), Angel's Carol (J Rutter), O Holy Night (A Adam);

On the occasion of special events, the choir has contributed:

- Stephen's Licensing Service: Non Nomine, Domini (Byrd), If ye love me (Tallis), Light of the lonely pilgrim's heart (Nardone);
- Choral Evensong at St Ursula's in November: Song of Mary and Song of Simeon (Rizza), Responses (Ayleward), Ubi Caritas (Gjeilo) and I give you a new Commandment (Nardone);

Three choir members from St Ursula's Church have attended the traditional RSCM Singing Break in Dunblane (Scotland) widening their musical skills and repertoire 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 12th year and continues to provide a regular accompaniment for the mostly contemporary songs, chants and hymns at our services.



Our main contribution is to the Informal Eucharist services, usually on the 2nd Sunday in the month. The music is mostly chosen from the "Worship Today" or "Junior Praise" song books but other sources are also often used (e.g. Common Ground, Taizé, Iona and Hymns Old & New).

A number of the music group members also support the worship at the Thun Church services on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

We are delighted to have been joined during this last year by Raphael (alto sax).

Since completion of the church renovations we have moved our playing position to the back of the church. This has both advantages and some disadvantages. For the moment we will continue at the back but a final decision is still pending.

At the services, our numbers have reached a maximum of 11 (!) on at least one occasion, with a solid core of about 4-5 regular contributors (both musicians and singers).

Our active members during the last year:

Adoree-piano, Agatha-flute, Belle-6string guitar, Eva-voice, Hans-Martin-flute, Henry-alto & baritone sax, Paul-Ukelele, Peter-clarinet & tenor sax, Philip-6string guitar, Raphael-alto sax, Rebecca-alto sax, Tawna-bass guitar, Tricia-piano, Tony-12string guitar.

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

Tony Read

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 26 February. There were 7 additions and 1 deletion meaning that the number of members in 2018 is 124.

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, intercessions, beamer/audio, servers at the altar, chalice assistants and flowers. It is compiled six times a year and based on a list of 40 volunteers as of December 2017. These loyal helpers supported a total of 62 services in the past year and deserve a big Thank You.

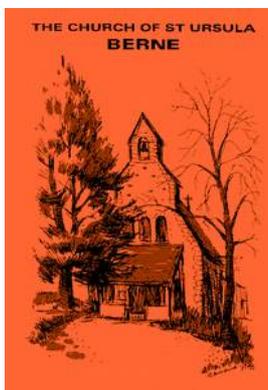
One major change in the Sunday Eucharist took place beginning in November: one of the former chalice assistants is now robed and actively involved, along with the

server, from the beginning. Servers, on the other hand, now take part in administering the chalice. This way only two instead of three helpers are needed to assist at the altar.

We are always looking for new volunteers to share these tasks. There is a coordinator for each individual rota who provides information as well as training and who 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 281 receiving a hard copy and 94 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 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

Collating

About 280 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. Usually there are two to four volunteers doing the job.

Many thanks to the helpers!

Jana Kutesko & Annemarie Walthert

TREASURER'S REPORT

I must admit to feeling very happy as I write this report. In my view, 2017 was a very good year for St Ursula's Church. Stephen joined us mid-year, just in time to witness all the building work, and to probably experience it much more up close and personal than any of us. Up to his arrival we had experienced again some great preaching and ministry from our locums and of course managed to save some money as well as swell our fundraising for the energy appeal. Since his arrival, we have seen an increase in people coming to our church, and in those staying, and I have witnessed the generosity and loyalty of all in giving money to our church, whether through regular giving, our appeals, or in the collection plate. Thank you to all of you who have supported our work in whatever way in the last year. We really do need all to make up the body of Christ here.

I am additionally very happy to be able to report that my Budget was gratifyingly accurate for 2017. We treasurers always like to have an accurate Budget, and although I may have planned more income by around CHF 8,000, I also planned more expenditure by a similar amount, meaning that our budgeted surplus for 2017 of around CHF 39,000 was met. We also met our targets for the energy appeal. The building team did a fantastic job keeping it all on track, and in getting some discounts, plus pitching in to do some labouring themselves. It all helped, and although all the bills are not yet in, we will still have some money left in the building fund for further improvements in the future, plus for any emergencies that might come up. Over half of the surplus has gone back into the building fund, and another smaller amount has been allocated to our Ministry Development Fund which will be used not just for training purposes, but also to enable Stephen to achieve what he wants to do here in Berne. Our general reserves are now in a much healthier position than 2 years ago, at over 6 months' worth of regular expenditure.

Looking ahead to 2018, we have an increased number of regular givers, so I am confident of most of our income. We also have a balanced budget with the extra funds promised being used in our core work and mission. The extra being promised means we can do more to grow our ministry, which has to be good news. We are also experimenting with electronic giving via Twint at both our services (we have noticed a drop in the collection plate) and at our events, so this will make it easier for people to give or to pay for their purchases. Ask me if you don't know your Twint from your Twinkle, and I can explain.

For those who like statistics, there were 716 booking lines made in the Association accounts, and 2,120 in the Church Accounts in 2017. I sent out 122 tax acknowledgements for giving in 2017, although some of those were purely for giving to our Energy appeal. An average Sunday collection is CHF 307, of which a good part will be in coins. If it was all in coins the collection would weigh over 12 kilos, and that is before we count the coffee money!

Finally a big thank you as ever to Hector Davie, for jumping in to cover the collection counting on a Sunday when I cannot make it, and for advising me throughout the year, as well as being an amazing proof-reader. I would also like to give a special thanks to our Auditors, Angus Carrick and Beat Hodler, for checking through those 3,000 bookings. Jana as well deserves a special mention for always being on hand to remind me about things that I might have forgotten, doing the floats for events, keeping the petty cash always balanced, as well as knowing the worth of all our food stocks and mugs. The job would be a lot less fun without her.

The Financial report 2017 as well as the Budget for 2018 is available at the AGM, and after that date will be available to download from our website, or on request from me.

Sue Higson, Treasurer

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT 2014-18

A year ago we gave you a run-down about the proceedings of the energy project during the spring and summer months of 2017. The fundraising team did wonderful work by collecting enough funds to make the project possible, but only just - some compromises were necessary to make ends meet.

So, how did the project evolve? Firstly, the focus was set on the formalities for the building permit, which was submitted to the city authorities (Bauinspektorat) at the beginning of May. The project was then divided into 6 sub-projects which were sent to selected enterprises for them to submit offers. The best ones were then chosen and the contracts prepared and signed. This process was completed in mid-June. The project was now basically ready to go ahead as soon as we received the building permit which was finally granted on 6 July, however, the final formalities with the authorities proved to take considerably more time than anticipated. By the time we could go ahead with the actual works it was 24 July, about 6 weeks behind schedule. Even-so, an unresolved problem about the church

heating was still with the “Denkmalschutz” and this was only resolved on 10 August. This finally cleared the way to start works in the church, which was closed to all activities on 15 August.



Once the works had started, good progress was made, but it was not possible to catch up on the initial delay. Nevertheless, the heating in the chaplain’s house and the halls was operational well before the beginning of the heating period. The same applies also for the

windows installation. Insulation works in and on Church House were completed towards the end of October - also before heating was required. The church was not ready for use until 6 November, instead of the forecasted date of 24 September. This was unfortunate, but thanks to the patience and flexibility of the chaplain and the congregation all handled the inconveniences very well and deserve a big compliment.

Looking at where we stand today, the feed-back from the congregation was positive. The heating is working well, the comfort regarding temperature and audio/beamer performance has improved and the operation of all systems is less error prone and easier to operate than before.

An aspect of financial nature needs to be mentioned here. Sue, our treasurer, has given us some insights of the financial aspects in her report for the AGM. Already, in the early stage of the project, it was obvious that the available finances would not allow us to address all areas that should have been attended to. Thus, it was necessary to tailor the project to fit our resources. Once the detailed project was worked out, we started looking for areas that could be covered with internal resources. We thought about who could do what, and the effort proved to be worth it, because we were finally able to have works done using our own resources that would have otherwise cost about CHF 35,000. We will also recover around CHF 45,000 from subsidies, and in addition have managed to save approximately CHF 8'000 by negotiating better payment conditions. With all these savings, we were able to pay for projects that were strictly speaking not part of the energy project, such as the renewal of the sound system, creating a new fully accessible storage area using unused cellar space in Church House, creating access from the vestry to the roof section of the church and the remodelling of the living area of the chaplain's house.

All of this was a common effort from many members of our congregation, who contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to the success of the biggest renovation and remodelling project in the history of our church. We don't need to brag about it, but we as a church surely deserve a little congratulatory "pat on the shoulder".

Hans Goepfert, Energy Project Coordinator

ENERGY APPEAL FUNDRAISING



The building work on our church buildings and house in the last year is finally coming to an end. It was a great effort; started with that one anonymous donation of CHF 250,000 and added to via fundraising events and individual donations over the past 2 years. We have new windows in the upper hall and house, we have a new computer controlled heating

system throughout, a new sound system, a hearing loop, and the house has been refreshed to make it more comfortable and homely.



Who can forget our great fundraising events? Our evenings with the members of the Swedish Church, the Danish Church, the Ethiopian Church, our beauty day with the Brazilians, and our popular pub quiz evenings (that will now become a regular event). We had the evening in the vicarage of course, with Brian Rodford, and a piano recital at the home of Eleanor Müller. The crowning event had to be the evening at the British Embassy residence with music and entertainment, all hosted by the

Ambassador himself.

The whole project was budgeted to cost around CHF 440,000 and we are currently forecasting that the final sum will actually be around CHF 400,000, which means we can do a little bit more on the house in the coming years. Our building committee has a plan for the future, and of course we need to restock our building fund, but there is enough still to cover our needs for the next few years.

A big thank you to all the skilled craftsmen who worked on the project, the architects and the members of our building team, as well as to all who provided financial support. We now really have a church fit for the future, and can benefit from lower energy costs in the coming years as well as offering a better experience for all users of our buildings.

Sue Higson, Treasurer

WEBMASTER

The internet continues to grow in importance as a way of spreading the news - not just the Good News about Jesus, but the details of what is going on in church, and at St Ursula's in particular.

Our website also continues to grow in size, with almost 7 gigabytes of material. You can see from our site map, or from the foot of our home page, www.stursula.ch, what we have. As I said in last year's report, we have:

- details of who we are, where we are, and what we do, aimed at newcomers and visitors to the area;
- news of our latest and forthcoming events, for the benefit of members and

people on the edge who want to be informed;

- a library of photographs, for those who like to see or be reminded of what we do;
- present and past issues of our newsletter;
- an archive of past sermons, for those who cannot get in to church, or who need some spiritual listening;
- rotas, notice sheets and service sheets, for those involved in our Sunday worship;
- data (not normally publicly available) for council, committees, the office, the music group and others;
- links to fellow Christians, to worship resources, to the wider Christian world;

We also have a presence on Facebook and Twitter, and a blog, all widening the audience of people we want to reach. Our Facebook presence has been much more noticeable this year, thanks to the efforts of Sue Higson and Pieter Perrett, who have kept up a flow of information, news and illustration, and have contributed to our having 161 “likes”, an important measure in the Facebook world. Despite the belief that the young are abandoning Facebook because it has been taken over by the aged and the advertisers, this is still a challenging area.

So is the collaboration between Anglicans in providing new forms of outreach. The Church of England is working on a central tool for churches to present their activities, which has been developed as a fresh version of the old site, www.achurchnearyou.com. One challenge is making our presence known as widely as possible - it is surprising how many people still don't know about us, even if they have lived in Berne all their lives. (So you'll find us on Wikipedia, for instance, and on Google in all its forms!)

Discussions are taking place on how to make our web presence more attractive, and at the same time more up-to-date. These goals are not always easy to reconcile, and we have spent time looking at what different churches do. (A good test at this time of year is to see how many are still inviting us to last December's carol services!). With 5G mobile telephony and universal broadband just around the corner, some of the old assumptions about bloated stylesheets and unoptimized graphics can be thrown out of the window, but they need to be replaced with something that facilitates the work of ministry and outreach!

Between 60 and 150 people visit our website on a typical day (more on a Monday, perhaps to listen to the previous day's sermon?), though typically only five or so of these linger for more than 30 seconds. Apart from our home page and site map, the most visited pages are the rota and service list pages, the magazine, the news and contacts pages, and, oddly, our guidelines for intercessors. In terms of time,

unsurprisingly, the most used pages are our sermons, and not always the most recent ones.

We hope that in the future our web presence will be integrated still further into our regular activities, but for the time being, we rely on you, gentle readers, to ensure that everything remains up to date. Unlike many human people, we thrive on criticism, and if you find something wrong or out of date, or have an idea for improvement, a quick note to webmaster@stursula.ch will be genuinely welcomed.

Hector Davie, Webmaster

BUILDINGS

Building Manager

First of all a very big thank you to you all who continue to help out to keep our premises clean and neat.

A very faithful and active little group of people is always ready to help me whenever I need them for the garden clean up. I personally perform routinely building maintenance when needed.

In summer we organised a BBQ after a garden clean up. It was appreciated by many people and we hope to do it again this year.

The Church is like a house and as in every house there are always small repairs to be done or things to be fixed. We need to take care of God's house the best way we can.

Gutters frequently become clogged with leaves or other debris and therefore need to be inspected and cleared of accumulated debris on a regular basis to ensure the effective discharge of rainwater and to prevent overflowing.

The entrance door and other different doors have needed to be repaired a few times, we need to remember to make our church safe not only for us adults but for the young toddlers too.

The pine martens are not yet homeless, but they soon will be. The last hole in the roof will be repaired before springtime. It was a very busy year for the ones active in the building committee and for Stephen who had to endure a lot of noise, dust etc.

I am very thankful that our plans for the church, both halls and the church house could come to reality the way we hoped and prayed for.

A very warm and big thank you to all the generous donators. We are very fortunate to have such a helpful congregation, besides taking care of God's house

we need also to take care of everybody that walks in our church. They need to feel the warmth not only of our new heating system but of God's Love so they will wish to come back.

Haggai 2:9 - 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.

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.

I appreciate people reporting damage (preferably by E-Mail to me or to the Church Office). The sooner Jana or I know about problems, the sooner they can be solved.

Some of these repairs could be avoided by hall users taking more care with the hall fittings for example not dragging tables and chairs across the floor and instead carrying them.

Heating

The church heating was completely renewed last year. The main elements are:

- The hot-air heating has been removed;
- The radiators have been replaced by wall-heating elements. Advantage: The congregation experiences direct radiation from the warm walls. This increases the comfort factor, even with a lower room temperature;
- The oil-heating has been replaced by natural gas heating. Thus we gained an extra cellar (where the oil tank used to be) and we don't have to worry about checking how much oil is left and when to buy our next oil supply;
- The church halls are now only heated on demand, i.e. when the halls are actually in use. The room temperature is thermostat controlled, i.e. the Danfoss valves on the radiators are no longer being used. This saves additional energy;
- The heating in the church and in the church halls is now directly controlled by the activity calendar edited by Jana. Thus no more manual programming

is required;

- Church House: The house has been insulated on the outside walls. All windows have been replaced. The cellar ceiling and the attic floor have also been insulated. We expect a considerable energy saving;

Special thanks to Hans Goepfert for his excellent leadership of the project and to Edi Wildhaber for all his great contributions including dismantling the old wood panelling in the church.

Church Lighting

Fluorescent tubes in the lower church hall are replaced by LED-substitutes when they fail. The existing lamp fittings do not have to be replaced.

The 2 outside floodlights have been brought to new life. They turn on when it gets dark and off at approximately 23.00.

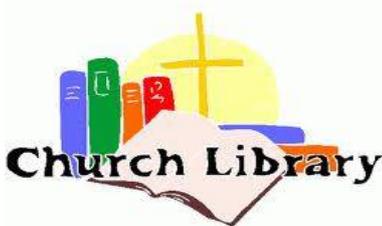
All power points in the church are now RCD-protected.

Garbage Recycling

Church users (in particular third parties renting our church) are asked to take their recyclable waste to appropriate public collection places (e.g. Jubiläumsplatz around the corner from St Ursula's). Special solutions for church events are worked out on a case by case basis.

Rolf Klingler, Church Caretaker

LIBRARY



St Ursula's Church Library, conveniently located in the upper hall, is open most Sundays 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/autobiographical books.

A complete book list (except children's books) is available on the church website 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. Any suggestions for book acquisitions are very welcome!

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. Some members of the congregation have generously donated books to the library and the library coordinators try to inform people of the new additions by publishing a list of new (to us) books in the magazine.

For various reasons only a limited number of people take advantage of the library. It is easily accessible in the upper hall and books may be borrowed for one month although librarians are lenient with those who don't return them on time.

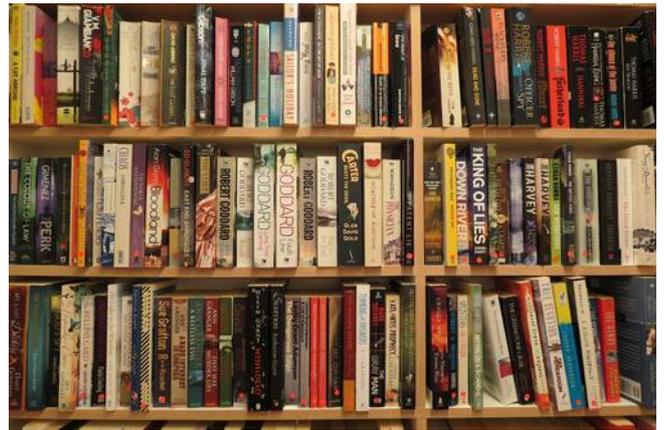
Any questions, suggestions or requests can be directed to Donna Goepfert (dgo@secunet.ch) and Isabelle Wienand (isabelle.wienand@unibas.ch).

Donna Goepfert

BOOK AND FOOD SALES

Second Hand English Books

We had another successful year with selling second-hand books, taking around CHF 8,250 from all four sales. At an average price of around CHF 3 per book, this means we probably sell over 2,500 books each year! And, if we consider the amount of books we receive that are unsuitable for the stall - ripped, pages missing, hardbacks, not in English etc - the book team is handling many thousands of books each year. So well



done ladies, you do a magnificent job, year in, year out. My thanks go to our regular and long-standing team - Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead, Patricia Schwager and Rachel Huguenin - and also to those helpers who come whenever they can.

For a while we were sending our surplus book donations to a charity in Addis Abeba called "Addis Guzo" (Neue Reise - Neue Fahrt), which supports people with disabilities in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, transporting the books to Ethiopia is no longer possible. In the past, we have also made a one-off donation to the prison organisation in Canton Bern. At present, I am looking for other organisations or institutions that might welcome donations of English books, such as hospitals. If anyone has any ideas or contacts, please do let me know.

The question of the rickety shelves is one we will need to address in the near future. We still find children's toys and other foreign items among the books and in the hollows of the shelves, which indicates that users of the lower hall (or their children) are playing in and among the bookcases, despite our notices not to touch. More than anything, this is a safety concern, given the immense weight of the shelves.

To everyone who supports our book sales I would like to express a big THANK YOU. They are extremely popular and continue to be an important source of outreach and income for our church. If anyone would like to join our team of helpers, I

would be delighted to hear from you.

I would also like to remind you that although we are very happy to accept recently published English paperbacks in good condition - we are unable to accept hardback books, videos, cassettes or anything that is tatty, dirty or obsolete.

Allison Masciadri, Tel: 079 343 21 65

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. 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 who faithfully turn up year in, year out. A special thank-you must also go to Caroline Trippas and my daughters, Georgina and Eleanor, who help at almost every sale.



Running the food stall is a year round activity and we currently rely on just a handful of shoppers to buy the tremendous amount of stock we need for all the sales. In 2017 my personal circumstances changed and this, along with the fact that my children are now grown-up and no longer have holidays when I do, has resulted in my trips to the UK reducing significantly. The effect of this is that now more than ever we need people to think about buying supplies for the Food Stall when travelling to the UK, Australia or USA etc or asking visitors to bring food stuffs over with them - just contact me and I can give you a list of items needed - every little bit helps!

The food stalls are not only an important fundraiser for St Ursula's - raising approximately CHF 14,000 after costs in 2017 - but also an important and friendly outreach to the wider community.

Jana Kutesko, Tel: 031 352 8567 or E-mail: berne@anglican.ch

Catering

2017 was again a busy year, and it just zipped by. We were able to maintain our reputation for providing tasty food and service for various events such as Synod, Book and Food Sales and the Christmas Bazaar as well the Safeguarding Training day.

We do attempt to meet the various dietary requirements of both visitors and members of the congregation.

We still need to recruit younger members of the church to help, although we now have a couple of new men on the team.

We have replaced various kitchen utensils and acquired new saucepans thanks to the Coop specials.

Trica has continued to organise the church breakfasts to a loyal group of early risers.

The kitchen remains a source of concern. We ‘missed’ eight large glass bowls, although some have turned up again. The number of people using the kitchen means that the cupboards are often not well utilised. And frequently there are often bags and boxes of edibles left unmarked on the counter, as well as in the cupboard space meant for crockery. Tricia and I plan to do an inventory in spring.

And finally, a word of thanks to all those who have responded to our calls for help in all the various ways. It is wonderful to have you on board.

Lynn Morgan

ST URSULA'S SUMMER FÊTE



After a week of unpredictable weather the day of our summer fête turned out to be better than expected with no rain and even the occasional sunny and warm spell. This year, as well as all our usual stalls, we also had a home-baked cake stall which proved incredibly popular and contributed around CHF 500 to our total sale takings of around CHF 6,000.

Our Summer Fête in 2018 is on Saturday, 16 June - we hope to see you there!

Jana Kutesko



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2017



The Christmas Bazaar in 2017 proved once again to be a very popular and looked forward to event with lots of visitors throughout the two days.

We moved back into our newly renovated church just a couple of weeks before the bazaar and all who visited appreciated the new warmth of the church. Last year we had lots of extra stalls in the church which also helped the festive atmosphere.

The lower hall gave people the chance to buy books, toys, fine wines and have a chance to win some superb tombola prizes. The mulled wine and mince pies stall was very popular with, at times, all the tables taken.

Upstairs the Restaurant, Christmas Cakes and the British Food stall proved as popular as ever.

The bazaar requires an immense amount of organisation starting months in advance of the actual bazaar: Flyers have to be designed, Stall Holders and other volunteers have to be recruited, stalls have to be stocked, cakes have to be baked and iced - the list is seemingly endless.



The “action” starts to intensify from the beginning of “set-up” on Thursday night when a set-up 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.

We always aim to be fully set up by 16.00 on Friday ready for the 17.00 opening.

The 2017 Christmas Bazaar was once again a fun and joyous event and a truly wonderful start to the Advent season.

I would like to thank immensely 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 just over CHF 21,000.

This year's bazaar will return to our usual November slot and be held on Friday 23 & Saturday 24 November 2018.

Jana Kutesko

PATCHWORK

The Patchwork Ladies meet every Friday morning to help each other realising new projects. It is a good hobby working with materials, colours, different patterns, and in the end you have a pleasing new object.

Having lost a few members over the years for various reasons, we are now a small group, and we would welcome newcomers. But we are not only stitching and we can also help each other in various ways.



At the annual Christmas Bazaar the results of our endeavours are on display and for sale. The financial results are always a very welcome and important contribution to the church's finances. We hope this may encourage some hidden talents to come and join us in the group. Just drop in on a Friday morning.

A big THANK YOU goes to all ladies who are working so hard throughout the year.

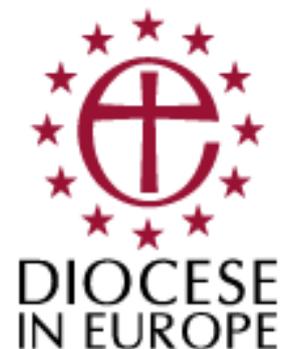
If you wish to find out more please get in touch with one of the patchwork ladies. Do join us on a Friday morning in the church hall, or make a phone call to Elisabeth Pfyffer on 026 492 0326

Elisabeth Pfyffer

ARCHDEACONRY

Archdeaconry Synod

We at St Ursula's send our clergy along with three lay members to the Swiss Archdeaconry Synod. This meets twice a year to discuss matters of common interest to the Swiss chaplaincies (Geneva, La Côte, Lausanne, Vevey, Montreux, Château d'Oex, Neuchâtel, ourselves, Basle, Zurich and Lugano). At the last AGM, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert and Richard King were re-elected as lay representatives. The Archdeaconry Synod also sends two lay and two clerical representatives to the Diocesan Synod. Synod members also get to vote on our diocese's representatives on General Synod.



Synod is a chance to exchange views and experiences with members from other chaplaincies, but it is far more than this. There is an active Christian education programme, SACEP. We support the work of Partner Sein, and of the chaplaincy in

Athens in its work among the poor and the refugees there. We debate policy, and provide feedback to the diocese and to our own chaplaincy councils - and to this AGM. We meet twice a year - in the period under review on 24 June 2017 in Zurich, and on 27 January 2018 in Berne.

Bishop Robert attended the June synod and presented the recently published Diocesan Strategy “Walking Together in Faith”, which sought to set common goals for the Anglican Church in Europe. The Strategy aimed to give guidelines for achieving these goals. It did so under different headings:- Building up the Body of Christ, Sharing in the Evangelization of Europe, Striving for a Just and Sustainable World, Working for Reconciliation, Resourcing Ministry. Further themes were Brexit and its implications for individuals and the Church; and Religion and Violence, particularly with regard to Muslims and the general problem of migrants and refugees. You can find the text of the Strategy on the diocesan website.

We were generally supportive of these goals. However we followed this with a heated discussion with the bishop on the House of Bishop’s recently published report on human sexuality. Some of our members wanted a clearer and more positively liberal acceptance of alternative views on this, and Bishop Robert assured us that the bishops were fully aware of the need for clear teaching.

Our afternoon session began with a presentation by Elizabeth Bussman, the Diocesan Environmental Officer. She pleaded for more awareness of the issues of global warming, and of the problem of plastic waste. This was a theological issue - if we love God, we should love God’s creation too.

Safeguarding was another issue. Those involved with children and vulnerable adults are now expected to attend a course, and we discussed the need for communicating the importance of these courses and for motivating people to attend them.

Other topics were the choir festival, the recent death of Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, youth ministry and reports on SACEP and collaboration with the Swiss Old Catholic church.

In June, a few members had questioned the subsidy of some CHF 2,000 that the archdeaconry was allocating to the annual choir festival. At the January synod in Berne, our own Hans-Karl Pfyffer presented full details of these festivals since their inception in 1982, and pleaded eloquently for their importance. Traditional choir music is not the only form of music for worship, but the festivals promote high musical standards, as well as being a focus for collaboration and outreach. We agreed the subsidy should continue.

The main topic of discussion in January, though, was the considerable increases the Bishop’s Council had authorized in our contributions to the diocese’s Common Fund - effectively doubling the contribution we would make in 2019 towards central expenses. This was largely to pay for increased costs for safeguarding. We

felt that there had been no proper consultation about this, and that the higher quotas had been imposed on the basis of “We need more money. Let’s milk the chaplaincies.” Several chaplaincies were already struggling financially, and these quotas would be a serious burden. We agreed on a resolution to be moved by our representatives on the Diocesan Synod, and set out our views in a formal letter to the Bishop.

Other matters discussed included our help in making Europe an “ECO-diocese” with each chaplaincy an ECO church. We talked more about our relations with the Old Catholics - an international co-ordinating committee has published a useful booklet, of which copies are available here at St Ursula’s. We discussed the work of Youth Compass, and new arrangements for safeguarding training.

If you want more details, and can’t find them on the archdeaconry website (www.anglican.ch), ask Stephen or any of us synod members.

Hector Davie

Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival 2017 at Christ Church in Lausanne

The traditional annual Swiss Archdeaconry Choir Festival was held at Christ Church in Lausanne over the weekend of 6/7 May 2017. It was attended by about 40 singers from the chaplaincies in Basel, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne and Zürich, with 12 singers from St Ursula’s. The merged choirs had their first practice on Friday evening, and continued on Saturday morning and afternoon. The music was led by Robert King (Director of ‘The King’s Consort’) and supported by Mark Jones, Geneva (former Director of Music at Gresham’s School) at the organ.

Two choral Evensongs on Saturday and on Sunday, and a choral Communion Service on Sunday morning were the musical highlights of these services.



On Saturday the choral music included works by George Dyson (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D), Philip Radcliffe (Preces and Responses), Peter Nardone (Light of the lonely pilgrim’s heart), Edgar Bainton (And I saw a new heaven), and Psalm 27 (set by Herbert Howells)

On Sunday the choir sang Charles Villiers Stanford’s setting of the Communion Service in C enhanced by Stanford’s Benedictus and Agnus Dei in F. Other musical items included Nardone’s ‘Light of

the lonely pilgrims’s heart’; Edward Bairstow’s ‘Jesu the very thought of thee’, and Psalm 23 set by Hylton Stewart.

The Choir Festival ended at the cathedral in Lausanne on Sunday evening with the Choral Evensong adapted to include some elements of it in the French language.

The Community of Christ Church Lausanne made all singers and non-singing partners very welcome in every way. A great vote of thanks is due to all who helped making this festival once again a memorable event.

The Choir Festival is one of the few regular annual occasions where members from the different chaplaincies meet together and join forces in a common cause: - enriching worship with great and 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. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organisations supported in previous years the funds were distributed in 2017 as follows:

List of Payments to our Charities and Missions in 2017

	CHF	GBP
Discretionary (to be used locally by the Chaplain)	300.00	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3,500.00	
AkiB Zentrum 5	1,000.00	
AKiB Passantenhilfe	1,000.00	
Bishop’s Lent Appeal (Menedékház, Budapest)	1,000.00	700.00
Bishop’s Advent Appeal (Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, Rome)	1,000.00	700.00

Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2,000.00	
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	1,500.00	
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	2,000.00	
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	1,600.00	
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	1,600.00	
Total	16,500.00	

Dedicated collections for charity amounted to:

	CHF
Mission Sunday HLID	770.65
Dedicated collection Partner Sein	357.00
Lent Course collection (Lifeskills SU)	397.85
Dedicated collections Tear Fund	2,329.65
Tear Fund Junior Church collections	243.00
Christmas collections Tear Fund	1,201.00
Thun Carol Service Cecily's Fund	365.00
Total	5,664.15

Together with our chaplain, Stephen, the charity and mission team has been taking a fresh look at our charity support. We are now looking at focussing on fewer charities but with more quality in our support. After prayerful consideration we decided to withdraw our giving to to the CMS, USPG and the train a Priest Fund as we felt we had less direct connections with these projects. This means that we still have some CHF 5,700 in funds which were not allotted in 2017 but can be used for charity projects in 2018. This leaves us with more flexibility to be able to give to one off charity needs which may arise during the year and we are also looking into a vision which Stephen has to set up a local food bank for the needy in Berne and have begun to look into the feasibility and possibilities for St Ursula's to undertake such a project.

On 25 May we had a visit from Bishop George Bagamuhunda from the Diocese of Kigezi in Uganda representing the Water and Sanitation project of the Diocese of Kigezi. He was accompanied by Susanne Wyser and Miriam Nufer from TearFund Schweiz. Bishop George gave the sermon. During the coffee time after church Bishop George and Susanne Wyser gave us a presentation on the Water and Sanitation project in Kabale situated in the Diocese of Kigezi, Uganda.



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 and the Lent Soup Lunch and concerts/events throughout the past year. We also had a visit from Basil and Alison Eastwood who set up this foundation.

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

At our AGM last year, Beat Hodler gave us an informative talk about the voluntary work that he and Chloë were undertaking at the Renferhaus where refugee families were currently being housed. He and Chloë had been tasked by the Heilsarmee Flüchtlingshilfe with the responsibility of finding accommodation for the Sediqi family of seven from Afghanistan. This was proving very difficult. They asked St Ursula's for help and prayers. This prayer was soon answered as the house next door to Cecily & Rolf Klingler became available to rent. The house was unfurnished and again prayers were answered, this time by the many offers from members of St Ursula's to provide the furniture, finance and physical help with removals needed to furnish the new home. The Sediqi family moved in in August just in time for the four older children to start school and kindergarten locally in Bremgarten. Beat and Chloë continue to stand by and help the family in settling in and integrating here in Berne. Cecily and Rolf also help the Sediqi family in their day by day needs. Prayer is still needed for the Sediqi family that they might be granted the necessary permits to stay in Switzerland.

Our Mission Sunday for 2018 will be on 25 March (Palm Sunday) and will be combined with a visit from Bishop Robert. The Mission focus will be for the Bishop's Lent Appeal 2018 for refugee work in Calais.

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:

Stephen Stuckes (Chaplain), Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Esther Hutchison, Cecily Klingler, Pieter Perrett

Contact person: Cecily Klingler, 031 302 4859 or cecily@klinglerfamily.ch

Cecily Klingler

INFORMATION ABOUT ST URSULA'S CHURCH

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

The church was built in 1906 on a site that had been given to the community by the British-Berne Land Company. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as 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

John Hutchison 032 665 0181

Lay Members:

Tricia Carrick 031 971 2771

Hector Davie 076 339 2771

Donna Goepfert 031 931 2742

Hans Goepfert 079 338 2538

Sue Higson 076 690 5088

Henry Hope 078 408 6206

Richard King 076 628 6003

Cecily Klingler 031 302 4859

Tony Read 033 243 3432

Edi Wildhaber 079 460 6115

Ruby Wildhaber 078 808 7515