

St Ursula's Church Berne



Annual Reports for 2021

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

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

St Ursula's Church

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



Although the COVID pandemic and restrictions continued throughout 2021, we were able to hold more services and activities in church than the previous year. Many of our church activities continued even if in different ways and with smaller numbers attending. I am very grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to maintain our worship, fellowship, pastoral care, social events and outreach.

Services in church resumed again in February 2021 and have continued since then with numbers varying according to the COVID situation (currently between 30 and 65). The work involved in the system for booking seats has been considerable and I am very grateful to Maria, our Administrator, for her cheerful and calm efficiency in this and her many other tasks. The requirement to book seats has recently stopped and we hope that numbers attending church will increase further in the next few months.

There are still many people who have not come back to services in church but who follow the services regularly online. These online services are appreciated not only by our own congregation in Berne but much further afield. There are people regularly participating from the UK, South Africa, and elsewhere. We should not underestimate the amount of work that goes in to putting together these online services and our special thanks go to Hector, Martin and Art for all their hard work. We will need to review what level of online service provision we continue to provide as the COVID pandemic eases.

Keeping up with the changing COVID situation and different restrictions and requirements has been very demanding and exhausting; it has also caused some disagreements. I am very grateful to members of the church council for their hard work and patience. Most of our Council meetings have been via Zoom, but we have recently started to meet again in person. Thanks to Johannes, our Secretary, who stood down in November, and to Tricia for stepping in as Interim Secretary.

A special thank you to our two Churchwardens, Martin and Sue, for their time and energy in supporting the work of the church and also supporting me personally. I am very grateful for their positive attitude, loyalty and commitment. Additional thanks to Sue for the huge amount of work involved in being Treasurer as well as Churchwarden!



Thank you to members of T-Com who do a lot of work behind the scenes on our buildings and technical issues, and for the gardening team who have worked hard on our church grounds (and Church House garden) this past year. Thank you to our magazine team who have continued to produce the magazine faithfully during these difficult times. Thank you to Cecily and Maxine, our safeguarding officers,

for their hard work in this area of church life and for their reminder that we all need to be involved in making sure we offer a safe, welcoming church environment for all people, including children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding should not be seen as an irritating extra thing we have to do these days but as an essential demonstration of our Christian care and concern for the vulnerable.

Our families and children have been welcomed back to church this year (including a couple of new families) and I know it is a joy to the whole congregation to have them again worshipping with us. Three young children have been baptised this year (Lionel Chandra, Joanna Babatunde and Alice Klingler) and three teenagers (Delali, Joana and Edem David Agoba), and we have been able to do a live Nativity Play. I am very grateful to those who have run the Junior Church and



Crèche. However, as we have so few teachers, we have sadly only been able to offer these provisions for children twice a month. We hope to be able to build up the team so that this can again be offered once a week.

Alongside sharing the joy of baptisms and the return of families and children to our services, we have also shared together the loss of long term members of our church fellowship. These include David Winfield, Nik Weibel, Pam Arnaud, Mary Wittwer, Margaret Ita and Barbara Ryser-Barrett. I know that the families concerned are very grateful for the support they have found in the church community. Pastoral care is especially important in these challenging times, and I am very grateful for members of the Pastoral Care Group for their commitment in keeping in touch by phone with those who are sick or housebound and unable to get to church at the moment.

It has been a great encouragement that many of our study, prayer and fellowship groups have continued to grow during this last year. Some of these have been held online and some in person. These include the regular Men's Group, online Tuesday discussion group and Lectio Divina. We also ran the Living in Love and Faith course (on identity, sexuality and marriage) and several one-off discussions on a range of topics, from climate change, to philosophy and faith, to caring for refugees. Please see my worship, prayer and study report for more details on these. This area of church life is continuing to thrive and by holding some of these sessions in person and some online, we are able to offer a wider range of opportunities for a larger number of people. We are likely to continue this balance of in person and online study opportunities in the future. I am very grateful for the hard work and support of David and James in running these study groups.

We have focused especially this year on the 4th and 5th of the Anglican Marks of Mission: “to transform unjust structures...” and “to safeguard the integrity of creation...” Dominic Roser gave a talk about climate change and effective steps we could take to make a difference, and Manuel Sager recently interviewed the Aghasharif family from Iran to help us begin to think about practical and spiritual ways we might support refugees as a church.

Despite COVID, the social and fundraising team have worked very hard to put on several events. Some of these have been online and some in person and some a mixture of both. Being able to hold the Summer Fête and Christmas Bazaar, Autumn and Spring Sales in person, even with smaller numbers attending, has been greatly appreciated. The planning, organisation and running of these events is very demanding especially when the COVID situation and regulations are constantly changing. I am very grateful to the fundraising team.

During this year, a new group has been formed composed of people from different nationalities to monitor how welcoming we are as a church to those from different races, colours and ethnicities. This group has been considering ways we can celebrate our cultural diversity and encourage people of all nationalities to take a full part in the life of the church. We hope this will continue further.

So as we look back on this last year, I am very thankful to all those who have helped maintain and develop our church life, despite the many challenges. Thank you especially to David, Archana and James for all they have contributed in preaching, teaching and pastoral care. We are very blessed to have such a gifted team of people involved in the ministry of our church! I am grateful too for Peter Hawker for his continuing prayerful support.

What are the priorities as we look ahead to this new year?



Firstly, I hope to encourage more people back to worship in church. Although, we will continue some kind of online provision of services, and I will continue to stay in touch with a large number of people through my *Being Church in Strange Times* messages and through phone calls and visiting, I do want to strongly encourage all those who can to come back to worship in church in person. Good as online provisions are, especially when they open up new opportunities, they are not the same as meeting people face to face. So I pray that we can all make regular church attendance a priority if we can and that the life and fellowship of the church will deepen and grow.

Secondly, building up the work with children and families is crucially important. There are some encouraging signs as we have two more new Junior Church teachers starting in the summer, and David and I are also planning to help with Junior Church when we can. We hope that before long we will be able to offer this provision every Sunday once again. The topic of children’s work will be

discussed at a day away for the new council in May and we are also liaising with other Chaplaincies to see if we can work together with them in some way. We pray that we will be able to develop our work with families and children in imaginative ways.

Thirdly, we have recently begun a review of the music in church and we hope to be able to find a way forward which develops a good balance of hymns and songs in worship and builds up a good team of musicians. A small working party has been set up to suggest ways forward in this area.

Fourthly, Bible study, prayer and fellowship will remain a priority and we hope to develop a mixed programme of study and fellowship, some online and some in person.

Fifthly, we will continue to keep in mind the Five Marks of Mission. We hope to take further steps in offering practical help for refugees and others in need, but also to develop other aspects of the church's mission, as we seek to grow in our own faith and prayerfulness and in our service to the wider world.

Finally, I hope that it will be possible again to develop our hospitality as a church, offering suppers for newcomers and events which celebrate our diverse community. An international lunch is planned for Pentecost Sunday and I pray this celebration will remind us of the riches of our diverse congregation, our unity in Christ, and our call to welcome and serve others.

We look back with thankfulness and ahead with trust, remembering that the Lord is in the midst of us and we are called by his name, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ, whatever challenges we face. So let us look to the future with hope and joy.

Revd Helen Marshal

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND STUDY

Worship

- Services in Person and Online: Since the last AGM we have held services both in church and online. It has been a joy to welcome many people back to church and we hope that numbers will increase over coming months. COVID restrictions have varied at different times and this has impacted our worship. After COVID certificates were introduced the numbers in church increased; numbers ranged from 30-65. We needed to book seats to know the number of people attending and to ensure enough chairs for everyone. This has not been popular but has been necessary. Now that there are more chairs in church with a new system for receiving communion, booking seats is no longer necessary. We hope that this will encourage more people to return to church!

- Families and Junior Church: Junior Church and Crèche started up again in Autumn 2021 and it has been wonderful to have the families back in church, including some new families. Unfortunately, we are very short of teachers so we can only offer Junior Church twice a month. The team will hopefully increase in the summer and we hope to offer Junior Church every Sunday again before too long.

- Christmas Services: It was especially good to be able to worship together over Christmas, as the previous year we had no in person services. There were three Christmas Eucharists (Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and 26th December) with a modest number at each service. We also had a well attended Nativity Service with many children and families. We hope that as COVID cases decrease and weather improves, that there will be a very good turnout for all the Easter services.

- Online Services: These are appreciated by church members but also by many people beyond our community (some in different parts of the world!). Up to 80-90 people seem to participate each week. We are all very grateful to Hector, Art and Martin for their hard work in producing these. We will be reviewing this provision and our approach during this coming year.

- Thun Services: We have had a mix of in person services and online services (one each per month.) The online services have included sharing and interviews of members of the group about their faith.

- Other Churches and Services: During this year new links have been developed with other churches. Helen or David has taken services once a month at Neuchâtel and once every three months at the Old Catholic Church in Olten. Ecumenical services have also resumed this year and there have been several online Diocesan services. David has also taken services at the Anglican churches in Lausanne and Basel.

- Music in Church: We are currently reviewing our worship in terms of the music. An Open Forum was held on 20th February 2022 considering the balance of styles of music, the need to build up more of a team of musicians, and the importance of maintaining our Christian unity and good relationships despite differences of opinion about music. A small working group will look at future possibilities and practicalities in this area.

Prayer

- Lectio Divina: The group continues to meet (online) on a Thursday morning, to reflect on a short passage of Scripture and use that as a basis for prayer. It works very well online as it enables more people to join in. These sessions have been a consistent source of spiritual nourishment and mutual encouragement. Come and join us!

- Prayer and Fasting days: These were much appreciated last year and another is planned for this Lent. Those participating pray and fast at home with material for reflection provided, and we meet online three times during the day for prayers, sharing, and mutual encouragement.

- Intercessions in Church and Online: I am very grateful to those who lead the intercessions in church and for the online services. These are very well done and much appreciated by many. If anyone is interested in joining in this ministry, do ask me for more details.



- Prayer Materials in my Email Letters: At the end of my weekly messages, *Being Church in Strange Times*, there are usually resources for prayer, (poems, prayers or meditations).

- Prayer on the Phone: When I ring to speak to people at home, I often also pray with them or say a blessing. This continues to be an important ministry for those who are sick, housebound, or cannot attend worship for various reasons.

Study

- Online and in Person: This year there have been a range of different opportunities for study, some online and some in church. Typically, in person meetings are on Sunday after church to benefit from the fact that people have already made the effort to get here, while zoom meetings are on weekdays. This “mixed economy” works well as it offers more possibilities for a wider range of people. We are likely to continue to offer a balance of study sessions, both online and in person in the future.

- Online Bible Studies and Discussions: We have met twice a month on a Tuesday evening to study a range of topics. These have included two sessions listening to Mark’s Gospel read aloud with questions and reflections afterwards, two sessions on the history and traditions of Anglicanism, two sessions on a scriptural view of growing old and the pastoral issues raised. We are now working through The Nicene Creed. We have had very good numbers of people coming to these discussions (typically 20-25 people) and they have been much appreciated. A big thank you to David and James for their contributions to these study groups.

- Living in Love and Faith Course: In October and November we ran this Church of England course in church. Around 25-30 people attended each of the five sessions on identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. There were video presentations of the course material and time for group discussions. A wide range of different opinions was expressed, but generally speaking the discussions were conducted with courtesy, kindness and respect. Afterwards, those taking part were invited to send their feedback to the organisers of the LLF project. The General Synod of the Church of England will be considering these issues further in this coming year.

- Other Talks and Discussions in Church: In October, Dominic Roser gave a talk and led a discussion after church on climate change and what we can do to make a difference. Isabelle Wienand led a discussion on philosophy and the Christian faith, and on Mission Sunday we held an interview and discussion on caring for refugees. All these talks and discussions were very stimulating and thought provoking, and were much appreciated. We hope to offer more such talks and discussions in the future.

- Discussion of the Readings and Sermon: This opportunity will be offered after the service from time to time, on Sundays when there is no other activity taking place, usually in person in the Upper Hall.

- Men's Group: The Men's Group continues to meet twice a month, once in person and once online, for study, fellowship and prayer. A big thank you to David, James and Dominic for organizing this.

Revd Helen Marshall

THUN SERVICES & CONGREGATION

“Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them” Matthew 18:20

We are more than two or three in the Thun group. Usually around nine or ten of us meet regularly, and Jesus' promise to be with us holds true!

During the various lockdowns, Thun group meetings continued on Zoom and this turned out to be a blessing in several ways. One of our members had moved to New York, and so she still was able to join with us even though living far away. For this reason, we decided to keep meeting on Zoom on the first Thursday of the month, even when Covid restrictions were lifted.

Helen had the idea of using the Zoom meetings to help us to get to know each other better and to draw closer across the digital divide. Members of our group have taken turns to be interviewed about their spiritual journey, sharing the highs and lows, challenges and blessings of their lives as Christians.

On the third Thursday of the month we met, when it was allowed, for a communion service in the French Church in Thun. We also met socially from time to time, when possible, either for a drink after the service, or meeting for a meal.

Covid meant that it was by no means clear that we could have our traditional Carols and Lessons Service, and if so, how? We decided to go ahead and we celebrated the Christmas story with about 35 people. Afterwards we enjoyed mulled wine outside under the stars, socially, but not spiritually distanced!

Our plans for this coming year are to continue our getting-to-know-you interviews and to have a retreat day away together.

Although small in number, the Thun group is treasured by all who attend. Of course, we hope that more people will join us, everyone is welcome!

Many thanks to Helen for her dedicated and sensitive leading of the Thun group.

Sue Zysset

CHURCH COUNCIL

St Ursula's Church Council normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except in August. In this strange year, council only met via Zoom - with the exceptions of the special meeting in December when we met in the Church Hall and the social meeting at the Wildhabers' house also in December.



There were 10 regular meetings and two special meetings. In addition, some business relating to risk assessments was conducted by email.

As always, the council was re-formed after the AGM which was held on 25 April 2021.

Before the AGM there were 13 members of council - 1 clergy, 2 churchwardens, 2 synod representatives, 6 elected members and 2 co-opted members.

After the AGM, there were 13 members of council - 1 clergy, 2 churchwardens, 2 synod representatives, 6 elected members and 2 co-opted members. The current list of council members can be found in the church magazine. As always, any member of the church is invited to come to council meetings as an observer - and since September David Marshall has been doing this on a regular basis.

For those who like figures: in 2021 there were ten normal, business meetings (all held via Zoom) with an average attendance of 10.5 (minimum 9; maximum 12) and from September 1 or 2 observers. There were also two "special" meetings in December. In addition some business, mainly relating to risk assessments, was conducted by email.

There was a special meeting on 2 December. Because Helen, our chaplain, was away on sick leave, this meeting was chaired by the vice chairperson and attended by the archdeacon, Adèle Kelham. This was basically related to communication - both within the council and in the church as a whole.

Looking back at the topics handled at council meetings, it is interesting to see that the "Corona virus" situation was included every time. In January, council set up a "task force" to monitor the situation and they reported at every meeting

giving council the chance to make informed decisions. As you will know, the pattern of services, including music and singing, was changed several times during the year.

Council supported the setting up of the online sales, which helped to keep up our income from sales and also allowed people to stay connected with the church.

In the same way, council supported the online services, which initially were very important when we couldn't physically go to church.

In the second half of the year, council set up a pattern of "Sharing Time" during council meetings where we could meet in "breakout rooms" on Zoom to discuss various more personal topics. This was important to let us get to know one another better as we weren't meeting in person.

Various important topics were set up in different groups which reported back to council at times. These included "Everyday Faith", "Racial Justice", "Living in Love and Faith" and "Marks of Mission". Many of these were initiated by the diocese.

Risk assessments became a significant topic and it was agreed to have this on the agenda of each council meeting. This means that the council will approve the risk assessments for the immediate upcoming events and also agree who will produce them for the next few months.

Of course, council also has all the "daily" business to do during the year. At all meetings there are reports from the various officers / groups which are:

- Treasurer
- Junior Church
- Safeguarding
- Eco-Group
- T-Com
- Charity

In addition the services are discussed, both in advance and afterwards. As are all the sales and other main events of the church.

Many other small topics are also handled each month, far too many to mention here. The minutes of council meetings are available for any electoral roll member to read - just ask me.

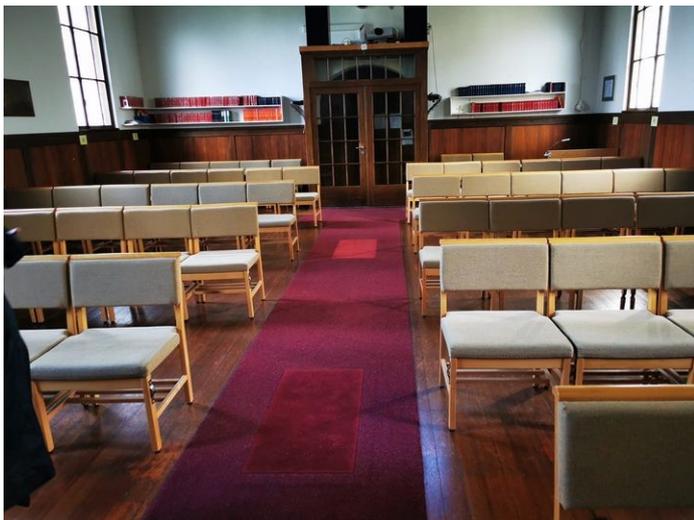
If you would like more information about what the council does or if you would like to give some input please contact a council member (a list of council members is included each month in the magazine). In addition, there is an email address which you can use: feedback@stursula.ch.

Tricia Carrick

CHURCHWARDENS

2020 and 2021 were certainly challenging as the pandemic forced us to make drastic changes to our normal church life. We were obliged to make changes in our seating arrangements, using fewer cleanable plastic chairs. These were generally viewed as uncomfortable! The implementation of a seat booking system, which was required for us to comply with the rules, led to much more work not only for us, but mainly for our office secretary and our chaplain.

The other measures we had to implement in 2021, like certificate requirements, mask wearing and distancing, were always done with consideration for all, but naturally it was not possible to please all the people, all the time. Nevertheless, the vast majority of our community was very accepting and indeed thankful for all of the measures implemented following the stipulations of the Swiss government. This was a regrettable time in our church life for us all we feel.



However, time has moved on, and we have learnt during this pandemic, what works and what can be dispensed with. Taking into account the wishes of the congregation, the upholstered chairs have returned. Now we can also move away from the certificate requirement.

This was an unprecedented time, requiring us as wardens to work more closely together, and also requiring us to learn to deal with the new challenges that arose. We may not have

done everything to everyone's satisfaction, but we wish to sincerely thank all those people who have given their support in the running of the Church, without complaint. In most cases people have given active assistance to the Chaplaincy, and personal encouragement to us both, during these rather demanding times.

It has been our honour and pleasure to serve as wardens this last year, and we especially appreciate working with both Helen and David. It has been very rewarding. We are both standing again, but also are open to changes if anyone wishes to also stand as warden.

Susan Higson and Martin Browne

GARDEN

According to my diary, a small, but often a much larger group of gardeners met and worked together on 12 occasions during 2021. Some days were perfect, others rather wet. As is often the case in a garden, the results are not immediately obvious. However, the hedges surrounding the property are looking fuller these days and the beds have many different varieties of plants growing.

The gravel has been weeded and we cleared away unwanted plastic, paper, wood and metal bits and pieces from underneath the hedges and then distributed our first batch of one year leaf mulch to about a third of the hedge. We then installed another compost bin so now have three in total and all are full with the garden leaves of 2021.



The small plants in the flower beds are slowly growing (as did the little pieces of Rose of Sharon we missed in 2020) - tiny plants need patience but should grow a strong root system. The watering team made good use of our new water butt during the hot weather. We planted a couple of *Ligustrum vulgare* as a screen for the water butt area, two small Mountain Ashes which will need to be trimmed as shrubs, a tiny wild cherry tree and a *Philadelphus Belle Etoile* with the aim of creating a lower canopy where wildlife will feel safe.

We also cleared the debris, weeded and replanted a few of the “loffelstein” area in the slope down towards the Lower Hall. It is not an area much noticed, but still a part of the whole. The bed between the gate and the Church Hall was also thoroughly dug and replanted. The rear Vicarage Garden is being left much to itself, following the Back to untouched Nature wish. The grass was cut once. An ongoing experiment...

We plan to continue with small steps throughout 2022. Everyone is welcome to join. We have a gardening group chat where planned gardening dates are advertised.

Alison Beindorff

JUNIOR CHURCH

Teachers

2021 was a challenging year for all of us. An incredibly big THANK YOU to all the Junior Church Teachers. Without all of you, we would not have been able to go on so well.

Our team is looking to grow in faith and number. If you are interested in seeing what we do and would like to support us with your time, please contact Revd Helen Marshall or any JC teacher for further information.



Charity

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

Junior Church Resources



“ROOTS” gives us the material we teachers can use for our Junior Church classes to create a structure during the year. “ROOTS” gives us excellent teaching input, produced by a Christian charitable company, with ecumenical and lectionary-based resources.

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/>

Classes

At the beginning and the end of the Service we stay with the congregation, enjoy praying and start the week together.



Before going out to Junior Church Classes, the young ones enjoy the short introduction to the topic which they will learn in their classes by either Revd Helen or by our Reader Archana. In 2021 we had to make a few changes; Junior Church meets at the moment twice a month. Since we are a small group, we all meet together and enjoy sharing the word of the Lord as an all-age Junior

Church.

Nativity Play

A very big Thank you to Tricia Carrick for organizing and scripting the Nativity Play. As every year this has been a great success.

Our 2021 Nativity Play was unique. Not only were the Junior Church and Crèche children a part of it, but also their parents and other members of the congregation. This has been such a great play for old and young. All the Junior Church teachers and Crèche helpers have been a great support in encouraging the children, choosing the costumes, and all the other tasks which needed to be planned.

The music group underlined the play with traditional Carols sung by both the congregation and youth.

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL!

For everyone who has not seen the video from last year 2020 or would like to see it again, you can watch it under: <https://www.stursula.ch/albums.html>.

Don't miss an event!

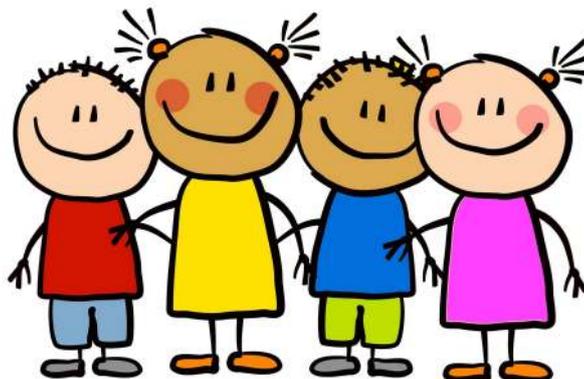
The Junior Church Team tries their best to organize throughout the whole year different events for the youth and the families. For 2022 there are already Projects planned. We are looking forward to them. So, if you don't want to miss an event, please read our magazine, see the weekly Notices or talk to an active Junior Church teacher.

Ruby Wildhaber

CRÈCHE

In 2021, the pandemic prevented Crèche from taking place a large part of the year. When Crèche finally reopened (every two weeks), it was a happy occasion even if, at the moment, there are few regular Crèche children. The effort of all the helpers is most gratefully acknowledged.

Dominic Roser, Crèche coordinator



NATIVITY SERVICE

Our annual Nativity Service was held on Sunday 12 December. As always, it was a celebration of the birth of Christ with carols. A group of adult angels prepared the way and accompanied the story which was told with bible readings and acted by the children. There were 16 adults - 4 angels, 6 readers, 3 musicians, the “voice of God” and 2 helpers - and also 13 children involved.

This time we only had one rehearsal, the Sunday before, but everything went well and a good time was had by all.

Tricia Carrick

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

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

- The care and nurture of a respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults.

- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.



- The establishing of safe, caring communities that provide a loving environment where there is a culture of “informed vigilance” as to the dangers of abuse.

We are pleased to report that in the past year there have been no serious incidents requiring action. Of course, Covid 19 restrictions meant that for part of the year we had no Junior Church and services had restricted numbers. Online services were held. Now the Junior Church has begun again.

Maxine Wildhaber is Assistant Safeguarding Officer. Cecily Klingler really appreciates having Maxine as a right hand in safeguarding matters. Maxine is also one of the Archdeaconry Safeguarding Trainers.

Full safeguarding checks are required for all those working with children and young people or vulnerable adults (Pastoral Care Team) at our church. There has been a change in the Diocesan Safeguarding Protocol which now means that all JC/Crèche leaders and helpers, Pastoral Team members must renew their safeguarding checks and training every 3 years. We are in the process of ensuring that all have completed or renewed their safeguarding checks and training. With the reopening of our Junior Church and Crèche, we are confronted at present with a limited number of Junior Church and Crèche leaders and helpers who must all have fulfilled their safeguarding checks and trainings. This can be a challenge at

times but we must always be sure that we are keeping to our Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

Our council has to approve our St Ursula's safeguarding policy each year.

Our council members must all complete their Basic Awareness - C0 Online Safeguarding Course. Also it has just become mandatory that our council members complete the course, "Raising Awareness on Domestic Abuse", which is available online.

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

Safeguarding training takes place by online or virtual video training sessions.

Diocese in Europe Training Pathway

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would encourage everyone to read these documents, as safeguarding is a matter for the whole congregation. Safeguarding is a community responsibility that aims to protect and empower each and every one of us. Should you ever feel there is a

concern in our church about a safeguarding issue, then it is essential to report this to the Chaplain or the Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Such matters are always kept strictly confidential.

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

Cecily Klingler, St Ursula's Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 031 3024859 or 076 4254859, email: safeguarding@stursula.

SUMMER FÊTE 2021

Our Summer Fête was supposed to take place on Saturday 5 June. It would have been a great chance for all of us to meet each other and have a fun day out enjoying our colourful garden. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to switch again to an online sale.

Via our website www.sale-stursula.ch we managed to offer a great collection of British Food Products, Home Baked Goods, Patchwork including Cloth Masks and many more items. Preparing this online sale has been an exciting experience. Our volunteers have worked so hard for this and we all feel lucky to have them.

This year's Summer Fête will be held on Saturday 11 June 2022.

Maria Avdikou

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2021

Last year's Christmas Bazaar was a hybrid one; meaning that once again our website sale-stursula.ch was live so that everyone could pre-order their favourite goodies and also the actual Christmas Bazaar took place at St Ursula's.



Complying with the latest Covid-related regulations we had to make several adjustments (e.g. entrance only with the Covid Certificate, restaurant and café only outside, masks always worn indoors). Despite the windy and cold weather we are glad to say that it was a success and we were happy to welcome everyone to our



most popular event of the year.

A great number of our volunteers worked really hard and dedicated lots of hours of their personal time behind the scenes. In the run up to the Bazaar there was cake baking and decorating, food to source and sort, wreaths to make, patchwork to sew, prizes to find, books to sort and catering to organise. So a big THANK YOU to all of them for their help and to all those who organised and ran a stall.

The bazaar is our most important fundraiser. All our visitors were happy and the following results were achieved.

Except for the British Food Stall, all the figures below are after expenses have been deducted.

Second Hand Books	2213.5
Christmas Cakes	1372.55
Christmas Decorations and Wreaths	1082.45
British Food Stall	7440.54 (gross)
Patchwork	1281
Restaurant	1035.35
Raffle	983.50
Tombola	620
Grand Total	16028.89

This year's Bazaar will be held on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November 2022.

Maria Avdikou & Sue Higson



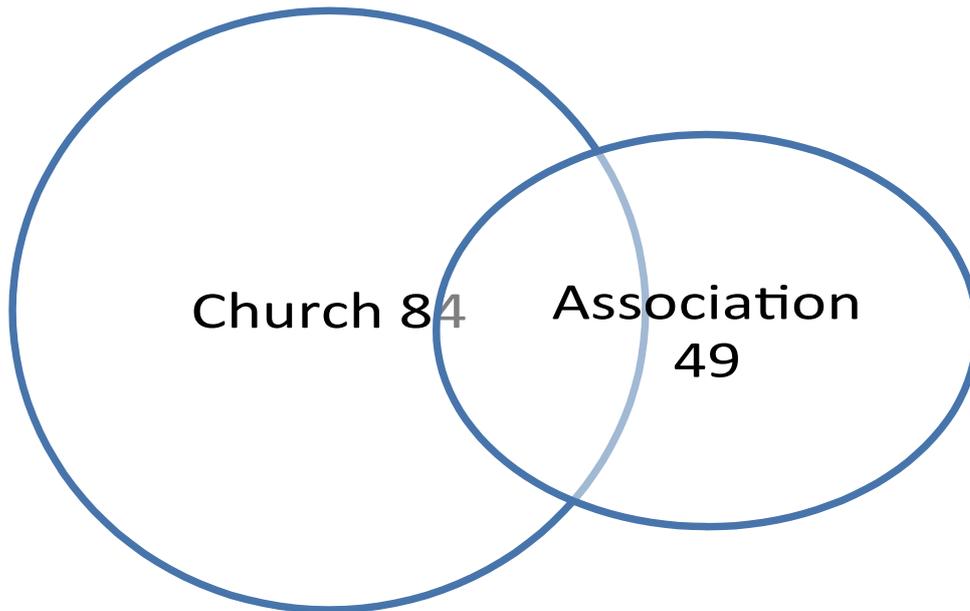
TREASURER'S REPORT

2021 was pretty much a continuation of 2020 when it came to our Church life, with fewer people in our services, and less use of our halls.

However, before we look at the result, let's have some statistics:

Number of transactions booked: Church 1780, Association 541.

Givers: 24 givers give to both the Church and the Association, 109 in total.



If you would like to join our circles of regular givers, please contact me for more details of our pledging scheme.

Collection income was unfortunately further down on 2020, and we also saw lower income from pledges due to some people not giving in 2021 for various reasons. As the budget was based on the 2020 result, then our income was nearly Fr16k below budget.

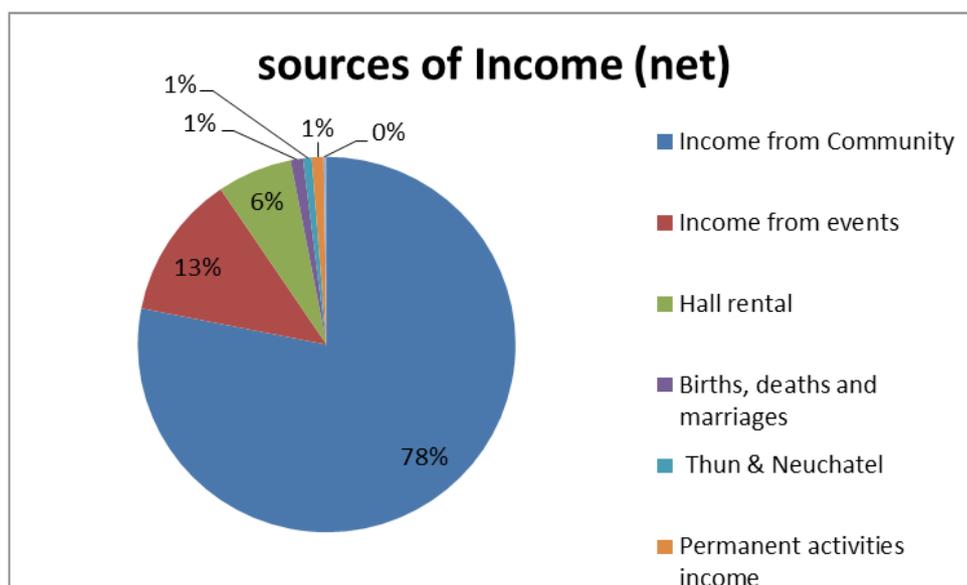
INCOME	current	Year 2020	Budget 21
Income from Community	159,070	175,075	174,830
<i>Pledged giving</i>	<i>124,690</i>	<i>134,825</i>	<i>134,830</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>26,632</i>	<i>28,819</i>	<i>26,000</i>
<i>Collections</i>	<i>7,749</i>	<i>11,431</i>	<i>14,000</i>

Our events managed to keep going either online, physically or as a hybrid version. I wish to really give a huge vote of thanks to all who helped keep our events going in 2021. The introduction of our sales website helped us expand our offerings, and reach more people.

Thank you therefore

also to my husband Graeme for setting it all up, hosting and maintaining it all for free.

Our income from events surpassed the budget as well as the previous year result. We sold lots more jams and baked goods via the website, and these are generally donated by church members.



Income from Events	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Book & other Sales	9,985	4,772	6,493	7,348	6,343
Bazaar	5,451	6,871	10,485	9,699	10,584
Food Stall	16,713	14,683	12,686	13,088	13,935
Other events		1,410	3,998	2,243	43
	32,149	27,736	33,662	32,378	34,518

Income for Food stall excludes the cost of food and import charges.

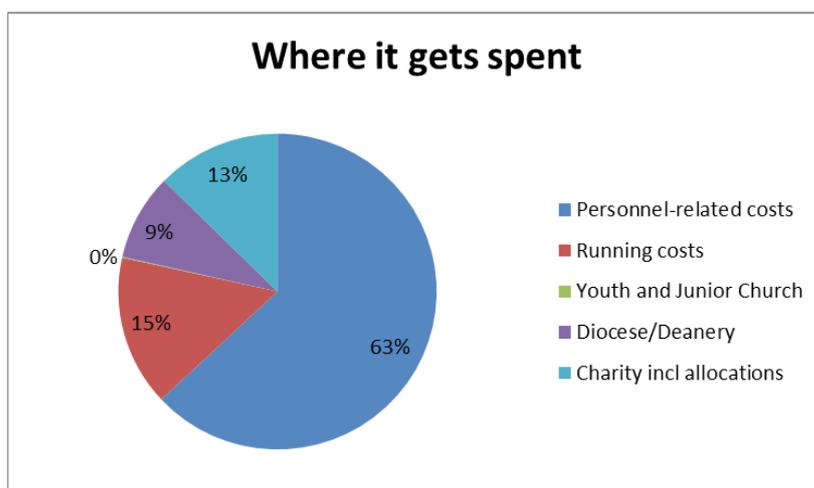
See the separate report where I give a breakdown of the website orders as well as our top sellers in more detail.

We received no legacy in 2021, and our magazine income was also lower than in 2020, but fortunately our costs were also lower than budgeted, as well as in 2020.

I had originally forecast a deficit of around Fr8k for the Church and an excess of around Fr24k, excluding any transfers to the building fund, for the Association. The actual result was a deficit of just under Fr26k in the Church, and an excess of Fr36k in the Association.

The Association was able to support the Church with a transfer to cover the deficit, and also pay Fr10k into our building fund. This is therefore a breakeven result, and once again the Lord has provided. Thank you to all who gave to the Church or the Association this year, whether in time or money or both.

I would like to add that although the Association can support the Church, it cannot go higher than costs we can justify for example for the building and for pastoral care, therefore the Fr26k transferred in 2021 is close to the limit of what could be accepted by the Berne tax authorities.



The Budget for 2022 will be calculated on the basis of the past level of pledges, plus increased collections over prior year. We can also expect to be able to rent out our premises more in 2022 now that restrictions are lifted, and maybe make even more from events, as the book sale will be open to more people. Expenses for the hall will rise of course, not least because of the World situation and the impact on energy prices. Therefore I expect 2022 to be another challenging year for the Church. Please continue to pray for the Church, our community, our finances and for continuous growth.

Susan Higson, March 2022

Year end Report at 31 December 2021
St Ursula's Church and St Ursula's Charitable Association

Balance sheet

CHF

Assets		31.12.2021	31.12.2021	31.12.2021	31.12.2020	31.12.2020
		Church	Association	Total	Church	Association
Cash and Bank						
Current accounts + Petty cash						
CH		81,545.76	160,675.75	242,221.51	28,431	12,243
UK		23,318.63		23,318.63	20,209	
Deposit accounts	B1					
CH		24,000.00	-	24,000.00	114,000	100,000
Total Cash and Bank		128,864.39	160,675.75	289,540.14	162,640	112,243
<i>Stocks on hand</i>	B2	1,041.09	-	1,041.09	872	-
<i>debtors and monies due</i>	B3	1,065.60	-	1,065.60	-	14,449
Total other assets		2,106.69	-	2,106.69	872	14,449
Fixed assets	B4	-	1,223.00	1,223.00	-	3,162
Prepayments & deferred expense	B5	1,094.20	-	1,094.20	1,246	1,003
Pension assets		121.30		121.30	119	
total Assets		132,186.58	161,898.75	294,085.33	164,878	130,857
current liabilities						
creditors		- 9,592.25	-	- 9,592.25	- 8,181	- 5,397
collections to be paid out		-	-	-	- 695	
due within 1 month		- 9,592.25	-	- 9,592.25	- 8,876	- 5,397
owed between the Church and Association	10	26,000.00	- 26,000.00		-	800
provisions incl charity to be paid	B6	- 226.00	- 8,010.75	- 8,236.75	- 7,279	- 8,465
funds held for others	B7	- 1,814.55	-	- 1,814.55	- 1,513	-
excess of assets over liabilities		146,553.78	127,888.00	274,441.78	146,410	117,794
Capital reserves						
Contingency reserve	B8	- 117,750.15	- 25,284.84	- 143,034.99	- 118,153	- 23,346
Ministry Training Fund		- 12,385.34		- 12,385.34	- 12,385	
Building and Development Fund		- 15,000.00	- 101,286.44	- 116,286.44	- 15,000	- 91,286
non liquid capital		- 1,274.99	- 1,223.00	- 2,497.99	- 872	- 3,162
		- 146,410.48	- 127,794.28	- 274,204.76	- 146,410	- 117,794
<i>result before allocations</i>		-143.30	-10,093.72	-10237.02		
<i>allocation to Building fund included in BS</i>		0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00		-
net worth		- 146,553.78	- 127,888.00	- 274,441.78		
<i>to carry forward to general reserve</i>		-143.30	-93.72	-237.02		

Signed:

Treasurer Susan Higson

Auditor

Beat Hodler

Auditor

Tony Read

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

INCOME	note	current	Year 2020	Budget 21
Income from Community	1	159,070.24	175,075	174,830
<i>Pledged giving</i>		124,690.00	134,825	134,830
<i>Donations</i>		26,631.68	28,819	26,000
<i>Collections</i>		7,748.56	11,431	14,000
Income from events	2	32,148.67	27,736	24,000
Income from other sources	3	15,568.50	18,970	22,560
<i>Contribution to costs: hall</i>		13,353.50	18,014	22,060
<i>Other</i>		2,215.00	956	500
Donations for charitable use	4	-	1,290	
Legacy income			12,413	
Income from Thun		1,105.27	2,110	1,500
Income from Neuchatel		445.60		-
Permanent activities income	5	3,896.40	6,302	5,900
<i>Magazine</i>		3,489.00	5,825	4,800
<i>Books and Cards</i>		124.50	64	200
<i>Coffee</i>		102.90	381	800
<i>Other</i>		180.00	32	100
Financial income	6	270.51	153	150
Forex	6	724.64	171	-
TOTAL		213,229.83	244,219	228,940
DEFICIT		-	-	-
EXTRAORDINARY Income		-	23,379	-
Building Appeal receipts		-	14,449	-
defibrillator appeal		-	2,477	-
eco garden		-	6,453	-

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

31.12.2021

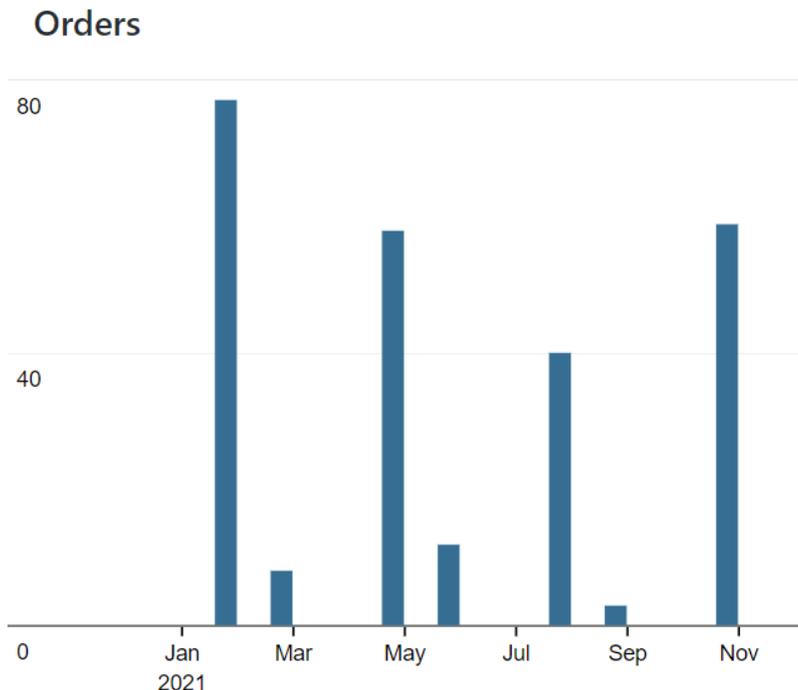
12 EXPENDITURE	note	current	Year 2020	Budget 21
Personnel-related costs		121,247.18	130,785	128,465
Stipends and remunerations		87,485.00	94,155	90,560
Travelling expenses		651.30	2,819	4,000
Other personnel costs		33,110.88	33,811	33,905
Running costs		30,537.87	35,661	40,100
<i>Premises</i>	7	23,318.58	27,378	30,500
<i>Office</i>	8	1,097.80	1,033	990
<i>Telephone and Internet</i>		723.15	872	900
<i>Insurance</i>		2,372.85	2,309	2,310
<i>Property tax</i>		1,606.80	1,607	1,610
<i>Vestry</i>		1,028.54	1,785	1,340
<i>Ministry and Hospitality</i>		440.15	164	1,850
<i>Subscriptions and advertising</i>	-	50.00	512	600
Youth and Junior Church		181.47	123	300
Cost of food sold		6,290.40	5,657	-
Permanent activities expense		1,810.75	2,549	2,650
<i>Magazine</i>		1,529.05	2,378	2,300
<i>Books and cards</i>		130.00	5	50
<i>Coffee</i>		108.70	167	300
<i>Other</i>		43.00	-	-
Diocese/Deanery		17,464.26	18,215	19,000
Charity incl allocations	9	25,000.00	26,287	25,000
Financial Expense		460.88	364	400
TOTAL		202,992.81	219,640	215,915
excess before allocations	10	10,237.02	24,579	13,025
Extraordinary Expense		-	14,173	-
Building Expenditure		-	4,736	-
defibrillator		-	3,953	-
eco garden		-	5,484	-

SALES WEBSITE REPORT



<https://www.sale-stursula.ch/>

Our sales had started going online due to Covid in March 2020, and throughout 2020 we managed all orders in Excel. This took a lot of time and it was not unknown for an order or parts of an order to be missed. That is why it was decided to automate the process, and we created with the help of Aare-Webdesign a purpose made site based on Woocommerce and Wordpress.



In 2021 the site processed 237 orders containing 2306 products and raising Fr14,843. We started with just our British food products, but quickly expanded that to include freshly baked goods, guest products, patchwork, books and cards and the restaurant dishes to order for take away. Currently we have 500 different items listed on our site, with several of those being available in different variations.

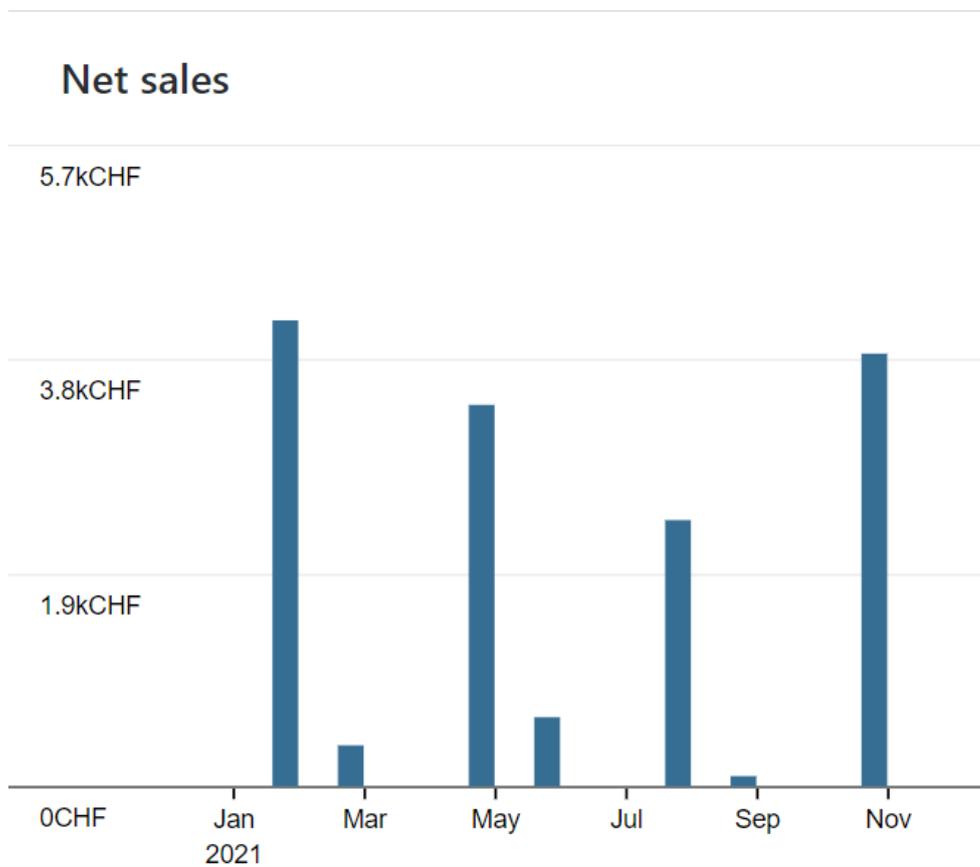
Our top sellers over the last year were:

- Crumpets in packs of 5, 100 packs sold, so 500 crumpets made by Georgina for 55 orders, + extras for the sales.

- Jana's pies, 214 individual pies made for orders, + extras for the sales.

- Tea, 171 packets sold in 98 orders.
- Scones: 334 scones were baked and sold via orders,+ extras at the sales.
- 296 packets of biscuits were sold over the site, with Ginger nuts being the top seller.
- 149 jars of marmalade and 39 jars of jam were sold via orders, all prepared and donated by Jana, + many more at the sales.

A huge thank you to all who helped with our sales in 2021. Through our events we managed to raise more than ever, especially considering that we could not always have a physical sale. The Website has definitely proved its worth.



Susan Higson, March 2022

BOOK SALES

Second-hand English books

Coronavirus continued to impact the book sales throughout 2021, despite the sales slowly returning to normal from the summer.

The spring book sale was open to a limited number of visitors. Since the lower hall was still not being rented by people from outside (due to the measures), we decided to set up the bookcases and leave them out so that people who wanted to buy books could also browse during the week, by prior appointment with the Church Office. We also opened the sale for two Fridays and Saturdays (and after Church services on Sunday) in order to spread the number of visitors over several days. A few book lovers made use of this opportunity, although people were still being very cautious. However, we concluded with a very satisfactory result (Fr713.00).

As the year progressed and COVID appeared to be receding, the Summer Fête went ahead as normal. The book sale did very poorly (Fr465.00) - we still do not know why (maybe the relaxed travel restrictions prompted many people to take a holiday?). By the Autumn Sale, things had picked up (Fr896.00) and we were confident that COVID was slowly behind us. However, as the year drew to a close and the Christmas Bazaar was due to take place, Omicron hit and we were unsure what to do. We decided to proceed with the event and were overwhelmed by the book sale result (Fr2,213.50).

Since 2020, the pandemic has had a major impact on our income from the book sales; it has fallen from Fr6,493 in 2019, to Fr4,772 in 2020, and to Fr4,287 in 2021. Also, we are still not able to send our surplus books to Gambia for the Brusubi Community Library because shipping to Africa continues to be restricted. Our book sorting sessions (8-10 times per year) - a very enjoyable behind-the-scenes part of the sales - have resumed, however, much to the delight of all the helpers ;-).

My wonderful team - Judy Chisholm, Katrina Fenner, Donna Goepfert, Jenny Haller, Diane Lohri, Mary Mead, Patricia Schwager, Rachel Huguenin and Alison Beindorf - has continued to be an incredible source of inspiration. They are very supportive, flexible and extremely reliable. My appreciation and thanks go to them and to everyone else who continues to support us, despite the era of Netflix & Co. I am very much looking forward to our sorting sessions and sales in the coming year.

Finally, a reminder about book donations: we can only accept **RECENT PAPERBACK ENGLISH NOVELS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION**. Please do not donate: hardbacks or old, dirty, tatty or foreign-language books - these must be disposed of and this costs us money, womanpower and time. THANK YOU!

Allison Masciadri

SPRING AND AUTUMN SALES 2021

Our first sale of 2021 took place on Saturday 6 March. Sadly, the guidelines on hygiene and social distancing requirements to combat the spread of COVID-19 did not permit us to hold our Spring Sale in physical form. However, while it was impossible to meet in person and celebrate together, we found no reason to cancel our event completely. Our sales website was launched which gave the opportunity to many people to order their homemade goods along with various items from our British Food stall.



Fortunately we were able to celebrate our Autumn Sale on 4 September in person and we were so blessed with beautiful weather. In the garden there was a grill, a bar and crumpets while indoors we had the food stall open as well as a restaurant with cakes, quiches and salads. As always, the books were in the Lower Hall. Online orders were still popular.



Maria Avdikou



BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The list of tasks and responsibilities has not changed in the past year. The major part of the time was spent on recurring maintenance works, dealing with support calls and supporting events. These included, time critical interventions during power failures and IT problems.

Activity reporting

1. Status and maintenance of building and infrastructure

The building complex and infrastructure are generally in good condition. Minor issues with dishwasher, refrigerator, vacuum cleaners, taps, floodlights, toilets and sinks, could be fixed without outside help and costs. The blinds in the lower hall are damaged and need to be repaired. In the medium term, their replacement must be considered.



2. Recurring maintenance tasks

- Weekly tasks: General inspection in and around the building.
- Annual tasks: Cleaning of the gutters before late autumn (removing leaves, pine needles and branches). Bleeding radiators in the Chaplain's house, halls, and garden irrigation system.
- 3 or 4 year tasks: none in 2021.

3. Responding to support calls

Typical activities:

- Third-party users couldn't lock hall door at 8:30 PM
- Beamer/sound system setup failure on Sunday morning
- Internet access out of order
- Telephone system problem (no outgoing calls)
- Water penetration in chaplain's house after heavy rain
- Power outages (EWB Problem)
- Office computer didn't start up at 7:30 AM



- Office printer failures (2)
- Blocked sanitary drains
- Dysfunctional heating controller

4. Technical support for and during events

Included are events like Sunday services, Bazaar, book sales, weddings, funerals, video events in the church and others.

5. Projects

- Light installation in the bathroom of the Chaplain's house
- Wall painting in the Lower Hall
- Upgrading and extending of LAN system in the Chaplain's house and Church
- The performance of the office and op-desk computers were the subject of discussions and some confusion. With professional level maintenance, the issues could be resolved for the time being.

6. Organizational

TCom presently consists of 4 members. 3 of them are active in the technical support organisation. A new member joined the team early last year. Unfortunately, this wasn't successful.

Hans Goepfert

MASTER ROTA FOR SERVICES

The changes in our services because of Covid-19 developments had their effect on rota planning again this year. January still saw online services only, with rotas limited to readers and intercessions. From February services were held in church again as well, so more rotas were required. Servers joined the list in August, while chalice bearers are still waiting to be called back.

I am very grateful to all rota members who have so loyally helped to make our services possible. It is one thing to make up a monthly rota plan, and quite another one to be able to trust that everyone will fulfil the assigned duty without fail.



THANK YOU!

As of December 2021, the master rota was based on a list of 31 volunteers; it includes rotas for readers, intercessors, sidespersons, servers, and beamer

operators. (The flower rota is organised by Chloë Hodler, but distributed as part of the master rota.) Together they supported a total of 59 services in 2021.

New helpers are always welcome; there is a coordinator for every task who will be happy to explain what they do to anyone interested.

Ruth Freiburghaus, Rota Coordinator

CATERING

This past year required high levels of flexibility and creativity. This was partly due to the Covid restrictions which the Events Team did magnificently. In addition, there were smaller events which then had to be managed between the constant rain.

We held, between the rain showers, a well-attended afternoon tea. We plan to repeat this this year. It was, as we often tried with other events, held outside. However, the cold did deter many.

But despite these challenges, there was a lively group of cooks and bottle-washers doing their utmost to provide good dishes for the Church family and friends. It was rounded off by the Christmas Bazaar, and a very nice curry.

In retrospect, I believe we succeeded.

We are looking forward to more events this year. They have been sorely missed!

Lynn Morgan, Hospitality Coordinator



MUSIC

Music in services

Organ

As a result of the Corona Pandemic, there have been severe restrictions on the music for the services. No music for some weeks, no singing to hymns played on the organ, singing with masks..., partial unavailability of the organist for various reasons.

Towards the end of the year the organist was able to offer to play again on just two Sundays per month.

Choir

After the choral Evensong on Feb 1st 2020 (with the Magnificat by Rizza, a Nunc Dimittis by Noble, the Responses by Ayleward, an Athem by Bairstow and a Psalm in Anglican Chant), there have been no more choir activities during the Pandemic. In July 2021, the choir had a first mid-pandemic meeting, and decided to continue on a much reduced scale, with a practice once every month, and contribute to services only on an on-demand basis. This is not only due to the present age structure of the current choir membership, but also to the much decreased membership (shrunk from up to 18 members down to less than nine). Efforts for attracting potential new singers have so far failed on many occasions; there seems to be a lack of interest, dedication and commitment for joining a choir.

The choir has contributed to services over many years drawing on the rich musical heritage available in the Anglican and English churches. It would be very regrettable should the choir have to cease to exist altogether in the not too distant future.

Archdeaconry Choir Festivals

The ACF 20 had been planned to be held at St. Andrew's Church in Zurich. Due to the Pandemic, it had to be cancelled in 2020 and also in 2021. It is now planned to be held in 2022, situations permitting.

Hans-Karl Pfyffer

MUSIC GROUP

There is again not much to report from this strange last year!

Many thanks to Tricia who has supported most services (when Hans-Karl was not playing) with periodic support from Manuel, Belle and Tony.

The future of music at St Ursula's is currently under review with meetings planned with the church members in March 2022 to decide the best way forward. This will for sure have some effect on the future of the music group.

Most of the information below is from the previous years and so probably only interesting to new readers.

The Music Group is now theoretically in its 16th year but could only partially support a few services in the last 12 months due to the Corona restrictions, forcing church closures and then some services with limited or no singing.

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

The music for the mostly contemporary songs, chants and hymns at our services was chosen from the "Worship Today" or "Junior Praise" song books but other sources have also often been used (e.g. Taizé, Iona, Hymns Old & New).

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

Our active members (until the start of the pandemic):

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

Additionally Judith Eigenmann came with her accordion a couple of times (Judith runs an accordion school in Thun).

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



Our largest group in 2018

Tony basically organised the group. Thanks again to Tricia who took over the lead in the last year.

All music group members practised the planned music individually and we had 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

PATCHWORK/HANDICRAFT GROUP

Despite all the difficulties, with Covid 19 restrictions, of the last 2 years the group is still going strong.

We are very thankful that we can use the church hall for meeting up on a Friday morning.

We are a small group at the moment, three ladies are doing patchwork and one lady is knitting. The oldest person in our group is Lydia, who is 92 years old.

We are a social group. We sew, chat and drink a cup of coffee or tea.

It would be nice, when Covid restrictions are over, to welcome new people.



Helen and Silvia have a great knowledge of patchwork after many years of practice and are happy to teach anyone. Maybe there is somebody else with an interesting handicraft out there and would like to join us.

We take part in the Christmas Bazaar every year and sell different things. At the last Bazaar we were able to pass on Fr1,200.00 to the church.

Liz Perrett

PASTORAL CARE

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

This past year has continued to be difficult for many people. Members of the pastoral care team have offered regular care and support, especially to those who are most isolated, through phone calls, emails and cards. I am very grateful to Lynn for organising this.

During this past year, Lynn and Brian offered an afternoon tea once a month with an opportunity for people to gather and socialise and support one another. We had a very successful afternoon tea outside in the summer but in the winter months the numbers attending were very low. We decided to stop these monthly afternoon teas and instead to plan a few special teas in the summer months when people can enjoy the garden.

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

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

Members of the pastoral team also visit those who are in hospital or housebound, but they only visit friends. At the moment they do not visit in a more "official" capacity. To do this they would need to visit in twos which is often not practical and also have level 2 safeguarding training and checks. This has proved difficult to organise in some cases. The group has therefore remained primarily a prayer group who support those in need via emails and phone calls, through sending cards, and through visiting friends in the church.

We are hoping to go back to offering prayer after the Sunday service once a month at some point. We are still considering training members to take communion to those who are sick. This would involve the full safeguarding checks and training.



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

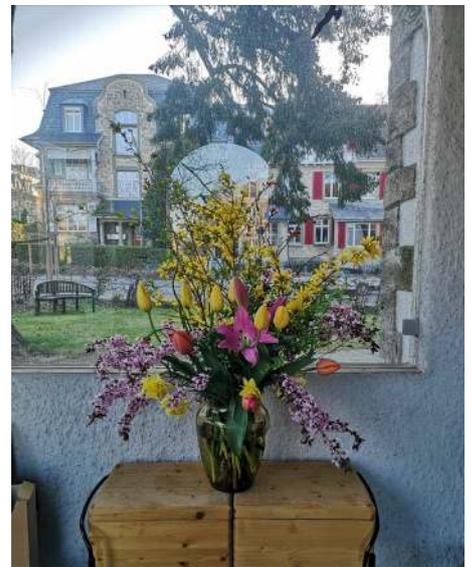
Pastoral care is not just something for this pastoral care team; we are all encouraged as Christians to show care to one another. So let us all “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep,” (Romans 12:15) and “bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6: 2).

Revd Helen Marshall

FLOWERS

Our second year of Corona virus! By spring many people were double vaccinated allowing limited number of persons to join services. After Lent it was a joyful occasion to resume with colourful arrangements on Easter Sunday.

Our faithful team - Chris, Fiona, Mary, Stephanie and I - took turns during the rest of the year. We built a routine of once a month flower arranging duty. Harvest festival was rather early and Mary Mead bravely took this on alone as all others were not present or available. She succeeded beautifully.



The Christmas Bazaar workshop on the 24th November produced 15 hanging wreaths, 17 table arrangements, several attractive glass decorations and some beautiful calendars. A contribution of over Fr1,000 was made by the enthusiastic group of nine.

Chloë Hodler



ECO CHURCH

The world that God has created and which we live in is very important to us, and we share its care with other Christians. Specifically we work together with the Diocese, the whole Church of England, and the international charity, A Rocha, which began the Eco-Church project, to encourage churches to live sustainably, to look after God's creation, to avoid pollution and waste, to encourage nature in all its diversity, and to work to avoid climate change. St Ursula's holds their Bronze Award - you can see it in our porch - we plan for more awards to come!



2021 was rather a quiet year for our Eco-Group - the pandemic made it difficult to meet for discussion in person, and we met mostly outside, over such practical work as gardening (on which there is a separate report) or litter-picking (which posed too many logistical problems). We held a couple of meetings by Zoom during the year, and several other meetings took place with interested people in other chaplaincies across Europe, facilitated by our Diocesan Environmental Officer, Revd Elizabeth Bussmann (who lives in Aeschi, above Spiez).

News of all this is on the eco-section of our website (www.stursula.ch/Eco). Take a look at the ideas we had at our brain-storming sessions last June - on sharing transport to church, on bulk-buying, on eating food in season, on repairing and reusing rather than throwing away and replacing.

We plan to become even more involved, and even greener, and to work with the whole Church of England towards having carbon-neutral premises by 2030. Winning a Silver or Gold Award would be nice, but to show first and foremost we need to show our love for creation and work hard for its survival!

Hector Davie

MAGAZINE

Editing

The St Ursula's Church magazine is published six times a year. Currently, 350 people subscribe to the magazine, with 237 receiving a hard copy and 113 receiving it electronically. The purpose of the church magazine is to inform readers of the services and events at St Ursula's, to teach about Christianity and to reach out to the English-speaking community of Berne.

Tricia Carrick, Hector Davie, Maria Avdikou and the Chaplain made up the core team of content providers and proofreaders. Articles and other content are also submitted by groups within St Ursula's, individual church members as well as people who are not members of the church. Hector Davie handles the electronic

distribution and advertising, Querida Long is the magazine editor and Annemarie Walthert is in charge of collating the magazine. Contributions to the magazine can be sent to magazine@stursula.ch.

Magazine Collating

Every second month about 200 magazines are sent out. Even when they are already folded and stapled it is good to have some volunteers to help insert the flyers and put the magazines into the envelopes. Usually we are two or three doing the job.

Because of Corona most of the time we were not able to do the collating. Maria and Ruby did the job for us. Many thanks!

Annemarie Walthert & Maria Avdikou

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. This year our Treasurer was able to allocate Fr25,000 for St Ursula's charitable support. After prayerfully reviewing the list of organizations supported in previous years the funds were distributed in 2021 as follows:

Charity and Missions: Payments '21

Local	Fr
Discretionary (to be used locally)	700.00
AKiB Passantenhilfe	1400.00
AKiB Zentrum 5	1400.00
Regional	
Bishop's Lent Appeal (For English Church of Liège, Belgium)	1000.00
Bishop's Advent Appeal (European Climate Disaster Appeal)	1000.00

International	
Partner Sein (Old Catholic Relief Organisation)	3500.00
A Rocha International	2500.00
Cecily's Fund, Zambia	2500.00
Children's Convalescent Home, Talagolla, Sri Lanka	2500.00
Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Jordan (Allah Kariem)	2500.00
Refuge Egypt, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt	2500.00
Scripture Union South Africa, Life Skills Project	2500.00
TearFund Schweiz (Kigezi Diocese Water & Sanitation Project Uganda)	1000.00
Total	25000.00

Dedicated Collections

Bishop appeals from Congregation: Fr100

Mission Sunday: Fr200

Harvest Festival, Tear Fund KDWSP: Fr1,139

Tear Fund junior church collections - Fr0.00

Christmas collections TearFund Schweiz: Fr580

Thun carol service - Cecily's Fund: Fr375

Remembrance Day - British Legion: Fr333

Berne carol service (Net): Fr320

Note that our dedicated collections were generally down due to the Covid situation.

We are continuing to support A Rocha International, an international charity focussing on environmental issues around the globe. This is also in connection with our efforts at St Ursula's as an Eco Church, a scheme coming through A Rocha. St Ursula's has achieved the Bronze Award.

The Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund is faithfully supported by Yvonne Bomonti with her team of helpers who organise some fundraising events at St Ursula's and elsewhere in Switzerland.

The Junior Church supports the Tear Fund Schweiz Water and Sanitation Project run by the Diocese of Kigezi in Kabale, Uganda (KDWSP). Normally proceeds from the Junior Church collections as well as Junior Church Bake Sales and the Harvest Festival Auction go to this project but due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions our usual St Ursula's support was considerably down. After our Harvest Festival

Auction, we were able to bring all the produce from the Harvest Festival service to the Passantenhilfe office. They were very grateful for all the generous gifts of produce from St Ursula's. Since TearFund Schweiz were receiving less funds from us than in the past, the Charity and Missions team made the decision to give Fr1,000 from the charity allocation funds to KDWSP project.

Our local charity project, the Passantenhilfe Food and Toiletries Collection continues to be supported by our congregation who brought items along to church on Sundays when we had worship services. Church members can bring their food items directly to the Passantenhilfe Office. The numbers of needy persons increased with the continuing Covid Pandemic.

We have annual Mission Sunday services. At our Mission Sunday on February 7, 2021 the theme of the sermon was on "God's mission and our mission and on the marks of mission". This year on February 13 the theme of the sermon was on "Refugees". The service was followed by a talk organised by Manuel Sager about the life of refugees and a local family from Iran known to Manuel and Chris participated in this talk.

Please check the board in the church hall for our charity focus displays and information about other charities and missions. You can also look on our church website for information on the charities. As well, we have our regular charity and missions focus article in the magazine.

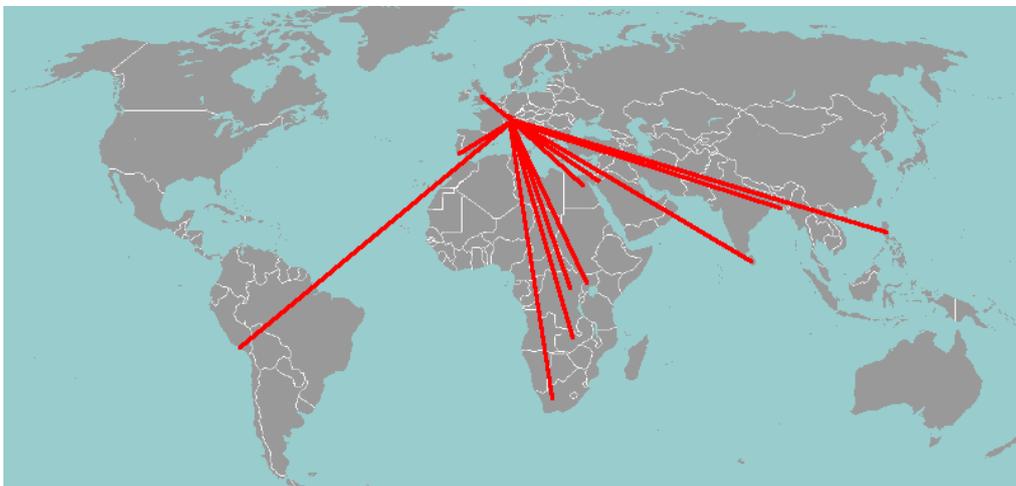
We do thank our church family for its continuing support in the past year. We encourage all of you to keep the institutions we support in your prayers.

The Charity and Mission Team:

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

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

Cecily Klingler



ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD

The Diocese in Europe is divided into seven archdeaconries - Switzerland is the smallest. Clergy and lay representatives from Switzerland's ten chaplaincies and their satellite congregations meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest, and to share ideas and solutions. St Ursula's lay members elected Hector Davie and Maxine Wildhaber as their representatives for the period from 2020 to 2023, Helen as chaplain is automatically a member. David and all other clergy who have permission to officiate here are also entitled to attend meetings.



We meet in Synod twice a year. We hear reports from higher up - from Diocesan Synod and from General Synod, and, as now, pass reports of our proceedings to the annual Church Meetings in each chaplaincy. We also hold training sessions and seminars as part of the Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme, SACEP, and also arrange a choir festival and a retreat each year. We co-ordinate our chaplaincies' giving to Partner Sein (the Old Catholic Aid Agency), and have tried to find practical ways of sharing in work among the poor and the refugees in Eastern Europe.

Synod's plans were affected by the pandemic. We held a short summer synod meeting on line, using Zoom, on 19 June 2021, and discussed several ongoing themes. These included Switzerland's involvement in the Church of England's current mission project, Everyday Faith - previously known as Setting God's People Free. This aims to liberate the whole church and to help us all to live out the Gospel message. Several chaplaincies have been working on projects which get away from the idea that prayer and witness are the job of the professionals and are best left to them. We shared some of these ideas during our June meeting, and also at our meetings in September and January. (One idea we used at St Ursula's was to ask members to give a brief talk during our Sunday service about how their faith impacted their daily work.)

We also took up the practical issue of clergy employment. This has become far more complicated since Brexit, as British clergy will not receive permits to work here unless their pay and working conditions match those of Swiss clergy. Locums can also only come here within the terms of the Schengen agreement.

Synod was also involved with the movement for racial justice, Breathing Life, in the wider church programme about identity and sexuality, Living in Love and Faith, and in the eco-church projects in the chaplaincies. The Diocese is currently working on a strategy to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2030.

On 18 September Synod managed to meet in person here in Berne. We agreed to make a renewed gift to the church in Athens for the aid project among Syrian refugees they support - although this was overtaken by events. It was a joy to

meet again, to worship together and to share our sandwiches.

Our afternoon session was on Living in Love and Faith, led by Mary Talbot from Geneva, a lay representative on General Synod and by Carolyn Cooke, Chaplain of La Côte, with the help of video presentations and of a number of well-prepared facilitators. It showed how we could approach questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the context of the Gospel safely and respectfully. Luckily it was a fine day and we could meet in groups, both in the church and around it.

Sadly at the end of the year we said goodbye to Miriam Keller from Zurich, who had been our lay secretary for many years, and to Canon Adèle Kelham, who had served as Area Dean from 2006 until 2008 and had acted as Archdeacon ever since Peter Potter left in 2016. As our applause and our leaving presents witnessed, they will both be sorely missed. We have replaced Miriam with two people - Cécile Ineichen from Zurich and Calen Gayle from Vevey.

Our new Archdeacon is the Ven. Dr. Peter Hooper. Peter is also currently Archdeacon of France, so Revd Carolyn Cooke, Chaplain of La Côte will serve as Area Dean.

Our Synod meeting in 29 January this year reverted to being held by Zoom. Archdeacon Peter held a Bible study before we began, and Bishop Robert led our first session, on migration and the questions it posed for organizing ourselves as an expatriate church in current times. We followed this by sharing our experiences of the COVID crisis - how have things changed, what do we miss, what do we do now that we want to keep, what do we still want to do and how do we make this happen?

The questions provided food for hours of discussion - if fewer people come to church, do we miss them or do they miss us? Is there a “critical level” of support for some activities? - This gave rise to suggestions of combining our resources, especially in fields like youth work, but also in areas of technology and employment law. We were fortunate to be joined after lunch by Andrew Caspari, the Diocesan Secretary (“Chief Operating Officer”) in London, who outlined other sources of help.

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

Hector Davie

VESTRY

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

Maria Avdikou, our church administrator, is in charge of buying all supplies. I am grateful for her reliable support.



There is not a central source of “vestry items” in Switzerland, for example the gluten free wafers come from Germany, the candles from a candle manufacturer in Givisiez etc. So we often have to plan months ahead to make sure that the vestry items arrive on time.

Adorée Weibel takes care of church linens: items used for communion, altar and table cloths, the robes of priests and servers. Thank you, Adorée, for this little-known but important service. Thanks also to Barbara Winfield, who helped out for a time in the summer.

I have been looking after the vestry “temporarily” for three years now and would be more than happy to hand over the responsibility to someone who would take definite charge of it.

Ruth Freiburghaus & Maria Avdikou

ELECTORAL ROLL

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

Every year, the Electoral Roll is revised under the direction of council. This year, the revision was completed on 8 March. There was only one addition and no deletions. So the number of people on the Electoral Roll in 2022 is 86.

Since the revision the Electoral Roll 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

WEBMASTER

St Ursula's makes God known in many ways. Our website, www.stursula.ch, is one of these ways, and the webmaster is one of a team of many who help in this task.

Through this year's COVID pandemic, our website has been an important way of keeping our own congregation together. Ever since March 2020, we have had an on-line service every Sunday - at other times too. Thanks to Art Funkhouser's work in sourcing suitable hymns and to Martin Browne, editing text and recordings to a useable format - as well dozens of our members who have prepared readings, liturgical responses or intercessions, and our preachers - we would have been hard put to do it!



After two years, we have ended up with 117 online services, with over 1.1 Gigabytes of readings and prayers, over a Gigabyte of video recordings, and over 1.6 Gigabytes (over 26 hours' worth!) of sermons. Our services have again been shared with other congregations in Switzerland, and we have heard of people tuning into to our services in villages in the south of England, in cities in the east of China, in Canada, in California and watched by worshippers in Sydney, Southport and Solothurn. I feel we have used our resources well.

The average number of visitors to our website is currently around 110 a day, about the same as last year, but with a sixth of them staying with us for more than five minutes. 60% of visitors use Firefox, 19% use Chrome and 12% use Safari, suggesting that more people are using their laptops to access data. The most visited pages are those with illustrations. A future project is to organize our pictures better. News and information about events are popular - also our magazine and our past sermons.

This year our sale and bazaar team have also had a presence on the web - at www.sale-stursula.ch. This is a separate site, which they administer independently. This may be a sign of a new approach to some of our more worldly activities. The internet is no substitute for human contact. But its possibilities continue to multiply. Your suggestions and ideas are always welcome!

Hector Davie, Webmaster

INFORMATION ABOUT ST URSULA'S CHURCH

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

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

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

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

Current Members of the Church Council

Churchwardens:

Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88

Lay Members:

Michael Agoba	078 811 19 46
Martin Browne	079 953 96 76
Tricia Carrick	031 971 27 71
Johannes Hewel	078 949 39 86
Sue Higson	076 690 50 88
Lynn Morgan	031 971 13 36
Chris Sager	
Ruby Wildhaber	078 808 75 15

Lay Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod:

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

