# The Church of St Ursula **Berne**



April - May 2010

### St Ursula's Church Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Berne, Switzerland

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Lay Reader
David Low
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Church Office: \$\alpha\$031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and counselling by arrangement with the Chaplain

#### Normal pattern of Sunday services:

8.30 Holy Communion said (2nd and 4th Sundays)
10.00 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church and Crèche
Our services follow the Church of England's Common Worship Order One (2000)
On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, the 10.00 service is usually more informal.
See Calendar of Services inside for details of the next few weeks.

Services in Thun: see inside.

Services in Neuchâtel: at Chapelle des Charmettes.

See inside for service times.

Information: Revd Roy Farrar, ☎032 730 51 83 or

Mrs Jennifer Veenendaal, 2032 841 64 32

#### ST URSULA'S BERNE

The 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 Co. An American lady, Mrs Castleman from St Louis, provided the bulk of the money for the building as a thank offering for the near miraculous recovery of her adopted daughter, who was treated at the clinic of the famous Professor Kocher.

The hall and the house were added in 1959. 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 from the Churchwardens or any member of the Church Council.

See Calendar inside for details of this month's services
St Ursula's Church website: http://www.anglican.ch/berne
E-mail: berne@anglican.ch



## Newsletter

VOL 29/3 APRIL / MAY 2010

Published & printed in Berne by St Ursula's Church/Hergestellt in Bern durch St Ursula's Church

Appears 7 x a year/wird 7 x jährlich herausgegeben

Annual Subscription Rates:

Fr 14.- plus postage

Postfinance Account 30-4416-8 UBS Bern: IBAN CH41 0023 5235 9258 1510 0

### Christ is risen! We are risen!

Jesus' Easter message proclaims the certainty of change – and change for the better.

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Read more on page 3.

### **Editorial**

Last November, seven members of St Ursula's attended a workshop on communications led by John Truscott. There were many good ideas presented and discussed and we all agreed that we would try to implement some of them in the near future at St Ursula's. Some of these have already been done e.g. for the notice sheets and for various leaflets.

Now it is the turn of the magazine. This edition is a first step, hopefully in the right direction, but it is not the final result. We would appreciate your feedback, especially constructive suggestions. We are very grateful to Astrid Tomczak, who has already given us some input from a professional journalist's point of view.

As you all know, Wendy has stepped down as the editor of the magazine after 25 years' faithful service. We have not yet found a new editor, so this edition has been produced by a small team. We have made a few changes, but the final layout will be determined by the new editor.

We are trying to make the magazine easier to read, include more of an emphasis on people as well as the buildings, re-organize it into sections, streamline the production process, and make it visually more appealing.

Re-organizing the sections of the magazine means that some of your favourite pages may have moved - they may even be missing! And we have introduced a special section towards the end for you to add your personal contributions. At present, it is entitled "Your Pages", but this title is not set in stone! Please tell us what you think.

With thanks,

Tricia Carrick, Hector Davie, Jennifer Hockley, Peter & Shareene Potter

#### **COPY DATE**

for the June/July issue **Sunday 16 May** 

(Copy to Church Office please)

### **Chaplain's Message**

As I write this, winter has not loosed its icy grip. We are all waiting for spring to arrive at long last.

We are looking forward to all the things that go with Easter – spring flowers, rabbits, eggs and so on but these things are not the true message of Easter. Pagan or secular celebrations are about life returning after the winter – not new, redeemed life but the same old life coming round again. Many people would say this is a vision of hell – to be trapped in an endless cycle with no hope of progress and no hope of escape.

How different is Jesus' Easter message! It proclaims the certainty of change – and change for the better. Jesus' victory over the grave shows us that there is a way to escape the hold that harmful attitudes, habits and forces have over us. Easter shows us that God has not left us to our fate but is for ever at work to bring good out of evil, triumph out of suffering and hope out of despair.

It is a message that needs to be heard. So often people say "I don't know what the world is coming to". They feel helpless to do anything. They may feel trapped in situations at home or at work or that they are victims of other people or circumstances. The Easter message is that things do not have to be like that.

We can be liberated from all the things that prevent us from being the person God wants us to be. It is often said God accepts us as we are. And so he does – but he rarely leaves us just as he finds us. Whenever something threatens to entrap us or close off possibilities, then our Easter faith tells us that is not how it is meant to be and there is a way forward.

We can be all that God intends.

Christ is risen! We are risen!

A joyous Easter to you all.

Peter

### **News Round Up**

### **Chaplain's Notes**

**Holy Week** Details of the Palm Sunday service are in the March

magazine. (NB don't forget to put your clocks forward,

otherwise you will miss the procession!)

A Special Day The Bishop has invited me to preach at the Chrism Mass

(Service of the Blessing of the Oils and the Renewal of Ordination Vows) at the Pro-Cathedral in Brussels on

Tuesday 30th March, when I shall also be installed as Canon. The service is at 12 noon. If you can't be there, I should very

much appreciate your prayers that day.

Maundy Thursday The service on **Maundy Thursday** will begin in the hall, as last year. We shall start at 18.30 with a simple meal (please bring something to share). This is in commemoration of the Last Supper. We will have readings, prayers and reflection to help us in this, and we also recall that Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Then we move into the Eucharist, hearing Jesus' invitation "Eat this bread; drink this cup". Before the evening ends we go to the church for the stripping of the altar and you are invited to stay, to watch and pray, as the disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemene.

**Good Friday** 

There are two services on **Good Friday**. The first is at 10.00, a Family Service, following the successful format used last year and it will again include making the Easter Garden.

At 14.00 we have the **Liturgy of the Last Hour**, a moving service of penitence and gratitude. "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" If you are, then Easter speaks to us all the more powerfully.

Between the two services the church will be open for prayer and silent reflection.

**Easter Day** 

On **Easter Day**, we have two services once again. The first, at 9.00 is more formal and includes the lighting of the Easter Candle. The 10.30 service is our Easter Family Communion, with the blessing of the Easter Garden, finishing with an Egg Hunt, followed by the Junior Church Tear Fund Bake Sale.

### cross

**Decorating the** As last year, we shall be decorating the cross on Easter Day. Please join in and bring a flower with you to put on the cross (which ever service you are coming to). The more flowers, the more visible the message that Christ is risen and new life is ours.

#### **Wedding Bells**

We send our prayers and best wishes to Jessica Hoad and her fiancé Daniel Fuhrer, who will be celebrating their wedding at St Ursula's on Friday 9 April.

#### Make a note

For the past two years we have included prayers of dedication for Council members at one of the Sunday services. We shall be carrying on with this important feature of our church life on Sunday 9 May. This is for everyone who contributes in any way to the life of the Church, so please make a point of being there to pray and to be prayed for.

#### **Prayers and Intercessions**

Whilst on this important topic, there has been a change in the way prayers can be requested for yourselves or others. Heidi Gusset has now stepped down from coordinating the Prayer Circle. In future, please contact the chaplain direct or make use of the book in the church porch. Would everyone leading intercessions please make sure they look in the book on Sunday morning, so that the people there are publicly prayed for by our church family. Past experience tells me people are always glad to know that this can be done and have felt strengthened from knowing that they are being prayed for.

### **Passports**

Clergy guite often get asked to countersign passport applications. As a rule I am happy to do this but there are exceptions. British passport applications need to be countersigned by someone who has personally known the applicant for at least two years. The authorities are strict about this and they do check. I am therefore unable to countersign if I have not known you for that length of time. Other passports need someone to verify that the photograph is genuine. Again I am unable to do this unless you are known to me personally, which generally means members of the congregation.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Pastoral Care Team**

The Pastoral Care Team looks forward to welcoming you to an Afternoon Tea on 22 May from 14.30 to 16.30 in the Upper Hall.

If you can help by providing cake, sandwiches etc, please let me know (031 351 0343).

Shareene Potter



### **Church Council Report**

The latest council meeting was held on Tuesday 9 March.

### AGM Preparation

A significant part of this meeting was needed for the official business preparing for the AGM - approving the Electoral Roll, the audited accounts and the building report. Practical arrangements for the AGM were also made.

### **Buildings**

The revised "master plan" for building work was discussed. The offices will be painted and the carpets replaced after Easter. The next top priority tasks were agreed to be fixing the gate, replacing the broken ceiling tiles in the hall and replacing the carpet in the church. The hall floors will also be looked at.

### Restructuring the Diocese

Council watched a 20 minute video produced by the diocese about restructuring, in particular changing the role of archdeacons. The discussion afterwards identified a number of points that will be passed back to the diocesan synod. If you would like to watch this video and give your comments, please contact the chaplain.

### More Information

If you would like more information about this meeting, or about any aspect of council, please contact a council member – the list is at the back of this magazine or on the web site.

Tricia Carrick (Council Secretary)

### St Ursula's Weekend Away 2009 Interview 1 of 3

by Jennifer Hockley (based on real feedback!)



Did the Weekend meet your expectations based on the information available / your experience in years past?

"Yes, the weekend exceeded my expectations."

How would you rate the accommodation and its suitability?

"Better than I expected! Perfect location & setting."



### How would you rate the food?

"It was well prepared."

"Excellent dinners, very good breakfast & lunch."

### What did you like most about the Weekend Away?

"fellowship, getting to better know other church members" "that the church did it together in faith"

"the treasure trail & the community feel of everyone having a lovely time"



"Yes, it is such a good opportunity to share time & deepen our sense of community, and find out more about each other, backgrounds & beliefs"

"Yes, for the "fun, faith, fellowship" – cheap too!"



### **JOIN US THIS YEAR!**

### 17-19 SEPTEMBER, 2010

(registration forms coming soon)

JUGEND- UND FERIENHAUS, AESCHI
(above Spiez, overlooking Lake Thun)

The Revd Dan Morrow from Zurich will lead the sessions on

### "Art and Faith"



Waking in Aeschi to a sunny Saturday morning

### **Cecily's Fund Soup Lunch in Lent 2010**



Thank you for supporting the soup lunch in February.

Also a big thank you to the helping crew in the background: Andrée and Hans Kamarys, Jan Beutler, Martin Brawand, Adorée Weibel, Corinne & Andreas Bomonti. Thanks to Annemarie Low and Vreni Hawker for cooking a tasty gluten-free soup and to Elisabeth Pfyffer for spoiling us with yummy muffins. Many thanks to all those who helped very spontaneously to tidy up the hall. Also a special thank you to Liz Perrett who again donated hand-knitted socks and wonderful scarves which could be taken in exchange for a donation too.

People like you make it possible to continue, to organize and to make events like this a success for Cecily's Fund. You all did a great job! We had the pleasure to welcome Nick Rüthy and the official representative Claudia Steiner both from the Christ Catholic Church. We thank them also for the generous donation.

We raised **Fr 950.-** for orphans in Zambia - we couldn't have done it without you. What can we do with such a generous donation? For example:

• Fr 60.- enables a child to go to primary school for a whole year by providing a school uniform, shoes, books, pens and all school fees and exam costs. So our **Fr 950.-** would supply nearly **16** children with these essential items.

Thanks also to Tricia Carrick and Hector Davie who kindly took over the technical part, so that we could watch a DVD which gave us some insight into the work of Cecily's Fund and the life of the children in Zambia.

I hope to welcome you at another event on behalf of Cecily's Fund. Don't forget our traditional "**Pumpkin Soup Lunch**" which is taking place at St Ursula's in November.

Yvonne Bomonti

#### **Preview of the performance of Carmen**

Sunday 12 December 2010 at Théâtre du Passage in Neuchâtel. Full details to follow in the summer mail-out. Please, reserve the date. We would be delighted to see you then.

Thankful for every donation! The children of Zambia.

Deposit to: Credit Suisse, 8070 Zürich Account: 80-500-4, In aid of: CH16 0483 5035 8091 8100 1

Swiss Friends of Cecily's Fund

### Prayer at the Centre in Liebefeld in April

My house in Liebefeld will be open to everybody on Tuesday evenings, 13 and 27 April at 19.00 for meditation and contemplative prayer. My address is: Falkenstrasse 2, 3097 Liebefeld.

Brian Morgan

### **Focus on Faith**

### THE BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE, 2010

When the Roman Emperor Constantine won a decisive battle at the Milvian Bridge in the year 312, he had a vision. Constantine thought he saw in the sky the Greek letters Chi-Rho – the first letters of the word Christ – with the words in hoc signo vincit – 'in this sign, conquer'. Constantine won, and took control of the Roman Empire, bringing to an end the persecution of Christianity, and establishing it as a *religio licita* – a permitted religion, and then recognising it as the religion of the Roman Empire, even though he himself was not baptised until he was dying. The church historian, Eusebius of Caesarea, saw the conversion of Constantine as one of the great providential moments. Just as St Luke, at the end of the Acts of the Apostles, brings the Gospel to Rome, the political heart of the known world, so now the kingdoms of this world, and the Roman Empire in particular, 'have become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ.'

Would that things were so simple. A millennium or more after Constantine a German monk, Martin Luther, saw the corruption of the church and, in part, traced it back to Constantine. Had the church captured the empire, or the empire captured the church? The relation between church and state has always been ambiguous.

Jesus was put to death by both religious and political authorities. The Gospel accounts of his trial include exchanges with Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor whose name now echoes down the centuries through his place in the Creed: 'he suffered under Pontius Pilate.' Jesus tells Pilate that 'his kingdom is not of this world.' If it did belong to this world 'my servants would be fighting.' 'Are you a King?' said Pilate. 'King is your word,' says Jesus. 'My task is to bear witness to the truth.'

When Jesus dies in the hideous agony of crucifixion the reason for his criminal's death is nailed over his head — 'Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews.' Who is this Jesus? A political threat to the kingdoms of this world and to Roman authority in particular. Who is Jesus? A disturber and distorter of religion, one who claimed to embody the presence and authority of God, who purported to forgive sins (which only God could do), healed the sick, attacked the traders in the Temple, and who proclaimed that in him the kingdom or rule of God was breaking in. 'It is expedient,' St John records the High Priest, Caiaphas, as saying, 'that one man dies for the people,' that one man dies lest the balance of religion and political power, the negotiated compromise, be overthrown.

'That one man dies for the people' – at a deeper level the ushering in of something much more profound, a redemption much more costly, a bringing in of that new order which sets us free from captivity to the powers of this world and enslavement to the domination of evil.

As Christians asked themselves the meaning of a crucified Messiah, and sought to understand the paradox of how the preaching of God's kingdom of justice, love and peace, ended in the crude appalling agony of a criminal's death, they came to see it as a battle – a glorious battle – a wrestling with the powers of darkness. As an old hymn puts it: 'Death and life have contended, in a conflict all stupendous.' The darkness over the land spoken of in the Passion narratives of the Gospels, is not just outward but inward. The great cry of dereliction, Eloi, eloi, lama sabachtani? - My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? is the deepest paradox of all. God himself in our human nature knows the absence of God, the blotting out of meaning, the engulfing and overwhelming horror of darkness, nothingness, and the triumph of evil and death. The German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing from a prison camp in Nazi Germany, where he was shortly to be hanged, wrote of God 'allowing himself to be pushed out of the world and on to a cross.' God saves us through that identification, by the seeming triumph of evil, and yet being absolutely and profoundly with us.

> Therefore he who shows us God, Helpless hangs upon the tree, And the very nails and spear, Tell of what God's love must be.

Thou art God, no monarch thou, Throned in easy state to reign, Thou art God, whose arms of love, Aching, spent, the world sustain.

How do we know all this? How can this dying be at the centre of our Christian faith? Only because the Cross is seen in the light of Easter. The Gospels do not end with the cry of dereliction, and the limp and tortured body taken from the Cross and laid hastily in a tomb. If the stone rolled across the entrance to that tomb had sealed the story of Jesus as well as his lifeless body, there would be no Christian gospel, no good news of salvation, no church.

On Easter morning, 'on the first day of the week, just as the sun was rising' the tomb is found empty. Why? Because resurrection, the new creation, has happened. In a multitude of mysterious encounters that new life is found to be victorious and triumphant. 'He is not here, he is risen.' The Risen Christ speaks

to a grief-stricken Mary Magdalene, and calls her by name; he walks as a stranger with sorrowing disciples, and their hearts burn within them. He makes himself known in the breaking of bread. He bursts through the imprisoning walls of grief and fear to speak the word of peace – the peace which is the harmony of the new creation, a peace which passes all understanding. New life ripples out from the empty tomb in a transforming tsunami of love.

> Love's redeeming work is done, Fought the fight the battle won, Lo our sun's eclipse is o'er, Lo he sets in blood no more.

'The Prince of Life who died, reigns immortal!' This is the kingdom for which we pray; this new life for all creation. And the cross is seen in the light of Easter as the place where the glory of God shines out, in the love that comes down to the lowest part of our need.

This is our story, this is our song! Let your lives be touched by this love, transformed by this love, a love which is to Easter in us, and reach out through us to bring new life to the whole world. Then indeed the kingdoms of this will become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ. As he promised in blessing and sending out his disciples, he is with us always to the end of the age. In that faith and hope and love I wish you the joy and the blessing of the Risen Christ this Easter.

+GEOFFREY GIBRALTAR

### **Real Easter Greetings**

### is Risen



**Alleluia! Christ** When Christians meet on Easter morning, a traditional greeting is "Alleluia, Christ is risen," with the reply: "He is risen indeed, alleluia!" It's a pity we don't go on with this for the rest of the year – for it is through Jesus' resurrection that we are what we are.

> John the Baptist came preaching punishment and damnation for those who did not repent. Jesus came preaching love and forgiveness, and it is through his resurrection that we can share in the new life he offers us all. Our sin and suffering are transformed, first because Jesus shared in them on the cross, and overcame them at the first Easter, and secondly, because we too, in faith, in baptism, in the

eucharist, share in his suffering, his total offering of himself, and therefore also share in his resurrection.

But what did Jesus himself say when he met people after his resurrection? The four gospels each have a different viewpoint they want to convey to us, and each recalls the events of that Sunday with a different emphasis.

### Matthew: Rejoice



In Matthew's account, the two women, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, learn of the resurrection from the angel at the tomb, and run to tell the disciples "with fear and great joy." "Suddenly", Jesus meets them, with one word: "Greetings", say most modern translations (older versions say "All hail"). And at this they take hold of his feet and worship him.

The word can just mean "Hello" - it is the word Judas greets Jesus with in Gethsemane. It is also the word the soldiers mock Jesus with - "Hail, king of the Jews." Or in other contexts it can have its full literal meaning: "Rejoice". Perhaps this was an element in Jesus' greeting to the two women, who were already bursting with joy.

### Mark: Only Confusion

Mark's account ends at Mark 16:8. Scholars are divided as to whether the gospel ended here, or whether the ending was lost. Later writers added a variety of summaries to round the account off. In the account we have, the two women, together with Salome, are overcome with fear. Any joy there is comes later – and there must have been joy, or the "good news" would otherwise have been no more than worrying and confusing news!

### Luke: Don't be perplexed



Luke records Jesus' first words after his resurrection addressed to Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. Jesus catches up with them and asks them what they have been discussing. It appears from their reply that they are indeed very confused. It never occurs to them that their new travelling companion is Jesus himself — even after he has explained that the Messiah's suffering was a door on the way to glory. They only recognize him for who he is "in the breaking of the bread" - not by his words, but by his actions. Perhaps we too should be "making Jesus known" not so much by our words as by our actions?

As Cleopas and his friend are telling the disciples and their companions about this back in Jerusalem, Jesus stands among them. Some versions of Luke's gospel quote Jesus' words recorded in John, "peace be with you", but more importantly, Jesus asks them why they are frightened. As on the road to Emmaus, Jesus' words seek to calm the thoughts of those who cannot yet grasp what is happening. We today take the events at the core of our faith for granted. For the disciples, what was happening was far from self-evident, and there are many people today to whom a crucified and risen saviour means little. What would Jesus say to them?

### Name

**John: Called by** John's account also has Jesus' first words after his resurrection in the form of a question. "Woman, why are you weeping?" he asks Mary Magdalene, repeating the words of the angels at the tomb. "Whom are you seeking?" Like the travellers to Emmaus, she fails to recognize him until he calls her by her name. "Mary," he says, and we can imagine her response. Like the good shepherd, who calls the sheep by their name, so Jesus makes himself known because of a deep and personal relationship – they are on first-name terms.



When Jesus meets the disciples, his first words are "Peace" be with you." As in Matthew, he gives a traditional greeting, shalom aleikhum, one he is recorded as using three times after his resurrection, recalling his words to the disciples in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

### **Joy and Peace**

In his words, Jesus expresses the new life of the resurrection. It is a life not of worry and sin – these belong to another age. It is not a life lived in fear of hell-fire, for our Lord has overcome the sting of death. It is a life where Jesus greets us too – a life of joy, and a life of peace.

Alleluia!

HD

### FAQs: What is the sermon for?

In spite of what many people think, the sermon is not the most important item in a church service. We are there to worship God and the sermon is part of that.

The poet T.S.Eliot wrote:

You are not here to verify, Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity Or carry report. You are here to kneel Where prayer has been valid.

(from The Four Quartets)

A sermon is part of the process of coming nearer to God in worship. The words we use in our church services are not like the words in a lecture or a handbook. They are part of our conversation with the living God. This conversation has been going on through the whole of the Church's history (if not before) and engages us all.

It is not the preacher's primary task to give the congregation hints or something to make them feel better in the coming week. Still less is it to bolster their sense of righteousness by going on about the faults of others. A sermon may well contain illustrations from everyday life or refer to things in the news but it is not intended to give specific applications of the day's Bible readings. Most of the Bible is not intended for that purpose anyway.

People who preach have the joy and privilege of sharing something of what God is saying to them, of where they are in their walk with God, and of preparing the congregation for their encounter with him at the altar.

If the sermon gives the congregation "new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven" (to quote another poet, George Herbert), then the preacher has done his duty.

**PMP** 



### A Word for the Month - Immortal

Jesus lives! Henceforth is death But the gate of life immortal.

These words from an Easter hymn go back to an 18th-century German writer, Christian Gellert. The word "immortal" has actually crept in to fill up the line (the original reads *Jesus lebt. Nun ist der Tod / Mir der Eingang in das Leben*), but it is not out of place. We all know that life after death will have a different quality to the life we are leading at the moment.

### Immortality – for us

The word, *athanatos* in Greek, does not even appear in the Bible, though its associated noun, *athanasia*, immortality does. Perhaps writers avoided it, because it would have reminded readers of the Greek gods, referred to by pagans as "the immortals". The Christian God is unchanging, imperishable, eternal: but only at 1 Tim 6:16 does the Bible go so far as to say that God "has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light".

Immortality otherwise is reserved for us humans. The hymn rightly says that it comes as a result of the resurrection. And this is what Paul tells the Corinthians.

### The stroppy Corinthians

The Corinthians were an argumentative lot. Living in a seaport where people with all and every possible view were able to have their say, they were always asking "Why shouldn't we do this or that?" Why can't we eat meat offered to pagan gods? Why must women cover their heads when they pray? Why do we need to marry – can't we just live with someone? Why should our services be so formal – can't everyone speak in tongues? Who is this man Paul trying to lay down the law for us?

And so some of them also asked, what is this nonsense about resurrection? Why should they believe in it when it was obvious that people's bodies after death were in no condition to sit on clouds or play harps? And this question gave rise to one of Paul's almost hymn-like replies – you'll find it in 1 Corinthians 15.

### A different body

Animals, birds and fish have different types of body. In the same way, earthly bodies are different from heavenly bodies. We shall lose our physical body, and gain a spiritual body. Jesus has gone before us, and because he has been raised from the dead, so shall we be raised. At a trumpet call, we shall be transformed – the perishable will become imperishable, the mortal will become immortal.

#### **Outside the** material world

Immortality does not simply mean "not dying", just as eternal does not simply mean "lasting an infinite length of time." God is outside the dimension of time: the ideas of "when did God begin to exist", or of "who made God" are meaningless ones, for time, and with it the laws of cause and effect, were made by God. In the same way, immortality means living outside this world, where material things are subject to death or decay, and living in a spiritual world, where, in Paul's words "death has no more dominion". Think perhaps of music or poetry – it exists, but it cannot die.

Easter opens the gate to this new dimension – a dimension where, in Isaiah's words, quoted by Paul, "death is swallowed up" (Isaiah 25:8). We can hardly begin to describe it, for in this world we can only catch glimpses of heaven. But in Christ's resurrection, we have the first fruits of this new world, where sin and death are no more, and God is all in all.

HD

### **Junior Church Corner**

**Meeting Times** The Junior Church normally meets every Sunday in the year, unless there is a special All-Age service. It begins with a time of worship with the whole congregation in church. After this, all the children and teachers meet together in the hall for a brief introduction, prayer and to collect our gifts for Tear Fund. We currently run four classes: Sparklers for children aged 3 to 5+, All-Stars for children aged 5 to 8+, Trailblazers for children aged 8 to 11+ and Pilots for those aged 11 to 14+. Every Sunday the Sparklers return to church at the Peace.

#### Lessons

In February we looked at the life of Moses and God's people in the desert and discussed how God looked after them despite the many dangers and uncertainties they faced. In March we will be exploring images of light in the bible before turning in April to Joshua and his discovery that, with God's help, he could do anything.

**Social Activities** At a social level, the next few months promise to be quite exciting with the 7-12s meeting on 27 March, 14.00 - 16.00 to make chocolates and candies to raise funds for the Tear Fund school project in the Sudan that the Junior Church is supporting, and on 15 May for a barbecue and games on the Gurten (11.00 – 14.00).

> The fundraising bake sale will take place on Easter Sunday, after the service. Any other contributions towards the bake sale (cakes, hot cross buns, biscuits etc) would be most welcome. For further information about the social group (still without an official name) or the bake sale, please contact Françoise: fhaengqi@swissonline.ch.

We are also planning a sleepover at church for 21-22 May for all members of Junior Church older than 6. Anyone willing to help organise the event and/or help get supper or breakfast ready, please contact Tricia. More information about the sleepover will be sent to Junior Church families closer to the date.

### **Nursery Niche**

### Crèche for Children under 3

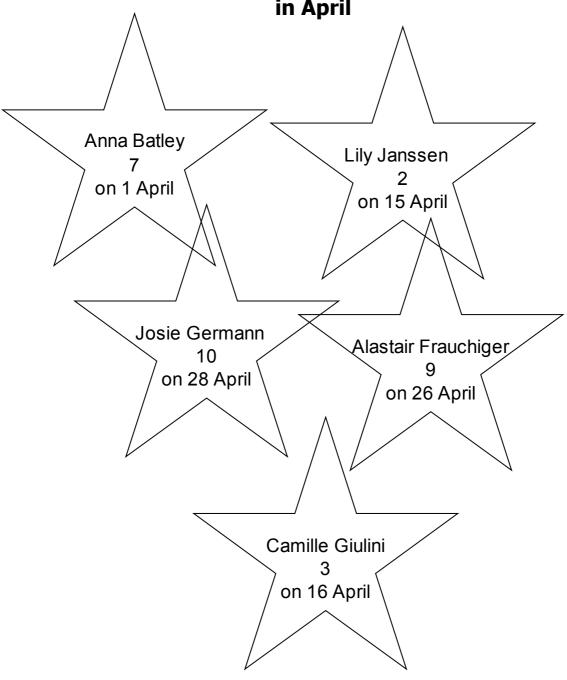
All children under 3 are welcome in the nursery (crèche). A reminder to parents: please collect your child immediately after the service; you may also fetch your child before communion, if you would like him/her to receive a blessing.

#### Crèche Rota

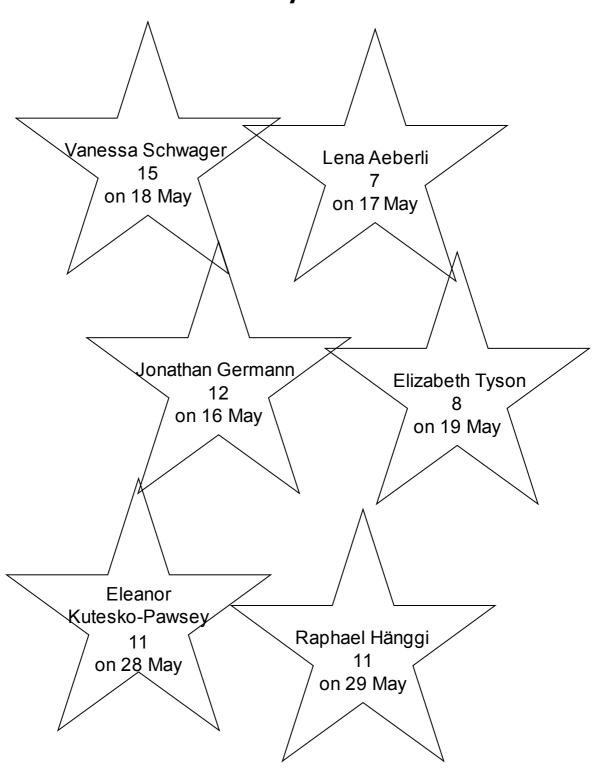
4 April No crèche 11 April A Masciadri & C Augustine 18 April S Hutchison & A Pfister 25 April R Giulini & M Hebeisen 2 May J Kutesko & B Piper 9 May W Bisiq & M Wildhaber 16 Mav C Klinger & J Viggiswarapu 23 May C Hodler & S Bouldin 30 May L Robb & B Aréstegui

### **Congratulations**

to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in April



# Congratulations to our Junior Church Children with Birthdays in May



### **Calendar of Services**

Berne			
1 April	Maundy Thursday 18.30 Commemoration of the Last Supper Exodus 12:1-4, Exodus 12:11-14, John 13:1-17,31-35, Psalm 88		
2 April	Good Friday 10.00 Family Service 14.00 Liturgy of the Last Hour Isaiah 52:13-53:12		
4 April	<ul> <li>Easter Day</li> <li>09.00 Sung Eucharist with Easter Ceremonies         <ul> <li>Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:1-12</li> </ul> </li> <li>10.30 Family Communion         <ul> <li>Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:1-12</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
11 April	Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday) 08.30 Said Communion 10.00 Informal Eucharist Acts 5:27-32, Rev 1:4-8, John 20:19-end		
18 April	Third Sunday of Easter 10.00 Eucharist Zephaniah 3:14-end, Acts 9:1-6, John 21:15-19		
25 April	Fourth Sunday of Easter  08.30 Said Communion  10.00 Eucharist  Genesis 8:13-18,9:8-13, Acts 9:36-43, John 10:22-30		
2 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter 10.00 Eucharist Genesis 22:1-18, Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35		
9 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter 08.30 Said Communion 10.00 Informal Eucharist with Prayers of Dedication		

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 16:9-15, John 5:1-9

13 May **Ascension Day** 

10.00 Holy Communion

Daniel 7:9-14, Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53

16 May Sunday after Ascension

10.00 Eucharist

Ezekiel 36:24-28, Acts 16:16-34, John 17:20-26

23 May **Pentecost** 

08.30 Said Communion

10.00 Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17

30 May **Trinity Sunday** 

10.00 Eucharist

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

### **Thun**

15 April	19.30	Eucharist with Holy Baptism
6 May	19.30	Eucharist
20 May	19.30	Eucharist

### **Neuchâtel**

1 April	19.00	Maundy Thursday Agape Meal
2 April	17.00	Voices around the Cross
4 April	10.00	Communion Service
18 April	17.00	Family Communion Service
2 May	10.00	Communion Service
16 May	17.00	Family Communion Service

### **Prayer Diary**

### **April**

1. Maundy Thursday Our spiritual food

2. Good Friday "Father forgive"

3. Saturday Be still

6. Tuesday Our new Council

7. Wednesday The work of Partner Sein

8. Thursday Embassies and their staffs in Berne

9. Friday People getting married

10. Saturday The Jewish Community in Berne

11. Sunday The Taizé Community12. Monday The people of Iraq13. Tuesday The City Council

14. Wednesday All who read in our church

15. Thursday Thun Church Group

16. Friday People looking for work

17. Saturday Those serving in peacekeeping missions

**18. Sunday** Neuchâtel Church

19. Monday All who suffer for their faith20. Tuesday Relief work in Haiti and Chile

21. Wednesday Teachers

22. Thursday The Bishop's Staff Meeting

23. Friday (St George)Churches in England

24. Saturday Christians in Sport

**25. Sunday** ANZAC Day

26. Monday (St Mark) Our witness to the Gospel

27. Tuesday The Clergy Chapter

28. Wednesday The Reformed Churches

29. Thursday Zimbabwe

30. Friday Bible translators

### May

1. Saturday The Archdeaconry Choir Festival

**2. Sunday** The Churches of the Anglican Communion

3. Monday Christians working in the media

4. Tuesday AGCK (The Swiss Council of Churches)

Wednesday
Our Old Catholic partner churches
Thursday
People recently arrived in the area
Friday
English-speaking clubs and societies

8. Saturday The Council Awayday

**9. Sunday** Thanksgiving for all who contribute to our church life

10. Monday The work of Christian Aid11. Tuesday Farmers, here and abroad

12. Wednesday Clean water for all

13. Thursday Thanksgiving for the Ascension

14. Friday (St Matthias) Our readiness to step in and help where needed

15. Saturday Our confirmation candidates16. Sunday Making Christ's love known

17. Monday Local hospitals, staff and patients

18. Tuesday Shop workers

19. Wednesday Israel and its neighbours

20. Thursday (Alcuin) All who contribute to the worship in our church

21. Friday The housebound

22. Saturday The Afternoon Tea (Pastoral Care Group)23. Pentecost Openness to the Holy Spirit in our lives

24. Monday The Diocesan Synod

25. Tuesday (Bede) Christian authors

26. Wednesday (Augustine) The Archbishop of Canterbury

27. Thursday Care for the environment

28. Friday The Swiss Archdeaconry Education Programme

29. Saturday The Iona Community

**30. Trinity** The mystery of the Trinity

31. Monday (Visitation) Expectant mothers

### **Rotas**

Readers	4 April 0900 4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April 2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	Y Chittazhathu C Hodler + B Morgan B Winfield + P Jayara A Masciadri + J Wong Y Chittazhathu + M S C Hodler + D Low	aj G Shearmur gson j	
Intercessions	4 April 0900 4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April		2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	E Hutchison T Carrick B Morgan
Sidesperson	4 April 0900 4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April		2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	B Winfield S Klein
Tea & Coffee	4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April 2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	M Mead + A Dedai A Low + J Chisholm R Fenner + B Winfield S Faillettaz + A Carrio J Josi + M Wittwer R Fenner + J Rockson S + M Brawand E Hutchison R Fenner + A Dedai	ck	
Flowers	4 April 11 April 18 April 25 April	E Eigner, C Hodler, J Josi, Y Chittazhathu K Hoag M Wittwer R Schelker	2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	V Hawker K Hoag Y Bomonti E Eigner R Schelker

Server	•	A Funkhouser Mt Wildhaber L Robb D Goepfert A Thomas	2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	A Funkhouser R Freiburghaus
Chalice	4 April 0900 4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April 2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	D Goepfert + E Hutchison K Chittazhathu + R Freiburghaus B Morgan + H Davie D Low + A Funkhouser E Hutchison + P Perrett J Wenger + H Davie D Goepfert + HELP R Freiburghaus + K Chittazhathu J Wenger + B Morgan A Funkhouser + D Low/E Hutchison		u
Council Duty	•	E Hutchison M Wildhaber J Eze T Carrick T Read	2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	
Audio	4 April 0900 4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April	HELP W Bisig A Tomczak P Perrett E Wildhaber	2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	_
Projector	4 April 0900 4 April 1030 11 April 18 April 25 April	H Davie A Thomas E Wildhaber M Wildhaber J Carrick	2 May 9 May 16 May 23 May 30 May	A Funkhouser T Carrick M Wildhaber J Carrick H Davie

### **For Your Diary**

	Regular Weekly	Events
Mondays	09.30-10.00	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	09.15-11.15	Parents and Tots
Fridays	09.30 19.00-21.00	Patchwork (not 2 April) Youth Group (9 & 30 Apr, 7 & 21 May)
Saturdays	09.30-11.30	Choir practice (not 1 & 29 May)
	Other Events	
Sunday 4 April	11.30	Junior Church Bake Sale for Tear Fund
Tuesday 6 April	19.30	Church Council
Thurs 15-18 April		Youth Trip to Taizé
Sunday 25 April	10.00 10.00	Youth Group Presentation during Service Confirmation Class
Tuesday 27 April	19.00	Junior Church Teachers' Meeting
Friday 30 April	19.00 - 20.30	Adult Confirmation Class
30 April - 2 May		Archdeaconry Choir Festival, Lausanne
Sunday 2 May	10.00 10.00	Youth Group Confirmation Class
Monday 3 May	19.00 - 20.30	Adult Confirmation Class
Tuesday 4 May	19.30	Church Council
Saturday 8 May	10.00 - 13.00	Church Council Away Day Children's Toy & Equipment Sale
Friday 14 May	17.30 – 22.00	Youth Group Parents & Teachers' Appreciation Evening
Saturday 15 May	11.00 - 14.00	Social Group for 7-12s (on the Gurten)
Sunday 16 May	10.00	Youth Group COPY DATE
Friday 21 May	19.00	Confirmation Class

Fri 21 – 22 May Junior Church Sleepover

Saturday 22 May 14.30 – 16.30 Afternoon Tea with Pastoral Care Team

Thursday 27 May 09.00 Magazine Collating

Fri 28 – 29 May SACEP Course: John Bell (see page 34)

Sunday 30 May 10.00 Youth Group

10.00 Confirmation Class

#### **Future Dates**

Saturday 5 June 10.00 – 14.00 Book & Food Sale

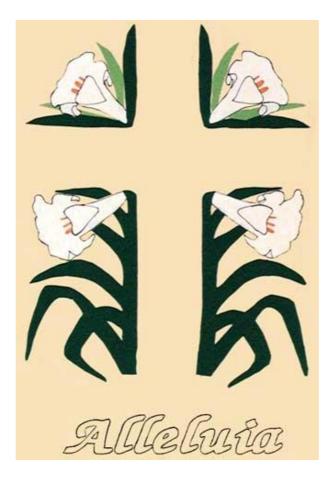
Sunday 20 June 10.00 Confirmation Service

Sat 28 August 12.00 International Bring and Share Lunch

Sat 4 September 10.00 – 14.00 Book & Food Sale

17-19 September Church Weekend Away, Aeschi (see notice on page 7)

Fri 19 November/ 17.00 – 19.30 Christmas Bazaar Sat 20 November 10.00 – 15.00 Christmas Bazaar



### **Neuchâtel News**

Chapelle des Charmettes, Rue Varnoz 1 www.neuchatel-church.ch

Services
Twice Monthly

10 am on the FIRST Sunday of the month.

Children meet for Junior Church at 10 am in the Villa Yo-Yo

and join their parents in church for Communion.

5 pm on the THIRD Sunday of the month

Family Communion service

Minister in charge

The Rev. Roy Farrar Chemin du Chasselas 11

2012 AUVERNIER Tel: 032 730 51 83

Dates for your

**The Annual General Meeting:** 

**Diary** Sunday April 18th after the (short) service. Important points

will be discussed – make sure you're there!!

Do stay to a bring-and-share supper afterwards

**Bible Study** at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm, Tuesday 20 April (No bible

study on 6 April)

**Debate@Eight** at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm, Sunday 25 April: Fate, Destiny

or Choice?

**Holy Week** 

1 April at 7 pm: Maundy Thursday, Agape

**Services** 

2 April at 5 pm: Good Friday "Voices around the Cross"

4 April at 10 am: Regular morning service



### From Roy and Mieke

Matthew records one of the most beautiful verses in the gospel records concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Chapter 27 verse 51 Matthew says, "At that moment (the death of Jesus) the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." That barrier between

the creator and his created had been removed for all of eternity; the way to the presence of the Father was now completely open.

The joy of the Easter faith is that we can come directly to God through the victory of Jesus Christ. We need NO intermediary, no priest, no advocate, no

special dispensation, no special ritual; we can come to God as Father and stand joyously in his presence clothed in the love of Jesus.

What a freedom, what a privilege was won for us by the obedience of the Lord Jesus.

In our services at Easter we often cry out "Christ is Risen---He is Risen indeed". This is no mantra, this is the very heart of the great plan of salvation, and we again can run into the presence of the Father and be his children. **BUT** this freedom demands our service and commitment to Him. You are not your own - you have been bought with a price. The lives that we live day by day are to glorify and serve our risen Master, our aims, thoughts, motives and actions should be to tell this world what God has done for us.

Let us challenge this world about us; let us burn with the desire to spread the GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom all around us.

We shall be gathering after the church service on the 18th April to hold our Annual General Meeting. Please make every effort to be there, to listen to the wonderful things God has been doing amongst us, to consider the future plans for the church, to pray about the future pattern of ministry. Big changes must take place in the



coming twelve months and we need to have all the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as to the direction the church should take.

### **Echoes from the Committee Meeting**

The committee met on 4 March where the future was our main pre-occupation. We may have to find new premises (depending on decisions taken by the Swiss church) and Roy will not be at Neuchâtel forever. These questions will be more fully discussed at the AGM.

The website is being overhauled and up-dated. I would welcome suggestions, especially from newcomers. What's missing on the site for you?

\*Rosemarie Zimmermann\*

### **Charity and Missions Focus**

### The Baan Nok Kamin Foundation in Thailand

#### **History**

The "Baan Nok Kamin" foundation was established in 1985 by an OMF missionary, Erwin Gröbli from Switzerland. He went to Thailand with the desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the middle and upper class of Bangkok. But God had different plans....

It started small...

Erwin got to know some streetboys whom he took in to live with him. More children joined and the first house was rented. Some students who were interested in this work, helped to look after the boys and are still staff members at Baan Nok Kamin. And the work of Baan Nok Kamin began to grow both in Bangkok and in other parts of Thailand (see below)

### What does Baan Nok Kamin mean?

Baan... translates as "House". And ...Nok Kamin is the name of a Thai bird which has no fixed abode or nest and lays its eggs in a 'foreign' nest. Baan Nok Kamin – The House of a Homeless Bird!



Baan Nok Kamin is a Foundation that takes care of street children, orphans and children from broken families in Thailand. In total there are currently about 200 children and young people in the care of Baan Nok Kamin. It has been running for 20 years, financed through generous private donors!

Giving these children a new family, an education, good food and clean clothing is the aim of Baan Nok Kamin.

Unlike most orphanages the children of Baan Nok Kamin do not live together in one big building. They live together just as in a normal family. Staff members who take care of the children are married couples. Their duty is to be father and mother in each family. Each couple takes care of 10 children, as a big family.

This unique system gives the children what they need most: stability and reliable attachment figures. In this environment they experience, maybe for the first time, how it feels to be loved and cared for. They learn to value themselves, to build up confidence and to respect others.

### This care is for lifelong

Baan Nok Kamin takes care of their children until they are able to earn their own money! This means that Baan Nok Kamin is also paying for the young people's university careers or apprenticeships. By providing living facilities for students we ensure keeping contact with our grown up children. In this way we can reduce the threat of relapsing into earlier learnt criminal behaviour.

#### Results

It works! The group of children, that was first taken care of 20 years ago, are now grown up and well-integrated individuals. Most of them graduated from university, some are already married and now take care of their own families.

#### Locations

Baan Nok Kamin works in the following locations in Thailand:

Wiang Papaw (Chiang Mai):

A drug rehabilitation centre for 30 men and women.

Chiang Mai:

A home for abused girls, also in North Thailand, with 3 "families" each with approx 12 girls.

#### Sukhothai:

3 "families" for onetime street boys, or boys from poor or broken families. 40 boys live on the farm here.

In the city, there is a communal flat under the care of house parents for a group of youth who were one time Baan Nok Kamin boys and are in their apprenticeship.

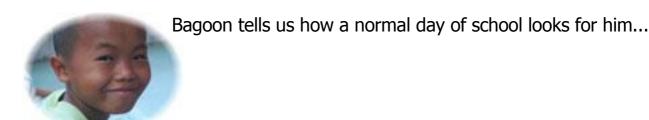
### Bangkok:

3 "families" for boys, 1 "family" for girls, a hostel for young men in their apprenticeship or studying and since 2004 a day childcare centre

#### Hua Hin:

Project KaoTao Resort: A lovely seaside spot where the BNK children can spend holidays but also where tourists can stay.

Nam Dip: an old people's home near the village of Nam Di.



**05.30** I have to get up early and shower.

My 'duty' is waiting for me. Every morning I have a particular duty. This morning it is setting the table.

**06.00** For breakfast I usually have a big appetite!

Now I have to get ready otherwise I will be late for school. Where are my socks?? Luckily my school isn't far away and I can meet up with my comrades on the way.

**07.30** It's a long time till midday... and then I still have another 2 or 3 hours of school ahead of me this afternoon. I can have my meal at school. That is OK.

On the way home from school I can spend some time with my comrades. That's always lots of fun!!

16.00 Until the evening meal at 18:00 there is not much time left for my homework. And I've got to wash some of my clothes as well. And shower again too. In Thailand we do shower 2 or 3 times daily. I always look forward to the weekend. Then there is more time for playing.

**18.30** Tonight I'm on washing up duty.

**19.30** A pity, the others can watch TV. But I have to finish my homework first.

It's just as well that I have already ironed my shirt.

20.15 We get together for daily devotions. Our Housefather Chalerm tells us a Bible story and we sing a few songs. Then we share what God has done for us on this day.

Now it's almost time for bed. I am in a room with Dam, Pijee und Nan. We have a lot of fun together. Especially when the others think we are asleep.

### For more information

For more information on the Baan Nok Kamin Foundation have a look at the Charity and Missions notice board in the church hall or refer to www.baannokkamin.ch or under www.omf.org/omf (English link)

### Prayer Requests

Prayer requests from Irene and Erwin Gröbli for the Baan Nok Kamin Foundation:

- For Thai personal for new BNK families, qualified to be house parents for needy children and young people and most of all, that they are living out their Christian faith strongly
- That the offer of a wealthy Thai family of land with 2 buildings in Ranot in the province of Songklha, South Thailand may be used for new BNK families for many street children and other needy children from the nearby town of Hat Yai
- Pray for Dam who is organising the holiday camps in April in the Hua Hin Holiday Resort on the sea coast during the school break for BNK children, for the helpers Dschön, Thawii and Simon Tiefenaue, for safe travel and safety of the children during the camp.
- For the political situation in Thailand.

Cecily Klingler on behalf of St Ursula's Charity and Missions Team

# Celtic Inspiration: Drawing from the Iona Community with John Bell





28th ~ 30th May 2010 Guesthouse Nidelbad Zürichsee





Pick up a leaflet from the church hall or look on the web site for more information and a registration form.

# **Your Pages**

#### **Sheep and Lambs**

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road.

The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road;
All in an April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary, and crying
With a weak human cry;
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet:
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.

Rest for the Lamb of God Up on the hill-top green; Only a cross of shame Two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
And thought on the Lamb of God.







This poem by Katherine Tynan, published in 1891, was set to music by Hugh Roberton, founder of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. It is often sung in churches in Scotland at Easter as an anthem. It has a very haunting melody. The text reminds us of the lamb who died, once and for all, for all mankind, for the sin of the world, and that all will be well. *David Low* 

#### Why are you doing what you are doing?

Is it because you are seeking approval?
Is it out of fear as to what will happen if you don't do it?
Is it because you are driven by need?

Why are you doing what you are doing? Have you heard My call?

Are you living out your thankfulness for what I have done for you?

Do you not know that I love you for who you are rather than for what you do that I do not need your labour before I give My blessing?

Of course I hope you will respond to My love by loving others
but let us start with My unconditional love for you.

#### And so I ask:

Why are you doing what you are doing?

I do not want you exhausted because you are running with something

I haven't asked you to do -

or because you are still doing what was once My purpose for you but is now My purpose for someone else.

Why are you doing what you are doing?

Lay it all before Me and seek My face to know what is still My will for you.

If you still feel that you must do something

because if you do not then no-one else will,

if you feel you will be of no value if you lay down what is exhausting you,
then you have not understood My love for you nor My purposes for you.

I cannot give you something new if you are holding tight to old things.

But I can give you more if you have let go of what is not of Me

and if you are holding everything in open hands.

Come to Me - I can be trusted.

Come to Me and let Me bless you with My "today" purposes for you. Come to Me in your emptiness and let Me fill you with My fullness.

Cedric Brown - Pentecost 2009



My mother sent this to me. It was written by a friend of hers, who is also a Methodist local preacher. I thought I would like to share it with you. *Tricia Carrick* 



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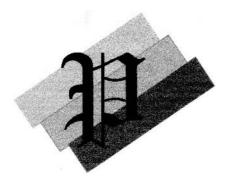
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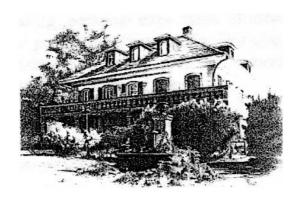
### The British School, Bern

#### www.britishschool.ch

Hintere Dorfgasse 20, 3073 Gümligen, Switzerland

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The club was formed in 1991 as a non-political, non-religious organization open to all men, women and their families, interested in meeting for social and cultural activities. Our aim is to facilitate a better understanding of – and integration into – Switzerland, through a variety of services, programmes and joint explorations of this country and its people. We welcome members from all over the world, and currently count nearly 200 members and their families from more than 40 nations. Our common language is English, but among our members many other languages can be heard. We hold a monthly meeting with guest speakers and presentations on a wide range of topics, and publish a monthly Newsletter. We are waiting to welcome you!

Graham Tritt, President, tel. 031 829 34 79, email g.tritt@gmx.net International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, www: icberne.2ya.com

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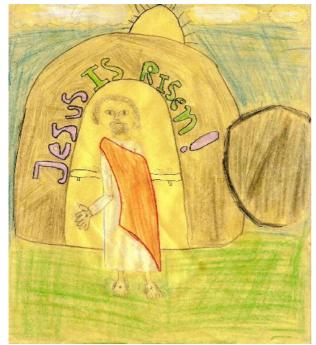
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### **Easter Pictures**

Many thanks to all the young people who submitted pictures for our competition. Here are the pictures by the four winners:



Edi Kingori



Elizabeth Tyson



John Tyson



Naomi Kingori