

THE CHURCH OF ST URSULA BERNE



October - November 2021

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

Chaplain: Revd Helen Marshall

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031 351 03 43

Day off: Friday

Lay Reader

Archana Jacob

archana@stursula.ch

Church Office: 031 352 85 67

Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement with the Chaplain

Normal pattern of Sunday services:

8.30 Said Eucharist (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 Sunday of the month, the 10.00 service is more informal.

See Calendar of Services inside for details of the next few weeks.

Services in Thun: 19.00 on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Chapelle

Romande, Frutigenstrasse 22: Eucharist and Bible study.

Contact: Church Office 031 352 85 67

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: www.stursula.ch

E-mail: berne@anglican.ch



St Ursula's Church Magazine

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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

During the current pandemic, some of the events scheduled here may be postponed or cancelled. Please check with the Church Office (031 352 85 67) or on the Church website (www.stursula.ch) for recent information.

COPY DATE

for the December 2021 - January 2022 magazine is

14 November 2021

Please send copy to magazine@stursula.ch

COLLATING DATE: Thursday 25 November 2021

From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,

I look forward to welcoming you on 3 October for our Harvest Thanksgiving and Pledge Sunday. On this joyful occasion, we will give thanks to God for the abundant gifts of life we have received, pray for those in need, and consider our own giving both to our church and to the wider world.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving marks the end of Creation Season. During this time we have been reflecting on how our worship of God our Creator relates to our care for God's creation and our neighbours most in need. This season may soon be coming to an end, but that does not mean that we then forget about these issues.

The extensive and highly destructive fires, floods and droughts in many places across our world this summer have been a stark reminder of the damaging effects of climate change both on the environment and on human life. There is an urgent need for us to do something NOW about this to prevent even more catastrophic consequences.

Recently, Dominic Roser (a member of our congregation who lectures in ethics at Fribourg University and works for the organisation *Effective Altruism for Christians*) gave a very interesting and challenging talk about actions we can take to protect the most vulnerable from the effects of climate change. He suggested that those actions with the *greatest impact* include: not flying (or flying very rarely), eating less or no meat or animal products, voting for politicians and policies supporting clean technologies, and, perhaps most importantly, making donations to organisations which work towards clean technologies or reduce poverty in our world. I know we are not all in exactly the same situation, but I hope we can all pray for discernment to know the best actions we are able to take and then take them. If you missed Dominic's talk, a handout is available: <http://bit.ly/climate-wheat> .

From 31 October – 12 November, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) will be held in Glasgow. In a recent joint statement, Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin Welby, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church) called upon Christians everywhere to pray for world leaders as they prepare for this conference. They also urge everyone to play their part in safeguarding the future of the planet.

'We must decide what kind of world we want to leave to future generations. We must choose to live differently; we must choose life.'

The three Christian leaders highlight the *'profound injustice'* that it is the world's poorest who are suffering the worst impacts of our disregard for the environment and call for individual and collective responsibility and global co-operation in seeking to tackle the crisis.

'This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it.'

Let us *pray* earnestly for this important climate change conference, for world leaders, nations and businesses. Alongside our prayers, we are also called to *act*, discerning which of our actions will have the greatest impact in helping those most affected by climate change.

We may feel overwhelmed when we think about these things and we may be tempted to despair. But let us also remember that the Creator God, who declared his creation 'very good', is the same God who enters into his creation in Christ, the Word made flesh, and who promises, despite the mess we make of ourselves and this world, that we and the whole groaning creation will be re-created and made new. As we seek to *pray* and to *act* in the face of climate change, we also put our trust in God who does not abandon his world but continues to work out his good purposes even in the darkest times.

Soon after the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, we enter the season of Advent. This is the season of *hope* when we recall afresh God's coming into our world as a tiny, vulnerable baby, and we look ahead to the renewal of all things. We are called now to live in the light of that future. So as we pray and act, let us look with trust and hope to God our Creator and Redeemer and live day by day as *people of hope*.

Heavenly Lord.
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

With love in Christ,
Helen

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof" - Psalm 24:1

Whilst many activities were impossible owing to COVID rules, I was inspired by ideas from EcoChurch and occasional participation on church gardening days to suggest that something needed to be done with a patch of neglected land behind our block of flats.

Having obtained permission, I enrolled the help of my young, strong neighbour and he and I set to work last spring. Most of the land consists of only a few inches of soil as it is above the laundry rooms, so we focused our efforts on clearing the bank of weeds and debris – a monumental task in itself!

Room was made for a compost bin at the top corner of the bank. As the house next door is being renovated, I was able to obtain some broken paving slabs to make steps leading to this as I tended to fall over on my way up! A water butt was installed (not an easy task) giving us a good supply of rainwater.



From this

So, what should we plant? Hoping to keep costs as low as possible, I planted several herbs from my own garden along with some flowers and then sowed bee friendly seeds to provide colour in the summer. Tiny lavender plants are growing too, adding fragrance.



To this

the summer. Tiny lavender plants are growing too, adding fragrance.

Potatoes that had sprouted were planted and gave us a crop for the six flats and brambles were cut back to provide blackberries. Courgettes have found homes and our pumpkin has grown well. God has given us our first harvest and also planted huge sunflowers with no help from us at all!

-Rosalind Richards



Choosing a Good Book

Martin Luther, when famously not throwing his ink-pot at the Devil, did not have many good things to say about the Letter of James. James tried to order people to obey God, rather than persuading them to love God. “Darumb will ich yhn nicht haben ynn meyner Bibel.” (“So I don’t want him in my Bible.”). He did concede, though, that the Letter had some good points, and if people liked to read it, they could.



One of James’ “good points” is the request to “be doers of the word, and not merely hearers” (1:22). One of the points made by the old Jewish prophets, and by Jesus after them, was that people “heard but did not listen” – in fact, they should hear, pay attention and act as well. Our faith does not just mean lying in bed with a good book, but helping the poor and needy, the widows and orphans, all our neighbours – spreading God’s love.

Four hundred years ago, the Reformation brought a lot of questioning. We were to love and obey God, but how could we know what God was expecting us to do? The idea of putting a Bible in the hands of every ploughboy was attractive, but it had problems. Most ploughboys couldn’t read. They certainly couldn’t read Greek and Hebrew – and even if they *were* Greek, the language the New Testament was written in was very old-fashioned. The alternative – telling people what they had to do – had been tried for the last 1500 years and in their opinion hadn’t worked. So people set about translating the Greek and Hebrew text into language the ploughboys (and ploughgirls too!) could understand.

This was nothing new. When Jesus was alive, only teachers spoke Hebrew – the scribes and pharisees. Nearly everyone else around him spoke Aramaic, or since the country was virtually a colony, Greek. People had already taken the trouble to translate the Jewish Bible into Greek and Aramaic years before, and parts of it had even been written in those languages in the first place (much of Daniel in Aramaic, parts of Esther in Greek). The early Christians wrote about Jesus in Greek, and very soon the whole Bible was translated into Latin and Aramaic, and other languages too.

So later when people came to England with the Good News about Jesus, they translated the Bible into the local languages – we still have the Lord’s Prayer in Wessex dialect from over 1000 years ago (“*Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum, si þin nama gehalgod. To becume þin rice,*

gewurpe ðin willa, on eorðan swa swa on heofonum. Urne gedæghwamlican hlaƿ syle us todæg, and forgyf us ure gyltas, swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum. And ne gelæd þu us on costnunge, ac alys us of yfele. Soplice.”). But English has changed over time – nobody says “Soothly” for “Amen”. When there was pressure from the Reformers for a newer text, half a dozen translations appeared, each with their own version of what the original Greek or Hebrew text said.

In England, and effectively in Britain, this confusion was settled by King James setting up a committee of scholars (47 of them!) who in 1611 produced an “authorized” version. After a couple of hundred years, some of the language was a bit antiquated, and people had found some of the translation work could be improved, and over the past 150 years numerous translations have appeared, claiming to be more accurate, more modern, more up-to-date. Some may be, some certainly are not.

Some versions (as the 1611 version set out to do) translate the words rather than the thoughts – others do the opposite. Neither can assure us that the translator has either understood the original text or found the right words in English (or whatever is your language) to express it. A large committee revised the 1611 text between 1875 and 1895, but their Revised Version did not include all the changes the American members of the committee wanted. For copyright reasons, the “Revised Version – Standard American Edition” (normally called the American Standard Version (ASV)) appeared in 1901.

In church we use the New Revised Standard Version, which is a descendant of this ASV. The churches in the USA decided to revise the ASV in 1937, but the war interrupted the work and the Revised Standard Version appeared between 1946 (NT), 1952 (OT) and 1957 (Apocrypha). The NRSV is a further revision – it corrects and extends translations in the light of new scholarship – like the Dead Sea scrolls. It also avoids (as far as possible) male-based language (for example, while the Greek word *adelphos* means “brother”, its plural *adelphoi* could include sisters as well). British people have a special edition using British grammar and spelling.

Other versions, which translate the thoughts in preference to the words, also exist: The *Message* by Eugene Peterson is one author’s way of giving a more informal expression to what the Bible says. The *Good News Translation* (formerly *Today’s English Bible*) is an attempt by the American and the British Bible Societies to create a translation that was easy for slower readers and for non-native speakers to understand. The *New International Version* did the same, but came from a slightly more international background, and employed a team of slightly more prestigious scholars. And more besides.

Choosing a Bible is like choosing shoes – try a few on for suitability and taste. Perhaps read a few passages – Psalm 23, a page from Isaiah, Daniel or Jonah, Exodus 20, Matthew 5, a few verses of Romans or Corinthians – to get a feel. And ask someone else for their thoughts. But above all, be both a reader **and** a doer!

- Hector Davie

A Word for the Month – Armour

A stranger walking the streets of Capernaum at the time of Jesus would have noticed a distinctive set of sights and sounds. The village was modestly prosperous, and home to about 1500 people. The soil was good, and there were fish in the nearby lake. The Jordan flowed in nearby, and out again at the southern end of the lake some 15 miles away.

Like any large village there would have been the sounds of agriculture – seedtime and harvest, tree- and vine-dressing, fruit-picking, but in this corner of Galilee, there were also boats on the lake, fisher-folk, fish – even storms. Plenty of material for Jesus to weave into stories and parables. More than enough, for since 63 BC, the Romans had occupied the country, and their soldiers would have been a familiar sight along the roads that connected the cities of the Empire.

It is possible from their names that some of the disciples had connections in the resistance movement, and the New Testament sometimes hints at their wanting to fight. But Jesus would have none of it, and on the other side the Romans were very careful not to encourage opposition or to upset the local population. Any armour a Christian would have known would have been defensive, and any story Christians would have told each other about armour would have been about ways of defending themselves against the tricks and traps of the Devil.

Jesus told stories about such defences going wrong without the right armour (read Luke 11:18-26), and the Pauline Letters use the armour metaphor in Romans 13 and Ephesians 6. The Letters make it clear that the Devil is a cunning enemy, and we need armour everywhere. A soldier on patrol or sentry duty might just wear a helmet (*perikephalaia*), a breast-plate (*thorax*) and strong boots, and Paul uses these to illustrate the strength of our salvation through



Christ. But we need the whole thing, the *panoplia*, and our English word “panoply” gives the idea of splendour, when the soldiers of the day must have grudged the crippling weight of all that metal!

Using military imagery is often unacceptable in the modern world. We remember with sorrow two world wars, the conquest of empires by force, the use of violence to impose a particular religion or a particular political system. We no longer sing hymns like *Onward Christian Soldiers* and *Fight the good fight*. They are too hard to separate from the idea of triumph over other human beings, even though their writers had the struggle against sin and ignorance in mind, not against sinful or ignorant people.

Perhaps we should look more closely at how we use this group of words. For the basic meaning of both the Greek word *hopla* and the Latin word *arma* is simply a tool, a strong tool. Sinful humanity has created the arms trade and used it for killing people. But God has provided arms to defend ourselves from evil – not to create more of it. And in the end, God will protect us, and has done so through the ages.

- *Hector Davie*



Pastoral Care News

Tuesday Gathering

We held our first Tuesday Gathering on 10 August and it was well received. It was wonderful to see all those who came.

Please do come and join us in the Upper Hall on Tuesday 19 October from 14.30 to 16.00 for our next Tuesday Gathering. We are offering a time of fellowship and connection during these COVID times. Enjoy refreshments and a chat as we reconnect with each other.

Please note that registration and a COVID certificate are required.

We plan to meet on a monthly basis, and here are the dates up until December:

19 October

16 November

21 December

We are tracking COVID, and will keep you informed of changes.

We look forward to catching up with you.

Blessings,

Pastoral Care team

Please email any queries to Lynn Morgan at lynn-m@outlook.com or call 078 891 07 35.

- Lynn Morgan



Treasurer's Report

Dear all,

A big thank you to all who supported our Autumn Sale on 4 September, it was a great day. We were so lucky to be able to use the outside as well as indoors. The sun was shining and everyone really enjoyed



seeing people as well as eating from the grill or taking a drink at the bar. Indoors we had the food stall open as well as a restaurant run by Lynn and Jane. There were cakes, quiches and salads with the most amazing dressing. The books were open downstairs and they were very popular this time. Online orders were placed as usual so that people could get what they wanted without having to crowd the stall. We raised well over Fr4,000 which is more than the previous year

and well in line with normal sales. I would like to give a big thank you to all who helped out, whether by preparing food to sell online or on the day, running the grill, helping on the stalls or preparing orders. There are too many to thank properly, but they know who they are.

We are looking forward to being able to have a Christmas Bazaar at the end of November. It may be that we will need to check COVID certificates as well as be otherwise creative in what we do, but we are working on it. If anybody has ideas or would like to join the team please contact Maria in the office.

The money from events as you know is important to help keep the Church going. Our accounts are showing a small excess to date, with the Association being richly blessed, and the Church side currently showing rather a deficit. It happens every year however, and somehow we manage to balance things by the end of the year. God will provide. Pledge Sunday is also approaching and I hope that you have all received your pledge letter request. Without the income we receive from you all, we would not be able to do all that we do. Thank you.



Finally I would just like to add my thanks to the people who maintain our Church garden. It has been transformed over the past year and all who come really enjoy it. As you will read elsewhere in the magazine, it also gave motivation to Rosalind to transform some ground near her. Ruth has also used the garden to entertain her friends, as she does not have one of her own. We love that people can use and enjoy it, and I will be looking into how we can add it to the rental options at Church so that others can also rent it for their use. Naturally Church members will get a very good rate, or perhaps they can donate a

plant or some time in the garden. We are a very small gardening team and really need some extra help.

- Sue Higson

Afternoon Tea

I am delighted to tell you that our Afternoon Tea on 24 July was a success!

A group of about 22 people met and reconnected with cake and tea. Although the rain threatened to spoil it, we managed to spend a couple of lovely hours sharing and chatting.

My thanks to all who helped make it work. Sue, Graeme and Agnes for setting up the tent and tables. To the bakers and tea-makers, to the tidy-uppers at the end. It was truly a blessed time for all who came.

We hope to repeat this in the future.

Thank you!

- Lynn and Brian Morgan



Services and Readings

October and November 2021

Sunday 3 October – Harvest Festival and Pledge Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Joel 2:21-27

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Matthew 6:25-33

Sunday 10 October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Eucharist

Amos 5:6-7,10-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Sunday 17 October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 53:4-12

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Sunday 24 October – Bible Sunday (Last Sunday after Trinity)

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 55:1-11

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

John 5:36b-47

Sunday 31 October – All Saints and All Souls (Fourth Sunday before Advent)

10:00 Eucharist

Isaiah 25:6-9

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

Sunday 7 November – Third Sunday before Advent

10:00 Eucharist

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 1:14-20

Sunday 14 November – Remembrance Sunday (2nd Sunday before Advent)

10:00 Eucharist

Micah 4:1-5

Romans 5:6-11

John 15:12-17

Sunday 21 November – Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

10:00 Eucharist

Daniel 7:9-10,13,14

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Sunday 28 November – Advent Sunday

10:00 Eucharist

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Sunday 5 December – Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 Eucharist

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6



For Your Diary

October and November 2021

**Our Regular Weekly Events are NOT taking place
IN CHURCH until further notice.
(Many of them continue on Zoom.)**

Other Events

Sunday 3 October	Pledge Sunday, Harvest Festival & Baptism of Joanna Babatunde
Tuesday 5 October	Church Council meeting
Thursday 7 October	Thun Service (via Zoom)
Tuesday 19 October	Tuesday Gathering
Thursday 21 October	Thun Service (in Thun)
Tuesday 2 November	Church Council meeting
Thursday 4 November	Thun Service (via Zoom)
Sunday 14 November	Remembrance Sunday
Tuesday 16 November	Tuesday Gathering
Thursday 18 November	Thun Service (in Thun)
Sunday 21 November	Pumpkin Soup Lunch to benefit Cecily's Fund
Thursday 25 November	Christmas Bazaar Set up
Friday 26 November	Christmas Bazaar 17.00 – 19.30
Saturday 27 November	Christmas Bazaar 10.00 – 14.00

Future Dates

Saturday 11 December	Lessons and Carols – Heiliggeist Church TBC
Tuesday 21 December	Tuesday Gathering
Friday 24 December	Christmas Services
Saturday 25 December	Christmas Services



After our very successful Autumn Sale we are now all looking forward to our greatest holiday tradition and fundraising event: our Christmas Bazaar.

Join us in the festive mood, whilst picking up some presents for friends and family. Let yourselves feel swept away by the variety of our stands, get lured by the delicious treats on offer, and warm your hearts with our volunteers' joy and hospitality.

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and at the time this text is written, it is still quite early and we are not sure about how the Christmas Bazaar will be organised.

Nonetheless, if everything goes according to plan, we are going to have stalls with Christmas cakes, our popular British food corner, fabulous wreaths and seasonal decorations, handmade accessories and gifts, luscious snacks and freshly baked festive treats and as always, second hand books.

Moreover, www.sale-stursula.ch will open again from the beginning of November and I hear that lots of hard-to-resist Christmas goodies will be available, waiting for you.

Would you like to help?

We are constantly impressed with the creative and unique ideas our volunteers come up with, and the amazing amount of effort they put into those ideas. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful team, please contact the Church Office for further details.

Donations

Gifts you didn't quite love? Books collecting dust on your shelves? New or second hand toys in excellent condition your kids do not want any more? Overstocked food items or some other extra goodies that you're happy to donate? Crockery, ornaments and china looking for a new home? Donations for our stalls are welcome and will be much appreciated. Please bring them into church and put them in the red tombola box in the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office for more information.

Flyers

Please use the flyer with this magazine to help advertise the Christmas Bazaar. If you'd like more flyers, please either pick them up from the Upper Hall or contact the Church Office: office@stursula.ch or 031 352 8567.

Updates

For more updates and additional information please stay tuned to St Ursula's website www.stursula.ch and Facebook page. Moreover, Helen with her weekly emails will send you more details closer to the date of our bazaar.

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy!

- Maria Avdikou, Church Office

The background image used for this article was designed by myriammira / Freepik. The background image used for the flyer was designed by Freepik.

Junior Church News

By the time you read this, we will have held our first Junior Church meeting since October last year. We all will be very pleased to welcome the children and their families back to church.

As it is currently the church's "Creation Season", this is also the focus for the first two Junior Church meetings. The second meeting will be on 3 October, which is also our Harvest Festival. We hope to have something the children have created to show in the church service that day.

If all goes according to plan, we will meet on the first and third Sunday of each month during the service time. The children will start in church sitting with their families. After a short children's talk and the children's song, they will leave with the teachers for their own teaching. They will return to church for a blessing during the communion time.

As we currently have so few teachers, we will meet as an all-age group in the church hall. It is possible that the crèche children will also join us as there is also a shortage of crèche helpers. The lack of teachers is the reason why we sadly cannot offer Junior Church every Sunday. We would like to encourage more people to join us in this rewarding ministry. So if you would like to know more please speak to Helen or one of the teachers (you should be able to find at least one teacher in the hall before or after the service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays).

And in any case, we hope that you will continue to pray for the children, their families and the teachers as we restart our Junior Church.

- *Tricia Carrick*



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Junior Church children with birthdays in October and November:



Jonah Aakervik 4 on 10 October
Daniela Cintron 8 on 19 October
Ayla Carnell 9 on 22 October
Louis Carnell 9 on 22 October
Marvin Carnell 9 on 22 October
Emmanuel Lehmann 15 on 22 October
Carlos Mendoza 14 on 22 October

Gabriela Cintron 13 on 19 November
Gabriela Matthews 7 on 26 November
Karl Gertsch 14 on 26 November
Lorelei Dörig 13 on 26 November
James John JJ Coatalen-Hodgson 6 on 27 November
Samuel Wienand 7 on 28 November
Albert Gertsch 10 on 28 November

Thank you!



Again a huge thank you from the Passantenhilfe Bern.

Each product donation is a really appreciated gift for them.

Indeed in this Covid time, Passantenhilfe is facing more and more demand for shower gel, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, coffee, pasta, rice, tins of vegetables, etc. The box for your donations to this cause is in the church porch and the products are regularly delivered to the Passantenhilfe home. On the last visit, they were especially grateful as they were in great need. It was God sent indeed.

- *Agnes Derory*

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO LIVE

We have lived in Switzerland for some years and would now like to 'downsize' to a **Ground Floor Flat** in an older property, in Berne in a nice area, with access to a garden or terrace, and near to public transport and shops.

3 1/2 - 4 rooms

Kitchen Bathroom with Bath /WC, plus a separate WC

Any help, suggestions or ideas would be much appreciated.

Contact: Marie-Annick and Malcolm Crawford

Tel: 024 426 02 20 Email: marieannick2@gmail.com



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- Retirement planning
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Beratungen

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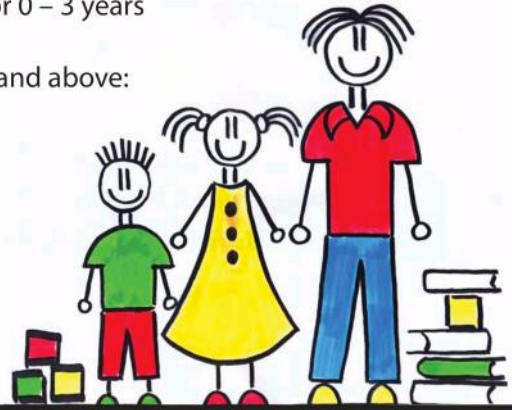


The English Speaking Playgroup/School offers a stimulating learning environment aimed at developing English language skills.

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- o Private Classes



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Early registration is recommended!

*Individual achievement of each student is valued alongside support for one another.

*Enviably student to teacher ratio

*promotion of close partnerships between parent, teacher and child



English Speaking Club of Bern

Official Invitation

Since 1978, we have been Bern's one and only English Speaking Club. We offer you a reasonably priced bar, free billiards and a free round of darts. Visit us and get in touch with our English speaking members from all over the world. Just present this invitation at the bar. If you enjoy the experience, you can become a member - Basic Membership is free!

We are looking forward to meeting you

Mittelstrasse 55, 3012 Bern | Open every Thursday & Friday from 8pm | www.englishclub.ch

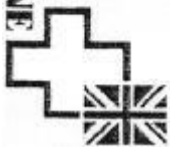
Why not join the International Club of Berne ?

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 100 members (including families) from some 30 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. In 2021 the club celebrates its 30th anniversary. We are waiting to welcome you !

President Graham Tritt,
tel. 078 684 2473, email g.tritt@gmx.net
Website www.icberne.org

International Club of Berne, 3000 Berne, [www: icberne.ch](http://www.icberne.ch)
Annual membership: CHF 50 for singles, CHF 60 for families.

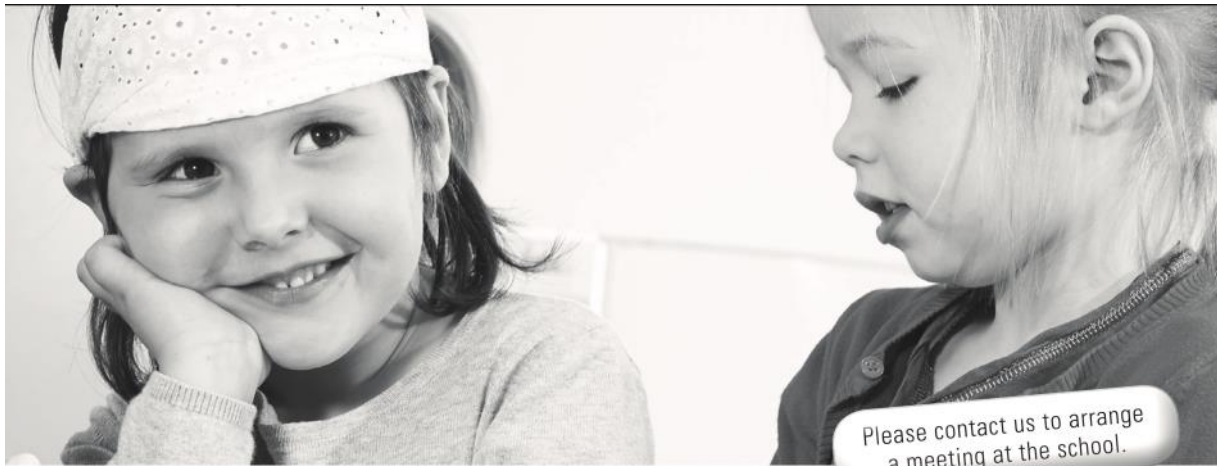
SWISS-BRITISH
SOCIETY BERNE



The Swiss British Society, Berne organises a number of cultural events including visits to exhibitions, concerts, a Christmas dinner, Burns supper and musical evenings. We also invite guest speakers to address our members on a range of literary, musical or political topics. Usually our events have a social element - we try to combine dinner or lunch together with our lectures and outings, or at least a chat and a cup of tea! New members are always welcome. Our website (and circular) is hosted by the Federation of Anglo Swiss clubs at www.angloswissclubs.ch

Contact: President: Chris Warren

Email: cuwarren@zapp.ch



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Lynn Morgan	031 971 13 36
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VESTRY

Vacant

WEBMASTER

Hector Davie 031 971 27 71

Not a hymn this month, but an anthem – although some hymn-books do contain it.

Five years ago, we had the hymn *For all the saints* on the back cover. The words had been written by William How, who later became Bishop of Wakefield in Yorkshire, and was famous for his work among the poor. A well-known setting was composed in 1906, over forty years later, by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The young Vaughan Williams (he lived from 1872 until 1958) called its tune *Sine nomine* (“Without a name”) in reference to Ecclesiasticus 44:14.

Later, when Vaughan Williams had become more established as a writer of symphonies, choral and organ music, he returned to this theme, and in 1923 produced a choral setting of parts of Ecclesiasticus 14. It became a firm favourite of cathedral choirs, mainly because the range of pitch and volume was ideally suited to a large building with a versatile organ. It was used on significant national occasions. It was also a favourite for school choirs, perhaps because their school Founder’s Days praised famous men and they hoped that their pupils would turn out to be famous, but they were realistic enough to recognize that most of them would end up “with no memorial, ...as though they had never been.”

The words are from the 1611, King James (“Authorized”) version of the Bible. If you can’t find them, that is because Ecclesiasticus (sometimes called “The Wisdom of Jesus (or Joshua) ben Sirach” (not to be confused with Ecclesiastes, or with the Wisdom of Solomon!) is one of the so-called Apocrypha, the books written after the main text of the Old Testament was complete. The Reformers had different opinions about the authority of these books. They could find their Greek text but not their Hebrew one. The Church of England declared “... the other Books (as Hierome saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine”, and the word “apocryphal” (meaning hidden away) came to have the idea of untrue. This is a pity.

In America, the words are also associated with a documentary written by the novelist James Agee, illustrated by Walter Evans and published in 1941 about life in the Great Depression. That has little to do with Vaughan William’s anthem, or even with Joshua ben Sirach’s proverbs, but it does show how deeply embedded in life some of the phrases in the Bible still are, even in an increasingly secular world. May we continue to pay attention to what we sing!

- *Hector Davie*

Let us now praise famous men,
 and our fathers that begat us.
 Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms,
 men renowned for their power:
 Leaders of the people
 by their counsels, and by their knowledge:
 Such as found out musical tunes,
 and recited verses in writing.
 All these were honoured in their generations,
 and were the glory of their times.
 And some there be, which have no memorial;
 who are perished, as though they had never been.
 Their bodies are buried in peace;
 but their name liveth for evermore.



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