

# NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH MAGAZINE - MAY 2010

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**BIBLE STUDY** at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm:

Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup>

**DEBATE @ EIGHT:** at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm:

Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> – "Fate, Destiny or Choice?"

**INFORMAL COMMUNION TO CELEBRATE PENTECOST:**

Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 pm at Roy and Mieke's flat

**AWAY DAY TOGETHER – *don't miss this !!!!!***

Roy will be holding a teaching half-day on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12.30. "The DNA of God's Covenant Love" - a look at the book of Hosea.

Venue: Roy and Mieke's flat. See the "Special Events" page of the website.

### ***CONFIRMATION, A TIME FOR REJOICING !!!***

Three of our members, Lucy Maliki-Rama, and Tara and Johnny Rogerson, will be confirming their faith during the special service at St Ursula's, Berne, on **SUNDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

Our service that day will, of course, be at 10 am at St Ursula's, to support them and their families in love and prayer.

**!!! N.B. NO 5 pm service on that day in Neuchâtel !!!**

### Brief report of the A. G. M.

23 members were present at our Annual General Assembly on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm

The Rev. Peter Potter opened the meeting with a prayer for God's Spirit to guide the Neuchâtel church in its concerns and workings.

He then invited Roy to chair the meeting.

Reports from the Churchwarden, Junior Church leader and Minister in charge all showed the « buzz » that made 2009 a year to be grateful for : increased membership, eager and regular attendance at various groups exploring and deepening Christian faith, the highlights of Emma's confirmation and Sonya's baptism, and the support and care for individual members.

Matters for concern included the continuing lack of members willing to boost the Junior Church team and the fact, pointed out in the Treasurer's report, that financial support was down on the 2008 results. This latter was partly explained by a large single donation received in 2008.

Concluding his report, Roy announced his decision, after three years in Neuchâtel, to step down as minister in charge at the end of August. He and Mieke will continue dividing their time between Auvernier and England. Warm and heartfelt thanks were expressed for their devotion to building up our community and renewing our christian purpose.

A discussion ensued as to the future of the church. Having witnessed the immense benefits of having a residential minister, we are naturally keen to continue this practice if possible. However, this implies a big financial commitment which is something we have never undertaken in this church. Several suggestions were made to find and motivate new donors. Peter Potter explained the Anglican procedure in the nomination process and, by various possibilities that he evoked, showed that he understood our position and will endeavour to find a suitable solution.

The church committee was re-elected with the addition of 2 new members:  
Abbie and Jeanne.

Marc Bell	Treasurer
Karen Bell	Child Protection Representative
Jon Bright	
Julie Bright	Junior Church Coordinator
Patricia Smith	Secretary/Assistant Church Warden
Jennifer Veenendaal	Churchwarden and Synod Representative
Rosemarie Zimmermann	
Abbie Therrien	
Jeanne Vuille	
Miriam Wolfrath	Honorary Member.

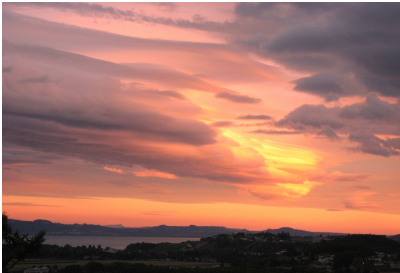
The dates of the following Forthcoming Events were decided:

15 August	Outdoor Service & Picnic (venue to be decided) & Farewell to Roy and Mieke
17 October	Harvest Festival and Pledge Sunday
12 December	Christmas Carol Service

From Roy and Mieke

Luke tells a beautiful story (Luke 24 13ff) that relates to the first few hours after Easter. It was the Sunday morning and in a cloud of deep gloom two disciples were walking the 7 miles to the village of Emmaus.

We can picture them with heads cast down, perhaps kicking stones along the road.



When Jesus appears they were completely wrapped up in their own gloom (downcast eyes), inward looking and full of despair; they were really hurting and felt that the mission had failed.

But Jesus was prepared to walk with them. This should also motivate us with great joy for the Lord

Jesus is willing to walk with us. He is not a distant God who needs appeasement, but a loving friend. Jesus asks them "What are you discussing?" (and why such sad faces?) The downcast faces don't see Him, however, Jesus still comes right into the centre of their problems.

He tells them of the great plan of salvation, reminding them of the stories in the Old Testament.

The mist begins to clear and they want to hold onto Jesus and keep Him from going further. With great love Jesus stays with them in their house for the evening meal.

Through the loving act of breaking bread, their eyes were opened ...Yes it is Jesus after all.. He came into focus and the clouds of despair began to lift and their eyes are opened.

In the painting by Rembrandt in the Louvre.. a clear shaft of light illuminates the hands! And you are drawn to the figure of Jesus.

Realising who He was and that He was there with them caused an explosion of inner joy, they could now face the situation again and so they rushed back to Jerusalem.

They returned to face the problem, but with a personal knowledge and assurance that Jesus was alive. They now knew that their future was in the hands of the Risen Jesus.



Whatever the problem or the issue - are you able to put your doubts and despair into *God's* hands and let Him reveal Himself to you so that you can return to the place of service knowing that He is with you?

**The situation may not have changed  
but when Jesus is there with you,  
you have changed and  
so you can go on with God's plan for your life**

**GOOD NEWS!!**

At the Committee meeting held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, Julie announced that, after the AGM, several people came forward to offer their help with the Junior Church. Halleluia!!!!