

**LA CÔTE**

*Anglican Church*



DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# LA CÔTE ANNUAL REPORT TO AGM 2012



**La Côte looks towards the future**

Christian communities in Gingins and Divonne

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2012 AT 11.30 A.M.**

**IN THE PARISH ROOM OF THE TEMPLE DE DIVONNE**

**DIVONNE-LES-BAINS, FRANCE**

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of Minutes of the last AGM, held on 27 March 2011
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report
5. Financial Statement and Auditor's Report
6. Elections:
  - Churchwardens
  - Council members
  - Child Protection Officer
7. Appointment of the Auditor for the coming year
8. Youth work at La Côte – discussion (see below)
9. Any other business

Please note that parishioners must be registered on the Electoral Roll in order to vote at the Annual General Meeting. If you would like to register any other item of business, please notify the chair before the meeting starts.

Nominations of people willing to stand for election to the Chaplaincy Council, as Churchwardens, Archdeaconry Representatives or as Child Protection Officer should be made on forms available at Gingins and Divonne. Nominees, proposers and seconders must also be inscribed on the Electoral Roll.

### **Agenda item for discussion**

We have had two task groups working on this project over the last six months. At this AGM, we will briefly recap on youth work at La Côte in the past and the current provision.

We will then present a draft job description and business plan for this project.

We look forward to exploring this together.

## LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 11.30 a.m. on 27 March 2011 in the Parish Room of the Eglise Réformée, Divonne-les-Bains, France

**Present:** Carolyn Cooke (Chaplain), Julia Chambeyron, (Assistant Curate), Austin Ball and Liz Bramley (Churchwardens), and 43 members of the two congregations.

**Apologies:** Antonia Bruce, Harold Corrigan, Margaret Ducommun, Anne Dyer, Ray & Hilary Fiander, Barbara Ingham, Alison & George Mills, John & Peta Tracey, Françoise & John Wilson.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes and Matters arising

The Chaplain opened the meeting and welcomed those present. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 18 April 2010, were proposed for approval by Trevor Davis, seconded by Dwight Moe and were accepted unanimously.

Jacky Coe asked about the outcome of the Council's consideration of a salary for Julia Chambeyron, Assistant Curate, following a vote in favour of payment at the last A.G.M. Julia informed the meeting that due to her current status as a non-stipendiary priest, it was not possible for the Council to make a decision about payment. However, it had offered financial support for her further studies by paying for a study module and giving a book allowance.

#### 2. Annual Report

An illustrated Annual Report had been issued in advance of the meeting, describing the events of the past year and showing our present situation. The Chaplain explained that during most of the preceding year, the focus for Council, the Churchwardens and the Assistant Curate, had been to set up the appointment process to find a new Chaplain. She thanked the Chaplaincy Council and all who kept things moving. She stated that lots had blossomed and thrived in the garden of La Côte, and looked forward to seeing what would emerge. Nothing should be pulled up. To mark the process of transition, she offered pots of flowers to Council members. She thanked Julia for her support, Philippe Chambeyron, the wardens Austin Ball and Liz Bramley, for help in the transition phase, and John and Peta Tracey in the background. Austin Ball thanked the Chaplain on behalf of the Council for the gesture. The Chaplain thanked Joy Stephens who had headed the Social action team for her report and who was now standing down. The group worked hard at fundraising, practical giving and advocacy. She stated that Council would discuss how social action could be kept an integral part of church activity.

The Chaplain thanked Val Geschonke and Sue Brown for producing the Annual Report and the many people who had contributed. She invited questions from participants. There were no comments, and the Annual Report was approved: proposed by Austin Ball and seconded by Liz Bramley.

### 3. Financial Statement & Auditor's Report

Philippe Chambeyron, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 2010. He stated that the 2009 results had been included for comparison. Income amounted to SFr.14,580.29 less than last year's, since due to the interregnum, there had been no fundraising to make up missing funds. Although the pledge income was around SFr.10,000.- less than the figure budgeted, La Côte had nevertheless finished the year with a small surplus of SFr.252.73, because of savings on four month's clergy salary and benefits. Moving and installation expenses balanced this. Remaining expenses had been within budget. SFr.5,915.78 had been allocated from the budget to the Social Action group for external giving. A similar amount had been budgeted for 2011. Funds raised by Quiz night and various other activities amounted to 13,054.08, and Margaret Owen raised separately another SFr.2,500.-. The total amount given to charity from various sources by La Côte in 2010 was therefore SFr.15,554.08, which represented almost 10% of our total income.

The Treasurer stated that 2011 would be a challenging year. La Côte would have to raise an additional SFr.20,000.- to meet all expenses and balance the budget, from both pledges and fundraising events. SFr.120,000.- would probably be received from pledges. He indicated that reserves amounted to about SFr.45,000.- which was a small amount, and corresponded to 3 month's expenses. Austin Ball stated that the church needed to build up its operating reserve. Trevor Davis requested that the Auditor's Report be included in the Annual Report to the 2012 A.G.M.

Mark Warren, the Pledge Fund Administrator thanked those who had pledged in the past. Pledging allowed the church to make a reliable estimate of income. A letter would shortly be sent to people who had not yet agreed to pledge. He requested church members to reply promptly, either by e-mail, or by telephone whereby people could leave a message. Forms were available.

The Auditor's Report was presented, recommending acceptance of these accounts as a fair statement of the church's financial position in accordance with appropriate accounting principles, in compliance with Swiss law and the Association's statutes. The meeting unanimously approved the accounts, proposed by Mark Warren and seconded by Ed Kelley. The Chaplain thanked Philippe Chambeyron for his work over many years and also the Auditor, Mike Gunton who was presented with a bottle of wine in appreciation of his hard work.

### 4. Election of Church Officers for 2011

The two Churchwardens, Austin Ball and Liz Bramley, agreed serve for one more year. They were applauded and re-elected. Catherine Crocoll and Valerie Geschonke were re-elected as Archdeaconry Representatives to serve for the next three-year period. Council members Andrea Goovaerts and Nigel Majakari retired. The Chaplain thanked them for their valuable contribution to the work of the Chaplaincy Council. Three new members: Caroline Allsopp, Geoff Senogles and Susan Werkhoven, were elected. The remaining Council members agreed to stand for re-election: Philippe Chambeyron, Harold Corrigan, Ed Kelley, Dwight Moe, Monika Rawcliffe and John Tracey. These elections were approved.

Steve Rawcliffe remained Electoral Roll Officer. Jane Robinson agreed to continue as Child Protection Officer. The La Côte Child Protection Policy will be finalized to fully comply with Diocesan rules.

5. Appointment of the Auditor for 2011

Mike Gunton agreed to continue as Auditor for another year and was elected to serve for 2011. The congregation expressed its gratitude for his services.

6. Communications at La Côte: Achievements and Challenges

The Chaplain noted that communications constituted an important part of church life and thanked those presently involved in this process. The meeting gave a round of applause to Roy Simpson who sent out the Weekly Bulletin without fail and decided that a letter of thanks should be sent to him. The Chaplain also thanked Steve Rawcliffe for collating the contact lists, and Dwight Moe who had stepped in to produce two Newsletters after the departure of Paul Holley. She noted that the systems for communications were in place and a discussion would be held about content. Julia Chambeyron stated that a lot of work needed to be done. In order to receive information, people had to be inscribed on our lists. Newcomers' details should be obtained as soon as possible to be passed on to Steve Rawcliffe and Roy Simpson, especially at Gingins, and the system for doing this needed to be reviewed.

**Database**

Access to contact lists: contact details are kept up to date by means of information which mostly came from the clergy. The Chaplain requested that members confirmed their details. (NB: a note to this effect is published in the Newsletter). Steve Rawcliffe stated that contact details were not universally available. People were asked two years ago if they agreed to be on a restricted list made available to the community. However, for the future, he advocated an "opt-out" system, whereby unless people stated that they did not want their details to be circulated, they would be, and proposed that a letter should be sent by e-mail giving notice of that fact, letting the community know about the default choice. Dorothy Davis stated that it should be made clear that the list was only for the use of the community and not to outsiders. David Bramley asked if people who turn up at church could receive the "open" address list. Steve Rawcliffe replied that this would be the case except for members of the community who had specifically stated they did not wish to be included in it. Ted Talbot was not in favour of that situation. He stated that we should be careful about who had access this list. Steve Rawcliffe replied that with each new entry, people should be informed of this choice.

Caroline Allsop proposed that forms should be designed to allow people to indicate whether or not they gave consent for their details to be given out. Austin Ball stated that people should know what sort of information would be given: address, telephone or e-mail. Nigel Majakari pointed out that the welcome card was not connected to the membership list. It was for people interested in church life, for personal contact from the clergy. In reply to a question from Trevor Davis about a welcome form, Mollie Lufkin stated that she and Peta Tracey were working on producing one. There could perhaps be a separate form for the Divonne congregation. Susan Werkhoven, Andrea Goovaerts and Mollie Lufkin were on the welcome team. Alison Ball proposed that there be two separate lists: one for those just receiving information, such as the Newsletter and Bulletin and another "coffee room" list

where people signed up to be on a community list. The Chaplain agreed with this idea of two lists, one for contact and one for "belonging". Catherine Crocoll asked if the website could be used as a platform with password access. Alison Ball suggested a "Facebook" style page for young people. The Chaplain asked if anyone would help Steve Rawcliffe work on this database. Nigel Majakari concluded that after talking about the means of communication, a robust discussion was needed about what was communicated. The relationship between the Council and the rest of the community was important.

### **Systems and content**

Website: Chris Potter offered to help Roy Simpson produce a new website. A communications team would be formed, including Catherine Crocoll, Ken Kvistad, Val Geschonke, Chris Potter, Nigel Majakari and others. Vincent Coo reported problems with the La Côte telephone number. Swisscom should be contacted.

Newsletter: A discussion took place on the type of content which would appeal to the community. The general consensus was that people wanted a Newsletter, possibly bi-monthly. The preferred model was a concise document, with a Chaplain's Comment and community news. Jean Mayer requested a periodic résumé of council meetings. Margaret Owen suggested that the social action and the pastoral care groups could communicate via the Newsletter, which should also contain contributions from people in the community. Julia Chambeyron proposed that about half of the articles should be more "weighty". Another suggestion was for the Bulletin and Newsletter to be linked to the website with password protection. However, it should not be forgotten that there was a need to cater for people without a computer or access to e-mail.

#### 7. Any other business

The Chaplain thanked all who engaged with these issues and the life of the church, and thanked Mollie Lufkin for organizing the catering. The Assistant Curate thanked the Chaplain for the smooth running of the proceedings. With no other business to be discussed, the meeting closed with a prayer at 12.45 p.m.

# LA CÔTE CHURCH AGM REPORT FOR 2011

## La Côte Chaplaincy life

### Some highlights of La Côte Church over 2011 to 2012 (by Carolyn)

**I would first like to look back over this last year at La Côte under a number of key headings – thanksgiving, discipleship and apostleship. We will then look forward under the heading – the Bigger Picture.**

**THANKSGIVING** Looking back over the past year at La Côte, a major theme in our worship has been one of thanksgiving. In the autumn across both churches we followed a series of services on the theme of thankfulness and the privileges of stewardship.

This theme of blessing led us into a special service of celebration for 25 years of La Côte Church life, combined with Julia's licensing. We were delighted to have as our preacher, Revd Mervyn Puleston who had supported La Côte church in her infancy. Our service was a mix of thanksgiving for the past 25 years and a desire to continue to nurture a spirit of koinonia among us. As we gave thanks for the life and growth of La Côte Church – it was most fitting to mark this anniversary celebration with Julia's licensing – as our Assistant Chaplain. Julia was delighted to receive two new stoles and a book from the church to mark this special occasion.

**DISCIPLESHIP** Firstly, discipleship for me is about being life-long learners on our faith journey. This is a humbling and I believe a healthy stance for all of us. Discipleship requires an openness to learn and to be changed by God. I am encouraged by the number of opportunities within our church life that we can learn together – both in the main acts of worship – but also in our small groups. We give thanks for the range of groups linked to La Côte who meet in homes, church rooms or pubs, to make sense of our faith and to support one another as we learn together. You can enjoy finding out about these groups – the longstanding ones and

some new initiatives - in the individual reports below.

Our **BOSSEY COMMUNITY DAY** gave us an opportunity to spend more time together gathering in members from across the two churches. We were very grateful to Brian Lea for leading us in the theme of what it means to belong together – and to get on together as a church family. We looked especially at the following areas - worship, discipleship and service. In spite of the chilling sub zero temperatures around 80 La Côte members headed to Bossey, for a day of worship, teaching and reflection – as well as time to relax over food and in small group discussions. Look out for the feedback from the Bossey groups – which will soon be posted on our website.

**APOSTLESHIP** is about being sent out. It expresses the belief that 'service really begins, or at least continues as we leave church', inspired to worship God with our lives beyond the church walls. Apostleship thus sums up La Côte's outward focus. We seek to engage with the needs of our diverse 'anglophone' community and to be involved with wider global issues in the light of our Christian faith.

**We have taken a number of bold steps outwards.**



**A Spring Fair** Firstly, in May of last year we held a La Côte Spring Fair in Gingins. Christine Buhler and Peta Tracey led a large team of hard working, creative volunteers in this enterprise. It was a great way of building up relationships among our church members and of welcoming in the wider community. It raised a tremendous SFr 9,000 which was put towards general church funds and a proportion towards the projects we support.

**Jazz carols in Nyon.** Nigel Majakari together with David Cooke and Ted Talbot – put on a Carol service with a difference – in Nyon. The evening was held in the Temple de Nyon, offered to us by L’Eglise Reformée. A jazz band, made up of accomplished local musicians led the carol singing. The music was interspersed with an abridged dramatic reading of Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’. It proved to be very popular attracting around 180 people – and the feedback has been very positive. We are looking forward to the next venture.

**Other key annual events** which help our church to reach out include our **Divonne Christmas Market** and our now renowned **Quiz Night**. In addition we have regular events which bridge the gap between church and the broader community. These include our musical drop-in evenings, SAS, La Côte Blokes’ dinner, the Song group. Our Social Action group also plays a key role both in terms of reaching out with funding to projects and getting involved locally, especially at the moment with those seeking asylum. Through this branch of social action we are developing our ecumenical links and getting to know local Swiss volunteers who support the asylum seekers. (All these are detailed below)

### **THE BIGGER PICTURE – looking forward**

I would like this report to encourage a wide-angled lens of La Côte Chaplaincy. We recognise two geographical centres – Gingins and Divonne, two overlapping congregations sharing in worship in Divonne and Gingins, two chaplains and *one* La Côte Chaplaincy.

A key challenge for our community is to cherish the individual, distinctive

characteristics of the two churches, while being enriched and strengthened by working and worshipping together in different ways. Julia and I have the privilege of enjoying both worshipping communities and getting to know members of our church family across both. This takes place both in the Sunday acts of worship and in various gatherings during the week.

I would like to encourage our church membership to hold in sight the bigger picture. I urge us to keep in mind that we belong to one chaplaincy while naturally we may find a sense of rootedness in smaller group settings, and most likely more in one church than the other.

**The Church Council** is a key body of people who are seeking to represent both worshipping congregations and to steer the one Chaplaincy. I take this opportunity to thank the Council for their commitment and support over this last year – both in regular council meetings but behind the scenes. This coming year I am hoping to work with our Church Council to review our most recent La Côte mission statements and to discern a vision for the chaplaincy into the future. Alongside this process, we are looking into provision for our youth. This has been an integral part of the church life in the past, so we are considering it again in the light of our current church needs. I look forward to discussing this with you, as our main item at the AGM.

I would like to particularly express my thanks to the two members of our church council who are stepping down. Firstly, John Tracey, who has served faithfully on this council as vice-chair for the last eight years. Secondly, I would like to thank Harold Corrigan, who has been a member of Council for the last five years. On behalf of La Côte Church many thanks to you both for your faithful and generous service.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP AT LA COTE

### Sunday Worship in Gingins

**A big team enables our services to take place each week.** At Gingins we are blessed with a great crew of participants – both in our acts of worship in the service and in serving refreshments – a practical form of worship. We seek to offer a variety of services within a broadly Anglican framework, while also drawing on other Christian traditions. We lead services which are sometimes more child-friendly and at other times have a more adult feel. Of course, this depends heavily on our committed team of Sunday club leaders who provide a varied programme for our children up to 14, (see their reports below.) On behalf of our whole church, thank you to all the leaders for generously sharing your time, faith experience, and creativity with our children. Julia and I cover the bulk of the preaching and leading of worship each Sunday afternoon. In addition we are very grateful to members of our congregation who have offered reflections and insights in our preaching slots during this last year – Chris Potter, David Bramley, Ken Kvistad and Richard Hawkings.

We continue to enjoy worship led by a host of musicians who, again, I would like to thank for their key contribution to our church life. So – thank you to all who have played for us over this last year. Thank you to our organists: Harold Corrigan, Ray Fiander, Pat Huber-Brown, Richard Hawkings, Mark Charles, Keith Dale and Simon Hunt. Equally – our thanks go to Steve and Monika Rawcliffe together with David Cooke and Helen Lassen for leading us with singing along to the guitar and double bass. We are also very grateful to our Song group, led by Harold who enrich our singing once a month, and have the courage to teach us new songs too. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Keith Dale and to Simon Hunt who have moved away. We are grateful for the flexibility and generosity of our current team of musicians who have risen to the challenge of covering our weekly worship.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF GINGINS SUNDAY WORSHIP THIS LAST YEAR

During the summer term of 2011 a group of seven children were prepared to receive communion – following the course entitled '**Welcome to the Lord's Table**'. Thus, we ended the academic year with a joyous all-age Holy Communion to welcome these children round the Communion table. Seven children took communion for the first time: Lovisa Ahlstrom, Declan Cooke, Alice Ruffieux, Johan Crocoll, Sofia Majakari, Luca Poynton & Benji Hunt-Matthes.

We shared in the gift of new life, with **three infant baptisms** over last summer. The Temple de Gingins was also host to a **joyful wedding in July**. In the autumn we had an engaging **All Age Harvest Celebration** and were glad to welcome an officer from the Salvation Army who shared with us the relief work they do locally – and we were able to give them lots of boxes of goods made up by the children during the service.

We have continued to enjoy good links with our host church, especially as we celebrated recently **our joint Palm Sunday service** waving bamboo fronds in the sunshine, and walking round the village with a local friendly donkey – before entering the church to worship together. The Ecumenical service at Bonmont was another welcome opportunity to share in worship with our Swiss neighbours.

**Our Christmas services** once again drew in large numbers. This year people seemed to have caught on to the change of time and style of the two Christmas Eve services, so we welcomed lots of families with small children to our 2.30pm crib service and then the church filled up again at our 4.30pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion.

I now hand over to the Sunday club leaders to fill us in on their groups. (Carolyn)

## **SUNDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN IN GINGINS**

Throughout the year the Gingins Sunday Club team of leaders has worked hard to run a varied and engaging programme for our children. We continue to have about 20 – 25 children each week, divided up over the three groups. Christmas typically drew in the crowds to take part in our 'IKEA' nativity play service. Special thanks to Jane, Ted and Pat for coordinating the acting and singing for this play. The leaders aim to meet once a term at least to talk through our programmes, the resources and some of the challenges we face. We are currently short of leaders especially for 3-5s – so if any of you would like to help and are gifted with children – please talk to Carolyn or Naomi. Sadly Bryony has stepped down from her role in the crèche and we have not managed to replace her. If anyone thinks they would like to be involved in this valuable service to our young families, (even if just once a month) – please let Carolyn know. As a team of leaders – we also feel that the biggest challenge we face especially in the older groups – is to bridge the gap between church life and the rest of their school and home lives.

### **Organizational changes in Sunday Club leadership**

In the summer term of 2011 we held a big meeting for all our Sunday Club leaders. We reflected together on the joys of the last year in the different age groups. The discussion then moved on to the reorganisation of our leadership. Peta Tracy officially stepped down as overall leader and coordinator of the Sunday club. I would like to thank her for the significant role she has played over many years – developing children's work in Gingins. In particular we are thankful to her for setting up the Godly play room and this method of teaching – which offers an imaginative, contemplative approach to our faith. We are also grateful for the way Peta has continued to support Sunday Club in the background – offering advice and helping to organise the Godly Play materials. She has also kept up our link with the two Indian boys sponsored by

our Sunday Club children – we look forward to a visit from their sponsors in autumn 2012.

With Peta stepping down – we have set up coordinators for each group (reporting below) – and are thankful to them for taking on this responsibility. We now need to make sure that we communicate effectively between the different groups to ensure good team work and cohesion. (Carolyn)

### **3s-5s**

I, Naomi, took over from Jacky Coo to run this age group, in September 2011. We have a total 12 children on our books, but with a regular weekly turn-out of about 6. I use the 'Minizone' teaching and craft resources from the Children's Ministry. The two main series I chose were "God's wonderful world: creation" and "Trusting God to take care of us". The sessions, which do need some preparation each week, are made up of songs, poems, prayers, a bible story and games, and have proven to be fun and engaging for this age group.

The regular 'core group' are all almost old enough to move to the Godly Play group. They are super children to work with, great fun, responsive and helpful with the younger ones. One of the best moments was teaching 'saying sorry', and 'forgiveness' - a concept the little ones found difficult to understand. However, it took a minor squabble over the coloured pencils, and the whole class grasped the notion in one easy go! I have been running this group with help from Olivia and Rebecca, and the recent addition of Pat Stimpson and her daughter Tammy. If anyone else would like to come and meet these lovely littlies, and lend us a hand, then please feel free to contact me! I'll leave you with the reflection of a 5 year old when discussing creation and the sun, moon and planets: "Is God in the space, or is God holding the space?"(Naomi Grobéty)

### **Godly Play – for our 6-9 year olds**

Godly Play is based on Montessori pedagogy. It is an imaginative approach that seeks to support, challenge, nourish and guide

children's spiritual quest. We go into parables, silence, sacred stories and sacred liturgy in order to discover God, ourselves, one another and the world around us. It is a method of telling the stories of our faith in a simple way which allows the children to enter into the stories and to meditate on their meaning, both verbally and artistically.

After the Easter break, we began by preparing for the 1st communion with the special study and activity book; 'Welcome to the Lord's Table.' During the autumn we started off looking at the books of the Bible, continuing with old Testament stories, and closing at the end of November with a couple of Old Testament characters. During December we focused on the rehearsal for the Nativity play. The winter/Spring term we concentrated on the New Testament Parables, leading up to the Easter story.

This last year the Sunday Club leaders enjoyed a training session led by an experienced Godly Play leader from Holy Trinity, Jackie Riis-Johannessen. The Godly Play room is an extremely well kitted out area – 'an upstairs room' in the Gingins Salle. Special thanks go to Tania in her role as coordinator. Also to her and Christina for the time and energy spent reorganizing the room and kitting it out with new furniture and equipment for the activity session. All the materials for each story are organized and labeled so that children can choose to take one down and play with it. If you are interested in seeing how it looks and works – do ask Tania or Christina to show you – it is an inspiration.

Christina (and a little from Carolyn)

### **10-14s**

The 10-14s have continued to use the Scripture Union's Lightlive programme during the year and found it to be a challenging, but fun, resource. The group continues to meet in another upper room in the Auberge in Gingins during the service on Sunday afternoons. We have a committed team of leaders who are involved 2-3 times each term. The weekly attendance of children can range from anything between 2 to 11 young people.

Highlights seem to always involved food or sweets of some sort – and games and quizzes which helps the group to gel and engage with the story which follows. Themes through the year have included 'following Jesus' in Mark's Gospel, 'Radical networking' in John's gospel, the story of Elisha and this last term the group have followed the rise and fall of some of the ancient kings of Israel and their leadership. (Jacky Coo – group coordinator)

## **Sunday Worship in Divonne**

We have continued to enjoy a rich pattern of worship over the past year. Carolyn and I share the leading and preaching once a month, usually at Holy Communion services, and others are involved in our Morning Worship services. Many thanks to Ken Kvistad, Chris Potter, David Bramley, Georges Mills, Richard Hawkings and Mike French who have shared their thoughts and insights with us over the past year.

Our musicians are crucial to the quality of our worship and we are deeply grateful to Ray Fiander, Richard and Heidi Hawkings, Pat Huber-Brown, Pam Walsh, Nigel Rollins, Harold and the Song Group, Simon Hunt, Mark Warren and Gabrielle Gregory for their thoughtful and talented musical contributions this past year. As I write, a music/song group has met once with Richard and Heidi and will meet again soon to prepare to lead our music on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS YEAR INCLUDE:**

- **Good Friday 2011** when Monika and Steve led the music and many others were involved in readings and meditations. Some of us remarked afterwards that this was the first time we had really engaged with Good Friday. Particularly memorable was Steve's meditation from the point of view of Pontius Pilate.
- **Easter Sunday 2011** was a real eggs-travaganza which included

Annemiek's baptism. This was a moving personal commitment for her and it was a great privilege for us all to witness during our joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection.



angels' perspective. It was brilliant to see so many children and youth engaged with the Bible account and leading the music and singing with Nigel and Richard.

- **Youth-led service in June** when Ed Kelley and his young devotees explored the theme of service through drama and a personal account of a trip to Tanzania which Martine shared with us. The prayer-time encouraged us all to pledge to serve in the months to come. The service was followed by the picnic chez Chambeyron when lovely food and pool-side fun were much appreciated by all.

- **Harvest Festival** in early October led by Carolyn looked at the theme of 'bigger barns.' We heard from a representative from local charity Les Restos du Coeur, who was delighted to receive our Harvest gifts once again.

- **Remembrance Sunday on 13<sup>th</sup> November** when we reflected on some of the difficult tensions of this day, remembering the ultimate sacrifice of many brave men and women, but also God's call to peace in our world.

- **Joint service with the Eglise Réformée de France** in November when Pasteur Millet led the liturgy and I preached in French. The service was followed by an aperitif as we all enjoyed each other's company and shared our appreciation of our collaborative relationship.

- **Nativity play 2011** when Ed, Stephanie, Susan and Mollie helped the children present us with an original perspective on the story of the birth of Jesus, viewed from the

- **Christmas Day 2011** when the church was packed with 110+ people! It was so heartening to see visiting families and our 'regulars' celebrating as we looked together at the themes of our well-known Christmas carols, and realized that Jesus is still born to us today!

My thanks go to all who participate in worship in whatever way. Thank you so much for joining your voices, prayers and time to all that we offer to God in our Sunday worship.

*Julia*

**SUNDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN IN DIVONNE**

Three age-groups continue to operate and flourish. A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who lead our children with care and enthusiasm. Here is the report put together by Susan Werkhoven and Mollie Lufkin who coordinate the 3-5 and 6-10 groups respectively. See separate account for our 10+ group, led by Ed Kelley.

This year all three age groups have been using Scripture Union materials: 'Bubbles', 'Xstream' and 'the Grid' for the 10+ group. The material is easy to work with, allowing scope for the leader to plan sessions but is also well-structured. The children seem to respond well and engage happily with the suggested activities. We will continue to use it for next year. Each session of Sunday Club begins with all the children gathering for song and prayer before forming the groups.

There are 6 children in the 3-5 age group and attendance is good. They are non-readers and this is quite a wide age-range but the older children seem to pull the younger ones along. Susan is delighted to have the help of Stephanie Inglesfield and Jane Djaté to lead this group. Pat Stimpson and Hilary Fiander have recently stepped down and we thank them for their great contributions to this group over recent years.

There are 11 children in the 6-10 group and Mollie is hugely grateful to Nancy Bolan, Juana Willumsen, Paul Middelkoop, Milli Kvistad and Di Vale for their help in leading the sessions.

From January to June this year, a separate group of children aged 7+ are meeting to follow the 'Welcome to the Lord's Table' course which prepares them to receive Holy Communion. Andrea Goovaerts has organized this, and is helped by Heidi Hawkings, Milli Kvistad, Stephanie Inglesfield and Terri Meijer. The seven children will receive Holy Communion for the first time in a special celebratory service on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Other elements to point out are:

- The children have greatly enjoyed participating in the nativity play and youth led services
- A summer party is held annually, just before the school holidays begin
- Each child receives a birthday card from their church friends
- This year the children greatly enjoyed the presentation about STEJ Togo and helping with the sale of products afterwards.

### **Divonne 10+ Sunday Club**

The Divonne 10+ Sunday Club has continued its tradition since last year's AGM of Sunday meetings and a healthy dose of drama. Not the kind that teenagers can sometimes produce over homework, friends and relationships, mind you, but the REAL kind of drama with two short plays produced last

June for a youth-led Sunday in Divonne and this year at Christmas with a new take on the Christmas story. Fueled by (over) active imaginations and lots of collective personality, the group has grown from only three in 2010 to ten and often more as some of the kids invite their friends along for the Sunday fun. (We only conscript regular members for embarrassing parts in the plays though...)

In addition to roles in Divonne's special services, the group has continued following its Sunday study looking at Jesus, his identity, life and works using two separate curriculae. Last year also saw the Divonne Sunday Club beginning a year-long focus on Service in God's Kingdom, hearing presentations on service projects in Madagascar and on life for young students in Togo. In fact, the recent interaction with Aimée, head of STEJ Togo, an NGO supporting education in Togo, so inspired the kids that the Group decided to raise money to sponsor the educational fees for one child in rural Togo. With an energy that could only be fueled by Nutella, the Group held a Bake and Crepe Sale at Divonne this March, raising enough money to sponsor two young children for one year.

### **ECUMENCIAL RELATIONS – FRANCE**

As well as our annual joint service with the Eglise Réformée de France in Divonne, we also took part in the ecumenical celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which was held in Crossroads Church in Ferney-Voltaire on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012. Valerie Slessor attended the planning meeting on our behalf, and Julia took part in leading some of the liturgy. The gathering comprised people from the Reformed, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Pentecostal, Seventh-Day Adventist, Free Evangelical and Anglican traditions. Next year Julia has been invited to preach and the service will be held in one of the Roman Catholic churches. Julia also attends French ecumenical clergy meetings twice a year

and will be giving a talk on Anglicanism to this group in May 2012.

The ERF has recently announced that Pasteur Bernard Millet will be moving from the area to take up a new post in Lyon as from 1<sup>st</sup> July. We wish him all the very best for his future ministry and thank him for his thoughtful support of La Côte over the past 7 years.

## **CHARITABLE GIVING (DIVONNE)**

### **STEJ Togo**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January, we welcomed a most inspiring young visitor. Aimée Abra Tenu set up her secular NGO Sainte Thérèse de l'enfant Jésus in her home country of Togo at the age of only 15! The main aims of STEJ are access to education and the development of rural communities. Now aged 26, Aimée is finishing off her dissertation for a Masters degree in organizational management based in Lyon and has already won an International Junior Chamber of Commerce award for her achievements with STEJ. The NGO is also taking part in Michelle Obama's initiative Young Women African Leaders, financing it through Zam-ké – a project recycling water sachets to make bags, waste paper bins and other products for sale.

Currently in Paris learning more about accounting and fundraising, Aimée came to spend a weekend in the Geneva area, talking to the children and young people in Divonne, and introducing herself at the Gingins all-age service. She brought some gorgeous crafts and Zam-ké products to sell and was clearly delighted to meet us all and moved by our response. She is a young woman of strong and active faith, with great determination to change the prospects of children in Togo through

better education and access to libraries, and the role of women through literacy projects. To find out more, visit [www.stejtogo.org](http://www.stejtogo.org)

La Côte has already supported STEJ though the proceeds of the cha-cha-chi-cha jars and by collecting mobile phones for recycling. The Divonne teenagers group, through a bake sale during Lent, have raised enough to support two children – Lucien and Géraldine, and will ensure that the contact and support continues.

We look forward to seeing Aimée again in May or June, before her return to Togo in July and ask for God's continued blessings as she continues her work.

In **Divonne** we also gave a big basket of Easter chocolate to the foster-home next to the church, and took some of Santa's goody bags to them after the Christmas Market.



## REPORTS FROM LA CÔTE CHURCH LIFE

### Social Action Report

This group has three primary aims on behalf of La Côte church

- a. FUNDRAISING Raising awareness and encouraging funding for disaster and relief efforts in addition to allocating funding to other international development projects.
- b. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT Raising awareness and building bridges in areas of need in our local area.
- c. AWARENESS RAISING Encouraging our church to ponder with us the issues that underpin the problems that we seek to address with our actions and to join us in our actions, building community at the same time.

I will break down the report under these three headings -

#### a. FUNDRAISING

We have raised an encouraging total of **SFr 15,391.65** over this last year thanks to the hard work of the social action group and all who have been drawn in to help. This is of course also due the generosity of La Côte church members and the wider community. Here are the main highlights of our fundraising:

**The La Côte Quiz Night**, held on 19 November in the *salle communale*, Gingins was a great success. Thanks go to the great team of volunteers who made things go so smoothly, headed by Susan Passmore and Liz Bramley and to the Quiz Masters, David Bramley and Warwick Foster. Twenty teams took part, making a total of around 120 people, including members of the Anglican churches in Geneva and Lausanne. A total of SFr.3,833 was raised and will be shared among three of the charitable projects supported by La Côte.

**Sponsored Cycle Ride** Another key fundraiser was the sponsored cycle ride – le Cyclotour – around Lake Geneva – through which three of our church members raised SFr 2,326.20. This money was raised to support work with our local asylum seeking community, in particular the gardening project.

**A special Appeal** During the summer months we also organized a special appeal for the Horn of Africa which raised an extra SFr 1,761.00.

**The figures in the accounts are as follow :**

#### **Fundraising Income:**

Quiz night:	3,834.00
Funds for Bethany & Thembelile :	1,900.00
Funds for East Africa Appeal	1,811.00
Funds for Asylum seekers project:	2,326.20
Funds from budget:	5,520.45
<b>Total Funds raised:</b>	<b>SFr 15,391.65</b>

### **Allocations of Funds:**

East Africa Appeal (Swiss Solidarity)	2,811.00 (1,811.00 raised & 1,000.00 from budget)
Diocese Appeal	510.95 (from budget funds)
Bethany	2,600.00 (1,350.00 raised and 1,250.00 from Quiz night)
Resto du Coeur	1,000.00 (from budget)
Stand Proud Congo	1,333.50 (from Quiz night)
Ikhwesi Rehab center	1,000.00 (from budget)
Salvation Army Swiss	1,000.00 (from budget)
Mama masai	1,260.00 ( 1250.50 from Quiz night and 9.50 from budget)
Thembelile center	1,550.00 ( 550.00 raised and 1000.00 from budget)

**Total Allocated** **SFr 13,065.45**

Not yet utilized SFr 2,326.20 (Asylum seekers funds)

#### **b. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT - Social Action Involvement with Asylum Seekers 2011**

Over the past year we have continued to deepen our involvement with our neighbours in the asylum community. This has included English language classes, a sponsored bike ride in support of a gardening project, offering pick-up for church services and events, providing practical support in their search for jobs and accommodation, as well as friendship, hospitality and a listening ear when problems threaten to overwhelm their well-being.

Last year was the first year that we experimented with a small gardening project. The aim was to build friendship and understanding through doing a physical activity together, and to provide them with a practical skill that might be useful in the future. The vegetables and their products were sold to supporting church members after church; at the end of the season we shared a harvest meal together, cooked by our asylum friends. Thanks to all who got on their bikes, got their hands dirty, or tasted our produce!

Reflecting on the past year, we recognize that it has sometimes been a struggle. These are men whose lives are in turmoil, living in uncertainty, here one day and gone the next, some of them have had to leave their families behind and they can be sunk in gloom for their welfare. But the impact we have made is evident in their genuine joyfulness when our paths chance to cross again after an absence. "To be invited into a home, that meant so much to me," said one.

#### **c. AWARENESS RAISING**

This is a learning outcome of the first two practical aspects of our social action group. We also look for ways to encourage the learning of the whole of our church community through services with a specific theme, such as our harvest service in Gingins and a service on God's covenant with creation in Divonne. We have shown films which explore these issues, such as the Lenten films set in the Congo and in Bethlehem. In the future I would like to encourage members of our church with particular expertise in areas of development, ecology, science and social entrepreneurship to help us explore some of these issues that underpin the problems of inequality and poverty. In addition,

awareness raising comes through getting to know people and projects struggling with poverty and social inequality. We have valued input from those working on the frontline, such as Nancy, working for Stand Proud and Joy, working with Mama Masai. Much closer to home – those of us who have had the privilege of involvement with those seeking asylum, have had lots to learn about the challenges of their uncertain and often rootless situations. Joy explains this in more detail below.

## Pastoral care

La Côte has 15+ people involved in offering support to members of our community in times of need or crisis. The first point of contact is often Carolyn or Julia, who then draw in other members for practical help, visiting and/or prayer support. In 2011 we welcomed Ken Kvistad who has much experience and wisdom to offer us in this area.

Over the years the group has undertaken various courses of training together. Last year on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 we invited Revd Elaine Labourel to come from Versailles to lead a day of training which looked at Healthy Boundaries and Bereavement and Loss. In October some of our group attended a conference in Webster University – “Building Bridges – supporting individuals and families in transition.” Our most recent meeting was on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 when we discussed feedback from this conference and looked at our own organization. We recognized the continued need for good communication between us and clarity around good practice and boundaries.

Prayers after the services in Gingins is an important part of the ministry of our group and offers a time of quiet accompaniment to those seeking friendly support and the assurance of God’s presence with them. (Julia and Carolyn)

## Child Protection Report 2012

On the 5th of September the church council agreed to the child protection policy we have in place which includes the synod’s recommendations from the meeting last June. The policy requires us to have a confidential declaration, a police check and two references for all those who work with our children and young people in the context of Sunday Club

and SAS and we have been following this up. We have still to collect all paperwork for all members but it is being worked on. A summary of the policy will be displayed on the church room’s wall for all to see. Training on child protection is also going on with three volunteers attending Jim Sharpes training day at John the 23<sup>rd</sup> Church in the Autumn term. (Jane Robinson, our Child Protection Officer)

## Youth

**The SAS group**, which meets once or twice a month on a Friday evening, attracts a few additional young people not necessarily connected to a church community, and this is seen as a good outreach opportunity. A varied programme is offered by Ted and a few parents, which in addition to food and discussion has included diverse activities such as video sessions, bowling, a fashion parade around Ted’s pool, a cow drive, skating in Coppet, sledging at La Trélasse and orienteering in Bois-Bougy. Thanks go to Ted for his generous hospitality in opening his



home to the SAS group, to Adrian and Jane for their much appreciated outdoor skills, and to all the faithful leaders and helpers of the 10-14s Group. (Jacky)

### **An older youth group**

We have made some attempts to convene our older youth in various ways over this last year – recognizing the need to give them a context in which to explore faith – in addition to Sunday Worship. Through the autumn term a group met some Sunday afternoons during the Gingins church service, in the Auberge to discuss the question ‘Jesus – What’s all the fuss about?’ We picked up this theme again in the Spring term and turned it into a confirmation preparation group which is meeting fortnightly, leading up to a confirmation service on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Holy Trinity Geneva – for those who would like to take this step of public commitment. We have six young people attending and it has been mainly led by Carolyn, Ken Kvistad and David Bramley, with contributions from Julia.

### **Communications Group**

Last year’s AGM saw a special focus on the communications strategy of La Cote and the actions called for by the AGM formed the focus of work for a new communications group. The Communication Group’s first task was to review the current activities and vehicles for communications used by La Cote. This included principally a review of the web site, the newsletter and communications at Sunday services. The group also reviewed the Editorial Policy of La Cote. Finally, a last task for the group was to examine La Cote’s mailing list and see whether there was a more efficient way to manage the mailing list while still not compromising the privacy of congregation members on the mailing list.

The communications Group, consisting of Chris Potter, Dwight Moe, Val Geschonke, Carolyn Cooke, Steve Rawcliffe, Nigel Majakari, David Cooke and Ed Kelley, has met over the course of the year both in person meetings and numerous email exchanges to

review and offer guidance on updating the La Cote communications approaches.

### **The website**

The group spent significant time on a redesign of the La Cote web site, led in large part by Chris Potter and his colleague Olivier Froidevaux and the new, improved web site is virtually completed and is expected to be launched shortly after the AGM. Given that the site had not been fully reviewed in some time, a range of issues on broken links and the need for updated information were identified. The new site’s principal improvements include clearer, more easily accessible information for newcomers and an integrated approach for the information provided through the newsletter and the web site. It will also allow for direct updates to web site text by different activity and group leaders within La Cote and an extended calendar function. A revised editorial policy was finalized as well, which should facilitate publication of information both in the newsletter and online.

With regards to the mailing list, the communications group is looking at the most efficient way to update this list. The key issues considered by the Communications Group were how to move the list into an electronic format that provides the maximum flexibility for the Church, but still preserves confidentiality and the nature of the families and individuals on the list. A review of possible software was completed thanks to Steve and the group will make a final recommendation on “migrating” the list this Spring (a poetically good time for such activities!)

The Communications Group owes a truly special thanks to Chris and to his colleague, Olivier for their major contribution on the redesign of the web site. Getting consensus on a new functionality and look for the web site with all the many opinions is not an easy task, so kudos to Chris and Olivier. Finally, this report also provides the opportunity to formally thank Val Geschonke and Sue Brown for producing the newsletter throughout the year and responding to people’s requests at

our last AGM for a newsletter with shorter articles and briefer updates on different aspects of life – together with photos. Well done! (Ed Kelley)

## **Small groups for study and reflection through the week**

### **The Tuesday morning Bible Study Group**

During the last year the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group has met regularly, twice a month. Following an earlier decision to return to the Bible proper, we have focused on one single book, **John's Gospel** (drawing as resource material, amongst others, on the Tom Wright's guide books). We have found it such a rewarding experience that, after Lent, we shall take up the complete study of another book of the Bible, namely **the Book of James**. For Lent, as other groups in our region, we have chosen the York course "**Handing on the Torch – Sacred words for a secular world**".

The size of our group fluctuates between 6 to 9 members on account of travelling and the fact that one of our members has a home in two continents. We take turns in facilitating the discussions.

We would very much like to increase our numbers, so if you are interested in joining us, phone Machteld in whose home we meet, or just come along to a meeting at 09.15 am. We would be very happy to welcome you. (Winifred Elderfield and Machteld Kelsey)

### **The Tuesday Prayer Group (meeting on the other Tuesday when there is no Bible study)**

The Prayer Group meets every other Tuesday morning at the Traceys' home in Coinsins from 09.15 to 10.30 and, within the framework of a short service, lifts those in need - around the world and known to us - into the healing light of Christ. We follow a short order of service, usually taken from the Iona 'Wee Worship Book', but often interspersed with resources from our large collection of prayer books. Silence is

important too. And we are always giving thanks for answered prayer! We enjoy the variety and creativity of the meetings – from Prayer Walks to Pancakes! Believing that prayer is at the heart of our church community, we are very appreciative of Carolyn's presence when she is able to join us. Between us there is the strictest confidence in the names we mention and we welcome your requests for prayer. Everyone is welcome, whether for just one time or on a regular basis. Peta & John Tracey, Anne Dyer, Claudie Wetzell, Carolyn Cooke, Ted Talbot.

### **Wednesday morning Coffee, cake and catch up for Mums**

The c, c, c, coffee, cake and catch up group has taken off. Since the beginning of the year, the group has spent time getting to know each other, sharing needs and concerns (and cake recipes), and have begun to explore spiritual issues.

The group is made up of half a dozen church members who are keen to develop their relationships with others at church (in a way that a hasty coffee after the service doesn't often allow) and further develop their understanding or thinking on particular spiritual issues amongst friends in a comfortable environment.

A typical Wednesday morning at the Gingsins Salle ordinarily starts with the social and pastoral elements, followed by a deeper discussion. Some of the topics we have touched on to date include mixing faith and politics; sacred values for a secular society, how we help our families in transition; and the anointing.

The group will no doubt evolve in the months ahead – closer relationships amongst current participants will enable more open and frank discussion, but at the same time, the members are keen to ensure that others who could benefit from joining the group feel welcome to do so. (Lexa Nicholson)

### **The Wednesday evening Bible Study group**

We meet every two weeks during term-time at the Traceys' home in Coinsins from 19.45 to 21.30, with 10-12 participants, most of whom attend La Côte, but not all. We have followed a variety of studies over the years, sometimes choosing a book of the Bible, with a commentary, and other times a book by a well-known author on a spiritual topic. We are all at different stages in our spiritual journey and all are welcome - those who have questions, or enjoy just listening or participating in discussion - with the aim of growing in the knowledge and love of Christ. Over the past year we have been studying Mark's Gospel, under the able leadership of Chris Potter. He made it very easy for us, by producing photocopies of the relevant chapter each time, with space for making notes, and well-prepared questions to get the discussion going.

We finished this study just in time for Lent, to follow the 5-week ecumenical course being offered by a dozen groups in the Geneva area, **"Handing on the Torch – sacred words for a secular world"**. We are now considering choices for our next study. Do contact us if you would like to find out more. (John & Peta Tracey) [tracey.p@bluewin.ch](mailto:tracey.p@bluewin.ch)

### **The Spirituality Group (meeting Wednesday evenings)**

A new spirituality group emerged this year, based chez Julia in Divonne. We started meeting last autumn to follow the six sessions of *Soul Spark*, a course originating in the Diocese of Sheffield which "opens up some of the riches of the Christian tradition to enable a deeper and healthier spirituality." This time set aside for quiet reflection, meditation and prayer together was much appreciated by us all and we agreed that we would like to continue meeting in the future. Thus more sessions were held – one in Advent and two in Lent, using materials by David Adam. Each of us has also started reading David Runcorn's 'A Spirituality Workbook' and we will get together again after Easter to explore it further. (Julia)

### **The Study group chez Ken and Millie Kvistad. (Thursdays)**

This study group that meets on Thursdays was formed at first for Advent studies in December 2011 meeting for 4 special sessions based on the Advent Wreath comprising Hope, Joy, Love, and Emmanuel-God with us. We then met for 5 meetings in March based on the York Course "Passing on the Torch" and this brought in a few new members. The studies have brought intimate sharing and soul searching. The York Course I believe was a good open book on faith surrounding issues of Church and Society today and was helpful if it was used as such, selecting carefully in advance which ones to tackle for discussion rather than try to cover them all. We are looking at studying the Epistle of James starting in May after the Easter period and will meet again on Thursday at 3pm at our home in Divonne. The study guide which we have chosen has a good commentary on the background, learning guide discussion questions and life application questions. If you would like to know more please get in touch with Ken or Millie Kvistad. (Ken)

### **LCBD La Cote Blokes' Dinner (Thursday evening)**

This year saw the launch of the La Cote Blokes' Dinner (LCBD). This monthly event in Nyon is for men to meet for a drink, eat together and discuss a faith-related topic. Subjects have so far included

Men and Identity, Jesus the Entrepreneur, What is Sin?, My House has Many Rooms, and Faith and Politics. We have had between 6 and 12 blokes at each Dinner. All are welcome to join us - as long as you are a Bloke of course!

We meet at the Fisherman's Pub for a couple of drinks then move on to the Debarcadaire where we have a table reserved in the upper room! (David Cooke)

## Interest Groups

### Musical Drop-In

Ted's house on the first Sunday evening of every month continues to provide a convivial setting for a chat over a glass of wine, the striking up of new acquaintances and of course – great live music!

In 2011 the musical spectrum covered serious classical, through Irish ballads, the street songs of Paris, inspiring jazz to a sell out seventies party! Numbers varied from a discerning 25+ to a heaving 60+ on a couple of occasions!

The aim of the drop-in is not **just** to have a good time – although we always have that! The drop-in attracts people from many walks of life, many backgrounds, age ranges and religious persuasion. It is there, in the unthreatening context of music and 'bonhomie', to enable the La Côte community to hold out a hand to those seeking, to invite those we would like to reach out to, and make welcome those who may be new to the area. (Ted)

**La Côte Hiking Group** was set up by Gail Farrell some years back and we have tried to continue the tradition of meeting on the last Saturday of each month.

Our email list now comprises twenty-five members although not all participate every time. The group had a break for a few months but have once again dusted down their hiking boots and are up and walking again - March was the first outing this year (photo above).

As always, the emphasis is more on enjoying ourselves than on our athletic prowess, the members taking turns to organise and lead the walks. (Peta)

If you would like to join the group please contact Mollie, at [mollie.lufkin@free.fr](mailto:mollie.lufkin@free.fr)



### Song Group

Now in its 6th Year, the Song Group was originally formed as an experiment to introduce some contemporary songs into Sunday worship at Gingins. The original membership of 8 has now increased to 20+. The monthly practice is held at M and

H Corrigan's - bursting at the seams (however, there is always room for a desperate man!). The Group leads worship at Gingins once a month, with occasional guest appearances at Divonne, Weddings and Ted's "Drop In". There is great camaraderie and enthusiasm to sing praises to the Lord. (Harold and Margaret)



## Chaplaincy Council Report 2011

Following elections at the 2011 Annual General Meeting in March, the newly formed La Côte Chaplaincy Council convened in May with members from both congregations in Gingins and Divonne. The first meeting discussed the role of the elected PCC, and set priorities for the year ahead. Among these was a re-examination of the whole area of communications, which was the focus of our discussion at the AGM. The Council has looked into new ways to make these more effective both within our church community and beyond, and set up a sub-group to look into the technical aspects. The team worked on the design of a new website and explored ways of making the most of its potential. An

editorial policy was developed for the La Côte Newsletter, which has been produced on a quarterly basis. The pledge scheme was re-launched at the beginning of the year and the Council considered how to encourage members of the congregation to think about how they give. Another top priority was to focus on reaching out to young people. Working in this area is of vital importance for the future of our church and during the year, some time was spent on this topic.

Council met on 20 June before the summer break. Rosemary Raedler, Treasurer at Christ Church, Lausanne was invited to attend this meeting to share with us her experience of setting up a charitable association for her church. The Council will keep such an idea in mind, but since it would not present us with the possibility of gaining tax benefits at this point, it does not plan to take further action in the short term.

The Council voted to request the Bishop's permission for Ken Kvistad to serve in leadership under the ecumenical canons. This recognized Ken's contribution to our church community over many years, helping pastorally, with leading reflections and Bible study groups. Ken assists Carolyn and Julia, and has a similar involvement with the Holy Trinity congregation in Geneva.



The Council held three meetings after the summer break on 5 September, 10 October and 14 November. Jane Robinson, La Côte Child Protection Officer, was invited to address the September meeting. She distributed a copy of the standard policy for the safe recruitment of volunteers working

with children and vulnerable adults in the Anglican Church of Switzerland and explained the situation concerning children. Guidelines, designed to protect both children and staff, have been established by the Church of England and formal clearance procedures for those working with children must be followed. These have been put in place at La Côte. Volunteers working with children should have child protection training once a year and five members of the church attended such a course. The Council approved the standard Child Protection Policy which will be posted on the website.

The Council considered the question of stewardship, noting that giving was an integral part of discipleship that resources God's mission in the world, and reflected on how generosity could be encouraged. Reactions to sermons on this theme and messages passed to the congregation on the importance of stewardship were generally positive. Church finances were reviewed at each Council meeting, and the Council decided to express its thanks to those people who had supported La Côte throughout the year via the pledge scheme. The question of legacies was revisited and more information will be gathered from various sources.

The question of youth work at La Côte and improvements to be made in its organization was considered in depth. A large part of our congregation is now composed of families with children. The Council subsequently obtained background information relating to the appointment and employment of a youth minister for La Côte, and concluded that there would be other benefits to the church, as this would attract families who remained after their children had grown up. In order to look into the practicalities of setting up youth ministry, a planning group was formed, mandated by the Council to explore this in more detail. The group worked on a draft business plan, looked into funding possibilities, laying out options and costs and formulated a job description.

Following the successful completion of study and training, Revd. Julia Chambeyron was

approved as Assistant Chaplain. The Council endorsed this decision unanimously. The licensing ceremony took place during the service of celebration for La Côte's 25th Anniversary on 6 November. This was a wonderful service, which celebrated a great achievement, thanks to the effort and dedication of many different people over the years.



The Council has held two meetings in 2012 on 16 January and 20 February. Taking care of the Church's finances is an important responsibility, and the Council expressed its gratitude to Philippe Chambeyron for his dedicated and competent work as our Treasurer. The 2011 year-end accounts were reviewed, and thanks to the generosity of the La Côte community, a positive result was welcomed. The pledge figure indicated that we would not be able to count on this source for our main income. However, the increased figure for collections was encouraging. Fundraising in aid of church funds and for charities was becoming substantial, thanks to all the people concerned. The 2012 Budget is optimistic.

Finally, the Council agreed to share with the local Swiss Reformed Church the cost of an audio-visual system comprising a screen, laptop computer and projector which has been installed in the Gingins church for use during services. Fire safety procedures are being put into place, in the parish rooms and for services which are heavily attended.

(Val Geschonke, Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council)

<b>The La Côte Anglican Church Development Association</b>			
<b>Balance Sheet as of 31st December 2011</b>			
		<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Bank			
Cash		5,625.15	1,473.15
Bank current acc UBS		58,090.68	42,381.32
Bank Deposit acc UBS		6,087.65	6,067.40
Debtors		4,776.20	4,489.90
Income to be received		4,220.00	4,000.00
Financial assets			1,250.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>78,799.68</b>	<b>59,661.77</b>
<b>Less current liabilities</b>		<b>5,632.45</b>	<b>14,002.96</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>73,167.23</b>	<b>45,658.81</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Fixed Assets		0.00	0.00
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<b>73,167.23</b>	<b>45,658.81</b>
<b><u>Accumulated Funds</u></b>			
Balance 1-Jan.		40,658.81	40,406.08
Surplus for the Year		23,508.42	252.73
Write off Financial assets		0.00	0.00
General Reserve		64,167.23	40,658.81
Reserve for car replacement		4,000.00	
Reserve for equipments		5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Total accumulated Funds</b>		<b>73,167.23</b>	<b>45,658.81</b>

**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 (in swiss francs)**

**1 Significant Accounting Policies**

- a) Income is recognised on a cash receipt basis
- b) Expenses are charged as incurred
- c) Fixed Assets ( car, office furniture, computer equipments) are depreciated over three years. **However reserves are built up for the future purchase of fixed assets which are written off against the specific reserves in the year of purchase ( ie car, computer and equipments)**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b><u>2 Financial Assets</u></b>		
Advance Allocations Familiales		1,250.00
Advance LPP Part employee		
<b><u>3 Cash and cash equivalent</u></b>		
Cash and Bank	69,803.48	49,920.87
Financial Assets		1,250.00
Total	<u>69,803.48</u>	<u>51,171.87</u>

**4 Debtors/Prepaid Expenses.**

Insurance Menage		
Insurance Car	603.20	481.40
Rent Flat chaplain	3,116.00	3,116.00
Health Insurance	1,057.00	
LPP Insurance		
Insurance accident		
Total	<u>4,776.20</u>	<u>4489.90</u>
Income to be received	4,220.00	4,000.00

**5 Fixed Assets** \* depreciated against reserves in the year of purchase according to note 1.c. Original value shown.

Car at cost		11,000.00
Office Furniture		
Computer equipment		
Accumulated Depreciation		-11,000.00
Net Book Value	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**6 Debts to be paid**

Dettes à tiers		
Charges to be paid Swisscom	206.25	
<u>Charges to be paid:</u>		
Rent Church		3,000.00
Interview candidates		691.00
Provision LPP	2,146.20	2,232.40
Diocese Pension C Cooke/		2,263.50
Payroll taxes for C. Cooke/P Holley		351.68
Funds for charities	1,550.00	5,464.30
Provisions for taxes	1,730.00	
Total	<u>5,632.45</u>	<u>14,002.96</u>

Financial statement on 31.12.2011				
DESCRIPTION	Budget 2011	Actual 31.12.11	Actual on 31.12.10	Budget 2012
<b>INCOME</b>				
Pledges	120,000.00	120,601.92	115,767.56	125,000.00
Donations	8,500.00	6,906.50	8,517.00	
Collections	35,000.00	49,808.90	36,595.92	40,000.00
Fundraising for Church	20,000.00	15,426.70	2,362.50	20,000.00
<i>Fundraising Cha cha Jars &amp; Haiti</i>				
<i>Fundraising Concert</i>		1,349.00		
<i>Fundraising jam making</i>		276.00	262.00	
<i>Wedding fees</i>		1,620.00	50.00	
<i>Fundraising Christmas market Divonne</i>		4,218.00	2,050.50	
<i>Fundraising Spring Fair</i>		7,963.70		
Fundraising for external giving		9,871.20	7,138.30	
Financial Income		83.95	85.60	
<b>1. Total Income</b>	<b>183,500.00</b>	<b>202,699.17</b>	<b>170,466.88</b>	<b>185,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Clergy salary&benefits	98,856.00	86,644.27	64,691.67	99,600.00
Housing expenses	37,300.00	37,109.80	37,002.05	37,300.00
Installation & moving exp.			16,797.85	-
Clergy other expenses	3,500.00	3,412.44	3,237.29	3,500.00
Car maintenance	2,500.00	851.65	2,346.45	2,500.00
Petrol for car	2,500.00	1,700.78	890.60	2,500.00
Car insurance & registration	2,000.00	1,782.80	1,612.70	2,000.00
Reserve for Car Replact.	2,500.00	4,000.00	2,038.96	2,500.00
Creche workers & others	2,000.00	1,328.00	810.00	2,000.00
Rent of Church Bldg	5,300.00	4,161.92	5,620.70	5,300.00
Contribution to Music	5,000.00	3,750.00	1,150.00	5,000.00
Tél,Fax ,Stationery,postage..	3,400.00	7,186.44	3,228.30	6,500.00
Diocese&Archdeaconery	7,700.00	8,289.98	7,630.78	7,700.00
External Giving	5,000.00	13,065.45	13,054.08	5,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses	5,000.00	2,930.72	4,510.82	3,000.00
Impôts federaux & cantonaux	-	1,730.00	351.90	
Bossey retreat extracosts/profit	300.00	- 358.00	240.00	300.00
Provision for computer replacement		1,604.50	5,000.00	
<b>2.Total Expenses</b>	<b>182,856.00</b>	<b>179,190.75</b>	<b>170,214.15</b>	<b>184,700.00</b>
<b>Diff (1. - 2.)/year</b>	<b>644.00</b>	<b>23,508.42</b>	<b>252.73</b>	<b>300.00</b>