



LA CÔTE
Anglican Church

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ANNUAL REPORT TO AGM 2013



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN GINGINS AND DIVONNE
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Chaplain's Report

LIFE IN LA CÔTE OVER THE LAST YEAR - A JOURNEY OF DISCERNMENT TOGETHER



Holy Conversations I ended my AGM report last year by pointing us forward to a review of our current mission focus and sense of direction as a whole church. This discernment process has been the key focus for this last year (2012-2013) at La Côte. It has been entitled “Holy Conversations” after a handbook of strategic planning in churches, by Alice Mann and Gil Rendle (2003). We have aimed as a church community to listen and to talk to one another and to God about who we are and what we are called to be and do as a church community in this region. Some explorations and preliminary discussions over the summer months led to the Council nominating a planning team in the autumn to set up ways for the wider congregation to engage with this process. Our grateful thanks go to this group for their commitment to this process in the midst of busy lives. They are: Alison Ball, Dorothy Davies, Richard Hawkins, Ed Kelley, Dwight Moe, Chris Potter, Tim Price, Heidi Schrott, Ted Talbot and Peta Tracey.

Three ways of joining in the conversations.

After a slow start to the process, there was a gathering of momentum and enthusiasm to take part in the “holy conversations”. Firstly, online questions were sent out through the

weekly bulletin and on the website. Overall about twenty individual responses came in from church members this way. Secondly, about 70 members, including our youth gathered in a variety of groups to discuss some key questions about our church life. In addition to groups that meet regularly, three extra neighbourhood groups took place chez les Chambeyron, les Tracey and at the World Council of Churches Building in Geneva. Thirdly, about 80 church members (adults and children) gathered for our community day at Bossey Ecumenical Centre, to continue the

conversations. This day was framed in worship, led ably by Revd Geoff Read, (Chaplain at St Nicholas, Basel) who set the scene with a reflection on the blessings of God. In the light of this teaching, we sought to discern God’s blessings on our church life and where we might build on this for the future. This was an engaging, interactive day which looked back, valuing our past and began to look forward in terms of our hopes for the future.

The next phase – vision, goals and priorities. As I write, we are entering this next phase of drawing out from the all the feedback vision, priorities and goals for the next three to five years. We have moved from using “Holy Conversations” to a more practical handbook “Mission, Action, Planning”. The Council has appointed a “development” sub-group, to refine the feedback. The group is made up of a number of Council members together with members from the previous planning team. We hope to have some themes to present to the wider congregation at our AGM.

Thanksgiving and celebration. As Chaplain of La Côte, I am grateful to and encouraged by all of you who have found a way of

contributing to these Holy Conversations, giving your time, prayers and energy to listen to one another and to God for the sake of the whole. It has not been a smooth run, maybe because it has not always been clear why we are doing this. “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” has echoed round the community a number of times. Well, we may not be “broke”, but there is always room to sharpen our focus and sense of purpose as a Christian community in this region. So this has been more of a “health check” rather than a “fixing” what is broke. We have celebrated lots about our community which we value and have also had opportunity to speak honestly about areas of church life which merit our attention, so that we can indeed be fit for the purposes of God.

Seeking healthy growth. I do not envisage this discernment process “fixing” all the things we dislike about our church, which would actually be a rather negative way of setting goals. However I feel that both the process of “holy conversations” and the outcome of our vision and priorities, will enable us to grow in a healthy way.

Positives from our holy conversations which I’ve already observed

- a. “Sparkly eyes”, a term used by Benjamin Zander, (classical pianist speaking in a TED talk) describes people who have become more engaged in something. I have noticed more “sparkly eyes” among us, which is not down to that extra glass of wine! “Sparkly eyes” shows people who have been glad to express their views, and to hear the insights of others.
- b. Stronger links across the two congregations and within each congregation.

- c. Greater inclusion of new people and members on the fringe of our church in the process of these discussions.
- d. Bringing to the fore the gifts of some of our church members in terms of leadership, human organisation and analysis.
- e. Nurturing a culture of reflection, honesty and scrutiny about who we are and about our calling. This is not to encourage navel-gazing, but honest appraisal before God and one another to build a joint sense of responsibility for being church.

Diversity Just before our Bossey community day we thought about the picture of the church as one body with many different parts, (1 Corinthians 12). My prayer is that we will continue to value one another *with* our differences, open to learn and grow even when we are out of our comfort zone. “Difference” is like a symphony, observed Canon David Porter (Director of Reconciliation Ministry at Canterbury Cathedral). “Even though more than one instrument is likely to be playing at any one time – and by no means always playing the same notes – that is how symphonies work.” Playing a symphony in order to produce harmony requires lots of practice and determination, (so I’m told!) In the same vein, let us continue to meet, worship, celebrate and work together in God’s grace and strength, to produce the symphonies he is calling us to play.

Looking to the coming year, we will be firming up some key priorities and goals which are both realistic with our resources, but also open to taking some risks, to taste and see where God might be leading us. Please continue to pray for our church community, for our leadership, our witness and the part we are each called to play therein.

In terms of other highlights this year in La Côte, they mainly feature in the different reports below. I am encouraged by the varied programme of worship across the chaplaincy outlined in separate reports for Divonne and Gingsins. A further cause for rejoicing has been the **healthy attendance** in our services across the chaplaincy. In addition we give thanks for **two weddings**. On Saturday 4th August Shane Avison and Helena Stouvenel were married by Carolyn in Divonne Church. Later that month, on Friday 31st August, Nathalie Chambeyron and Adam Selby were married amidst much joy and laughter in a service led by Revd. Jenny Paddison (née Dawes) and Julia.



Confirmations A number of us were privileged to prepare four of our young people for confirmation. On Sunday 27th May, Daniella Majakari, Harry Kirkman, Lizzie Jenkins and Saskia Werkhoven were confirmed in an inspiring joint service at Holy Trinity, presided over by Bishop Geoffrey of Gibraltar. La Côte helped to lead **two extra Christmas events** which welcomed a wide range of people both from our church and beyond. We enjoyed a second night of Jazz and Carols at the Temple de Nyon, and then just before Christmas a traditional 9 lessons and carols service was held in the little Temple de Genolier.

Beyond our Sunday worship, a number of special events have helped us to celebrate our community life and to welcome in those beyond the church. A **Spring Ceilidh** in mid-May was a great success, seeing about 100 people of all ages sharing in an evening of refreshments and music and dance, led by the talented Loch Léman Ceilidh Band. Another annual highlight was our **Charity Quiz Night** – welcoming around 80 competitive spirits in the Salle Communale at Coinsins. On behalf of La Côte, well done to all who worked hard to set up these events and to all of you who attended.

Thank you At this point I would like to express my warm thanks to all of you for the part you have played in our church over this

last year. It has been inspiring to recognise your commitment and enthusiasm shown in all sorts of ways in our church life. In particular, I would like to thank our church wardens Austin Ball and Liz Bramley who have worked hard often behind the scenes, to support Julia and myself. May I convey my thanks to our Chaplaincy Council for its commitment to the strategic role of leading our Church on this journey of discernment.

After three years, Monika Rawcliffe is stepping down from Council, so we offer her our special thanks for her faithful contribution in leadership as a Council member. Catherine Crocoll, ex-officio Council member and Swiss Archdeaconry Synod Representative for La Côte, has also decided to step down this year, due to increased family and professional responsibilities. We have all valued Catherine's sustained engagement on behalf of our Church.

My thanks also to Ken Kvistad, for his faithful service among us leading worship and preaching. He has developed a much valued ministry supporting small study groups, especially Machteld's Tuesday morning group. Finally, I would like to say thank you to my colleague Julia for her oversight of all that has taken place in Divonne congregation and for her hard work across the chaplaincy leading us in reflections, worship and preaching, in offering pastoral care and guidance.

Carolyn

GINGINS WORSHIP

We have enjoyed a rich variety of services throughout this last year at Gingsins.

Baptisms. We have enjoyed three infant baptisms, welcoming into the church: Milo Moeljadi, (6th May), Martha Reid (8th July) and Grégoire de Lorient (29th July).

Special services. There have been a number of alternative services of celebration and thanksgiving. On 3rd June we marked Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee with a special focus on her leadership, under God, during the service. The pouring rain by no means dampened our spirits as we continued to celebrate with a magnificent tea in the parish room, decked with bunting and photos! On 6th October, St Francis Day – we held another service with a difference – this time in the form of 18 extra dogs and one cat present. At 6pm, after work a group of about thirty humans, together with our pets, gathered in the church for a service of blessing of animals. Even amidst the barking and howling a sense of worship somehow prevailed!



Ecumenical links It has been a joy to continue to worship ecumenically, with our fellow Christians in the area – both French-speaking and English. The Jeûne Fédéral service in Bonmont brought together about 250 Christians to worship in English, French and German. A welcome apéro followed, laid on by a generous team from La Côte church. We have met together to worship at other moments in the year, especially a joint Palm Sunday celebration and the World Day of prayer in March. Our thanks go to Machteld Kelsey, who has faithfully supported this service and who has now stepped away from this commitment. If anyone would like to support this joint service next year, please talk to the Chaplains or to Machteld. In addition, Carolyn and Christian Heyraud led a bilingual baptism service in July. In December we were very sad to lose Marcus Dukes. His funeral was led jointly by Carolyn, Julia, and Emmanuel Spring, from the Swiss Église Réformée in Crassier.

Balance of focus in worship In our service planning, we have sought to balance the focus between our more personal spiritual journey and our need as Christians to wrestle with global issues of justice and ecology. So for example, during the autumn we picked up on the theme of Creation Tide. This term also started with an all age service focussing on the Centre for Disabled Children in Narasaraopet, S. India, welcoming Dr. Peter Le Feuvre & Dr. Sarah Montgomery to talk about their work. Over the last six months we have begun to use more of the Christian Aid worship resources. For example our harvest thanksgiving centred on the honey farmers in the forests of India, opening up the challenge of land rights. In our recent March mothering Sunday service, we were privileged to hear from Mrs Taiba Rahim, who shared with us about her work in

remote Afghanistan, building schools and health centres for women and children. During Lent, our worship and preaching have explored aspects of fasting, repentance and renewal within our covenantal faith.

Our Christmas programme had a creative mix of services for children and adults. During Advent we had two adult services and two all age services. Ted Talbot and Jacky Coo produced an imaginative nativity service based on a magical Advent calendar while Chris Potter led an exciting Christingle service setting fire to a box to demonstrate the light of Christ!

On Christmas Eve, we welcomed lots of families to a crib service, this time featuring a grumpy shepherd. At 4.30pm the church was packed for a service of Holy Communion, blending lots of traditional carols, led by our song group, with a face-book retelling of the birth of Christ.

Balance of style of worship Throughout the year we have sought to balance the style of worship, with a blend of adult services and more child-friendly, all age services. On balance there is one all age service per month, which encourages us to worship as one church family, with different abilities and understanding, yet all of us infinitely precious to God. This mix of styles is an on-going challenge for us all with our diverse likes and needs. May I encourage among us an attitude of give and take in terms of our worship and an openness to encounter God even when it is not quite our cup of tea! Corporate worship is not just about me and God, but about *us* and God, coming together and helping each other to worship God.

Many hands make for rich worship. Our services are much the richer for the involvement of so many individuals. We are thankful for the unswerving commitment of our church members in all aspects of worship from “Sweep and Lock” to refreshments, to taking part in the service itself. A special note of thanks goes to those who have inspired us with reflections and teaching over the year. From within our congregations thank you to David Bramley, Richard Hawkings and Chris Potter. In addition we were privileged to have Helen Baber, a student at Bossey, to lead us in worship and reflections while she was nearby. Moreover we have appreciated visiting preachers, namely Revd Brian Lea and Revd Hilary Jones.

Undoubtedly a key component of our worship is our music and we are so thankful for the team of musicians who lead us consistently with such dedication and talent. Our warm thanks go to: Harold and Margaret Corrigan and the Song group, Mark Charles, Monika and Steve Rawcliffe, Pat Huber-Brown, Pat Stimpson, Ray Fianders, Richard Hawkings and Simon Hunt.

Carolyn



Helen Baber (third from left) at her graduation on 28 January 2013 with Anne, Liz and Julia at the Château de Bossey

Assistant Chaplain's Report

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN DIVONNE

We have continued to offer a rich pattern of worship over the past year, with a balance of Holy Communion and Morning Worship services. The latter allows more scope and time for special themes, like Remembrance, and for exploring more music and singing with, for example, Taizé chants, a sung creed and sung responses during prayers. We have greatly appreciated reflections offered by Ken, Georges, David, Richard and Chris – often in the context of Morning Worship where we can set aside a longer time for reflection. Anointing for healing during Holy Communion services every other month offers a chance to receive a touch from God in moments of illness or struggle and seems very much valued by all of us.

Music is a crucial element as we seek to praise God together, and we are extremely grateful to our gifted musicians for the time they commit to the choice of music and to playing on the day. Heartfelt thanks to Ray, Pat, Pam, Richard, Heidi, Harold, Steve and Monika for their contributions over this past year. The new song group, organized by Heidi and Richard, has included Nigel on the guitar and introduced us to Jane on the violin, as well as to some keen singers. We hope to build on this in the year to come.

Many thanks to all who participate in worship in whatever way – readings, prayers, dramas, welcome, chalice... This is how we serve God and each other Sunday by Sunday.

Worship highlights for this year



- **Good Friday 2012**, which was a real team effort in terms of readings and meditations as we heard responses to the story from the different characters present. Inspiring music was led by Steve and Monika, and afterwards we enjoyed a lovely sit-down tea in the parish rooms.

- **Easter Sunday**, during which we watched a dramatic telling of the story as our children performed ‘He’s Alive!’ ably directed by Juana. Lots of chocolate eggs to eat afterwards too!
- **First Communion service**, on 24th June, where we welcomed seven children to the Lord’s Table. The theme of the service was ‘Celebration!’ and the children completed the beautiful altar cloth they had made and which has been used during family worship since. During this service we said ‘au revoir’ to Nancy, Scott and their daughters as they left for work and life in the DRC. This service was followed by the annual picnic chez Chambeyron.
- **Baptism of Joshua Gaymard** on 29th July, during which we focused on different candles and granddad Ray led our music and Thomas and Zoë read the Bible passages. A lovely family occasion!
- **Harvest Thanksgiving** on 23rd September took the theme of ‘The Tree of Life and the Life of Trees’ and we began our worship around the hornbeam tree in the garden. Sarah French talked to us about the importance of trees for the livelihood of communities and her work with Christian environmental agency Arocha, and we collected our harvest gifts for local charity Les Restos du Coeur.
- **Remembrance Sunday** on 11th November which was another team effort with contributions of poems and readings helping us to engage with this theme. Georges offered a very moving account of experiences gleaned from family letters.
- **Carol service and nativity play** on 16th December was a wonderful occasion when the children presented their play ‘And the animals talked’ – organized brilliantly by Stéphanie and David Inglesfield. The service was followed by a community lunch in aid of our youth work fund.
- **Christmas Day Family Communion** when we managed to squeeze 130 people into the church! Ed, Allison, Juana and Nigel performed a drama called ‘God’s quiet revolution’ recalling the shepherds’ surprise at the appearance of the angel that Christmas night. The image of Ed popping up from the pulpit dressed as the angel Gabriel will be etched on my mind for the rest of my days!
- **Welcome of Ryker Heldt** on 10th February after his baptism in the US over Christmas. This was Transfiguration Sunday and we heard from Katherine that the baptism had taken place in their home church in Texas – the Church of the Transfiguration!
- **Ash Wednesday** on 13th February was a quiet service exploring how repentance and forgiveness can be the start of a new story – symbolized by the mark of the ashes on our heads.

As I write we are planning to celebrate both Palm Sunday and Easter Day in Divonne this year, as well as Good Friday.

YOUTH WORK AT LA CÔTE

A year ago at our 2012 AGM, we had an enthusiastic response to a presentation and discussion outlining plans for a youth leader. This was a 3-year project which would involve us employing a full-time qualified and experienced youth leader for our church community. We established a group (accountable to Council) to explore further, and set up a separate pledge fund, administered by Ted Talbot, which would finance this project. To date, we have a total of CHF 35’000 pledged, which translates to CHF1’400 a month in year one, CHF 800 a month in year two and CHF 700 a month in year three. We estimate that we would need about CHF 4’000 a month to finance our fulltime youth leader plan.

As the financial response was not sufficient to pursue this particular plan, the group have suggested interim solutions:

- Explore part-time local help
- Look to taking on a youth intern for one year.

In both these cases, the brief for this role is to:

- Help with the existing Sunday groups for 10 yrs and upwards;
- Help with SAS;
- Create a new group for older teenagers outside Sundays;
- Build relationships with and amongst all our young people.



Youth Fund pledgers have been asked if they will give their agreement to use some of the funds we actually have to help with these two ideas, and for organising other activities for the youth. We have advertised for a part-time youth leader in the English-speaking churches in the Geneva/Nyon/Pays de Gex area and are currently exploring an application.

Although it has been a disappointing start in terms of funding our goal, there have been some very positive developments since September 2012:

- Continuation of SAS on Friday nights for the 10+ age group;
- New Chatfaith@360 discussion group for secondary school age teenagers meeting in Divonne;
- Input from Josiah and Sisi Jennings from Youth With A Mission up until December 2012;
- Excellent session at Bossey by the youth leader from All Saints' Vevey;
- A youth weekend in March organized by Westlake church, to which our teenagers have been invited. At the time of writing, 12 La Côte teenagers have registered for this.

The members of the youth work group sense that many of us are keen to continue investing in this important area of the church's work. We are a growing congregation and many of our members have children and teenagers: helping them to grow in faith and to become active members of the church, with a fun and engaging programme, is a very important part of our mission. There may well be potential to reach out to other Anglophone teens and youth in this area too.

With this in mind, the group is keen to encourage support from our community by:

- Encouraging teenagers to come along to the existing groups on Sunday (10+ age groups in both churches, and chatfaith@360 in Divonne);
- Letting Carolyn and Julia know if you hear of anyone who may be interested in doing part-time work with us;
- Considering pledging to the Youth Fund – contact Ted Talbot or download the forms from our website.

Thank you!

David Inglesfield and **Julia**

SUNDAY CLUB IN GINGINS

10-14s

There are currently 16 young people in this age group in the congregation, under the leadership of Helen and Warwick, Duane, Sharon and Geoff and Jacky and Vincent. We continued using



Scripture Union's Lightlive programme through to June 2012, covering diverse passages from both the Old and New Testaments (Daniel, Jeremiah, Esther, Paul's epistles). However, from September, it was decided to study several parables in the Bible - the Sower, the Wicked Tenants, the Rich Man & Lazarus, the Mustard Seed, the Wedding Feast, the Unmerciful Servant and the Lost Sheep. This proved popular with both leaders and the group, as evidenced by the regular attendance of between 7 and 10 young people. The year climaxed with the 10-14s playing the principal parts in a novel Nativity play written by a former intern and ably directed by Ted.

Jacqueline Coo

6-9s

The spring/summer term 2012 saw completion of the new Sunday School Room, extremely well equipped for the Godly Play method of teaching and learning. Special thanks to Tania Ahlstrom and Christina Majakari for the work put. This created a much better environment for the Godly Play programme.

In September, a number of younger children moved up to join the 6-9s group, so the autumn term regularly had attendances of around 10 children. This presented the challenge of how best to engage a larger group of children of varying ages and therefore ability and maturity. The Group also faced unexpected problems finding sufficient volunteers to lead and support the group each week. Some of our key Godly Play leaders had stepped back, leaving a very small pool of trained storytellers. We are grateful to some willing members of our community, including some brave fathers, who stepped in to fill the gaps. This meant the occasional deviation from the Godly Play approach with some improvised storytelling and original activities - the children especially enjoyed dressing up as the darkness, sky, seas and other elements of The Creation!

The new challenges faced during the autumn called for a review of the needs of this particular age group. The general consensus from the remaining leaders was to give Godly Play a break. Thus this group, over this Spring term have been experimenting with Roots and Kidzone materials. Although wanting to try different materials – the leaders are keen to incorporate the Godly play resources in other styles of teaching. Jane Robinson has been heading up this trial period over the Spring term and the leaders will review the programme before Easter. Following this evaluation, a new rota will be set up and materials ordered to launch the summer term. The challenge of finding enough leaders continues, so the group would be delighted to support any parents or adults who would like to help lead it. *Judith Sanders with input from Tania Ahlstrom*

3-5s

In September 2012, most of the 3-5s group were now 'old' enough to go up to the 6-9s! So the year began with a couple of new children and I was able to restart the 'Creation' theme. The group has grown, with as many as 6 littlies on a good day, and we are now doing a short 5-week programme about Easter, "Jesus is Alive", using material from the Children's Ministry. Whilst being such an important subject, it's a difficult and sensitive one, especially for children so young, but fortunately has a very happy ending, so we're concentrating on that part!!! The biggest challenge for this group is its location with many distractions. This is partly because we share the room with crèche, and also it is the main room where people come in to set up refreshments.

Naomi Grobéty

Crèche 0-2s

'Crèche provision for the 0-2 year age group has been developing over the past six months. These developments have been an important step forward for the church as there are around eight families with young children in this age group, who have felt at times, unable to attend all services. Since January, the regular provision of a crèche facility in the church hall has meant these families can now attend all services, knowing their child has a safe environment in which to make a noise and to play. The crèche is run mainly by one local au pair, Chelsea Fairless, or Daniela Majakari (who stands in once a month for Chelsea) , together with a volunteer – usually a parent of one of the children attending the crèche. Activities of the crèche have included singing worship songs, reading stories and also free play, with a number of toys used being donated by members of the congregation.'

Cassie Whetham

A highlight of the year – A sponsored roll around Divonne Lake in June 2012 was a great success. Whether on a bike, scooter, rollerblades, pushing a pram, tethered to a dog, a group of about 15 children from Gingins and Divonne Sunday clubs made their way round the lake (some once, others up to five times). Gingins Sunday club raised over 700CHF for the two Indian boys they sponsor in NarasaoPET.

Overall, on behalf of the whole of our church I would like to say a warm thank you to our team of volunteers who have risen to the challenge of nurturing our children and young people in Sunday club. Without them we could not call La Côte a family church, which welcomes everyone including children and parents. There have been a number of challenges which have come to the fore this last year, which we hope to address the coming year:

- a. **Finding enough volunteer leaders** to cover each week, especially for younger groups.
- b. **Resources** – leaders have been experimenting to see what works well both for the leaders and for the children.
- c. **Venue** – as the make-up of the different age groups changes we have found that having adequate space has been difficult. Even using the Auberge down the road, we are short of rooms for the different ages.

Carolyn Cooke

SAS

The group continued to meet once or twice a month over the year, on a Friday evening, and enjoyed the following activities: a cow drive, ice-skating, spaghetti and Facebook-discussion, luge and limericks, orienteering and campfire, making face masks, bike ride & BBQ, sponsored bike ride around Divonne lake, summer camp weekend in Rolle, crazy games, hot air balloon-making, night hike & BBQ, ten-pin bowling, a trip to the pantomime and the traditional Christmas party. Numbers ranged from 10 to 19 young people, and special thanks go to Ted for his hospitality and expert planning, and to all those who have helped with the activities, cooking and cleaning-up during the year.

Jacqueline Coo



Christmas at Gingins, Funke & Toby

SUNDAY CLUB FOR CHILDREN IN DIVONNE



Many thanks to all those who lead our children with care and enthusiasm. The nurture and encouragement of children is a major part of our mission at La Côte and we are so grateful for the time and commitment of our leaders.

A new Church of England Safeguarding Policy has meant an overhaul and updating of our La Côte records to ensure the safety and protection of our children. Thank you to all our Divonne leaders who have willingly embraced the new guidelines, especially to Mollie who has taken on the new role of ID checker. We are currently working on this across our

two congregations, in accordance with both diocesan and archdeaconry regulations.

Divonne Sunday Club continues to sponsor schooling for two children – Lucien and Géraldine - through STEJ Togo.

At Christmas La Côte as a whole made a collection of gifts for children and these were given to Les Restos du Coeur for distribution among disadvantaged children in the Pays de Gex.

Each summer we review our programmes for the children and last July we looked at the different resources available and decided to change to Roots. This provides lectionary-based sessions set out in a magazine format, with access to online resources too.

There has been visible growth in the numbers over the past year and this had led to some changes in the groups. The 3-5 and 6-10 year groups have joined forces and work with this group is coordinated jointly by Susan and Mollie. The 10-12/13 group is led by David and Dwight and a new group for secondary-aged youngsters - chatfaith@360 - meets chez Rollins opposite the church. See below for more....



3-9 age group

Currently we have 4 children in the 3-5 yrs group and 10 children in the 6-9 yrs group. Mollie and Susan continue to coordinate these groups. We are fortunate to have Stephanie Inglesfield and Jane Djabaté volunteering as leaders in the younger 3-5 group and Heidi Hawkings, Di Vale and Alison Ball volunteering with the 6-9 group. We have additional help from Milli Kvistad and Paul Middelkoop. Peter and Monique Illig have also recently joined us.

This past year Divonne Sunday Club has been using ecumenical materials developed by a group of churches in the UK – Roots. There is a good mix of bible study and craft activities to explain and explore the theme of each session and the materials allow plenty of scope for the Leaders. Additional resources are available from the Roots website. We also like the fact that the sessions follow the church calendar and are in tune with the worship. We continue to open our sessions with singing and prayer.

Highlights this last year have been:

- Sunday club pumpkin party at the end of October. Children and adults enjoyed games and crafts and the wonderful cupcakes made by Juana Willumsun.
- Divonne nativity play, written and produced by Stephanie and David Inglesfield which told the Christmas story through the words and sounds of the farmyard animals. The cast took advantage of all the available space in the church.
- Mothering Sunday when the children presented all the ladies in the congregation with flowers.

Divonne Sunday Club leaders have exciting plans for the coming year.

Susan and Mollie

10-13 age group

Hi there. The 10-13 years old group meets in the little room by the front door. We normally keep the door firmly closed to keep out rampaging little ones and nosy adults; so now for the first time we reveal what goes on in our meetings! We always do some drawing or make something, because that's fun, and we base it on something that catches our interest in the week's bible story. We take it in turns to read out the bible story, and make sure we understand it, especially any obscure words. Quite often we look at the map to find places mentioned in the story. We have quite a bit of discussion as well - we are quite a chatty group - which is based on thinking about what the bible story is telling us for our lives today; we also quite often digress on to other interesting topics!

We sometimes have a hymn on the laptop - last week it was Shine Jesus Shine, which is good and has a funny clap rhythm which takes some practice. We sometimes light a candle, which is always very popular, and we always end with a short prayer to help us reflect on what we've been talking about.

That's it! If you're aged between 10 and 13 and would like to join us, come and find the little room in the church hall every Divonne Sunday!

David Inglesfield

chatfaith@360

On the initiative of Nigel, Juana and Ed, autumn 2012 saw the birth of a new La Côte group for secondary school aged youngsters. It is known as chatfaith@360 as the group meets chez Rollins whose house number is 360! So far the group has had excellent discussions around work and faith, and faith and disability. There are rumours that treats like scones are a main feature too! The group will be preparing a service for us in June.

Welcome to the Lord's Table

From January to June 2012, a Seven plus group - Annemieke, Cal, Louis, Marissa, Naomie, Sebastian and Will - met fortnightly to follow the “**Welcome to the Lord's Table**” course in preparation to receive Holy Communion. The leaders were Andrea, Heidi, Milli, Stephanie and

Terri, with the rehearsal taken by Alison. The Holy Communion family Service at which the participants received their first Communion, took place on 24th June 2012 and was a wonderful, joyful celebration attended by many families and friends. The children had prepared an altar cloth with bright, colourful images they stuck to the cloth during the ceremony. They were all presented with a Bible, and everyone was invited for delicious drinks and cake afterwards in the Parish rooms, which was very much enjoyed by all.

Andrea and Heidi

Special events in Divonne

This year we have enjoyed some special gatherings together:

- **Good Friday tea** with amazing home-made hot cross buns! Many thanks to Carolyn, Mollie and their team for setting attractive tables and serving us as we sat and enjoyed the company.
- **Summer picnic chez Chambeyron** at the end of June. Pool fun, relaxing chat and delicious pot-luck food, as ever.
- **Christmas lunch** held after the nativity play on 16th December. This was brilliant – huge thanks to Mollie, Susan and their team for preparing food, setting up and serving; to Richard for leading the carol singing; and to Gehl and Austin for the auction of the gingerbread house. Great fun all round!
- **Holy Conversations evening** with pot-luck supper held chez Chambeyron in January. It was good to meet for a time of discussion, feeding in to this important La Côte process.

Ecumenical relationships in Divonne

Julia continues to attend meetings of the local French clergy and in May gave a presentation on Anglicanism which provoked some interesting questions and discussion. Thanks to Ted who put together PowerPoint slides to accompany the session.

We held our annual joint service with our host church on 7th October. The Eglise Réformée de France is now known as the Église Protestante Unie de France, reflecting its recent merger with the French Lutheran Church. Pasteur Bernard Millet left at the end of June 2012 to minister in a church in Lyon, and it is hoped his successor will be appointed in July 2014. Our joint service was jointly led by Julia and Anne Coïdan, a retired pastor currently helping out.

On January 20th we participated in the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which was held in St Etienne – the Roman Catholic Church in Divonne. A team made up of Christians from the Protestant, Mennonite, Adventist, Pentecostal, Anglican, free evangelical and Roman Catholic traditions of the Pays de Gex led the liturgy and prayers, which had been prepared by dalit communities in India. We were welcomed by Père Felix, the new priest in Divonne, Julia preached the sermon and Laurence took part in leading the prayers. The collection was offered to local charity *Enfants de Kanji* which works to combat poverty and develop education in the south of India.

Julia



LA CÔTE COMMUNITY DAY - 2 FEBRUARY 2013

The customary delicious croissants, coffee and juice awaited us at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey as we gathered in good numbers, young and old, familiar faces and new, (69 adults and 23 children) despite the absence of a few last-minute 'flu victims. After paying our dues, pinning on our smart name badges (the forgetful ones amongst us wished we could have kept them for regular use!!) and entrusting the children to our wonderful team of leaders, we made our way to the chapel for our opening worship.

Our faithful musicians, tunelessly led by Steve, Monika and Dave, managed to calm our excitement with beautiful hymns so that Carolyn and Julia could start the service with prayer and welcome our guest speaker, the Revd Geoff Read, Chaplain of St. Nicholas' Anglican Church in Basel. He challenged us with a

lively and thought-provoking reflection on understanding God's blessings – the 'obvious' ones, those that come in disguise and the more 'awkward' ones that may nudge us out of our comfort zone. Geoff then helped us to think about how we can respond to God's blessings as a community.

The second part of the morning, led by Tim Price and Ed Kelley, was devoted to retracing the history of La Côte Church, from its beginnings in November 1986 with a monthly service in Trélex, right through to the present day, with our thriving communities in Divonne and Gingins. Peta and John Tracey, Austin Ball, Trevor Davies and others helped to fill in the details and we were then all invited to stick photos (or draw!) on a long paper 'time line' laid out on the floor, indicating the year in which we joined La Côte Church. There was, perhaps not surprisingly in view of the ever-changing nature of the local international community, quite a large empty space in the early years up until about the mid/late 1990s! From then onwards the time line got pretty crowded and the photos were good proof that our congregations welcome and embrace ALL age groups.

The lunch provided by Bossey lived up to its great reputation, with a good selection of salads, hot dishes and yummy desserts (much to the delight of the children!). This was a welcome time to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. Conversations flowed and laughter rang out through the dining room, making it hard to break up and head off to our afternoon session.

Fortunately we were quite a well-disciplined crowd, so things got underway promptly and we were soon randomly divided into small discussion groups of about 6-8. The aim was to reflect together, in the light of our morning considerations of God's blessings, and share our thoughts, stories and experiences of our recent 'holy conversations' in the overall context of our La Côte congregations. We attempted to name all these blessings, choose two or three to consider more closely and reflect on their nature and try to determine what made them possible. In recognizing how God has blessed us we also acknowledged our responsibility to reach out and bless others. Each group summarized the discussions in the form of visuals and /or short prayers of thanksgiving for blessings received and hopes and intentions for the future. These prayers were offered up in our closing Eucharist which followed.

The happy band of children and youngsters joined us and it was clear that they had had a great time, thanks to the exciting programme devised by their dedicated leaders. They shared their

thoughts and showed us their drawings, beautifully illustrating their view of God's blessings, and lit up our service with their decorated candles.

The prayers offered by the groups revealed our awareness of the many different blessings God has poured on us, but that he has especially blessed us with our two loving, caring and dedicated priests, Carolyn and Julia, who are leading us forward with inspiration and courage and fully deserve our commitment and support. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the organization of this very special and blessed Community Day! May we already look forward to next year?!!

Jean Mayer

LA CÔTE CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL REPORT

Since the 2012 AGM, the Chaplaincy Council has held nine meetings. It has concentrated mainly on two major aspects of our church life which present a challenge: to refresh the vision for La Côte church and to expand the support and engagement we provide for our young people. Monika Rawcliffe and Catherine Crocoll announced their decision to step down from office at the 2013 AGM. The Council is grateful to them for their valuable contribution and commitment.

Youth ministry. Following the 2012 AGM, the Council looked into the possibilities of funding a youth minister in order to strengthen and build our youth work at La Côte. A Youth Work Group, reporting to the Council, was subsequently formed, and met to discuss various initiatives. It recommended working towards our goal in three phases: in the first instance look for short-term help immediately, secondly, hire a local part-time youth intern for one year, and ultimately, appoint a full-time youth leader on a 3-year basis once the budget allowed. While there was insufficient pledge commitment to support a full-time youth leader, there were enough funds available initially for a part-time intern, who could be hired for a year to focus mainly on developing our existing Sunday Club groups in both churches, and lead activities for the 14 plus age group. In addition, about SFr.1,800.- had been raised from the Christmas lunch at Divonne to go towards the youth work fund. In the meantime, our young people are encouraged to participate in some youth events organised by other churches. The Council agreed to subsidise part of the cost for 15 young people aged 11 to 19, attending a camp at the Centre Bessonaz, in March 2013. A total of SFr.600.- was allocated from the La Côte youth work fund for this purpose.

Envisioning process. Since the newly elected Council came together in May 2012, members have worked together to refresh our vision and priorities as a church. This process, called "Holy Conversations" started in the Council and spread out into the wider congregation. At its September 2012 meeting, the Council decided on criteria for a team of people who could help with planning this process. This first met in October 2012, to open up the picture of La Côte and discuss how to encourage people to become involved in this strategic review or "holy conversation". A good number of ideas emerged and the Council was kept up to date with these discussions. This first team focused on three ways of helping our members to join in: through the Weekly Bulletin questions and tools of enquiry, through small group studies spending a session discussing some questions, and our Bossey Community Day. There was a significant amount of data and input from the groups and discussions at Bossey, and these will be extracted and the outcome worked through. Proceeding to the next stage, Council decided to nominate a sub-group to act as a development team: to refine what has emerged, and submit to the Council draft ideas on priorities. Following the February 2013 Council meeting, this team looked at feedback from the conversations, and the prayers, and discussions which emerged from the Bossey Community day. They categorised which was visionary, which strategic and which was a "quick win": what should

we stop, start or do more of. The idea is not to create a "consumer culture" but fellowship, and lead towards the creation of a vision statement.

At its December 2012 meeting, the Council formally agreed to ensure that this discernment process is turned into some clear priorities and goals for the next three to five years. This may involve others, but it is the strategic responsibility of the Council to make sure that these are carried out. The focus on the 'growth' aspect of our church life should be to look at both the individual 'flavours' of the congregations, giving space for each to grow, while recognizing that we are stronger when we pull together in other areas of community life. The Council acknowledged that Carolyn deserved the credit for initiating this process and persisting with it, and that our community should not lose touch with our history. Carolyn thanked the Council for coming along on the journey.

Finances & Treasurer. In 2012, the budget was balanced. Collections had risen, possibly because some people preferred to contribute in this way rather than to pledge. However, a large deficit was predicted for 2013 and some fundraising may be needed. The Council is looking into plans for this. Philippe Chambeyron notified the Council that he would resign as La Côte Treasurer after having held the post for many years, once a successor is established. The council is pleased that someone has volunteered to take on this key role, who would initially observe the work as Treasurer but would only take it on officially, with oversight from the finance group, from January 2014. The Council decided to ask Philippe if he could to retain involvement for another year.

Support for host church. Individual members of the Divonne congregation decided to contribute on a voluntary basis towards the cost of refurbishment work on the wall around the Divonne church. The aim is to raise 20% of the cost (€4,000.-), or more.

Christmas programme 2012. This was very successful, with many new people attending. The Council acknowledged that options should be explored regarding alternative timing and venues for the heavily attended Christmas services, especially those at Gingins at 4.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day at Divonne. Various suggestions were made, including the possibility of holding a midnight service. In 2013, the programme of services should be well publicised in advance, using the Bulletin and flyers.

Communications. The new website has been set up but more experienced support is needed.

Charity Projects The Council approved unanimously the Social Action team's proposal to support the Christian Aid Afghanistan Project for a period of three years, and decided that there should be a fixed time limit for projects supported by La Côte in the future. However, individuals are free to support other smaller projects of their choice.

Val Geschonke, Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council

SWISS ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD

La Côte Anglican Church is one of the chaplaincies in the Swiss Archdeaconry, in the Diocese in Europe. Our church representatives are Catherine Crocoll and Val Geschonke. Two meetings are held every year. The first to be held after our 2012 AGM was on 23 June at Montreux. The main item on the agenda was an address by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell on the theme "Internet of the Spirit and what have e-mails to do with the Spirit?" For this, he took the 3 C's – Communion, Community and Communication. Just as the Internet networks us, all these words mean being part of the world around us. A person is an individual,

but also stands in relationship with others; where we live, work, worship, family, friends. By praying for others we bring them into the community of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Of course, we think of the Holy Communion, but the Bible is full of examples of communion and community. Paul wrote to the communities in Asia Minor. We speak of the communion of saints. The New Testament quotes the vine and the branches: one grows from another, just as we cannot exist without others. Long before the Internet networked us, society recognised that we are bound together. On a practical level, modern technology brings with it the loss of personal contact. E-mail is a flat communication: no voice, no body language: a message sent cannot be retracted. We must show and practise the art of loving; our love of God, love of our neighbours in our daily communion, community and communication with them. That is the Internet of the Spirit.

The afternoon session was mostly devoted to a short presentation by Cynthia Gunn, Ecumenical Accompanier at the World Council of Churches, on the work of this group. Cynthia Gunn has been particularly involved in ecumenical work in Palestinian/Israeli sectors, helping Palestinians whose lives have been disrupted by the conflict, supporting peace initiatives, safeguarding children on their way to school, etc. On the business side, the motion submitted to the Diocese in January regarding more authorisation for lay ministry was not accepted by Diocesan Office, on the grounds that our Diocese was already well covered with ordained clergy and licensed lay readers. Finances were in order and reports were submitted, among others, on the Choir Festival, the Retreat, SACEP events, and relations with the Old Catholics. The Synod approved the transfer of €200.- per month to St. Paul's Church in Athens, to be reviewed every six months, in order to help the chaplaincy in its efforts to mitigate some of the hardships due to the financial crisis suffered at present by many people in Greece. It made the payment six times in 2012.

The next synod was held at St. Ursula's, Berne, on 19 January 1913. The start of the year means approval of accounts and budget. Income for 2012 amounted to CHF 24'093, made up of the quotas paid by the chaplaincies, based on the percentage distribution used by the Diocese for chaplaincy payments direct to the Common Fund. Zurich, for example, as a big community, pays more than Lugano. Outgoing sums include the Archdeacon's expenses and a contribution to the Berne chaplaincy for the time the Archdeacon spends on archdeaconry business; payments into the SAMTS Fund for further education courses for clergy and readers; sums to cover any deficit on archdeaconry events such as Retreat, Choir Festival and other miscellaneous expenses. The synod voted to continue the archdeaconry's monthly donation to the Greater Athens Chaplaincy in 2013.

The new structure of the Diocese with four free-standing archdeacons is expected to come into force in January 2014. This means that there will still be an Archdeaconry of Switzerland, but the Archdeacon will also be Archdeacon of France, with residence in Nice. Day-to-day business in Switzerland will be handled by an Area Dean. Further reports covered our financial participation in the Old Catholics programme, Partner Sein, our relations with the Old Catholic Church and the AGCK (Swiss National Council of Churches) of which Adèle Kelham was President in 2011 and 2012, and Sara MacVane's course on Godly Play.

In the afternoon, our Bishop addressed the synod on the theme of a vision for chaplaincies. Do we aim for unity, open-mindedness, an outward-looking atmosphere? Do we listen to people's opinions? Do we share our faith, have a mission? How are we doing in the place where we are? This is what the Bishop called the DNA of a chaplaincy. Bishop Geoffrey answered questions about the acceptance of clergy in civil-partnerships as bishops and also the issue of women bishops. Discussions on both these issues are continuing at various levels.

Miriam Keller, Archdeaconry Lay Secretary, **Catherine Crocoll**, **Val Geschonke**



Wednesday Bible Study Group

The Wednesday evening Bible Study group has been meeting every two weeks during term-time at the Traceys' home in Coinsins. Most of those who come attend La Côte services, 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 - some have questions or insights to share, others prefer to simply listen – but our common aim is to grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

Over the past year we have studied 'Tokens of Trust', by Rowan Williams, and then – finding that this book was better suited to personal study than a group - moved on to the Book of James, following a recommendation by the Tuesday morning group. We are grateful to Ken Kvistad for providing the study guide and getting us started.

As we all know, groups have a natural lifespan and after 12 years, this house group in its present form is winding up at the end of June. We have found over the past year that a mid-week evening meeting on such a frequent basis is proving harder to maintain than it used to be, with increased absences both by those attending and ourselves as hosts. We greatly value the fellowship, fun and spiritual nourishment we have enjoyed over the years and hope to host one-off meetings or short-term courses (such as Lent and Advent) in the future.

This idea has been encouraged by the enthusiastic response to this year's ecumenical Lent study, based on Tom Smail's book *"Windows on the Cross"*, provided by Carolyn and other pastors from English-speaking churches in the Geneva area. Our group has greatly expanded (15-20) for this five-week study and our thanks go to the Senogles for sharing the hosting and to Carolyn, Ken and Chris Potter for leading three of the sessions.

John & Peta Tracey
tracey.p@bluewin.ch

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

During the last year the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group has met regularly, twice a month. The size of our group fluctuates between 6 and 9 members on account of travelling and the fact that one of our members has a home in two continents. Our discussions are also enriched by having the participation of a member of another denomination. The group is not only about studying. We also pray together, talk to each other over a good cup of tea or coffee, and simply enjoy each others' company. Ken Kvistad regularly facilitates our group.

Following an earlier decision to focus on the Bible proper, we first studied the complete **Book of James**. Thereafter, we chose the **Books of Peter**, drawing as resource material, amongst other things, on the Thomas Wright's guide books. For Lent, we have interrupted this study to take up, as other groups in our region, **Windows on the Cross** by Tom Smail. 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.

Machteld Kelsey

PRAYER GROUP

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 Wetzel, Carolyn Cooke, Janet Sidney, Ted Talbot.

PASTORAL CARE AT LA CÔTE

There are currently at least 15 members in the pastoral care group, with many others contributing care and support on an informal basis. We recognise that this is often how pastoral care works out in practice, as networks of friendships and fellowship develop. In November we met to discuss the communications between us, so that situations of crisis do not go unnoticed. We looked at different models, such as dividing the larger group into smaller ones based on geographical location, and web page models that we had heard about from different contexts. We agreed to look at the La Côte database as a way of developing a list of current members and their ways of belonging to our community, and looking at a network-based way of working as a team. We continue to offer a time of private prayer after the Gingins services. We are committed to showing the love and care of God to all those who we meet, through practical help, time to talk, and prayer support.

Julia

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

This group meets a few times a year, chez Chambeyron in Divonne, to pray, using different resources and liturgies, and to discuss 'Spirituality Workbook' by David Runcorn. Meetings are quiet and reflective, often yielding profound observations and fellowship, and are open to members of both congregations. The group met in March to discuss format and future meetings.

Julia

SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

Local involment

Support to asylum seekers

We have continued to be involved with asylum seekers in the following ways:

1. Offering lifts and welcoming them to our church services, and related activities
2. Gardening project
3. Helping them look for work, part-time jobs, and assisting them to find accommodation
4. Helping them to remain positive - through friendship and leisure activities together e.g. cycling, inviting them to meals at our homes

Gardening Project

During the summer months around 25 asylum seekers from the shelters at Gland and Begnins participated in working a vegetable garden in the grounds of La Ligniere Hospital, Gland. Four members of La Cote helped alongside some Swiss volunteers. The aim was to provide a meaningful activity, a small income, and build bridges between us and them. Although at times the project was challenging due to the transient nature of the asylum population, we felt enriched through the friendships which developed and the insight we acquired into the lives and problems of these vulnerable people.

Moving on in their lives

Several asylum seekers from Eritrea (country of grave human rights abuses by the government and secret police) have been granted full asylum by the Swiss authorities, or the right to temporarily remain in Switzerland. These include Feshi, Ermias, and Biniam (all of these have attended our church from time to time).

FUNDRAISING

Quiz night 2012

La Cote's 7th. annual quiz night took place on 17th. November 2012 in the Salle Alinghi in Coinsins.

There were eleven teams competing against each other. Competition was fierce as the teams tried to outdo one another. The questions posed by quizmasters David and Warwick ranged from trivial to obscure - many of the answers did too!

At the end of the evening a new team " The Infamous Five" were declared the winners and were presented with the prized shopping vouchers.

The evening raised SF2'384,- for the chosen charities which were Christian Aid UK, Thembelihle home for abandoned children and Ikweni handicapped rehabilitation centre South Africa, and the Mama Masai women's empowerment project in Tanzania.

CHARITIES SUPPORTED AND VISITED

Margaret Owen visited three South African Projects in November 2012, which La Côte Church have supported over the last six years

Bethany Home (birth to 6 years) – Mthatha, situated on the edge of Ikwezi Lokusa Township

It was a timely visit for me (Margaret) and my friend Lore Hyatt - United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) as a new Director, Pumza Khwitshana had recently arrived at Bethany Home and we had a very good contact and discussions with her. She seems to be a very active person with some new ideas for more interaction for the children. Thanks to funds received just before Christmas from UNWG she will be starting an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme for the children. Sadly interaction for the children is very much lacking as there are so many (78) that need attention but not enough staff to be able to provide individual care. We wish Pumza every success



in implementing her ambitious ECD programme during 2013. We saw twins, a boy and a girl, whose mother died giving birth to them and 3 other older siblings who are also now at Bethany as the father is unable to take care of all his children until they are a little older but he visits them regularly. This is one of the sad realities of this very poor region of the Eastern Cape as many mothers are dying so young.

Thembelihle Home – Mthatha in the centre of town

Lore and I had a very encouraging visit to Thembelihle Home and we were welcomed by Pumeza Mqhayi who has been the Director since 2004. She is also a qualified teacher and teaches on the premises with the help of another teacher. Many of these children are not allowed off the premises of the home because they are under police protection due to abuse prior to their arrival at Thembelihle. Pumeza is really amazing and in spite of the obvious suffering of many of these young children she has been able to bring joy and laughter into their lives. We could not cease to be amazed at the joyful atmosphere of this home where there are presently 25 children from 6-16 years. Pumeza showed us the bathroom which was in a pitiful state and mentioned that her next project was to renovate it and add a shower for the children. Thanks to funds raised at the Quiz Night on 17 November and additional private funds this renovation has just been completed as you will see from the attached photo she sent.

Ikwezi Lokusa Rehabilitation and Development Society – Ikwezi Lokusa Township

Our visit to Ikrehab for the disabled from 16-20 years was also very encouraging and it warmed our hearts to see what Sister Gabriel from Canada has been able to do for these young adults. Most of them had attended the special school for the disabled on the Ikwezi Lokusa complex. They seemed to be well taken care of and also earn some money by selling their handmade goods. It gives these young adults the opportunity to learn a trade giving them a sense of worth and dignity. There are 60 students who are working in a very nice environment and are mildly disabled and are taught



in 4 sections, either pottery, sewing, crafts or leatherwork. Recent funds from the Quiz Night were used for materials needed in the various workshops which Sister Maria acknowledged with thanks.

A word of thanks Finally since this is the last time La Côte Anglican Church will be supporting these South African projects I wish to thank all of you for your contribution by aiding these South African charities through Quiz Nights and other events since 2006. Many thanks especially to Peta Tracey for proposing the Quiz Nights which have been so successful and so much fun. Many thanks also to Liz and David Bramley, Warwick Forster, Dieter Heye and all the Quiz Night team for organizing this truly inclusive evening, 10-90 odd years, and all of you who have helped with so many successful fund-raising events in favour of these projects during the last 6 years.

Margaret Owen

Visit to Mama Masai Groups

In August I visited the Mama Masai groups in Tanzania and helped with a business skills training for half of them. They are very grateful for the support from La Cote which has enabled the literacy classes, the mobile libraries, and now the business skills training – all very useful in making them less dependent on outside support. I think one can say that approximately 50% of members (125 out of 250) have achieved functional literacy, and all have improved their level.

There are visible changes - in the environment (negative) and in people's attitudes and capacity (very positive). Most noticeable is the women's commitment to keeping their children in school and providing for their welfare in other ways. The group of volunteers (FTF Fair Trade Friends) who help MM to market their products report that their turnover of sales of MM products was by far the best ever.

Joy Stephens

A new venture for La Côte with Christian Aid, supporting a project in Afghanistan

After discussion at Social Action group and council meetings, it was decided that La Côte would seek a partnership scheme with Christian Aid. The reasons include:

- La Côte benefits through connections to wider church and global picture;
- Excellent, regular updates to engage our community;
- Screening of projects already carried out;
- Assurance that money will be used in a responsible way.

Many thanks to Sandra Barnes who explored options with Christian Aid's Church Fundraising Officer and took up the opportunity for us to support the 'Afghanistan Women's Literacy Project.' This will run over a period of 3 years during which La Côte will donate the equivalent of 5000 pounds sterling, which will be tripled by EU matched funding.

La Côte will continue to support other specially chosen charities, and emergency disaster funds, as well as the Christian Aid project. Our charitable giving will continue to come from both our budget and our fundraising events. For details of our income and allocation of funds to charities and projects over the year, please refer to the financial report.

For more details about Christian Aid please visit www.christianaid.org.uk or contact one of our Social Action group members. Our relationship with Christian Aid opens up many possibilities. For example, a number of us also contributed to the Present Aid Scheme around Christmas. The first donation was worth £270, and the second £139 (total approx. SFr. 585). Using an envelope system, we chose to buy gifts such as first aid kits mosquito nets, wormeries and school books. Small amounts of money therefore made a big difference to the livelihood of families and communities in the developing world. For a breakdown of the details, please contact Joy or Sandra.

Julia Chambeyron

RAISING AWARENESS

This third part of our focus as the social action group has partly taken place this year in the context of our worship and hearing from speakers who work in development. In addition a small number of our congregation met informally to discuss how we can encourage awareness and engagement by our community on current important issues. This is to be an informal network of interested people, and may result in “issue papers” for people to read about current issues. The first of these has been the Lenten Climate Challenge which Duane Poppe has produced and which has provided a focus each week in our worship to think about our carbon footprint.

Carolyn Cooke

MUSICAL DROP-IN



In 2012, Musical Drop-Ins chez Ted Talbot took place every first Sunday of the month except January and August with numbers varying from the 20's to occasionally over 50! These events have now been running for just over 5 years without a break and the format is always the same – live music varying from the classics, opera, musicals, songs of the 60's & 70's, street ballads of Paris, jazz – even karaoke! In short - whoever Ted can persuade to come and sing or play round the fire, round the pool, on the terrace. The tagline hasn't changed either:

“The idea is not just to provide great live music, but to create an opportunity to meet old and new friends, invite neighbours, or merely relax in pleasant company“.

Ted likes to think that by this outreach through food, wine, music and convivial company, from time to time, a helping hand has been offered, a nudge towards church and faith given, a gap filled.



LA CÔTE SONG GROUP



The Song group lead worship on a monthly basis in Gingins and especially support some of our festive services, such as Christmas and Easter. Practice sessions take place under the competent direction of Harold Corrigan at the piano, and he and his wife Margaret, (to the left of the picture) put in a lot of effort to make them successful and enjoyable events, which are held at their home. Performances in Church are a real asset to our worship and our warm thanks go to them. An extra highlight early this year was at the Musical Drop In, "Around the world in 80 minutes", singing lots of well-known favourites from near and far.

LA CÔTE HIKING GROUP

The Group meets on the last Saturday of each month. The walks are mainly local, lasting two to three hours, usually in the morning. We plan a few all-day longer walks or outings and started the 2013 season with a really memorable trip to Château d'Oex for the Hot-air Balloon festival. Our list of participants is growing and we give details in the La Côte Bulletin the week prior to the outing.



For more information contact Mollie at: mollie.lufkin@free.fr