



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

ANNUAL REPORT



Focus on youth - our future

Christian communities
in
Gingins and Divonne

www.lacotechurch.ch



INTRODUCTION

Looking back to our AGM last year, we were drawing together the findings of our La Côte Church envisioning process which we called “Holy conversations”. The outcome of the process was to set some strategic priorities and to draw up a mission statement. Here is our mission statement as a “work in progress”. We recognise that it will need reviewing and refining as we evolve as a community so that it can continue to reflect our identity and purpose.

La Côte Anglican Church is a community of Christians committed to growing together in love for God and for our neighbour.

The statement answers the questions “‘Who’ are we?” and “What are we here for?” The words and phrases have been chosen in light of our envisioning process, picking up on what emerged as important to us in terms of our identity. In particular we note: “our **Anglican** framework”, “the importance of **community**”, “being **committed to our church life**”, “sharing **together**”, “our spiritual **growth**”, “deepening our **love for God**” and “**love for our neighbour**”.

This year’s annual report seeks to record “**how**” we have sought to fulfil this mission statement over the last year. The report is structured under four headings which cover most areas of our church life:

As a worshipping community
As a learning community
As a caring community
As an outward-looking community

In addition, there is a Chaplaincy Council Report and in a separate document, you will find financial statements prepared by our Church Treasurer. We are very grateful to the Council and Treasurer, who oversee the strategic and operational aspects of our church life, for their hard work and commitment.

We have much to celebrate this year. We have taken some risks, stepped out and pulled together, and tried some new initiatives. We have also continued to consolidate our church life with regular worship, prayer, learning and seeking ways of reaching out. Before diving into the details of the report I would like to draw attention to some of the highlights and challenges.

LA COTE AUTUMN FAIR As a community we were delighted with the Autumn Fair on 28 September in Crassier. A significant number of our community pulled out the stops under the able leadership of Christina Majakari and Sharon Senogles, to hold this event. It raised over 10, 000 Swiss francs and brought many of us together as a community to celebrate our diverse talents.

A NEW FRENCH ASSOCIATION Another key step in the life of our community has been the newly formed French La Côte Association 1901. This is an association culturelle, the first step before proceeding to the 1905 association cultuelle, which will give La Côte church equal status in France alongside other churches. Both these administrative and legal steps will open up opportunities for making ourselves known in the Pays de Gex area.

WORSHIP In terms of our worship over the year, individually we may remember particular services we have found helpful. Both congregations enjoyed special Christmas services, in particular the new carol service in Divonne and the Jazz Carols in Nyon and encouraging numbers attending all our main services during this season. We held several acts of worship in the Temple de Nyon – one at



Pentecost and one for Remembrance Sunday. These services stimulated us to think about the wider community and to turn our sights beyond our usual settings of worship. The style, content and location of these services received mixed responses from those who attended, but have certainly encouraged us to reflect on our mission focus in the La Côte region and how we can make ourselves more accessible and visible.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES In terms of learning opportunities within our community, we have been privileged to receive teaching from Dr Clare Amos, who has led two inspiring seminars in Divonne on the gospels of Luke and of John. We look forward to further visits from her. Our small regular groups also continue to offer support and spiritual growth – so thank you to all involved in hosting and running these groups, which provide invaluable ways of getting to know each other better.

NEW ROLES I take this opportunity to also give thanks to individuals who have stepped up to offer their skills and time in new ways.

- **Mollie Lufkin** has become our ID checker as part of our safeguarding checks for children's workers.

- **Katharine Minton** took on the role of collating and sending out our weekly bulletin.
- **Vincent Coo** has gathered all the different address lists from the last few years into one new up-to-date record which he has offered to maintain.

SUBGROUPS There are a number of groups who have taken responsibility for areas of church life – to consolidate and develop what we do. So, on behalf of the church I would like to thank those involved in these groups for their work and commitment, often behind the scenes.

- **Social Action Group** – This group seeks to integrate the issues of social justice within our church worship and activity (see their report ahead). We said good bye to Sandra Barnes in November who stepped down after six years of support. Thank you Sandra for your dedication to this area of our church life and especially recently for being the liaison officer with Christian Aid.
- **Finance subgroup** With the concern at the start of the year of a shortfall of CHF 10,000, this group was set up to support the treasurer and the pledge administrator Mark Warren.
- **Development Group** This group of people has met to distill the findings from our envisioning process and to turn them into priorities which were presented to the Council for discussion and approval. The group has met recently to prepare for the discussion item for our AGM.
- **Website group** A small team of people are due to meet to discuss maintaining the website and making it more dynamic.

THANK YOU. I would at this point like to thank every person in our community and beyond who has contributed to the life of our church both in upfront ways and often unnoticed and yet equally important background ways. I would love to name you all, but I think this report would end up too long and all you readers bored! There are nonetheless a few individuals I would like to mention.

Firstly, I would like to thank our Churchwardens Liz Bramley and Austin Ball for their ongoing hard work and support of Julia and me over this last year, in an advisory role and sharing with us the responsibility of leadership for La Côte. Equally I would like to thank our Church Council for their faithful commitment. This governing body has offered essential support and guidance each month for the direction and day to day running of our church and I am very grateful to the energy and commitment our members have shown, even in the midst of very full lives. After two years, Caroline Allsopp is stepping down from Council due to increased professional demands. We thank Caroline for her contribution over these last two years.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our thanks to Philippe Chambeyron who is handing on the baton of his role as treasurer, after 11 years of loyal service. At his last official Council meeting in February he poured out the champagne to celebrate! La Côte owes a huge debt of gratitude to Philippe for the countless hours of work which he has put in to setting up an account system and then to maintaining the finances of the church over all these years. I have no doubt there have been many headaches for him in this role, but he has carried on with much grace, patience and perseverance. On behalf of our Church, may I convey our heartfelt thanks. Craig Thompson has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer, so we will be welcoming Craig onto our Council and are thankful to him for volunteering to rise to this challenging role.



Finally I would like to express my thanks to Julia for her work and ministry at La Côte, in particular for her oversight of Divonne, her pastoral role and her creative worship, preaching and teaching. Through the ups and downs of church leadership this last year I have much appreciated working together and drawing strength from her wisdom, humour and encouragement.

Carolyn

1. A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

SUNDAYS IN GINGINS



In Gingins, we have continued to enjoy a variety of services – some of them more lively and alternative – others quieter and more reflective. It is thanks to the involvement of a huge range of members that we can offer different services week by week, together with a programme of worship and learning for our children, run by a committed team of volunteers. So I would like to

express our thanks to all of you who week by week take part in our services from the practical tasks of setting up, clearing away and serving refreshments to taking part in our acts of worship. Thank you to all who have offered reflections and led worship, in particular to Chris Potter, David Bramley, John and Peta Tracey and Paul Holley. On behalf of our worshipping community our thanks go also to our team of musicians who lead us in music and song which is such an important part of our worshipping life. We are especially grateful to the song group for gathering to practice and learn new songs for special services, such as Easter and Christmas.

Highlights this year in our worship:



Baptisms – It has been a joy to baptise into our church family: Tess Valentin, (April) Mia Molnar, (May) Louis Shepherd, (July) Timothy Mayer-Franco and Aurelia Bentinck (December).

March - Easter Sunday with the church decked with spring flowers, and during which the children decorated a wooden cross with daffodils as a symbol of the risen life of Christ.

September - A renewal of baptismal vows - We also celebrated reaffirmation of baptismal vows with a special service for Katharine Minton in September this year - an opportunity for her to make a public recommitment of faith and to receive the prayers and support of our church family. (Photo?)

September - Harvest - At harvest we celebrated with a focus on the wealth of our talents and gifts, offered to God for his blessing and sharing.

Advent and Christmas On 15 December we shared in an “instant nativity” put on by our children and helpers, followed by the lighting of Christingle candles and then on for mulled wine and mince pies. The following Saturday 21 December the Jazz Carols evening was held in the former Salvation Army Church in Nyon. The audience enjoyed a home-grown production of a Christmas tale, written by Georges Mills, and performed by a cast of La Côte dramatists together with a quality performance from our jazz musicians and guest singers. On Christmas Eve large numbers of children and families gathered for the Crib service at 2.30pm. Tim Price, in a dressing gown and tea-towel told of his exciting adventure as Joseph. At 4.30pm a full church celebrated Christmas Eve communion with a focus on the lines “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight”.



Guest speakers - We have welcomed a number of guests through the year to lead us with reflections and preaching.

- An all age worship service in June with a team of youth from YWAM.
- The Feast of St Francis. Peter Illig, a former Franciscan and a member of our Divonne congregation gave an inspiring talk on the life and faith of St Francis.

- A Bossey student Revd Maxi Doss from Sri Lanka preached for us straight after Christmas on 29 December.

Services in Nyon for our whole La Côte church community. Julia has reported on these in the Divonne worship section of the report. For Pentecost we met for a family communion service in the Temple de Nyon. We met in the same church for a service of Remembrance in November – again for both our congregations.

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

March - Palm Sunday brought together the Swiss Eglise Reformée and La Côte church once again to process with the donkey and palms and then to celebrate with an All Age service of worship.

Jeune Fédéral Ecumenical service in the Bonmont Abbey. In September, the many different churches gathered for one big act of worship in the Bonmont Abbey, led in song by the Liederkranz choir. This also gave us opportunity to meet the new cohort of students freshly arrived at the Ecumenical Centre at Bossey. The service was followed by a meal which some of our church members were able to attend and gave a further opportunity to get to know the Bossey students.

Links with Bossey Following on from the Jeune Fédéral service we have had the privilege this year of welcoming into our worship three Bossey Anglican students, Revd Maxi Doss from Sri Lanka, Canon Gabriel Olanipekun from Nigeria and ordinand Sam Korn from UK. Margaret Owen coordinated their lifts to and from Bossey and we are grateful to the many members of our church who made them welcome. They certainly enriched our understanding of the challenges they face in their own churches back home. We look forward to building further links with the Bossey programme this coming year.

CHILDREN'S WORK IN GINGINS

Crèche (0-2s) – thanks to a team of mothers - we now have boxes with some wonderful toys ready for use with our very small children. Although we started off with a rota, this has petered out recently. Instead, parents tend to start with their little ones in church and take them out if and when they get noisy to go into the warm and welcoming church room where there are plenty of toys for them to enjoy.

(3-6s) – Naomi Grobéty heads up this little group using creative resources with lots of pace and variety. There are between three to five children in this group. The challenge is building up consistency as they tend to come on different weeks and so do not get to know each other – but they have lots of fun when they are there!

(7-10s) – Jane Robinson & Judith Saunders head up the coordination and resources for this group assisted by some able parent helpers each week. There are approximately ten regular children on the books with six to eight on

any given Sunday of which only two are boys. We sometimes include 3-5's when there are too few to make a class for Naomi. In terms of resources we have been trialling 'Roots' material since Sept 2013, bringing in Godly Play as alternative resource. This seems to be working well so far. The range of ages and ability can make leading the group a challenge, but the material offers scope to tailor the lesson to suit the class. Keeping the attention of the children has been much less of an issue recently, maybe due to the change of materials. We often meet in the downstairs larger room, which is more practical for crafts, and games requiring space, but the crèche can be a distraction. We are exploring the option of putting on a course for children to welcome them for Holy Communion – but this is still being discussed. Overall the group feels much improved thanks largely to Jane's commitment and superb teaching ability!

Judith Sanders

(11-13s) – Jacky and Vincent Coo head up the coordination and resources. Sessions take place Sunday, during afternoon worship, in the upper rooms of the Auberge in Gingins. Each pair of leaders has its own personal approach to the materials we use, which this past year have included the resource book "Absolutely Everything", a 3-session Advent focus linked to the minor prophets, and Family Ministry's Y-Zone series "God's Wonderful World" and "Depending on God". Attendance averages from three to six. Our young people are a delightful challenge, each having his/her own unique approach to weekly Sunday Club. As leaders, we are continually learning how to better engage them in Bible-based activities which will lead them into faith. We are attempting to do this in our sessions through Scripture, craftwork, discussion, music and play. Duane Poppe has recently retired from our leader-group and our thanks go to him for his commitment and dedication to our young people over the past years.

Jacky Coo

14s plus – The group of up to seven young people between the ages of 14-17 meets in the upstairs parish room opposite the Gingins church. We had tried a term of setting up meetings for the older youth on Sunday afternoons during evening service in Gingins. However, this did not seem to attract enough consistent numbers to create and sustain the group. This was therefore changed to Friday evening, which was seen as a more social time to relax together. The youngsters could bring their own pot-luck food to the premises: a kind of 'third space' for them to share thoughts and emotions as Christian young people in Switzerland. At some point, we hope to have an evening out, for example at the cinema. Discussion themes covered included: 1) New Year's resolutions - a fresh look at a new year. 2) Salt and Light, 3) Body image

A major sense of achievement for me this year has been building trust with these youngsters and creating a venue where they are not judged and can feel secure enough to grapple with deeper issues and feelings they are carrying.

This has involved more listening than theological input from me. However, the young people are truly starting to open up and share their lives and this has been a breakthrough for me.

Éamon Parkes



A **highlight** of our Gingsins Sunday Club was a sponsored run in September involving all ages. Twenty five children and leaders ran round the parcours in Trelex to raise money for the STEJ project. The total raised was CHF873, which was sent to pay for 11 bicycles for children in Togo to get to school.

SUNDAYS IN DIVONNE

Many thanks to all who take part in our worship, from those who read God's word, lead prayers, participate in sketches and drama, through those who get the hymn books out, set up and lock up, and on to those who put the heating on in the winter, tend the garden in the summer, and provide us with delicious refreshments all year round! The word 'liturgy' means 'the work of the people' and we all contribute in different ways to our Sunday gatherings in Divonne.

I would like to say a special 'thank you' to all the musicians who make such a difference to our services, and to those who have joined the new song group, led by Heidi and Richard. Special thanks too to those who have shared their thoughts and reflections with us during the year – Richard Hawkings, Georges Mills, David Bramley, Ted Talbot and Mike French.

Highlights this year have been:

- **Palm Sunday** last March when we turned the pews around;
- **Good Friday** when we reflected together using Stephen Cottrell's book 'The Nail,' followed by a tea with hot-cross buns;
- **Easter Sunday** and Hercule Poirot joining us for 'The Mystery of the Missing Body';
- The **youth-led service** in June on the theme of 'The Fairness of God';
- The **family service with baptisms** of Aiden Barnaud and Maeva Skinner in August;
- **Harvest Family Communion** on 22nd September with the theme 'Bring what you have.'

The Christmas season saw us very busy indeed with the following:

- Our **Advent service** on 8th December prepared us as we thought about the hymn 'O come, O come Emmanuel';
- The **nativity service with carols** on 15th December with both children and adults helping to tell the story;
- The wonderful **Christmas lunch** afterwards – huge thanks to Mollie and her team and all who entertained us with music, a quiz, readings and great fun;
- The **Candle-lit Service of Readings and Carols** in the evening of 22nd December;
- **Christmas Day Family Communion** with some big parcels for the children to open!

CHILDREN'S WORK IN DIVONNE

Crèche facilities

One of the small rooms, with rug and toys, is set aside for parents and very small children. A couple of parents are interested in having a regular crèche so we continue to work on this.

The Sunday Club groups were re-organised in July 2013 to take into account growing children:

- 5 to 8 years
- 9 to 11 years
- Chatfaith 12 + /Secondary school age.

Many thanks to all who lead our children – this is a crucial area of our mission and ministry and we cannot do it without our dedicated volunteers. Below are short reports from coordinators Mollie, Ed and Eamon.

5 – 9 years

There is an average attendance of seven children in this group. They follow the programme set out by *Roots* which follows the lectionary used in worship and provides ways to open the Bible passages and relate them to everyday life.

Three highlights of this year were: Mothering Sunday and the children giving pansies to all the ladies, the visit of Aimée from STEJ Togo in June, and



the children enthusiastically helping to sell her bags and jewellery and the guest speaker from local animal rescue centre *SOS Animaux*, followed by bake sale and visit to the centre in the afternoon.

10 – 11 years

This group is always full of energy and eager to talk and we have looked at themes such as service, 'salt and light,' and Jesus' teaching on the Law. Much of the autumn term was taken up with preparation for the nativity play where this group helped the younger children in their roles as shepherds, angels, wise men, animals and Mary and Joseph. On the day, even the congregation were participants!

We look forward to the coming months when we are planning some sessions with the chatfaith group, as well as looking at the topic – what is truth? Beware, our inner existentialists will be coming out!

Chatfaith – 12 + years

This group normally meets in the Rollins house, near the Divonne church. There can be up to eight young people between the ages of 12-15. Some themes that we have discussed between games and activities have included: 1) Fairness - Is God a fair and just? 2) Text Messaging - How do we communicate with God? 3) Holy Joker - Can Christians laugh and have fun? 4) Blind faith - what does it mean to truly trust a God you cannot see? A high point of the year was the discussion on 'Is God Fair' and subsequent all-youth service in Divonne. The group really got involved with the discussion and we had a lot of fun even with a serious topic like this.

Éamon Parkes

Tuesday Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets every other Tuesday morning at the Traceys' home in Coinsins from 09.15 to 10.30 within the framework of a short service. It lifts into the healing light of Christ those in need, around the world and known to us. The average attendance is six, and the aim of the group is Prayer: for the world, our church family, those known to us and those who have asked for prayer in confidence.

These prayers are inserted into a short service, usually taken from 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



Song Groups in both Churches

Divonne Song Group

Created in April 2012, the Divonne Song Group is now 15 members strong. Led by Richard and Heidi Hawkings, the group supported the music in the following Divonne services in 2013: Palm Sunday, Harvest Sunday, the Nativity play on 15th December and the new Candlelight Carol Service held in the evening of 22nd December. Song group rehearsals take place periodically on Sundays after the morning service. However, thanks to Mark and Christine Warren's kind hospitality, we were able to hold a more in-depth practice in their home prior to the Christmas Carol Service. We were also pleased to welcome several extra members who sang specially for that service.

Heidi

Gingins Song Group.

The Gingins Song Group meets once a month for a practice at our house. We sing in Church on the third Sunday of every month and also at important festivals, such as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We have 23 peoples on our list and on average, twelve join us regularly for practice and Church performances. Just prior to Christmas, some of our members, pictured below, sang carols in French and English at La Côte International School for an after-school group of children and some elderly people from the hospital in Gilly also joined us.



The camaraderie and fellowship is very special and we feel our singing takes second place to that. Following our practice we all appreciate sitting down together and, over a glass of wine, having a good old chat and relax. We would say that the aim of the Song Group is for us to enjoy one another, take pleasure in singing and leading the congregation - we all know that we don't have to be accomplished musicians and trained singers to do that! Last year, Harold and I were away in the UK for a good couple of months. My father had been very ill and sadly passed away in May. We were so happy that

during this period, the Song Group continued, and on our return, we were overwhelmed by the "welcome back" party organized by Mollie Lufkin. It was a wonderful evening and Harold and I felt so grateful to everyone there. Everyone had such a good time, the food was superb, the singing was great, Paul Holley's "Stop the Bus" game was a cracker, but above all, we felt surrounded by true friends.

Just a mention: we could do with a few more men - although John and Trevor never let the side down! Anyone interested? Please call Margaret or Harold Corrigan on 021.8243456.

Margaret

Extra services

La Côte met as a whole community twice this year - both times in the beautiful Nyon *temple*:

- For Pentecost, when we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit with wind machines, chemical experiments and bubbles!
- For Remembrance Sunday when we took the theme of 'Seeking God's paths of peace' and welcomed guest speaker Revd Dr Stephen Larson from the Lutheran Church.

In Divonne and Ferney..

- The joint service in November with our gracious hosts of the Eglise Protestante Unie;
- At Crossroads to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with the French churches of the Pays de Gex. The new RC bishop, MSG Pascal Roland gave the sermon.
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La Côte Community Day, 1 March, 2014



Around 65 of us (including 12 young people) gathered at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute for this year's La Côte Community Day, on the theme of "Dust and Glory: A Journey through Lent". We were led by Revd David

Runcorn, an Anglican priest and author based in the UK, who, after a morning worship service, guided us into a time of quietness and stillness before God. He spoke on Mark 6:30-32, in which Jesus invites his disciples to come away with him to the desert to rest. Revd Runcorn stressed that everyone needs moments of quiet and stillness as well as times in the “market place”, and that it was important to find a balance. Although finding a place of stillness could be difficult, Revd Runcorn explained that there were things one could do to make us more receptive - such as, finding a relaxed but alert posture, being aware of one’s breathing and praying a centring prayer. In the morning, we were given time to practise this stillness before God, either in the chapel or elsewhere on the grounds of Bossey.

After lunch, Revd Runcorn led a reflection on Psalm 103, in particular verse 14: “He knows we are but dust”, focusing on our nature as “dust”, which represents both our mortality and our participation in the eternal. In the days before Lent, he encouraged us to reflect on what it means to us to be dust, including the symbolism of the ashes in the Ash Wednesday service, and how this relates to our journey of faith in God. Some of us then discussed this together in small groups, while others opted for solitary reflection. While the adults benefitted from the calm and stillness, the young people enjoyed an interesting and full programme led by our youth worker Eamon and Louise Cox, youth worker at Holy Trinity, and with the help of Emma, Lizzie and Saskia. Our grateful thanks go to them for providing a stimulating day of fun for the younger members of our community.

At the end of the day, everyone gathered for a celebration of Holy Communion, presided by Revd Runcorn. We are most grateful to Julia and Liz for having organised this special day, and to Revd Runcorn for helping us to reflect on our journey with God. It was a special gift to us to set aside time to be still together in the midst of busy, active lives, in particular in the days just before Lent.

Heidi

2. LEARNING

Bible Study

This takes place every other Tuesday (alternating with the Prayer Group chez Tracey), from 9.30 to 11.00, chez Jacky and Vincent Coo. Until June 2013, the group met at the home of Machteld Kelsey, and our thanks go to Machteld for her faithful hospitality to the group over many years. There is regular attendance of between four and five men and six women (health permitting!).. The study is facilitated by Ken Kvistad, to whom we are very grateful. Highlights have been the "Windows on the Cross" Lenten study, detailed studies of 1 and 2 Peter, 1 Timothy and, currently, Philippians.

Jacky & Vincent Coo

Coffee and Catch-up



We meet in the parish rooms in Gingsins fortnightly on a Wednesday morning from 9h30-11h30. Our morning consists of catching up over a tea, coffee and cake (which one member of the group volunteers to bring each time) hence the name COFFEE CAKE AND CATCH UP! We then go on to discuss a topic, either we study a direct bible passage or we take a certain theme and explore it over a few weeks.

This again is led by one member of the group. We try and take it in turns to lead, but only for those who are comfortable in doing so. We try and finish with a brief prayer time. Sometimes, just one person prays, at others, several people chip in. Our average attendance is six people, though it can be as few as three or as many as eight. One of the special aims of this group is for it to be held somewhere parents are welcome to bring children, (so far mums!) Hopefully also to get a bit of time to relax and be encouraged in their faith, along with the children who have a safe place to play and tuck into the cake. We also have a regular group of little ones, and even a dog, that attend! We have been able to support each other through the long summer holidays and some of the group met on various occasions along with their children and families, just to give time to touch base and encourage each other.

One highlight has been that many of our birthdays have fallen on a Wednesday this year, so it has been a time of special celebration. We have also enjoyed studying a series of personally written testimonies following biblical themes entitled 'Trusting God' before Christmas, written by three women who call themselves 'Girlfriends in God'. We will shortly be starting a series by Richard Foster the 'Celebration of Discipline' during Lent. New members welcome but only if your birthday falls on a Wednesday!!!

Katherine and Alice

Spirituality

This group meets intermittently in Divonne to explore David Runcorn's book 'Spirituality Workbook' and to put into practise what we learned though the 'Soul Spark' course.

Evening seminars

Two evening seminars led by Dr Clare Amos have been held in the Divonne parish rooms this year, the first in May when we heard all about Luke's gospel, and the second early in December when the topic was the gospel of

John. Clare is a Biblical scholar currently working at the Word Council of Churches as Programme Coordinator and Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation. We very much appreciate Clare's knowledge, wisdom and insights and look forward to more sessions with her this coming year.

Julia

3. CARING

At the time of writing this, the themes of salt and light are much on our minds. In Matthew we hear Jesus' words to his disciples – "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world" and these are particularly relevant to our calling to seek to care for each other and for those outside our community.

We all have different networks who can offer support to us, or to whom we offer support, in times of crisis or difficulty. Often these networks overlap with our church community, and this enables us to spread the salt and light of the gospel, as well as learn from other networks and organisations. There is a rich interweaving of caring and loving relationships within our church community and around us, making care difficult to measure perhaps but apparent in the countless ways we serve others through visits, phone calls, shopping, lifts, outings, cards, e-mail messages, hospitality, prayers after church, anointing for healing.....

The challenge for us as a church is how to devise a structure for this care, which may defy structure! We would like to make access to care easy without formalizing it to the extent that it becomes off-putting. We find it often works best in the informal setting of tea/coffee times after services, at social events, in the small groups or in chance conversations during the week, but are concerned for those who may slip through the net and feel isolated.

If you would like to help us continue to think this through, please contact Carolyn or Julia – we would love to hear from you.

Julia

4. OUTWARD-LOOKING

SAS Group

Ted Talbot first started SAS in 2001. It stands for Special Activity Scene for 10 to 14 year-olds and provides fun activities and a meeting point for English speaking young people in the Nyon area. Some participants are La Côte community youngsters, others not. Up to twelve youngsters meet typically twice a month at Ted's house in Nyon between 18:15 - 20:30: sometimes for longer, or over the weekend, depending on the event.



Some themes that stand out from the SAS group are as follows: "Talent and abilities - everybody has one so find and use it", "If the online world were real-life, would you share information about yourself in the same way?", "Competition - life is about taking part", "Masks-in-Life - the identities we have and the masks we wear", "Love - what is it?", "True Friendship - How many friends do you need on social

media?" and "Bruce Almighty - What if you met God? What would it be like?"

The Highlights of the year for me have been the camping weekend in Rolle, in terms of fun, however in terms of sharing deeper feelings and issues the discussion after the Bruce Almighty clip resulted in some meaningful discussion from the younger youth of SAS

Éamon Parkes

La Cote Hiking Group



The hiking group meets regularly each month, usually on the last Saturday. In May 2013 and despite heavy rain, we enjoyed an interesting morning in the Jura led by Michel Ruffieux, a trained mountain guide. Our morning included a visit to the cheese dairy in *La Bassine*. The *Tartegnin Rallye pédestre* in July

with our two La Côte teams was great fun and a visit to *Tristan Chocolatier* in October proved a firm favourite. The calories burned off that day were soon put back on again - and more! The 2014 season was kicked off with a super enjoyable all-day trip to Château d'Oex - this becoming a regular outing for January. Lots more interesting hikes are planned for the year; details are given in La Côte Bulletin the week prior to the outing. For more information or to be included on our mailing list contact Mollie at – mollie.lufkin@free.fr

La Côte Blokes



The La Côte Blokes Group continues to attract a nice group for discussion and dinner on the third Thursday of each month, usually in Nyon. The aim is to meet socially and discuss contemporary issues related to faith and church. The average attendance is ten, but in June, more than 20 of us

met at Chris Potter's home and had an interesting discussion about the relationship between science and faith led by Richard Hawkings, a physicist at CERN and member of La Côte. As a follow-on activity for the July event a group of ten was able to tour the CERN CMS detector facility in Cessy with Church Warden Austin Ball who is the technical director. The facility and the work that is done there are both impressive. We would like encourage anyone who has interest in attending a future LCBD to contact David Cooke for more information at davidcooke.ch@gmail.com

David & Dwight

Musical Drop In



The Musical Drop-In evenings are held on the first Sunday of the month chez Ted Talbot, 28 chemin de la Combe, 1260 Nyon, with drinks and cold buffet provided, (cover charge: CHF 7.00.-). 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.

The programme since the last AGM:

- 13 June **Jazz with a Dram** with Deborah Stewart, Whiskey Ambassador
- 6 October: **Aja Lynne, vocalist & Julie Tomkins-Wagner, pianist**, Show tunes, Standards and other "join-in and sing numbers"
- 3 November: **Kirsty Griffiths and friends** - Another magical evening of classical superlatives
- 1 December **Jazzy Christmas**, featuring your favourite jazz musicians
- 2 March 14 **Karaoke** led by Karin Gabor

For a map and further information, contact Ted Talbot, tel: 022.361.04.01
E:Mail: tedtal@vtx.ch. Look out for details of future events on the website
and in the La Côte Bulletin

Social Action

The Social Action Committee met in June and discussed its aims of raising awareness of social issues, both locally and internationally. 2013 saw our church supporting the following local charities and appeals: Restos du Coeur, Mercy Ships and the Salvation Army. The international charities supported were: Christian Aid Afghanistan project, STEJ Togo project, Bishop's Advent Appeal, Relief Work in the Philippines, following the typhoon and relief for victims of the conflict in Syria.

There are fundraising events held throughout the year to provide the church with extra money to donate to chosen charities, locally and internationally. Currently, our big fundraising event is the Quiz Night in the Autumn which is usually very well attended. In the past we have used funds raised from this event to support several projects, but this year we decided to support our Christian Aid project which promotes women's health and education in Afghanistan. Other fundraising events included Sunday club groups filling chachachi jars with loose change, sponsored runs, Christmas lunch at Divonne and various sales of goods after church services in both Gingins and Divonne.

The group also felt it had an educational role to play and was not just about fundraising. The Eritrean discussion panel organised after a church service is an example of this. We have recently set up a Map of the World board to help members of our congregation to pray widely for our world - and to put names and places on the map as part of our commitment to prayer.

We continue to support our asylum seeking friends in various ways. Once a month we arrange to pick up a group who enjoy attending Gingins. They attend the All Age Worship which is more accessible. Afterwards, members of the congregation go out with them for pizza. A group of people from La Côte and Westlake have started providing English classes for asylum seekers in the la Côte area. Visits are made to the Day centre "Mama Africa" in Gland, to encourage the young men to join an English class which has been set up from 10.45 to 11.45 30 on Thursday mornings at the West Lake Youth centre known as "The Hub", opposite the train station in Nyon. We are a group of one or two trained and experienced teachers working together with some enthusiastic assistants. The aim is to provide a warm, friendly and attractive environment, different from their regular day centre, while providing English conversation and learning. We have been experimenting with various materials and now have a fairly regular group of students. The classes are interesting and fun, with all those involved gaining a lot from each other. Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome, especially

some of the men in our congregation. Contact: carolyn.cooke@lacotechurch.ch or carandlei@wanadoo.fr

Liz and Andrea

On the French side, we very much appreciate the work of *Les Restos du Coeur* who in turn are very pleased to receive our Harvest gifts and Christmas presents for local children. In June we welcomed Aimée Abra Tenu to services in both Divonne and Gingins and contributed to STEJ projects by selling craft products, a sponsored run and enabling children to attend school.

La Côte Autumn Fair

Following the forecast of a SFr.10,000 deficit in our budget for 2013, Council agreed it would be important to step out and undertake a big fundraising event during the year. Our thanks go firstly to Christina Majakari and to Sharon Senogles who took on the challenge of heading up this fair. This took place on Saturday 28 September in the Salle Communale in Crassier. It was encouraging to welcome people from all nationalities and the local Swiss community, who came along largely due to wide publicity. The fair met lots of aims: to make ourselves more visible, to build up our community, (especially with three successful craft-making sessions) and to raise the funds we needed: in total over SFr.10,000. Our thanks go to everyone who took part, to the local businesses who generously donated prizes to the Tombola, and to everyone who came to buy! Following on from this event, the Traceys hosted a very productive evening in November, to celebrate and discuss all aspects of the Fair with a view to future fund-raising activities.



Swiss Archdeaconry

Synods: 22 June 2013 and 25 January 2014

Val Geschonke and Susan Werkhoven, Lay Synod Representatives for La Côte attended the two Synods since the last AGM with our Chaplain. The summer meeting last year was held in Lausanne. Following the announcement of the retirement of Bishop Geoffrey, the Synod was informed of the procedure for the election of the new bishop. A diocesan profile was drawn up and profile requests from the chaplaincies followed a general line: equality for women, understanding Europe, more



vision and diocesan support in Europe, good pastoral care for the clergy, ecumenical links and more use of laity. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London and one outside bishop will make the final choice between three candidates on the short list. Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary, was present at the meeting to answer questions about the differences between the Diocese in Europe and other dioceses in the UK.

Revd. Canon Dr Douglas Pratt, Adjunct Professor at Old Catholic Theological Department, University of Berne addressed Synod on "Interfaith and Christian/Moslem Relations". Throughout the ages these relationships have revolved between mutual affinity, mutual antipathy and mutual enquiry. In the mid 20th century Christian churches encouraged a turnabout with dialogue between the two faiths. Several forums have been established in recent years to study relationships, interpretation of biblical and Koran texts and how to build bridges between us. Christianity and Islam are the dominant faiths in the world. Therefore we should find a mutual solution and not be influenced by anti-Islamic propaganda: rather try to see how we can all live within a common set of modern values.

The charity Partner Sein celebrated 20 years of ecumenical co-operation with other relief organisations in Switzerland. Our Archdeaconry contributes to the 38 projects it supports with a total of CHF 226'550. The Old Catholics are very grateful for our support. The Swiss Archdeaconry also continues to send €200 per month to the Athens chaplaincy to help them in their assistance to the poor and needy there. The Archdeaconry now holds CHF 3'500 on behalf of the British Charity Fund - Berne, to be used for the support of needy British citizens in Switzerland. This is part of a British Embassy fund, which has been put at our disposal. The Archdeaconry Treasurer, John Waygood, should be informed via the Chaplain if any British person known to members of chaplaincies in our Archdeaconry (or spouses and children) needs support. More money could be made available if long-term support became necessary. Roy Taylor, Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Geneva, the previous coordinator of the Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme, (SACEP), left Switzerland and Hilary Jones (Basel) will now run this programme. She asked for suggestions for workshops and received several ideas on such subjects as prayer and worship, music, young people, sexuality and bible study. The Diocesan Officer for Communication, Revd. Paul Needle agreed to come to Switzerland in May/June and something on music and creative liturgy will possibly be organized later in September.

The winter 2014 Synod was held in Bern. This was mainly business: presentation and approval of 2013 accounts and 2014 budget. The Treasurer explained that due to the level of capital at the start of 2014, it would be possible to shelter the chaplaincies from the full burden of the Archdeaconry expenditure again this year, and another deficit on capital account was proposed. This budget was unanimously approved by Synod. The funds for restructure of the diocese were not granted. There was no explanation for this. The Diocese in Europe works on a different basis from the churches in

the UK. The amount available is at present £54,000. This has been allocated to the existing Archdeacons to provide more money for administrative assistance in their chaplaincies. No further changes are foreseen for the time being.

The Synod ended with the power-point presentation showed by the Archdeacon on Safeguarding: a basic training session on awareness and an update of recent developments. Chaplaincies will hear more about this in due course.

Val Geschonke / Miriam Keller

Chaplaincy Council Report

Since the last AGM on 7 April 2013, the La Côte Chaplaincy Council has held seven meetings. Monika Rawcliffe stepped from the Council and Catherine Crocoll resigned as Archdeaconry Synod Representative and ex-officio member. Susan Werkhoven took over this role, and Charlie Whetham, became a new member. At its first meeting in May, the new Council elected Dwight Moe as Lay Vice-Chairman, Philippe Chambeyron as Treasurer and Val Geschonke as Secretary, and discussed the role and purpose of the Chaplaincy Council to enable the meetings to be used to the best effect. Sub-groups were set up to work on behalf of the Council on specific issues, such as finance and youth work, allowing the Council more time to look at the bigger view.

At its June meeting, the Chaplain presented a document setting out in an aspirational way, pictures of what the La Côte community could become. The Council responded to the document at its October meeting. The Chaplain introduced a paper entitled "I Have a Dream." which had emerged from a review of the Bossey Community Day meeting earlier in the year. The focus of the document was not concentrated solely on growth but concerned the shared values expressed and the deepening of the La Côte presence in a "growing" way. La Côte had grown to become a regional church and the Council acknowledged the need to be more accessible. The idea was to consolidate, not to split the community. Bearing in mind resources, the Council wanted to look into the possibilities of holding services elsewhere in the region, at other times, perhaps mid-week, and the availability of an appropriate location. It encouraged the Development Group and the Chaplain to investigate this.

Council also discussed the Development Group's recommendations for the top priorities for the year, determined as "Children and Youth" and "Presence". Other priority areas were identified as welcome, prayer, maintaining clergy and communication. The employment of a youth leader was an indispensable factor in the achievement of our end goals for children

and youth and the Council agreed to set up a Youth Pledge fund for this purpose. This was something new, but integral to the life of our Church. As an interim solution, Eamon Parkes, a theology graduate, joined us to assist part-time in our work with young people.



With regard to our official presence in Divonne, ("La Côte in France"), the Council looked at a report submitted by the sub-Group mandated to look into the possibility of forming an Association, to permit us to stand alongside the other churches with the same legal footing.

It discussed its findings and recommendations on the next steps to be taken. The report set out the differences between two types of Associations which could be created under French law. The goal for us would be to work towards obtaining the status of a religious Association, giving us an official presence in France and thereby also benefit from financial advantages (for example, tax rebates for French residents). Most importantly, we would gain recognition of our existence. However, Council members did not want to focus on financial and other advantages. First and foremost, we want to function as an officially recognized Church.

Georges Mills was invited to address the Council at its next meeting in October on the steps taken for the formation of a French Association. Two types of association can be created under French law: an "association culturelle" (standard), under a law passed in 1901 and an "association cultuelle" (religious) under a law passed in 1905, (whereby La Côte would have official status as a Church in France). The assemblée constitutive de l'association de La Côte Anglican Church, (the Association Founders' meeting), was the Chaplaincy Council meeting of 12 November 2013. In view of her specialist knowledge in this area, the Council elected Susan Passmore-Werkhoven as President of the French Association.

The officers of the French association are Treasurer: Georges Mills, Secretary: Dwight Moe, and those members present at the Council meeting (membres du conseil d'administration) were named as follows, Austin Ball, Julia Chambeyron, Philippe Chambeyron, Carolyn Cook and Edward Kelley. At a later stage, once approval for the 1905 religious association has also been obtained, separate bank accounts will have to be opened for each association to facilitate bookkeeping. The statutes will not have to be modified. As an officially recognized Church in France, we would be entitled to rent, buy or build premises for worship or for clergy and to employ clergy and church

staff. There could also be financial advantages for French residents, for example, tax relief for charitable giving. La Côte now has the status of an Association in France under the 1901 law, with a bank account in Divonne.

Bishop Geoffrey Rowell retired in 2013. Chaplaincies and individuals in the Diocese in Europe were invited to express their views on the style of leadership and other attributes and qualifications they would like to see in the new Bishop. The Chaplain commented that the Diocese in Europe was growing, in contrast to the situation elsewhere and should not be seen as a backwater.

At each meeting, the Council looked at the state of the church's finances. A key point was the improved position noticed from the end of April. The situation was looking stark at the last AGM, but a pick-up had continued. Receipts from the Autumn Fair proved necessary to bring our annual income up to required levels: (it made over SFr.10,000.-). A strong note of support was made to all involved in the Autumn Fair and special thanks were expressed for Christina Majakari and Sharon Senogles for their leadership.

Lexa Nicholson, a member of the finance sub group was invited to address the Council. She reported that the group had looked at the Church Budget in the light of the outcome of the Holy Conversations. The Group considered that the community did not understand the subject of church finances as well as it should, and that we should be clearer about expenditure. The Finance sub-group had recommended that the previous Youth Work pledge fund should not be separated from the global pledged income, given that youth work was an integral part of the Church's mission. The Treasurer stressed that there were areas of the church's mission which remained unfulfilled, because we have had to be cautious with finances. In 2014, we want to bring youth work into the mainstream of what we fund. The Budget will plan for a small deficit. However, the balance sheet for the year ending 31 December 2013 showed that accumulated funds had grown steadily allowing us to take on an extra challenge. It is a leap of faith - with a soft landing because the Church has reserves and can support this. Fundraising activity is also planned. This would be a visionary Budget for 2014, which was approved by the Council.

Caroline Allsopp announced her intention to step down as a Council member at the 2014 AGM. The Chaplain thanked her for her contribution during her two years of service. She also acknowledged the engagement of Philippe Chambeyron, our Treasurer for eleven years, in continuing with this work until a successor was found. Dwight Moe, Lay Vice-Chairman, stated that Philippe had been the rock of our Church and on behalf of the Council, thanked him for his contribution to the work of La Côte, which had been beyond measure.

Val Geschonke

Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council