

LA CÔTE
Anglican Church



DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



ANNUAL REPORT
TO LA CÔTE AGM 2015

Christian communities
in
Gingins and Divonne

www.lacotechurch.ch



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Highlights of La Côte Church life 2014

As we look back on the year of 2014, may I remind us of our mission statement:

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

When and how has this statement rung true for you over this last year at La Côte Church? I wonder how many of us would be able to quote our mission statement and explain it to a newcomer? As we review the year we have much for which to give thanks in terms of our community life, our worship and our governance, (detailed in this report). We have also made some positive steps forward with respect to our strategic priorities of developing both our Youth programme and our Presence. Below are the main outcomes:

1. Children and youth

Calen Gayle was appointed in June 2014 and started work in September 2014 as a paid part-time youth worker. Calen has also been getting to know the youth across the chaplaincy, seeking to understand the issues they are facing and to support them in their journey of faith and growth. He is involved with our young people, generally from 10 years old upwards, especially through three groups: **Sherbert** for the older youth, **SAS** for the 10-14s and **Chatfaith**, - the older youth in Divonne. Calen has also been running a **Holy Communion class** in the spring term a small group for older children, (10-14s) who are interested in preparing to take Communion. This normally take place in Gingins during the afternoon services.

2. Presence

In Divonne, our presence has taken the form of continuing to establish our French Association and legal presence in the area. In addition we have run four thought provoking and well-received Lenten seminars, each one facilitated by experts in their particular field. These have both made our presence felt in Divonne and provided rich learning opportunities for our church members and for the wider English speaking community.

In Nyon, a mid-week group has been set up called "Thursday Space". This is held in an accessible room, five minutes' walk from Nyon train station and from a large car park. It seeks to offer a Sabbath moment. First there is a shared time of fellowship over a bowl of soup or pizza, followed by a mix of Bible study, book discussions and evening prayer.

Across the region the life of our small groups has continued to thrive. These are part of our "presence" in the region, offering accessible space and friendship and in some settings more focussed opportunities to deepen our faith during the week.

- Tuesday morning Bible Study group in Chavannes de Bogis
- Tuesday morning Prayer group in Coinsins
- CCC – Coffee, cake and catch up Wednesday morning in the Gingins Salle
- Thursday evening La Cote Blokes' Dinner (monthly) in Nyon
- Song groups meeting near Gingins, in Luins and in Divonne after the service

- Musical Drop-In on the first Sunday of the month in Nyon
- Hiking group – usually on Saturdays generally across the La Côte region.

The La Côte Church Website is another tool to develop our presence in the region. In March of this year the old website was transferred to a new host based in Switzerland which will be easier to manage. A small group are in the process of working out how to manage the content and the technical side of the website, with the assistance of M. Olivier Froidevaux.

Highlights for La Côte Worship

Easter Celebration- We held our Easter Sunday celebration in the village church in Crassier at 10am, bringing together the two congregations of Divonne and Gingins for a family Communion Service followed by an apéro and an Easter Egg hunt. We are looking forward to doing the same this coming year.

Confirmation Service – Seven of our church members were confirmed on June 22nd 2014. We welcomed the Episcopal Bishop Pierre Whalon from Paris who took the trouble to come out to Gingins to confirm our candidates. In addition the group of confirmands, were able to meet him the day before, for an honest and searching group discussion about the confirmation step.

Jazz Carols – We held the annual jazz carols concert in the Catholic Church in Nyon. Around 150 guests enjoyed an evening of lively, innovative jazz and carols together with dramatic readings on the history of Christmas celebrations.

Teaching seminars. Dr Clare Amos has led some inspiring teaching sessions, in particular opening up the gospels and also addressing the question of interreligious dialogue with a focus on the Middle East.

Bossey Day – This was a very successful community day in terms of spiritual refreshment and building our community.

Highlights for La Côte Community

Autumn Fair – La Côte Autumn Fair took place in Founex on Saturday 27 September. It was a beautifully crafted event, ably led by Christine Buhler and Christina Majakari, with a team of over 60 taking part throughout the day. It was an excellent venue in terms of the facilities it offered and the layout. Around SFr.13,000.- was raised overall. We are looking forward to the third Autumn Fair to take place on 26 September 2015. This is a key opportunity both to build our community and presence and to raise much needed funds for our church.



Music at the Autumn Fair

Quiz night – this annual event took place in Coinsins and drew 15 competitive teams. With a great range of questions, delicious refreshments and good company, the event

raised SFr.2,838.- for the Christian Aid Charity to empower women in Afghanistan, supported by La Côte Church was last year.

A Sponsored sporting event – some of our church members together with a group from the asylum seeking community gathered in Gland for a sponsored walk, run or cycle ride, followed by a picnic. SFr.1,745.- was raised for our work with asylum seekers.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is happening informally among church members, but is often unnoticed and difficult to measure. We care for each other in countless ways, for example through visits, phone calls, shopping, lifts, outings, cards, e-mail messages, hospitality, prayers after church, anointing for healing and of course, holding each other in prayer. Equally, we recognise that we have different networks for giving and receiving care within and beyond our church community. The challenge for us as a church is how to devise a structure for this care, which may defy structure! While care often works best informally, we are concerned for those who may slip through the net and feel isolated. There is also a need to share the burden of care with a wider group of people, to prevent those few members of the church actively involved taking on too much.

A group of those people met on 5th March and agreed on some definitions of pastoral care within the church context. The group also talked about what is already being done, with the aim is to build on that care. Finally, the group discussed some practical ways forward. Three clear aims emerged:

- a. a coordinator is required for each of the two geographical areas of Divonne and Gingins,
- b. a pool of volunteers who would be happy to give someone a lift, do some shopping or make a meal or simply drop by for a cup of tea. This would be a way of broadening the practical care,
- c. extension of the group praying for people after church, at Gingins.

If you would like to know more, please talk to Machteld Kelsey or Peta Tracey.

Carolyn

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Divonne worship highlights

Many thanks to all those who take part in Sunday worship in many ways – readings, prayers, music, welcome, refreshments and clearing up. Very special thanks to Ray Gregory, Georges and Philippe for maintaining the garden throughout the year, and to Alison, Georges, Philippe and Dwight for offering practical help in setting up for services.



Highlights of this past year have been:

- **Pentecost Family Communion** during which Finnbar, Louis, Thomas and Zoë received Holy Communion for the first time. We used our breath, 'fire' streamers of red and orange, and water-filled containers to think about the different ways the Holy Spirit acts.
- **'Rentrée' Family Communion** at the end of August when we prepared for the new beginnings which September offers. The children came forward to have their hands anointed with oil as a blessing on the work and play of the new school year ahead.
- On 14 September we celebrated **Creationtide**, focusing on the theme 'Community and Creation.' Sarah French talked to us about her work with A Rocha, especially informing us about community-based conservation projects.
- On 12th October we held our **Harvest Family Communion** service which took the theme of 'Sharing, Giving, Thanking' through the story of Zaccheus. Ed Kelley made a great Zaccheus and he got the children involved in piling up too much stuff around him!
- **Remembrance Sunday** on 9 November was very special this year as the focus was the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. We used materials published by the Royal School of Church Music and it was a great team effort with many involved in the readings, the song group leading wonderful music, and Mike French guiding us through.

The Advent and Christmas season was great!

- **Nativity play and carols** on 14 December when our children and young people performed 'Ready, Steady, Christmas!' directed by Ed, Calen and Peter C. It was a super re-telling of the Christmas story. During the service we also welcomed baby Layla Selby with her parents Adam and Nathalie, and gave thanks together for her safe arrival.

After the service 80 of us enjoyed a fabulous **Christmas lunch** with delicious food, fun entertainment and community singing, with proceeds donated to StandProud.

- **Christmas Readings and Carols by Candle-light** on 21st December again drew a full church and we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies together afterwards.
- **Christmas Day Family Communion** with an attendance of 120! We took the theme of treasure in our talk and prayers and every family left with a silver or gold star to treasure over the Christmas period and beyond.

One of the highlights so far in 2015 has been.

- **Joint service with the Eglise Protestante Unie** on February 15th. It was a great pleasure to meet Pasteur Daniel Oh, who prepared and led the liturgy. Carolyn shared in celebrating the Eucharist with him and I offered a sermon on the Transfiguration, which was the theme of this special joint service.



We also took the opportunity to launch a joint Lent appeal for a crèche project in Morocco. We have all been given money jars to collect our contributions during Lent. The jars will all be collected after Easter and donated to this worthwhile project.

This past year we have very much appreciated hearing reflections from Richard, Heidi, Mike French and David Bramley. We have enjoyed some dramatic readings and sketches. I also offer particular thanks to all our musicians. We have seen growth in the song group and have very much enjoyed their contributions to special services at Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. Thank you so much to Heidi and Richard for coordinating the group.

La Côte strategic priorities in Divonne

'Children & Youth' and 'Presence'

With a smooth-running Sunday Club and with Calen focusing on the youth in La Côte overall, I was keen to reflect on how we could be more 'present' as a church community on the French side of the border. One of the ways of being officially 'present' was through setting up the 1901 and 1905 *associations*. The officers of the 1901 *association* have summed up progress as follows:



A number of activities and events were held in 2014 under the aegis of the French 1901 'association culturelle'. These include the annual cake sale held in Divonne in July, with the proceeds going to StandProud and STEJ Togo, two charities we regularly support; a special collection made in August to support Médecins sans Frontières in providing relief to the victims, of war atrocities in Iraq and Syria – including Christian minority groups; and the annual Divonne Community Christmas lunch in December, with the proceeds going to StandProud in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

To follow up on this first step towards formalizing our community's presence on the French side of the border, we are now working on a request to the authorities to obtain the status of a Worship association - 'association cultuelle' – which would entitle us to collect contributions towards the running costs of our worship activities in the Pays de Gex and ultimately invest in premises, should this one day prove timely and desirable. It would also provide residents in France with tax relief on their regular giving, subject to fiscal rules and conditions.

In May 2014 a group of us, including the officers of the French 1901 association (Susan Werkhoven, Georges Mills and Dwight Moe), got together to think through ideas on presence and building community and we came up with some great suggestions. One of these, which had been an aim for a long time, was to hold a stall on the Sunday morning market in order to raise funds for charities and at the same time to raise awareness of our existence locally. Unfortunately we were informed by the Mairie that it was not possible for any religious organization to have a market

stall. Disappointed but undeterred, we turned our minds to other ideas which had emerged at this meeting:

- Series of talks open to the public, hence the 2015 Lent seminars
- A joint musical event with the Eglise Protestante in the garden of the church on Saturday 4 July 2015.

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It is particularly appropriate to hold special events this year as in September we celebrate 10 years of worshipping in Divonne! A special celebratory service of thanksgiving will be held on 13 September with Bishop Robert Innes. Thanks to all those who contribute in so many ways to the continuing growth of La Côte Church in Divonne, listening to the gentle promptings of the Spirit whilst observing what is going on around us. Here's to the next 10 years! One of the ways in which we raise awareness of our presence here in the Pays de Gex is by taking part in the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service with the local French churches. This year the service was held on 25 January in the Eglise Catholique de Gex. We were represented by a few members of our community. I have also continued to participate in the Cercle des Eglises Chrétiennes, a group of French-speaking clergy representing the different church traditions present here. Georges Mills has also attended one of the meetings of this group and I appreciate his interest and support in these ecumenical exchanges.

Prayer group

With the start of the new season in September I initiated a prayer group at my place in Divonne. The idea was to meet for an hour once a month at lunchtime and use creative liturgies, leaving space for quiet and personal prayer. The initial session brought six of us together. Subsequent sessions were very sparsely attended, although the prayer time was very valuable. I hope to be able to offer this from time to time, perhaps during certain seasons or in particular times of need.

Julia

LA CÔTE CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL REPORT

Since the 2014 AGM on 23 March, there have been nine meetings of La Côte Chaplaincy Council. The Chaplain welcomed newly elected members, Lexa Nicholson and Craig Thompson to the first post-AGM Council meeting on 7 April, and the following officers were elected: Lay Vice-Chairman: Dwight Moe, Treasurer: Craig Thompson, Secretary: Valerie Geschonke. In the light of these changes, The Council decided to amend the names of the persons who were officers in the conseil d'administration of the La Côte Anglican Church Development Association. John Tracey remains President.

In July 2014, the Reverend Canon Dr. Robert Innes was appointed new Diocesan Bishop to be based in Brussels, working closely with the Diocesan Office in London. He has been invited to visit our community for the tenth Anniversary of the Divonne congregation in September 2015. Also last year, La Côte said goodbye to Revd. Ken Kvistad whose official involvement with our Church came to an end. A

number of new people were authorized to perform the important sacramental role of Chalice bearer.

Following the Holy Conversations process in 2014, the Chaplain was encouraged by the planning team to paint a vision of how La Côte might develop. The community had looked at its identity: who we were, the way we worship, learn, care for others and look beyond ourselves. At meetings held in May and June, the Council held in-depth discussions on these different aspects, (pillars) of the life of the community.

Worship The Chaplain wanted to broaden the idea of worship, with a greater integration of youth, and look at this in terms of other activities and prayer, exploring growth and different ways of approaching God.

Learning This was in the context of discipleship, and life-long growth and development. There is a tendency towards an informal approach towards learning at La Côte, and as suggested at the last AGM, there could be more investment in teaching, possibly by members of our own church community.

Caring The Council acknowledged that pastoral care was a vital aspect of community life and the role of Pastoral Worker was considered to be as important as that of Youth Worker. A valid goal for the development of our community was therefore to work towards the appointment of a pastoral coordinator.

Outward-looking It had been established that our church wanted to look outwards to the wider world. However, the Council was aware that there were needs closer to us and discussed ways to bear witness to our faith in the secular world.

The Council also continued to discuss the two strategic priorities:

La Côte Presence This was with the aim of making ourselves more accessible to the community. The focus on presence in Divonne was more confined to a precise area, whereas Gingins covered a wide geographical area. Visibility is an important factor. The Chaplain proposed looking into the possibility of holding alternative services once a month in Nyon, with a different format, and setting up a youth centre.

Youth Work The Council decided that the Youth Interest Group should be reactivated. The reserve of SFr.15,000.- available from the Budget to finance youth activities during the year enabled us to search locally for another Youth Worker.

Before the summer break, the Council ended on a lighter note, sharing a barbecue at Les Arbériaux by the lake in Prangins. The Council spent much of the November meeting with six-month review of La Côte's strategic priorities and setting some clear and manageable goals. The review highlighted how much we have achieved during the course of the previous half-year.

Calen Gayle was employed as Youth Worker on a part time basis from September 2014, working across the chaplaincy. He was invited to address the Council and to comment on his experience. The Council noted how well the young people interacted with him and the very positive impact he was having. The goal was to be the integration of our youth more fully into the life of the church, both into the worshipping community and into the social side of life, as participants and leaders.

In terms of our presence in this region, progress was shaped by the different contexts of our congregations. Details of this are covered elsewhere in this Report. The Chaplain concluded that there was a need to increase publicity for whole chaplaincy, in particular by improvement of the La Côte website, which is taking place. Lexa Nicholson produced a new information flyer for our Church.

Finances

Craig Thompson took over as Treasurer from Philippe Chambeyron, who had worked in this role for many years. A planned deficit of SFr.8,000 had been budgeted for 2014. This was not of immediate concern, since there was a reserve, but in order to raise awareness about this deficit, Austin Ball in Divonne and Craig Thompson in Gingins stood up in church to explain the value of planned giving and leaflets were put out explaining how the church was financed. They also explained to the congregation that the money that people contributed was helping us to meet our priorities in particular the cost of funding a part time youth worker, but also the cost of publicity and premises to make our church more “present” and accessible. In order to continue to build on these areas of growth, an increase of 10% in pledged income is necessary. It was hoped that when families saw what was happening, they would be more likely to give support.

At the end of 2014 the balance sheet showed that donations had ceased and pledges were significantly down. The Treasurer noted that the pledging shortfall was the primary cause of the deficit in the 2014 balance sheet. The Council expressed significant concern that if this continued during 2015, the church reserves would be close to the minimum acceptable level and recommended that efforts should be made to encourage pledging during 2015. If income did not increase, it was likely that 2016 expenditure would need to be reduced. The Council therefore approved the use of the SFr.6,266 historic reserve for youth work, in 2015 or 2016 as necessary, noting that this was the purpose of the ring-fenced contributions when church members made them. The Treasurer also explained that in 2014 the Church had been taxed on its capital reserves, which in previous years could be offset against losses.

The 2015 Budget was conservative but another deficit had been foreseen. Another Autumn Fair would be held on 26 September 2015 to boost income. Youth Leader expenses were now part of a mainstream cost and the Council recognized the need to announce to the community that we were not receiving the necessary funding. Council noted that the Church depended on a small number of high pledges, which placed us in a vulnerable position. In order to communicate the reality of the 2015 situation, the idea of displaying a "Giving Tree" was put forward, to encourage people to try to solve a small part of the deficit problem. This is to be launched at the 2015 AGM. The Council also discussed establishing Legacy scheme.

Social Action

The Council looked at report by the Social Action team on the charitable projects supported by the Church. During 2014, the church donated approximately SFr.13,600.- to various charities, which included SFr.5,000.- from the church budget. In addition, Divonne raised money separately for charitable projects. Members agreed that the number of charities supported by our Church was at the right level: one central focus and some other smaller projects, with the flexibility to collect funds in response to emergency situations which might arise. The Council discussed the

suitability of another project suggested by the group to replace the Christian Aid Afghanistan project which had come to an end. The Social Action team are also exploring various possibilities for the support of a local project with the involvement of young people and working together with local Swiss and French churches.

Val Geschonke, Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORK

Over the past six months, I have come to know the children of the churches through our ministries SAS, (Special Activities Scene) for 10 to 14 year olds, Sherbert for 14-19 year olds, as well as the Sherbert Sunday editions for older teens at Gingins, and Chatfaith: a similar discipleship programme for older teens in our Divonne based congregation. Please support this discipleship and outreach group in your prayers and contact me if you are interested in talking to our youth about a specific topic, or hosting an event on occasion. We have been particularly graced with young people with busy lives, and we all can learn from each other.

Calen Gayle



Chatfaith

The group meets for discussion during the morning service at Divonne, usually in the home of the Rollins who live opposite the church and comprises youngsters from schools across the Divonne/Swiss/Pays de Gex area. To say that our young people are bright, bushy-tailed and full of potential is an understatement. The Chatfaith group spent the first weeks of term getting to know one another, and myself, the new Youth Leader, and have tackled with tenacity the problems of prayer and the miracles of Jesus.

Calen Gayle.

Sherbert

The older youth group convenes on alternate Fridays, often in the Gingins parish room, and typically consists of an hour of laughter, games, food, and merriment. At the moment, the group consists mostly of girls, and the energy is a blend of mirth and sincere meditation on the deeper matters of faith and its interaction with daily life. Sherberters have tackled topics such as true love, prayer, humility and questions regarding the feasts and fasts of the year, including All Saints, Christmas and the Lenten season. We are presently studying the psalms, and from these, gleaning the humanity behind the people in the Bible, as well as understanding how we take the doctrines of the church, our personal convictions, and integrate with them our feelings, desires, and the God who loves us. At times, there is a mushroom cloud of attendance: nearly fifteen young people, many of whom are not regular church attendees. We do not skirt the tough stuff, and amidst tears, and sometimes raised

voices, we get to the crux of the reason we show up every fortnight: to be together and to develop a better understanding of God's purpose for our lives and how we might love and serve others.

SAS

The 10-14s younger youth group meets on alternate Friday evenings for outings or home-based gatherings, often in Nyon chez Ted Talbot. SAS has seen steady growth, not merely as returning members met others, but also as those involved have become more of a family. As in previous years, Ted Talbot has masterminded much of the year's schedule, seen to the preparation of munchable morsels, and has opened his home to receive a group from French, Swiss, and international schools. Recently, the SAS cohort took their merry marching mayhem to the slopes of la Givrine, with all sorts of sledging shenanigans. We are thankful for the young people and parents who are concertedly supportive of this outreach ministry. We would like to welcome others, particularly peers and friends and those from outside the church. We are thankful to Ted for hosting the meetings and would welcome other offers for the coming year. We have noted from our sessions elsewhere a difference in attendees depending on the location. Projects on the horizon are working themselves into reality on alternate Friday evenings, with the occasional bout with the waking world on Saturday afternoons.

For more information, contact Calen Gayle or Ted Talbot.

Calen Gayle



Gingins Sunday Club



3-6 group

Naomi Grobéty runs this lively group of little ones using creative resources with lots of variety, mainly taken from the "Minizone" series from the Children's Ministry. This year, there are between four and six children in this group, mostly boys, so a lot less glitter than in previous years! The challenge of building up regularity still remains, especially as the courses are based on up to 12 sessions, each one linking back to work done the previous week. The Godly Play materials are still used to vary from time to time, and are great for this new group of small toddlers, especially the 'I wonder why' section that always lead to some fascinating reflections!

7-10 group

Jane Robinson heads up the coordination and resources for this group, assisted by some able parent helpers each week. There are approximately five regular children on the books with four to six on any given Sunday. We sometimes combine with the

3-6 group, when numbers in both groups are low. The main resource used with this group is the "Roots" material which follows the lectionary readings and enables the children's groups to look at the same Biblical themes as the main church service. 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. There has recently been very positive feedback from parents saying how much their children love coming to Sunday club and go rushing in with enthusiasm!

Nurturing our children's faith is a really important part of our community life at La Côte. Our current leaders are looking for others to join in the fun. Please prayerfully think about whether you would like to help with these younger groups. If you like working with children, the Chaplain would be pleased to hear from you.

11-13 group

This year has seen a drop in the number of young people regularly attending the group (typically between two and five), but the leaders remain constant: Helen & Warwick Forster, Sharon & Geoff Senogles and Vincent and myself. In an effort to further engage the young people in the Sunday afternoon sessions, we have abandoned traditional teaching materials and are using the "Ideas Factory" manual. This offers adaptable discussion starters to get teens talking. Each theme (under the categories of True stories, Teen issues and Famous names) provides the young people with the opportunity to open up, to dig deeper and to take it to the Word by exploring its relevance to Christianity. From March 2015, the 11-13s will be involved a series of six sessions to prepare young people for communion, based on Tom Wright's book "The Meal Jesus Gave Us".

Jacky Coo

Divonne Children's Work

5 - 9 group

There is an average attendance of six children in this group. We continue to use the programme set out by "Roots" which follows the lectionary used in worship. During the celebration of Pentecost on 8th June in Divonne, four children were welcomed into Holy Communion. All of us were delighted as Louis Djaté, Thomas and Zoë Gaymard and Finnbar Rollins received Communion for the first time. The children enthusiastically participated over a period of two months in a special preparatory course led by Heidi Hawkings, Andrea Goovaerts and Alison Ball and with the help of Saskia Werkhoven. The celebration continued after the service with special nibbles offered by the children's families.



Other highlight of the year and following our tradition the children gave flowers to all ladies on Mothering Sunday and in June they had great fun organising a bake sale and thinking of other creative ideas to raise money for STEJ Togo.

Mollie Lufkin

10+ group

This group is a lively bunch, which keeps Ed, Peter, Calen and Heidi on their toes! The Sunday Club has grown and grown over the past year, with attendance as high as 10 children on many days. We are continuing to follow the programme set out by *Roots* which follows the lectionary used in worship, but with a healthy sprinkling of projects and self directed activities based on the church year's special events. One of the highlights every year is the annual Nativity Play, which has both the younger members of the Church youth groups, the 10+ group and Chat Faith participating in different roles. All the children enthusiastically embrace their parts, whether it be as the Angel Gabriel or as a sheep. (In fact, our sheep this year were the most energetic anyone can ever remember!) It is great fun and many thanks to all the team who helped put on the play. The Sunday Club, with the younger Church youth group, also participated actively in raising money for STEJ Togo and is looking forward to other fundraising activities this Spring.

Ed Kelley

La Côte Blokes

The La Côte Blokes Dinner has enjoyed another fruitful year of bringing men together once a month to discuss contemporary issues from a faith perspective. Recent topics have included Christians in sport, measuring church performance, just war theory, and men & masculinity. It is an easy-going atmosphere, generally starting with a beer and followed by a pizza and informal discussion. We are typically 12 in number. All are welcome. For more details contact davidcooke.ch@gmail.com

David Cooke

La Côte Hiking Group

The hiking group has enjoyed another busy year. We try to walk each month, usually but not always, on the last Saturday. Our now annual participation in the *Tartegnin Rallye pédestre* always a favourite. 2015 started in early February with a walk from *Col La Givrine* to *Le Vermeilley* when Bishop John and his wife Wendy Pritchard joined us. A fondue lunch was enjoyed by all and the weather surpassed itself with a deep blue cloudless sky. The end of February under a canopy of stars and the



brightest of moons we had an unforgettable fondue snowshoe evening at *La Vattay* guided by our Divonne mountain guide Alain Girod. Lots more hikes are planned for 2015, for more information or to be included on our mailing list contact: mollie.lufkin@free.fr

Mollie Lufkin

Divonne Song Group

The Divonne song group, led by Richard and Heidi Hawkings, sang at various services throughout 2014, including on Palm Sunday, Pentecost, at the Harvest service, Remembrance service, and the candlelight carol service, as well as supporting the music for the nativity play. This year, we welcomed new members Ray Fiander and Liz Martinez, bringing our numbers to around 16. We sing a range of music, from modern songs to more traditional pieces that allow us to sing in four-part harmony (sometimes *a cappella*). Some wonderful musicians have also accompanied us on occasion, including Jane Djaté (violin), Calen Gayle (flute), and Nigel Rollins (guitar). Rehearsals take place periodically on Sundays after the morning service. For more in-depth practices, Mark and Christine Warren have kindly hosted us in their lovely home. New voices are always welcome, so please let Richard or Heidi know if you would like to join us.

Heidi Hawkings

Gingins Song Group

The Song Group meets once per month, usually, on a Tuesday evening, for a practice chez Harold and Margaret in Luins. We accompany the congregation in Church on the third Sunday of every month and also at important festivals, such as on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We have 23 members on our list and, on average, 12 join us regularly for practice and Church performances. The camaraderie and fellowship are very strong and following our practice leads to an enjoyable glass of wine, nibbles together and a good chin-wag! Our aim is for us all to enjoy being together, taking pleasure in leading and singing with the congregation - and we all know that we do not have to be accomplished musicians and trained singers to do that! We would be happy to welcome more male voices, although John and Trevor never let the side down! Interested guys, please contact Margaret or Harold Corrigan via the Chaplain.



Margaret Corrigan

Musical Drop-In

These convivial evenings are held on the first Sunday of the month chez Ted Talbot, in Nyon. Would you believe it: 2014 marked the seventh year of Ted's Musical Drop-Ins! The flyer for December 2007 told us: "whether you want to Listen in the Living Room, Talk on the Terrace, Discuss in the Dining Room, Kiss and make-up in the Kitchen, the idea is not just to provide great live music, but to create an opportunity to meet old and new friends, invite neighbours, discuss burning issues or



merely relax in pleasant company”. Simon Hunt, jazzman par excellence maybe took that a bit too literally! The concept has not changed and almost every month, at least one appreciative newcomer would be welcomed into the extended *La Côte* family. In 2014, the food may not have been outstanding, but the musical talent certainly was! These wonderful people come and perform completely free of charge and this last year, the music has varied from Irish folk, to classical opera, from Gypsy jazz to tooting a flute, from gospel to music hall favourites. At

present, there is a slight pause in proceedings, due to renovation work in Ted’s house, but we are all looking forward to a re-start in May 2015.

Drop-Ins are held monthly at 28 chemin de la Combe, 1260 Nyon, with drinks and cold buffet provided, (cover charge: SFr.7.00-.) .

Ted Talbot

LA CÔTE ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY, CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY



For our 18th Annual Community Day in 2015, we were privileged to have as guest speaker, the Rt Revd. John Pritchard, recently retired Bishop of Oxford, on the theme of 'God Lost & Found'. The day was attended by 59 adults, seven youngsters over twelve and two under twelve. The youngsters followed a separate programme under the leadership of Calen & Daphne Gayle and Jessica from Crossroads Church. The format was similar to previous years, with the morning consisting of worship and reflection and the afternoon in a more of a practical, workshop-style, with interaction and group discussion.

The Château de Bossey is an excellent venue and provides good facilities, lunch and refreshments. The prices charged were below cost, so that it should not deter attendance, with adults paying SFr.35.-, children under 16: SFr.20.- and children under twelve: SFr.15.-. A request for donations at the end of the day was met with a

generous response that completed coverage of the costs. The travel costs of the speaker and his wife were donated and accommodation provided by members of the congregation. John Pritchard did not charge any fee and La Côte presented him with a gift as a token of thanks. It would be good for the La Côte community to reflect on the value of the Bossey Day and consider whether provision should be made in the Budget in future for us to benefit from outside guest speakers once a year.

Peta Tracey

Coffee, Cake and Catch up group

We continue to meet on Wednesdays, usually fortnightly, from 9.30 to about 11.00 a.m. in the church parish room for a time of catch up over coffee and cake, reflection and a time of shared prayer for each other. Among other things this year, we have looked at a series of reflections on the Lord's prayer and we are currently working our way through John Pritchard's book on 'How to pray'. The aim of this group is for it to be a place of encouragement and sharing, as well as a place where we can study and look more into life as Christians together. Also, we really encourage little children and even the odd dog!



It is important for us that we foster an atmosphere where all feel welcome and relaxed and not worried about children or pets running around! Since the last AGM, numbers have risen and we have several new members, which is great. There are currently 15 on the email list, and there are regularly around ten attending. It is a highly supportive but confidential group and we always welcome new members. For more information contact Alice Debell on debellaalice@gmail.com

Alice Debell

Bible study, Gingins

The group has continued to meet chez nous on alternate Tuesdays with the Prayer group, from 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. Upon finishing our study of the Epistle to the Philippians before the summer break, Ken Kvistad stepped down as leader/facilitator of the group. Since moving out to the canton of Bern, it was only a question of time before this happened, and our thanks must go to Ken for the giving of his time, and for imparting his passion for the Word. Since our start-up in September, we have been studying Lifebuilder's "Moses - Calling and Character". The sessions are being led by volunteers from within the group and produce plenty of lively discussion. Towards the end of the year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Stephen Pacht (Jews for Jesus Geneva), who gave us his insight into why God chose the Jews to be His chosen people.

Jacky Coo

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. We have been mostly using the Northumbria Community Morning Prayer this past year, as we appreciate the Celtic liturgy and it is just the right length. Our number has grown over the past year to twelve. Our prayers are for the world, our church family, those known to us and those who have asked for prayer in confidence. Believing that prayer is at the heart of our church community, we are constantly giving thanks for answered prayer. Silence is important too. 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. If you are unable to attend, but would like to pray with us, either at the same time or when you have a quiet moment, see:

<http://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/>

Peta Tracey

SWISS ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD

The Archdeaconry Synod takes place twice a year: in January or February and in June. La Côte's Synod Representatives, Susan Werkhoven and Val Geschonke were elected at the 2014 AGM to serve for a three year period. The June 2014 Synod featured short reports from each of the Anglican chaplaincies in Switzerland. Several churches said that they were becoming less "English" and increasingly multi-cultural. All churches actively encourage fellowship, with events also to attract outsiders and to raise money. It emerged that the same problems were faced everywhere:

- Not enough teachers for Junior Church
- Lack of opportunity for young people to do things together and attempts to attract younger people into the church
- Music: either a great success as in some chaplaincies, or less so as in one church, where the congregation can hardly be persuaded to sing.

The highlight of the second Synod, on 7 February 2015, was the talk by our new Diocesan Bishop, Dr Robert Innes. Programmes of renewal to encourage growth are being worked out in both the Church of England as a whole and in our Diocese in Europe. This involves developing discipleship, increasing the number of ordained clergy, investing in ministerial education, and promoting lay ministries, if necessary, using tomorrow's money today to secure the future, sharing with other churches in the evangelisation of Europe, striving for a just society, caring for God's creation, and working for reconciliation among nations, ethnicities and religions.

*Miriam Keller, Archdeaconry Secretary
& Val Geschonke*

SOCIAL ACTION REPORT FOR 2014

In 2014, members of the Social Action Team have worked on various projects with the asylum seekers. Along with Westlake Church in Nyon we have provided English lessons regularly to a small group of refugees. We have also been supporting members of the community with integrating locally. Other highlights in church have been a talk by one of our church members about the crisis in Iraq. We also had a visiting speaker who talked about the problems in Syria. At the last meeting in January 2015 we summarized the three-fold aims of our Social Action Team:

- a. To identify projects locally and further afield which our church community can support and to advise the Church Council on our choices for approval, then to find ways of drawing our church community together in fundraising activities for these projects.
- b. To identify and facilitate support of local community groups and individuals who need support – in particular we have been working with the asylum seeking community, together with volunteers from other local churches.
- c. To integrate issues of justice and peace – and the root causes of inequality and disempowerment into our worship, teaching and Bible study – so that we are wrestling with these issues and with our faith – and this in turn helps to shape our actions as individuals and as a community.

Charitable Giving in 2014

During 2014 the church's income was approximately SFr.182,700,- of which the church donated Approximately SFr.13,600,- to various charities. (Roughly 7% of the income) Donations were made to the following charities:

In Switzerland

CAMARADA – a Geneva based organization helping female asylum seekers to integrate.

REVE SUISSE – a local charity working with sick and handicapped children.

Abroad

CHRISTIAN AID – a project in Afghanistan for the education of women.

BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL – a refugee centre in Italy.

NAI QUALA – a project in Afghanistan building schools and hospitals in remote areas.

ACT ALLIANCE – church based organization running an appeal to help Syrian refugees.

BETHANY HOME – in South Africa. Memorial fund for the late Sister Mary Paule.

STANDPROUD – in the Democratic Republic of Congo working with handicapped children as a result of Polio.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERE – for relief work in Iraq.

STEJ TOGO – children's education programme.

Liz Bramley

Churchwarden