

**LA CÔTE**  
*Anglican Church*



DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# ANNUAL REPORT to LA CÔTE AGM 2016



La Côte from the Jura

**Christian communities  
in  
Gingins and Divonne**

[www.lacotechurch.ch](http://www.lacotechurch.ch)

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

### Looking back on 2015



### Remember this?? The bigger picture of La Côte Church life

At last year's AGM in April 2015, this balcony view gave us a summary of the life of La Côte Church. Our big story is that we are a community of Christians committed to growing together in love for God and for our neighbour. Our church has "happened" in all the ways shown above, because under God, people have given time, effort and energy to it! Our Annual Report is thus an opportunity to thank and honour all of you who have taken part in the life of our Church this last year and of course, in many years previously. Please take a moment to look again at the balcony view above and receive the thanks from our Church for playing your part somewhere in there. Our big story of La Côte Anglican Church is made up of many smaller stories, some of which are conveyed in our AGM report below. Please read on to find out more. I would like to add a few highlights which have been a rich blessing to the overall life of our Church.

**LEADERSHIP** The balcony view of a full and active church raised the question of leadership last year. Over the past twelve months there has been a growing sense of shared leadership in different spheres of life, for example in the small groups, in our children and youth programme, in our learning seminars and in our worship. Thank you to all of you who have been involved in these ways.

### **PRESENCE as our Strategic Priority:**

**PRESENCE on-line.** We have become more present and up-to-date online through our website, largely thanks to our new webmaster, Christina Geschonke, with the backing of Val Geschonke and Olivier Froidevaux. Thank you to this valuable team.

Administratively, we have members of our Church who have been working hard in the background to improve our communications. Bev Espasandin now sends out the weekly bulletin and assists with big tasks such as our worship rotas and bookings for our Church. Vincent Coo manages with our address list and email lists, updating them regularly for the smooth running of our community life. A huge thank you to this team for this ministry among us.

**PRESENCE in Nyon** This has developed over the last year significantly through involvement with other local churches to support the new groups of refugees in our local towns. The Nyon Thursday Space group has also become more established. In addition, we are developing stronger ties with the ecumenical group of churches in the Nyon area.

**PRESENCE in Divonne** We have had some significant events this last year marking this presence, both with the Musical Soirée in July and with the Tenth Anniversary in September when Bishop Robert came to share in our celebration. As you will see from Julia Chambeyron's report, the 1905 application is going ahead as I write.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

In terms of our other chosen priority for 2015 we continue to appreciate the work of our Youth Leader, Calen Gayle, with our young people. He is seeking to support them through regular gathered sessions and to connect with them individually through mobile and email contact and coffee stops. Last year an experienced youth worker from Brussels came for a weekend to support Calen, to give him valuable feedback and direction.



**Gingins Nativity Service**

**FINANCES** has been a further priority this last year. Our aim was to support the wider structures of our church community, enabling us to be a Christian presence in the La Côte and Pays de Gex region. Last year we began the year budgeting for a small deficit. However, thanks both to the committed work of our finance group, together with the creative communications of “the Giving Tree” team and the generosity of many of you in our Church, we were able to end the year in the black!

**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE COMING YEAR** We will seek to consolidate our two priorities in the midst of our church worship and overall life. I would like us to give attention to how we give the glory back to God and how we deepen our love for God and our neighbour through belonging to La Côte Church both as we gather and then as we scatter to our homes, neighbourhoods, families and places of work. It has been a particularly challenging year for my colleague and our Assistant Chaplain Julia, due to on-going health problems. Yet she has remained a tremendous support in countless ways to individuals and to the life of our whole community, especially in Divonne. In spite of the challenges she faces, Julia has shown great courage and

faithfulness in her ministry and has continued to offer her ministerial gifts and wisdom both to me as her colleague and to those she serves across our chaplaincy. We continue to keep her in our prayers and give thanks for her leadership and her care. There are some exciting opportunities coming up this year to nourish our discipleship and I hope we can continue to explore how our corporate worship and shared life inspires us for our daily walk with God.

## **GINGINS WORSHIP**

This last year has offered a rich variety of services from the more traditional to contemporary.

### **Lay leadership for worship and reflections**

A good number of our lay people have helped in leading worship and with reflections in Gingins this last year. Thank you to all of you for the time, energy and faith that you have shared with the Gingins congregation. Special thanks to Chris Potter, David and Liz Bramley, John and Peta Tracey and Funke Staeuble, together with all of you who assist with our rota. Without you, our worship would be much less diverse and far reaching.



**Christingle Service at Gingins**

**Visiting clergy and lay leaders** We give thanks also to visiting clergy and lay readers who have led us in worship and learning, including Alan Amos, Betty Talbot and Maree Wilson.

**Music** As in past years, we have enjoyed throughout this year a wide variety of music and worship thanks to all our musicians offering time and talent. Thank you thus to Harold Corrigan and the Gingins Song group (who celebrated their 100th service in November with a special service of thanksgiving for the Song Group. Thank you too, to Richard, Ray, Pat, Steve and Monika Rawcliffe and Mark Charles for your dedicated service to our church. It is invaluable. Thank you too, to all those who have sung or played other instruments through the year to enhance our worship, especially Calen Gayle on the flute. We were also delighted to welcome Andrew Donaldson who works at the WCC as the liturgical coordinator and his wife Wendy, who led us in a worship workshop in summer 2015. We hope we can fit in another such workshop before they move back to Canada.

**Worship workshop** In the same vein we were very pleased to welcome Alison and Peter Callway from Rochester Diocese, to lead a worship workshop in August. This explored Anglican liturgy as a framework for our worship with a group of our lay members who enjoy putting together and leading services.

**Baptisms** Congratulations to the two families last year who had their children baptised in our services. Maximilien and Felix von Tscharnier were baptised on 20 September, and Emilia Pal on 1 November at an All Saints celebration.



**Harvest** Gingins was beautifully decorated for our Harvest Celebration and our theme was the feast of St Francis, welcoming our local Salvation Army officer who described his work and faith with great joy and enthusiasm.

**Ecumenical Links** We continue to give thanks for the generous spirit of our Gingins church hosts and for the worship we enjoy doing together: this last year for a sunrise Easter celebration and breakfast, and later in the year sharing in a joint Advent Sunday worship. We are also, mainly through Carolyn's involvement in the Pastorale Nyonnaise, building links with the local ecumenical body in Nyon. Our Bonmont celebration with all the local churches in September gives us an opportunity to worship together and focus our prayers on the needs of Switzerland.



**Bossey Institute** Once again we have enjoyed being linked with the international students on courses at the Bossey Ecumenical Centre and welcoming those who have joined us in worship. Thank you to Margaret Owen who has coordinated this key link. We are much the richer for being involved with this ecumenical body.

Thank you to all those who have helped to nurture the faith of our children throughout this last year, from the very little ones to those heading into the teenage years. We would not be the sort of family Church we seek to be without you sharing your time, energy and own faith journey.

## **CHILDREN'S WORK AT GINGINS**

**Greater involvement of children and youth in All-age Worship** Our children and youth have been enjoying their groups over this last year in Gingins, participating in and leading worship. This was especially noticeable over the Christmas period when they put on a very well-rehearsed nativity play with some strong carol singing, and the older group also performed a sketch during our Christingle worship. Recently we have aimed to include children and young people in our All Age Worship, to help in as many ways as possible, so that they feel involved rather than more passive.

**Children in Communion** It was a joy to welcome four young people around our Communion Table last June, after Calen Gayle and a team of volunteer leaders had prepared them through the Spring to early summer terms. Welcome, thus, to Luke and Jasper Courtney, Alexander Potter and Millie Debell.

There are currently three **Sunday Club** groups in Gingins:

**3-6s** – led by Naomi Grobéty and assisted by Mary Gosal

**7-10s** – led by Jane Robinson, Alice Debell, Tania Ahlstrom, assisted by Kate Shepherd and Elaine Walsh.

**11-14s** – led by Warwick and Helen Foster, Geoff and Sharon Senogles, Dan and Kate Weston – and our Youth leader, Calen Gayle.

Attendance fluctuates, but we welcome between 10-20 children each week. The youngest group uses “*Minizone*” resources, whereas the two older groups are at the moment using the “*Roots*” materials. This follows our lectionary readings and is therefore more in co-ordinated with our church worship. The group leaders aim to get together once a term to review and plan for the coming sessions. We are glad to have welcomed some more parents (mums!) into the leadership roles, but we would be glad if there were others who would like to take part in this crucial and rewarding work. We have no crèche at present for the under 3 age group, yet seem to have a steady influx of smaller children. We would be grateful to anyone who would like to help start up a crèche at Gingins (during the Sunday services (4-5 p.m.)). If you would like to volunteer to do this, please contact the Chaplain via the website.

*Carolyn Cooke*

## **ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN’S REPORT**

### **Divonne worship**

First of all, huge thanks to all who ensure our worship runs smoothly and is a community effort. Worship is the meant to be the ‘work of/for the people’ – the original Greek word signifies this – and in Divonne this is very much the case. Our worship is what gives us our identity as a Christian community, and gives us our solid foundation for all of life and for the service we offer to the world.



THANK YOU to all our musicians who open the way into God’s presence for us through their instruments and voices, to those who stand at the door and bid us all welcome, to those who read the Word, to those who lead us in intercessory prayer, to those who assist in the distribution of Communion and last, but certainly not least, to those who keep us physically sustained with coffee and snacks afterwards. This year has been very challenging for me health-wise and I would like to offer my personal thanks to you all for your prayers and affectionate support. It is lovely when you are pleased to see me! I have also been very much heartened by a quiet word, hug, a message or phone call. Thank you so much.

I wish to thank all those who have stepped in, often at the last minute, to take my place in leading worship. Special thanks to Carolyn, of course, for being willing to accept the uncertainty of my situation and work with it, and for her encouragement to help me keep going; and to Revd Maree Wilson and Revd Mike French for their understanding, willingness to help and their gentle support.

We have also been privileged to hear from others in reflections or in lay-led services. My gratitude also goes to Richard and Heidi Hawkins, Betty Talbot and David Bramley for consistently offering inspiring and thoughtful worship and reflections. How blessed we are to hear from so many faithful souls, whose contributions help to deepen and enrich our own faith in God.

Finally, I would like to thank all who beaver away behind the scenes to ensure that all the practical tasks are taken care of, whether it be for worship or for other events – Alison and Georges, Mollie (**fabulous** Christmas lunch!), Dwight, Austin, Ray

Gregory for all the gardening, Philippe. We certainly would not have a Church without you all! And thank you to those who say "yes" to being part of a team so that we can do all that we wish to do and have opportunities to make connections and build relationships with each other and those beyond our Church.

### **Worship highlights :**

- **Pentecost on 24<sup>th</sup> May**, with the children involved in telling the story and wonderful Holy Spirit decorations;
- **Service of Thanksgiving on 26<sup>th</sup> July**, a time for counting our blessings and giving thanks for special people and events in our lives;
- **Rentrée Family Communion on 30<sup>th</sup> August**, led by Mike and taking the memorable theme of ‘God, fish and bicycles’!
- **Our 10-year anniversary on 13<sup>th</sup> September**, when we welcomed Bishop Robert to celebrate with us. We were all pleased to see Paul and Denise Holley again.
- **Harvest Family Communion on 11<sup>th</sup> October**, when Carolyn and others helped us reflect on the theme of Time;
- **Remembrance on 8<sup>th</sup> November**; a moving service of readings, poems and music;
- **Special prayers for Paris on 22<sup>nd</sup> November**, in the wake of the terrorist attacks;
- **Nativity play and carols on 13<sup>th</sup> December** – how wonderful to have our own Fiona Ball write the script and all our youngsters and children involved; this was followed by the ever-amazing **Christmas lunch!**
- **Christmas readings and carols by candle-light on 20<sup>th</sup> December**, with Mike and the team of readers and the song group leading us thoughtfully from Advent into Christmas;
- **Christmas Day Family Communion**, when Carolyn led a joyful celebration, including the use of Christmas crackers!

### **Baptisms – special moments:**

- **Family Worship with baptism of Layla June Selby on 12<sup>th</sup> July**, when we connected our stories with God’s story and used bubbles to pray;
- **Family Worship with baptism of Flora Elizabeth Barnaud on 29<sup>th</sup> November, Advent Sunday**, when we took the theme ‘What an *Adventure!*’ and very much enjoyed the articles in our Adventure bags!

### **Ecumencial relations**

- We continue to enjoy a fruitful relationship with our hosts, the Eglise Protestante Unie de France. The musical garden party on 4<sup>th</sup> July was a joint celebration and fund-raising effort.
- We participate in the annual celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January.
- Julia enjoys belonging to the Cercle des Eglises Chrétiennes, a group of all the local French clergy.

### **Ministry with children and youth**

I would like to thank all who give their time and energy to organize and lead the various groups:

- **Crèche** – Katie and Yohann, Will and Ophélie;
- **5-9 years** – Mollie, Susan, Jane, Liz and Hilary
- **First Communion course** – Andrea, Mollie, Heidi and Liz
- **10-12 years** – Ed, Peter and Calen
- **Chatfaith** – Calen

It is so important to nurture and encourage the faith of our children and young people, and such a privilege to watch them grow and mature. We are always looking for volunteers for our teams. If you are interested, please let me know.

### **5-9 year Group Divonne**

Four children regularly attend this group and we continue to use the programme set out by “*Roots*” which follows the lectionary used in worship. One of the highlights in 2015 was all the children participating in an end of summer term party with games followed by a picnic under the trees in the church garden. Great fun! In 2016 we look forward to Emma, Tim, Alice and Thomas preparing for communion following the preparatory course “*Welcome to the Lord’s Table*”.

*Mollie Lufkin*



### **French Associations**

The establishment of the **1901 association culturelle** was a significant step in developing our presence in the Pays de Gex and in shaping our self-awareness as a distinct congregation settled on the French side of the border, whilst being part of the La Côte chaplaincy overall. Details of the charitable giving we have achieved through this association this year are given separately. The results are most encouraging and reflect our commitment to the many needs of the world, both locally and further afield. We are now working to set up a **1905 association culturelle**, which will establish us as a worshipping community in France, consolidating our presence and identity as a Church here, on the same footing as the French churches around us, whilst being part of the La Côte chaplaincy overall. In due course, a committee will meet to explore the full implications of this for our chaplaincy.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the officers of these two associations for their hard work: Susan Werkhoven, Dwight Moe and Georges Mills. Special thanks go to Georges, the driving force of the team, who works tirelessly to help us move forward and liaises most efficiently with the French authorities and the bank on our behalf. The team of officers also prepares the necessary documents for the AGM and keeps the La Côte council informed of news and developments. **THANK YOU!!**

*Julia Chambeyron*



**Children prepare for the  
Glory and Fun Youth  
Service on 15 June**



### **PASTORAL CARE in Gingins & Divonne**

The La Côte Pastoral Care team works across the chaplaincy to offer support and care in all kinds of situations, recognising that we all face challenges and difficulties throughout our lives. The Chaplains thank all those who have volunteered to provide meals, lifts, prayer and to visit one another, some officially part of our pastoral care network, and many just getting on with the caring for one another as the need arises. Thank you too to all who pray after church each Sunday for anyone who would like it, entrusting our needs to God's care. The consistency of our support is most effective and realistic when it is localized geographically. In Divonne, members of the community keep in touch by e-mail, phone and through visits. Thanks to all who offer their time and energy to reflect God's care for us all within our Church community.

*Carolyn & Julia*

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### **LA CÔTE CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL REPORT**

Since the 2015 AGM on 26 April, there have been eight meetings of the La Côte Chaplaincy Council. The Chaplain welcomed Trevor Davies, who replaced Susan Werkhoven as Archdeaconry Synod Representative to the first post-AGM Council meeting on 26 May, and officers were elected: Lay Vice-Chairman: Dwight Moe, Treasurer: Craig Thompson, Secretary: Valerie Geschonke. As a first step towards becoming part of a community of associations and help us to obtain charitable status in the canton of Vaud, a modification of the Church's statutes were approved at an E.G.M. in July. A further revision will be required at the 2016 AGM.

With the aim to bring to the community transparency about finances, the Giving Tree focus emerged in 2015. On 24 May, a presentation was made during a service at Gingins and the congregation was told that the way the Council handled the issue of church finances had changed. It was being dealt with on an informative, factual level. We had to fulfil our commitments and pair priorities and funding. Youth work was an integral part of the Church mission and the Council understood that in order to fund it in the future on the present scale, with a paid youth worker, the Church's income would have to increase in 2016 and beyond. The community did meet its financial

aspirations in 2015 and income was significantly higher than 2014 because of donations, collections and increased pledges, many of which arrived in December. The Finance Committee considered that in 2016, similar levels could be reached and suggested presenting to the AGM an option of either a similar event to the Autumn Fair or a Gift Day with a community-focused event held in the autumn of 2016. Many members of the Church had been actively engaged and significant amounts had been raised for charitable causes. At Gingins, the total going to charity represented 7-8% of income. At the end of 2015, Craig Thompson informed the Council that he would stay in the role as Treasurer for one more year.



In advance of a visit by the Diocesan Bishop, Dr. Robert Innes, to La Côte on the weekend of 12-13 September, the Council looked at the new Strategy for the Diocese in Europe, entitled "*Walking together in faith*" and compared our Church mission statement and priorities with the Diocesan strategy, to determine in practical terms where we were in line with this. Our agreed strategy was a lot simpler (Children / Youth and Presence). We sharpened

up our priorities for the following six months with the aim to integrate children into worship and foster discipleship. During his visit, Bishop Robert spent an evening with the Church Council and presented his thoughts on the situation in the Diocese. He made an interesting comparison between the chaplaincies in our Diocese and those in the UK. Members of the Council discussed the challenges and priorities of our church and offered an overview of the history of our growth. The Bishop remarked on the surprisingly large number of outside-church activities in this rural area. Later, Bishop Robert led a service in Divonne and at Gingins, assisted our two Chaplains and Paul Holley, the first to be appointed to our Church when it became established as an independent chaplaincy.

Among other issues discussed at Council meetings during 2015 were Social Action, Youth work and Church communications. The Chaplain did not propose to the Council the introduction of a new priority for 2016, but to continue to grow further and to fine-tune the youth and presence priorities. The Council suggested that having built up the various presence activities, we could look to raise awareness of them within a broader section of the community in 2016. The Chaplain encouraged the Council to consider how we could not only be present, but passionately, distinctively or transformatively present in our communities and beyond.

*Val Geschonke, Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council*

## YOUTH WORK REPORT

Over the past year and a half, I have come to know the children of our churches through our ministry to the various groups **SAS**, (Special Activities Scene) for 10-14 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. Recently I have also become more involved with the Sunday Club activities. We have been particularly graced with young people with busy lives, and we all can learn from each other. Please support these discipleship and outreach groups 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.



### Chatfaith

This year, Chatfaith has largely focused on Mark's Gospel, and preparations for the Christmas play, which was written by a member of the group, directed by Ed Kelley with staging help from Allison Ball. It took a whimsical, though reverent, look at the Nativity from the perspective of two narrators. They also put together an enjoyable musical performance for the garden party last summer. I thoroughly enjoy spending time with this group, as well as the younger ones, even if only every two weeks, and welcome individual meetings as another way of getting to know these kids better. While few in attendance at times, these older teens are very resourceful and there is lively interaction during the sessions. In the coming weeks we will take a look at the lives of some of the prophets, asking what Jesus might have to say through our lives and the lives of those around us.

### Sherbert

Sherbert has undergone significant shifts. The group previously met in the Gingins parish rooms on alternate Fridays but will now move to Saturday evenings in Divonne in order to integrate the older teens living outside the town into the group. The format of the evenings remains constant: food, fun and foraging the Scriptures for a sense of God's direction, with a prayer to close the evening. It is exciting to see the development of personal prayer





lives of some of our older teenagers. Plans are in place for the commencement of a regular youth band, and to invite those who might feel less at ease with a standard discipleship group. We would like to see female presence in the adult supervision of the group, and outreach to outsiders who do not normally go to church, not neglecting those wanting to deepen their faith. Among other topics, the group has discussed the refugee question and climate change and as we begin growing again after fluctuating attendance, we will look into other topics that fall under the umbrella theme for this year "making wise choices". There have been efforts to encourage this group to interact in different ways with the wider community: going to see films, supporting friends at local musical and theatre performances and sharing food and fellowship with the newly arrived refugees in Nyon with members of Westlake Church. Our youth is seeking to grow outside the physical walls of the church to follow Christ sincerely in a world of moral, spiritual and intellectual complexities. One member of Sherbert has very closely been involved with the Paris Climate Talks as a liaison for the Lutheran World Federation youth and another will also attend an inter-church Winter Retreat with this theme in the coming weeks, as will one from our SAS group.

### **Special Activities Scene (SAS)**

SAS now exists in two locations sharing time between Divonne and Trélex. It is still hosted by Ted Talbot, but now also by the Bolan-Campbells. The group has a steady attendance of four to five young people, occasionally bolstered by attendance of younger siblings and friends invited by the more frequent attendees. Rather than an in-depth foray into Scripture, sessions have entailed a consideration of the ethos of friendship, in less stuffy language: how does Jesus invite us to friendship with him, and how might we fully understand friendship with each other. The activities have engaged us with the local EMS singing Christmas carols, skating in Coppet, and rolling each other into coats of toilet paper! Younger teens in attendance are at times the most eager to pray, and more biblically astute than one might think. I hope that this group will continue to grow to include those from outside the La Côte community, and lead to increased interaction with others, such as the Winter Retreat organized for young people from various local churches. The talents of these younger teens are quite impressive. Our group now boasts its own Website and Facebook page, thanks to the efforts of our new and eager Webmaster! We look forward to moves and merriment, to growth and grace, and to our retreat as well as the summer SAS camp.

### **Sunday Club**

While I do not have a regular involvement with Sunday Club, I have had a significant role in 2016 in the teaching of this group. Last year's Communion Course training was also an enjoyable time and very cultivating for the faith of some of our younger teens. We usually follow the *Roots* syllabus. Gavin Macpherson, the Bishop's youth worker and RE teacher and who is now supporting the Diocese's youth work visited la Côte on the weekend of 20-22 November to look at how we could further strengthen our youth work. He engaged with a broad cross-section of children, leaders and parents during the bowling evening, the Divonne morning service and Christmas play rehearsal. His advice was encouraging.

I feel I have a good entente with these young people, partly facilitated by the experience with SAS, and endeavour to strengthen this aspect of my ministry, and welcome your support and advice. I would like to extend thanks to those who have



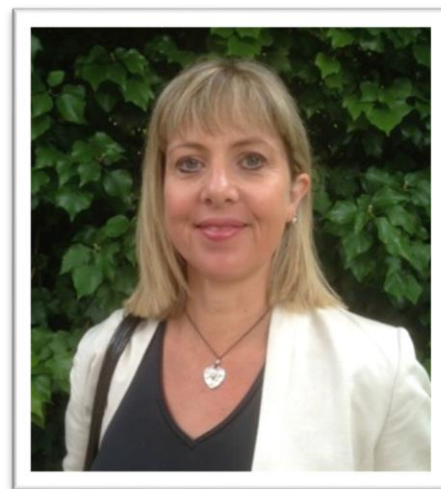
sought to include me in the lives of the young people outside the planned activities. I appreciate the time I spend with people during these invitations which are among the highlights of a youth worker's ministry, reminding us of our calling to serve and care for our younger people by caring for their families and their lives as a whole. I hope to meet more parents, particularly those interested in new outreaches or discipleship activities for their children. I welcome prayer, protest, and general commentary as I seek to serve these young people, and you, with increased efficacy and greater love in Christ.

*Calen Gayle*, Youth Leader

## **Safeguarding at La Côte**

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a top priority for the Diocese of Europe, a fact that Bishop Robert highlighted when he visited our Church in the autumn of 2015. A full and extensive revision of the diocesan Safeguarding Policy has been made and will mark a minimum standard across the Diocese. If local law is stronger on any item, that will apply to strengthen it in that country. The protocol identifies key responsibilities and has guidance on staff selection, whether in paid or voluntary roles. There are a number of changes and new aids to help individual congregations fulfil their obligations as safe churches. The Diocese also developed a new course on keeping “vulnerable adults” safe. In addition to the on-line training courses, the Diocese is looking to recruit more than 20 people with training skills who will be invited to a “train the trainers” course in the spring of 2016.

This year at La Côte, we have continued to update our safeguarding checks for all our helpers and aim to have this process complete by March 2016. We have also begun to roll out the diocesan safeguarding training to our Chaplains and Churchwardens. This will be extended to all helpers as we move towards the spring. We have also produced a La Côte Safeguarding Policy which will be supplemented by more detailed procedures, highlighting best practice for helpers. **Katharine Minton** (right) is our own Safeguarding Officer at La Côte Anglican Church. Please contact her for guidance via the church website: [www.lacotechurch.ch](http://www.lacotechurch.ch)



## **La Côte Blokes**

Once a month, a number of men from across the two congregations meet to discuss contemporary issues from a faith perspective. Recent topics have included *Leadership in the twenty-first Century*, *Art as a route to God* and *The Christian response to Climate Change*. It is an easy-going atmosphere, generally starting with a beer and followed by a pizza and an informal discussion. We are typically twelve in number. All are welcome (usually on the third Thursday of the month). For more details contact David Cook via the website.

*David Cooke*

## La Côte Hiking Group



The hiking group has had another active year with different and varied walks to suit all levels of hiking. This is a great group and we have lots of fun. I'm very sad to be leaving at the end May 2016. Until then we will continue our monthly walks and I hope one of the members of the group will take over when I leave. Keep me on the mailing list. I'll fly over to join you on occasions!

For more information or to be included on the mailing list contact Mollie Lufkin via the website.

*Mollie Lufkin*

## MUSIC AT LA CÔTE

### Gingins Song Group

The Gingins Song Group meets once per month, usually, on a Tuesday evening, for a practice in Luins. It accompanies the congregation in Church on the third Sunday of every month and also at important festivals, such as on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. On 22 November 2015, the Gingins Song Group performed for the 100th time since it was formed. Margaret Ducommun (second from the left) told members of the congregation during the service at Gingins that it all began with a carol singing evening at her home in Luins in December 2006 to which she invited Paul Holley, the Chaplain of La Côte at that time.

Paul later asked her husband Harold if he would be willing to set up a Song Group to add another dimension to the singing in Gingins. The first performance was held on 20 January 2007. Practices are an important part of the package and friendship has developed thanks to our round the table discussions. We support one another and work together as a team. There are currently 23 members on our list and an



average of 12 join regularly for practice and Church performances. The Gingsins Song Group is proud to be a part of the fellowship enjoyed by the congregations of our two churches and would be happy to welcome more male voices.

*Margaret Ducommun*

### **Divonne Song Group**

In 2015, the Divonne Song Group sang at various services, including at Pentecost, the Harvest service, Nativity service and the candlelight carol service. About 16 in number, 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 Djabaté (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 Hawkings know if you would like to join us.

*Heidi Hawkings*

### **Musical Drop-In**

These convivial evenings continue into their 8th year and are still held on the first Sunday of the month chez Ted Talbot. They survived the ‘downsizing’ from Nyon to Trelex although it is a bit ‘cosier’ in his new abode. The principal is also still the same - 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 evenings are 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. Mission accomplished in 2015/16, as each month there was at least one newcomer in our midst. The year has also had the same wide spectrum of music with familiar favourite performers as well as some new faces. These wonderful, talented people come and perform completely free of charge and this last year, the music has varied from Irish folk, to classical opera, from jazz to join in and sing from music hall favourites to Christmas carols.



Drop-Ins are from 7.0 pm to 10.0 pm at 9b Route de Duillier, 1270 Trelex, with drinks and cold buffet provided, (cover charge: SFr.8.00) .

*Ted Talbot*



## La Côte Website - New Developments

During a discussion on communications after the 2015 AGM, Council members acknowledged that the La Côte website did not present the Church to its best advantage, with much out of date information and incomplete pages. The previous website was originally set up following the appointment of the current Chaplain in consultation with a communications team. The idea was that designated individuals could update their own space, but this proved to be unworkable. Val and Christina Geschonke therefore undertook an overhaul of the site with input from Peta Tracey and assistance from Olivier Froidevaux who has provided our Church with technical oversight from the beginning. The Archdeacon approved a request for financial support for further website training for Christina (right) from the Swiss Archdeaconry Training Fund and having acquired the necessary technical skills, she now has full authority to act as Webmaster.



The aim at this point is to keep the website current, informative and to present an attractive view of our community life. La Côte events are publicized on the home page and the **About Us** profile was rewritten in a way that the visitor can discover who we are, what we do and how we worship. Bev Espasandin will handle the posting of the The Weekly Bulletin in the near future. The website is at present mainly a tool to reach outsiders. However, the site could be more useful to our own community, as a source of information about individual meetings and activities. and to reinforce cohesion among members. Members of the Council welcomed the improvements made to the website and invite you to take a look, give us your comments and let us know about information to be posted.

[www.lacotechurch.ch](http://www.lacotechurch.ch)

## Coffee, Cake and Catch up group

We have had another good year with the Coffee, Cake and Catch up group (CCC). We should point out that it is more of a coffee, cake and discussion group and not all about chinwagging! We have had several new members joining us which has been lovely. We are now a group of about 15 in total with at least 12 regulars. We have formed a small group of three or four people who are involved with planning the material and agenda for the year. This has been very helpful. We

always welcome newcomers and we thrive on supporting and encouraging each other. As before, we rotate leaders and cake bakers, starting with a time for drinks and snacks followed by looking at and discussing some reading material/topics. Coming



up: we will focus on the book 'Restless' by Jennie Allen. In this we are following the story of Joseph and how this can encourage us to make the most of using our natural and God given gifts. We always aim to finish with a time of prayer for requests from the group and for others in need. Hoping that this group will continue to be a valued lifeline in 2016. For further information please email Alice Debell on or contact Katharine Minton or Funke Staeuble via the website.

*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. Vincent and I are privileged to host the Bible study group and to welcome our twelve regular and two occasional members. Having finally finished our study of Moses' calling and character by the summer break, we decided to continue with Scripture Union's LifeBuilder series and, since September, we have been making our way through the gospel of Mark - *Follow Me*. Such is the depth of discussion and the dynamics of the group that we will probably still be studying Mark by the time of the next annual report!

*Jacky Coe*

### **Tuesday Prayer Group**

The Prayer Group has continued to meet every other Tuesday morning at the Traceys' home in Coinsins, or occasionally at Ted Tabot's, from 09.15 to 10.30. Around ten people regularly attend and we start off with tea or coffee, while sharing news of answered prayers, for which to give thanks, and concerns for our world, our Church and those known to us. We then follow a short order of service to frame these prayers, usually the Celtic Morning Prayer from the Northumbria Community. Between us there is the strictest confidence in the names we mention and we welcome your requests for prayer. Believing that prayer is at the heart of our Church community, we welcome everyone to join us, whether for just one time or on a regular basis.



*Peta & John Tracey*

### **SWISS ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD**

The Archdeaconry Synod takes place twice a year: in January or February and in June. La Côte's Synod Representatives are Trevor Davies and Val Geschonke. The summer Archdeaconry Synod was held on 20 June at All Saints Church in Vevey. The main speaker was Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary, who talked about how the Diocese saw itself developing in the future, and Safeguarding, a big issue on the Church of England and Diocesan agenda. Wider and better protection is now required

for children and vulnerable adults. However the background checks could be problematical for people who have lived in certain countries where documentation cannot be obtained. Extended training programmes are available for all people involved with children and vulnerable adults. At La Côte, on-line training on awareness raising can be undertaken via the Safeguarding Officer, Katharine Minton.

The Diocese is now entitled to funds from the Church Commissioners. However, the Diocese in Europe did not receive the expected funding the previous year, but it was enough to finance the first freestanding Archdeacon in Europe. This will be Canon Colin Williams, who will be responsible for northern Europe. The Church of England will change the way it allocates funding in the future within the United Kingdom, with more support for growing parishes.

The new Diocesan Environment Officer, Revd. Elizabeth Bussmann, asked chaplaincies to be much more aware of our collective responsibility towards the environment and the effects of climate change. Chaplaincies who had no Environment Officer were asked to think about appointing one.

The principal speaker at the Archdeaconry Synod held on 6 February at St. Ursula's Church in Berne was Canon William Gulliford, Diocesan Director of Ordinands. He went through the very thorough process of selection and training of ordinands for ministry in our Church. This covers examination of a candidate's vocation, spirituality, personality, qualities of leadership, educational criteria, family relations, with interviews at various levels to assess the suitability of a candidate. Vocation seminars, theological courses, possible internship and curacy placement follow. The aim of the Diocese is to attract 50% more ordinands under the age of 32 by 2020. Not all candidates in our Diocese are of Church of England or British background. This can present certain problems on both sides. However, this Diocese belongs to the Church of England with the Sovereign as Head, and both candidates and congregations have to accept that fact.

Finances balanced well in 2015 with income and expenditure mostly within budget. Only minor adjustments are being made in 2016. We continue to contribute to the Anglican chaplaincy in Athens, which actively supports the many refugees there. Also the aid agency of the OCs Partner Sein. Various amounts were also paid out of the SAMT Fund (supporting ministry training) to clergy and lay people in the Archdeaconry for further education. Several SACEP (Swiss Archdeaconry Christian Education Programme) events are planned for 2016, two of which focus on the refugee/migrant problem.

Our Bishop has drawn up a Diocesan Strategy Plan, and all chaplaincies have been asked to work on this. The Synod looked at how individual chaplaincies were approaching the aims. The Strategy will be the subject of the Bishop's address to the next Synod in Geneva on 25 June 2016.

*Miriam Keller, Archdeaconry Synod Secretary  
& Val Geschonke*

## SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

### Work at La Côte in 2015 with local Refugees and those in need father afield

At the end of September 2015, there were 5,600 asylum seekers in our with others arriving. Members of the Social Action team make a weekly collection of clothes and other needed items that are delivered to the two Day Centres closest to us. Two of our members have worked with the asylum seekers since the shelter opened in Nyon in 2009. We also set up and ran a local Garden project. We have also provided, through the generosity of parishioners, a variety of items such as a dishwasher to the newly opened Nyon Day Centre, and much needed items for individuals and families being moved into private housing. Members of our church have also offered accommodation/rooms to rent to individual refugees who have been granted permission to stay but who struggle to find accommodation of their own. In addition, we offer language lessons and conversation, mainly English and weekly Art Therapy sessions at the Gland Day Centre. When possible, we include asylum seekers whom we get to know in church and family activities, offer transportation and assist with legal procedures. Through a coordinator, refugees are linked up with members of our community (church and other) to assist with gardening, decorating, moving house etc. in order to earn money. Our Chaplain Carolyn works with a representative of the Westlake Church in Nyon, in a weekly “open house” for refugees and with the Pastor of the local Swiss church in Gland, ministering to the asylum seekers in general and to individuals with specific needs. Apart from these local projects, our Church looks to the wider world and has made the following donations to charities in 2015:



£120	Christian Aid Afghanistan project. This completes our commitment.
SFr 500	Bishop's Lent Appeal - hostel for unaccompanied minor refugees in Athens.
SFr 500	500 Insieme Vaud
SFr 500	Ikwesi Lokusa rehab home in S. Africa
€507	Medecins Sans Frontières for Nepal
SFr 1'510	Act Alliance For relief work in Nepal
€356	Nepal relief work to MSF
€550	Calais Migrants
€420	STEJ Togo
SFr 1'000	Athens Migrants Emergency Appeal
SFr 1'000	GRAAP - Nyon
SFr 600	Favela Phoenix in Rio Di Janeiro
SFr 1'500	<a href="http://www.weareus.org.uk">www.weareus.org.uk</a> for work with refugees
€700	Médecins sans Frontières
€700	Make a Wish France
SFr 1'000	for our Church kitty for provisions for asylum seekers connected to our Church, e.g. train fares.

The Social Action team is grateful to everyone who has contributed financially and helped with fundraising for the above and other causes supported by our Church.

*Liz Bramley & Anne Dyer*