



ANNUAL REPORT LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH AGM 2019



La Côte Bossey Day February 2018

Christian Communities in Gingins and Divonne 2018 – 2019

www.lacotechurch.ch





Chaplain's Overview

The AGM is a good moment to recall our Mission Statement – and even to bring it into question: La Côte Anglican Church is:

“A Christian Community committed to growing in love for God and for our neighbour”.

So, are we? YES or at least aspiring to be so. My prayer is that our church life in all its varied shapes and hues bears witness to this statement.

As you read through the reports below, I hope you will be able to glimpse this mission statement fleshed out in worship and service, in the lows and highs of our life together. Thank you to everyone who has sent in their reports about many aspects of church life. We thank God for another year of many blessings and ask for his strength for the darker times, especially losing our much-loved sister Dorothy.

I will let the reports speak for themselves but will first highlight several new initiatives and one departure which impact on the whole of our church life.

The La Côte Ministry Team is a small group of our church members who have shown an interest in and are active in leading our worship. We set this group up in November 2018 and aim to meet monthly to pray for our worshipping life, to reflect on services and to plan for future acts of worship. These meetings encourage creativity and a variety of styles of worship and help us discern a

way forward. I have personally enjoyed exploring the church seasons together and then sharing responsibility for different services. Those who have been involved up until now are (in alphabetical order): Louise Burrows, Calen Gayle, Helen Harding, Heidi Hawkings, Chris Potter, Betty Talbot and Peta Tracey.

Council Review and re-setting priorities.

Secondly, in response to the AGM discussion last year, the Council has been addressing some of the key issues that were raised. This has been done firstly through our regular council meetings and then with an extra time of reflection together in November. On Saturday 10th November, ably facilitated by Chris Talbot, the council reviewed the two strategic priorities we have had over the last four years and re-framed these in the light of the AGM discussion and our current context. Three areas of priority emerged for the coming two years:

- ♥ Youth and children – which is still a major priority
- ♥ Visibility and Outreach – which offers a clearer focus than “Presence”

- ♥ Pastoral care – as an additional area to develop, building on much of the care for one another that is going on already, often unnoticed.

Please join us at our AGM to look at these more closely.

We value your participation in our discussions to shape *our* church life together.

We are sad to be saying good bye to Calen Gayle, who has been running our youth programme since September 2014. On behalf of our church family I would like to say a heart-felt thank you to Calen for his faithful, visionary and creative ministry among us. His focus has been with our young people, encouraging them in their personal journeys of faith and also helping them find their place in the wider church community. We are deeply grateful to him for the relationships of trust and fun and safety that he has built up with our young people, and the inspiring example of faith that he has shared with them. Under his guidance many of our youth have found a way of worshipping in our “youth band”, which has gone from strength to strength. Our young people leading the church in worship has been a huge blessing to the whole of our community. In addition, he has built strong ties with many of us who are not in the “young” bracket any more, for which we are so thankful.

I encourage you to keep Calen, Daphne and Zedek in your prayers as he settles into an 18-month placement with the Église Évangélique Réformée dans le Canton de Vaud, in Yverdon. Pray for Calen as he explores hivocation further, pushing doors in Anglican ordained ministry.

Julia Chambeyron. On another sad note, my colleague and our assistant chaplain Julia has continued to explore new lines of treatment, but one element has made her much worse. So, life is very challenging for Julia and the family right now and the future looks very uncertain. We miss her ministry among us in our worship, preaching and pastoral care, not to mention her warm smile and humour. We continue to keep her and Philippe and all the family much in our prayers.

A word of thanks. Finally, I would like to thank all of you who covered our worship during my time off in January and February. This has revealed the strength of our shared leadership and I look forward to more ways of involving those who are keen to take part in the life of our La Côte Community. Please do let me know if you would like to get involved in a particular aspect of church life.



Ecumenical activities

Contacts with other churches of different denominations are an important part of the life of La Côte Anglican Church. Some of these take the form of shared public services or events and then there are various meetings in which our Chaplains and Lay Reader participate:

At the Abbaye de Bonmont - a service for the Jeûne Fédérale (3rd Sunday in Sept.) in French, German & English, prepared by the local Swiss Reformed, Roman Catholic churches & La Côte Anglican Church. Carolyn is involved in the preparation and the service.

Summer outdoor service in Nyon celebrating the Swiss National Day

together with all local churches belonging to the Pastorale Nyonnaise. This group of church leaders meets for a bi-monthly early morning breakfast in Nyon to share news, plan and pray together.

GROG, Le Groupe Œcuménique Gessien that Carolyn attended and now Betty is attending.

Remembrance ceremony in Ferney Voltaire on 11th November 2018 - Carolyn and Georges Mills represented La Côte Church marking the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The English-speaking Geneva church leaders gather over a monthly lunch at different churches.

Joint Easter sunrise service with La Dôle parish at Gingins. Carolyn organises this with Christian Heyraud, Pastor.

Participation in World Day of Prayer service with La Dôle parish. This usually takes place at Signy Chapel, using the liturgy prepared by a different country each year. Machteld Kelsey & Peta Tracey have represented LCAC over the years and would welcome others to share in this important contact with our host parish.

Cursillo - an ecumenical three-day course, offered twice a year by English-speaking churches in the Geneva area, on living a Christian life and encouraging lay leadership. Many members of La Côte have enjoyed and benefited from this weekend. Chris Talbot is its Assistant Lay Director and others from our church participate in the preparation and team.

Welcoming bossey students - once again we had the pleasure of welcoming some of the students from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey to our church community. This past year we have had four Anglican students coming to our services: Archdeacon Emmanuel Faremi and Canon Nelson Iluno from Nigeria, Revd Dr. Njojo Kahwa from DRC and Revd Jency Manjuka from Sri Lanka. Margaret Owen has kindly coordinated the transport to/from Bossey with a few other volunteer drivers and it appears she has become well-known in the students' home countries, where future students are told they will get a warm welcome from her and La Côte Church when they arrive! It is always interesting to hear



about their background and challenges they face in their ministries back home and they in turn enjoy worshipping with us and being invited to our homes for a meal.

Looking back to key events

April 2018

The AGM on 20th April in Divonne focused a “Celebration of the life of the Church – Forum for Feedback and Listening” which was followed by lunch.

Palm Sunday saw youth services in both Divonne and Gingins led by Calen.



Holy Week

Holy Week included an intimate Maundy Thursday Service in Gingins and a reflective Good Friday service in Divonne.

Easter Day April 16th started with a sunrise service at 6am with our Swiss church followed by croissants and coffee and our Easter family celebration in Gingins after which the children enjoyed a traditional Easter egg hunt.

Betty Talbot's licensing on April 29th at Gingins with the Archdeacon of Switzerland, Adèle Kelham. Gingins was filled with the powerful voices of the gospel choir

Lift Every Voice



Thanksgiving for Zedek Gayle. Daphne and Calen Gayle, introduced their son Zedek to the La Côte family during the service in Gingins on April 20th.



May 2018

Safeguarding meeting was held on May 19th at Gingins including taking time out for a delicious lunch and to watch the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan.



Gift Day joint service held in the Temple in Crassier on May 31st, celebrating “The Body of Christ, everybody

matters”. We are grateful for the generosity shown by our congregations in response to this Gift Day, which made a major contribution to our income. The sale of Diantha Terry's and Niki Lowes's Pocket Crosses greatly contributed to Gift Day donations.

June 2018

Pentecost celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Church's birthday

Baptism of Raphael Skinner

on June 10th. The service was made particularly special with post-it notes prayers and good thoughts for Raphael as he grows.



July 2018

Time out.

August 2018

Celebrated the baptism of Penelope Naili Chambeyron.

On August 12th Julia baptised her third



granddaughter. The service was beautifully crafted using prayer flags and Penelope's sisters singing. The service was



followed by champagne and cake in the Church garden in Divonne

In August we said **Goodbye** to Caroline and Tim Johnston in Signy.

September 2018

Barn Dance on September 28th in Nyon.

Gingins Retreat on September 29th.

October 2018

Harvest celebrations providing an opportunity to give non-perishables to les Restos du Coeur in Divonne to the Salvation Army in Gingins.

November 2018

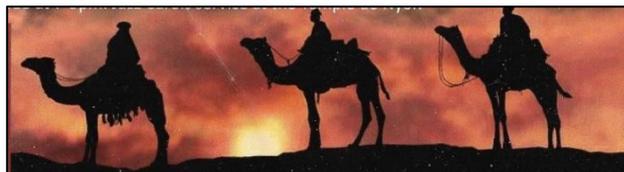
A reflective All Souls Service in Gingins commemorating those who have died.

Lunch with Bossey students in Coinsins.

Quiz Night in Coinsins - an evening of fun and brain-teasing whilst raising funds for the Youth Meals Project in Malawi.

ExpoExpat was a great networking opportunity to make our presence known in the region, with great participation from La Côte youth and families.

December 2018



Our Christmas programme unfolded across the chaplaincy

with lots of creative energy channelled into the two nativity plays: in Divonne, written by Fiona Ball **Three Kings and a Star** and a musical nativity play entitled in **Straw and Order** in Gingins. Both were a great success.

The Christmas lunch after the Divonne nativity service was much appreciated, enabling the church family to relax together over a delicious meal and light-hearted entertainment.

Jazz Carols drew in many outsiders as well as regular church members thanks to the edgy, dramatic script adapted by George Mills and amazing performance from Daphne Gayle and the Jazz Band.

Reflective Christmas in Gingins offered space and quiet reflection in the run up to Christmas.

Christingle service in Gingins included a reflection by Calen and was mainly led by the young people.

Carols by Candlelight

in Divonne was well attended with 101 people packed into the Temple.



Christingle service

Christmas Eve Crib Service Gathering lots of families and children who do not normally attend. Maybe an opportunity to offer refreshments another year to give people somewhere to stay and chat.



Christmas Eve service was full to the brim and blessed with the beautiful singing and music from the Song Group.

Family Communion on Christmas Day in Divonne was a slightly quieter service.



Jazz Carols Nyon

January & February

Revd Maree Wilson and Revd Brian Lea ably led our Holy Communion services whilst Carolyn took a leave of absence.

March 2019

Lenten Seminars

The 2019 series of seminars began on March 20th in Divonne on the topic of "What is a good Death?" by Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer. The seminars will continue through April on the theme "**The ethics of death and dying Christian perspectives**". These seminars offer some excellent Christian learning opportunities for the church and wider community.

Calen Gayle, La Côte Youth Leader left us after five years at La Côte, in order to pursue a new phase in his spiritual life along with his wife Daphne and young son Zedek.



Funeral of our dear friend Dorothy Davies on March 20th in Gingins. This was a sad day but also an opportunity to celebrate her life and give thanks to God for her.



Dorothy

New Faces at La Côte Ministry Team

Betty Talbot

Hello Everyone! I have been asked to provide a short bio and a description of the past year as Reader at La Côte.



I am almost 63 years old and am enjoying this season of life. My vocation is to teach. I have taught chemistry in high schools

in Sydney, Australia; produced teaching materials on human rights and refugee rights for UNHCR; and led adult Bible studies in various churches in various countries. I love teaching people of all ages to enjoy learning, be it the periodic table or the book of Leviticus! Another passion which has been with me since my teenage years, is gardening, which eventually developed into an MSc in environmental management, and that in turn has matured into a spiritual pathway where, to quote Christian writer John Ortberg, “being out in the creation opens my spirit to God,” where I read nature as “the manuscripts of God.”

I came to La Côte from St Michael’s Church in Paris, via Holy Trinity Church in Geneva. In 2002, in response to my theological questing, the assistant chaplain at St Michael’s suggested that I embark on a BA in theology, which I did with relish. I thoroughly enjoyed the courses in biblical studies, church history, ethics, liturgy, mission and spirituality, to name a few. I even appreciated learning New Testament Greek, as its rules of grammar helped me to understand French grammar! I love teaching, but I also love

learning. Last December, I graduated from St Andrews University with an M.Litt in the Bible and the Contemporary World.

In 2008, when St Michael’s lost both its Readers who moved away from Paris, the chaplain and I agreed that I would go for Readership training. In the meantime, I helped out at St Michael’s with leading and preaching and was licensed as a Reader in 2010. Chris and I returned to live in the Pays de Gex, and in 2012, at the urging of the chaplain of Holy Trinity Church, I served as a Reader there until the end of its last interregnum.

Chris and I were drawn to the La Côte church community where we already had friends, who like us, are members of the ecumenical Geneva Cursillo group.



We joined La Côte in the summer of 2016, witnessing the community living out its mission statement of “growing together in love for God and for our neighbour.” We enjoy the liveliness and family atmosphere of La Côte and appreciate very much the sensitive blend of Anglican tradition with contemporary expressions. This was evident at the service last April when I was licensed to serve as Reader at La Côte. The licensing, which was led by the Swiss Archdeacon, Canon Adele Kelham, was integrated into a Holy Communion service presided by Carolyn. The sense of camaraderie was strong and inviting, and the joy of the occasion was highlighted by the upbeat, foot-tapping music provided by Calen and his music group “Lift Every Voice,” and the

family atmosphere was further emphasized as we also celebrated the marriage of John and Béné Phillips with cake and bubbly after the service.

I have been rostered to serve at both Divonne and Gingsins, and at each service, receive encouragement and support through kind words and smiles, and am touched by the thoughtful engagement of congregation members who either help in the pre-service preparation of setting up the sanctuaries in either locale, or who remain afterwards to help in post-service duties.

La Côte is blessed with many talented and dedicated church members who contribute in many ways, overt and covert, to help our church community to flourish. At the same time La Côte stimulates the exercise of gifts in community. In the past months, Carolyn has drawn together a ministry team whose members serve La Côte through leading services and preaching, with each person bringing their unique personality and talents into their preparation and delivery.

As we move through the seasons of this coming year, may I ask that we appropriate for ourselves the prayer of the Apostle Paul for the Christians in the church in Ephesus (3:16-19): that God may strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith; and that being rooted and established in love, we may have the power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses all knowledge – that we may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God.

Betty Talbot Reader

Louise Burrows



Originally from the UK, I have lived in Switzerland with my husband and two children since 2008. We went to church in French for our first year here until we

realized that our language skills weren't quite up to it. At the time we did not have a car, so we joined Westlake church and settled down for the following nine years. I was an elder for six of these, as well as running a home group, leading services and preaching.

After finishing my second term as an elder in November 2017, I spent the following months in discernment as to what God was calling me to do next and felt a renewed call to the ordained ministry. Since we were part of the Anglican church until we left the UK it was natural for me to pursue this calling in the Anglican church, and since by that point we had a car, I joined La Côte this summer.

It has truly felt like coming 'home' on many levels. I have been overwhelmed by the gracious welcome I have received and for the opportunities I have already been given to contribute to the life of the church. I look forward to worshipping and serving with you in the years to come and to testing my calling to ordained ministry. I am currently a part-time scientific writer at the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative in Geneva and look forward to growing vegetables in the garden of our new house. My husband Jeremy will join me after Easter when he has finished training the current crop of Stephen Ministers, something he is doing in his capacity as a Stephen Leader at Westlake Church.



Helen Harding

Helen arrived in Switzerland two years ago, following her husband's job. She moved with her husband

Chris; 2 children; 2 cats and 2 ponies, all of whom keep her busy! While in England Helen led a music in worship ministry in Lyndhurst, directing a children's choir, senior choir and worship band. She also led and hosted a bible study group and was a leader on an Alpha course run in the benefice.

She dipped her toe in the waters of theological study undertaking a module on Exegesis in the Old Testament through the Winchester Diocese. Since arriving in Switzerland, she has enjoyed flexing her brain muscle through regular meetings with Dr Clare Amos to discuss a wide variety of theological and biblical issues. She has enjoyed helping out and occasionally leading sessions for the CCC group at La Côte and finds it a privilege to be able to help lead and give reflections during worship in main services. Helen is in the process of applying to train as a Reader through the Diocese of Europe.

She still has time to play an active role on the Parents Association of La Côte school and enjoys music and wildlife.



Meet our new Council Member

Diantha Terry



I am Diantha Sinnatamby Terry, I am married with two children and first arrived in Switzerland in 2009 when my husband started a job with the UN World Health Organization. My parents are originally from Sri Lanka and came to the UK in the early 1970's. I was born in London but grew up in Cambridgeshire.

My career started in nursing, at the Royal Free Hospital, in Hampstead. I then worked in an acute medical and surgical unit whilst studying for BSc Hons in health studies. Following this I worked within the pharmaceutical industry. The last 15 years of my work here, was spent in the field of mental health, working for Eli Lilly and Co.

Following our move to Switzerland we sent our children to the local school in Gingins, so helping the family adjust to this new life, became my new full-time job. This is still the case, but I also have a small business selling hand-crafted BookHooks at local events and Book Fairs. I enjoy lots of other types of crafts also, but equally love the outdoors and hiking with my dogs, in St-Cergue, where we live.

I have been coming to La Côte church for several years, but this was mainly limited to attending Christmas and Easter services. It was after my daughter, Liana, expressed an interest in being confirmed that we both began to regularly attend services together.

Whilst attending services at this point, I was overwhelmed with the open, genuine care and welcoming of the people in our Parish and began to get to know many of you, on a more personal level. Through the guidance and love from many of you, I found my faith re-kindled and myself to be part of a very special new church family.

I started to attend some of the wonderful groups our church has to offer, and to date still attend, prayer group, Coffee Cake and Catch up, and trilingual bible study.

Last year I had the great opportunity and privilege to help put together and co-run the Prayer Walk workshop, with Peta Tracey, at our annual away day at Bossey. Some of you may also know me for creating the pocket crosses for our Gift Day, over the past couple of years.

Last year I also joined our Church Council. A completely new experience for me, but one which I am very much enjoying. It is a new side of worship for me, yet one which I am learning, is an essential part of the mission of La Cote.

The importance of placing God at the heart of all that we as Council members do, has been paramount to me. It is with this in mind, that I hope we are able to be most effective in discerning our role in our Church, for our Parish community and beyond.

News at La Côte Youth Programme **Armel Ayegnon**



Armel has joined us at La Côte where he will be acting youth leader until the summer. He will be working closely with the **SAS** and **Sherbert** groups.

Armel is currently working part-time at Holy Trinity in Geneva as a Young People Ministry Co-ordinator.

Armel originally comes from Benin but has travelled widely, spending many years in the Ivory Coast and Senegal teaching in mathematics and religious studies in secondary schools.

Armel is a professional and liturgical singer and plays the Kora, a monastic African instrument and he has a Masters in Ethnomusicology and Dance Anthropology and a Diploma of Religious and Pedagogical Sciences.

From 2013 to 2014, Armel worked with the International Relations Mission of Clermont-Ferrand.

Children and Youth Worship at La Côte

Divonne Crèche

Welcomes around 6 children. We follow the **Roots Materials** in planning our topics and prayers, linking in with church services. This year, the children have been learning the Lord's Prayer and have enjoyed a wide variety of activities such as potting, stained glass window painting and making edible candles. Another highlight was taking part in the Divonne Nativity Play performing their song. This group is led by:

Katie Warren and Jessica Ives



8 to 10 Group Sunday Club Divonne

There are currently between 4 to 6 children attending the sessions for this age group, which are led by Susan Werkhoven (co-ordinator), Liz Martinez and Heidi Hawkings. The **Roots materials** have continued to provide a solid basis for lessons, as they follow the lectionary readings. This has been combined with some supplementary instruction, to help the children to have a better understanding of the Biblical narrative and structure. In each session, time is also allotted for worship and prayer, as well as a craft or game activity related to the day's lesson. The children are very interested and focused. A highlight of the year is the Divonne Nativity play. We as leaders greatly enjoyed teaching them. A regular feature during the year is a Bake Sale to raise funds for youth activities. We were sorry to see the Ives family return to the UK this past year.



Susan Werkhoven, Liz Martinez, and Heidi Hawkings

Gingins Sunday Club

Six to ten-year olds

The Sunday Club has continued to be well supported by children of all ages from 2 and a half to 17. The six to ten-year olds had a break from the Roots programme last term in order to look at some familiar stories from the Old Testament starting with Adam and Eve. This led to a focus on Creation and we planted hyacinth bulbs which flowered in time for Christmas. By the October half term, we had reached the story of Joseph. November had a focus on prayer in the run up to advent and we began rehearsing for the Nativity Service. Once again, we attempted a musical, this year it was called “**Straw and Order**” where Grumpy Judge Grumps has to preside over a dispute between Donkeys and Cows after the Cows want to evict the Donkeys, and their friends, from their stable in Bethlehem. The children were really good at learning lines and turning up to rehearsal and overall it was a success.

After Christmas we have returned to the Roots programme and are planning to follow it through to Easter. We are also learning some new songs which we might sing in church at some point in the future.

Naomi continues to work with the younger group, sometimes supported by some of the volunteers listed below but we could really do with new volunteers. Naomi’s programme has to some extent mirrored ours but with activities really geared towards the three to six-year olds. They tend to stay with the older ones at the very beginning for a game and or to practise a song and then go upstairs for their story and activities.

The groups could not continue if it wasn’t for all the support from the whole church community. In particular, we would like to thank the team of fantastic

volunteer leaders; Alice Debell, Kate Shepherd, Tania Ahlstrom and Mary Gossal, Helen Harding. Also, this year we have really benefited from Carolyn’s and Calen’s support, we will miss Calen but wish him all the best in Yverdon. We are looking forward to working with the new youth leader when appointed.

Jane Robinson

Youth Work Report

In this fifth and final year of youth work with La Côte, I continue to learn about the depths of devotion expressed by members of our community. And the challenges and growth of our young people



Chatfaith (Divonne)

We were again thrilled with Fiona Ball’s final pre-university contribution, but also the work Chatfaith crowd put in to thinking through elements of Scripture and the Christmas story to supplement the already mirthful and thoughtful text. Beyond this, we have had a good time discussing all sorts of topics linked more or less to following Christ (the end of the world, the big bang and God, Brexit at least once or a few dozen times). This year has also seen some newer arrivals to the group, some infrequently present, but still willing to come along and meet the other young people: at least six newcomers (again not every service, but still).

Chatfaith has largely been the purview of myself and our fearless Ed Kelley. In March, Tommy and Meghan Bresson, hailing from Youth Compass (Youth for Christ or YFC), will take up the challenge.

Sunday Club in Gingins is engaging, exciting and funny: so why, who or what is causing us to have lower numbers?

We have welcomed at least two newer families, but also said goodbyes to certain ones whose families have moved or simply stopped attending regularly. This, combined with other seasonal absences, has taken the average of Sunday club from 8 to 5. It is worth noting that many of those not regularly at Sunday Club have attended quite regularly the SAS gatherings, similarly Sherbert and other one-off interchurch events. The Youth Band, however, grows both in participants and quality. Younger children seem interested also: a new generation of musical worshipers on our hands? Repairs of the Auberge down the road have changed our venue, now at the building adjacent the Poste. In the interim, Christian Heyraud, pastor of the EERV congregation, provided his study. Students praying for each other after our sessions continues to encourage; we may be few, but we are growing in our relationship with God.

Sherbert

This group is the shining hidden gem of our youth work. These young people, some of them not showing up often on Sundays despite being confirmed (a fact of which they have been lovingly reminded) have developed very innovative approaches to living their faith, including asking questions of Christianity's benefit for the developing world, how to handle depression as a believer, and questions tied to relationships, of the platonic and non-platonic varieties. Members have been part of Samedi de Partage, Taizé (in Geneva and Bourgogne), Project

Compassion (last year in Serbia, this year in Romania). Our shingle reads "every other Saturday in Nyon at the Fraternelle bureau." Helen Harding and Armel Ayegnon will lead this group post-March.

SAS

I won't pretend not to love this group: folk gravitate towards it, both to Divonne (Chez Bolan and Campbell) and Duillier (chez Ted Talbot). HUGE thanks to families like the Churchills, whose son Will habitually invites the group out to full plays but also whose parents have similarly opened their home to us for a session this term, as well as the Philpot-Nissens, whose young Amélie and Tobias frequent SAS. Highlights? New invitees, from church and not. Motorboat rides at SAS Camp, too many water balloons, *Sapin Solidaire* caroling. 6-12 kids laughing and learning about life. Gambling for chocolate. Bible videos. Ted.

My prayer is that whoever comes after me (stay tuned) has just as much a blast as have I. I love this church, and I love these young people.

Calen Gayle La Côte Youth Leader





SAS camping Rolle

The annual SAS camping trip took place once again in the beautifully located camp site of “Aux Vernes”, right next to the Lac Leman. This year the theme was Justice, Peace and Joy, or as we called it JPJ. The young people reflected and discussed with one another and with the leaders of the trip the various bible passages as well as real life testimonies to understand more about the Word of God. As well as educational, the weekend away was also packed with lots of fun; from trying (and in some cases succeeding) to water-ski to a treasure hunt where we discovered the beautiful town of Rolle. The weekend ended with a delicious barbecue and games in which the parents participated as well. A delightful camping trip that ended with many happy faces.

Saskia Werkhoven



New Faces at Chatfaith



Megan and Tommy Bresson joined La Côte in Divonne in March on a voluntary basis to carry on the work began by Calen during the transition period between Calen moving on and a new youth leader. **In their words:** We moved to the Geneva area in August of 2018 as missionaries with Youth for Christ International. We are establishing a chapter of Youth for Christ’s ministry called **YouthCompass** which coordinates outreach events into international schools and partners with local churches to connect students to local youth groups.

Our passion for youth ministry and, specifically, ministry to international youth, developed during our time of service at Black Forest Academy, an international Christian school in Germany. There, we both grew in our understanding of the unique needs of students living outside their passport country,

We are excited to work with the La Côte team and aid in mentoring your youth in their walks with Christ. We are excited to see what God has in store for the youth and their families.

Chaplaincy Council Report



The Chaplaincy Council held 10 meetings in the period between the 2018 and 2019 AGM. At last year's AGM (2018) Diantha Terry was elected as a Council Member. Dwight Moe was re-elected as a Church Warden and re-elected as Lay Vice-Chairman. Austin Ball and Liz Bramley were re-elected as Church Wardens.

Finances. The Council agreed after having received advice from La Côte's auditor, that no further contributions to Carolyn's Church of England Clergy Pension fund would be made as there may be some conflict with Swiss pension regulations and could pose a problem with significant financial implications for La Côte. Once again Gift Day netted a healthy figure of CHF 24,000. The sale of "Pocket Crosses" greatly contributed to cash income

Ministry Team. In agreement with the Council, Carolyn has formed a small ministry team to meet monthly. Proposed members of this team are Chris Potter, Helen Harding, training as a Reader, Betty Talbot Reader and Louise Burrows (currently exploring ordination). The aim is to keep the wider worship fresh and be creative and for reflection after the service

Church Visibility and Outreach. The Council continues to recognise the importance of raising awareness of La Côte Church's presence in the region and underlining the fact that La Côte was a self-supporting church. To this means, La Côte participated in this year's **Expat Expo** event providing visitors with information packages,

videos and the opportunity to interact with La Côte families. The welcome package leaflets have been updated and published. The Council is currently working on a new La Côte website which will offer more opportunities to provide links to other events and sermons.

Youth Leader Calen Gayle before our youth leader for the past five years, leaving La Côte to explore other areas of ministry, the Council has been reviewing La Côte's needs with respect to our youth ministry and the prospects of fulfilling this role with a new youth Leader. The council has also been evaluating the financial implications. So far, one individual has been interviewed for the role. Meanwhile, Meghan and Tommy Bresson from Youth for Christ are assisting La Côte with youth work during this transition period.

Safe-Guarding Policy. The Council continues to work closely with the Diocese in implementing safe-guarding policies at La Côte. The council have all completed the Level 1 training. The safeguarding team, Christine Warren, Cassie Whetham, and Catherine Bichara have facilitated several training days for Level 2 certification.

AGM 2018 Feedback. The Council took on board the opinions raised at last year's AGM. To this effect, the Council instigated a workshop in November facilitated by Chris Talbot to review La Côte progress over the past years and set new priorities based on the congregation feedback.

Church Priorities. The Council has determined three strategic priorities for La Côte's three-year plan; that being Youth, Visibility and Outreach and Pastoral Care.

Adult Christian Education. The Council recognised the importance of adult Christian development. The council agreed that the Lenten seminars was an example of this and should be continued.

most parts of the world but is declining in Europe. Christian religion in Europe thrived owed much of its success in the past to its links with government and the state. Churches tended to be seen as territorial and over the centuries have become what Dr Davie referred to as a “public utility”. In the United Kingdom this has become a major problem in that the Anglican Church has an infrastructure bigger than the number of people using it. Rural churches in Britain are in considerable difficulty although in some cases urban churches are experiencing a revival.

The presence of other religions in the UK has brought religion to prominence in public discussion, but among the British in general the clear trend is towards secularization. Religious literacy is declining and very many children now leave school with no idea about what religion is. Interestingly, the only two (British) Anglican dioceses that are growing are London and the Diocese in Europe.

As Europe has modernized, it has grown increasingly secularized. Yet that is not happening in much of the rest of the world where Christian belief is expanding greatly.

It was also interesting to learn that, in the UK’s Brexit referendum, a disproportionate number of Christians voted to leave the European Union. As “**Christianity Today**” wrote in June 2016, “nearly six in ten of those who identified as Christian voted for Brexit. This is significantly higher than the 52% who voted for Brexit across the nation.” Among Muslim and Hindu voters, in contrast, seven in 10 voted to remain. For more information about Grace Davie, see:

<http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/sociology/staff/davie/publications/>

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David Bramley and Trevor Davies
Synod representatives

French Association La Côte Anglican Church

In 2018 our Association supported two charities for a total of €1,670 in donations, allocated as follows:

- €920 to Médecins sans Frontières;
- €750 to Eclat a charity based in the Pays de Gex and assisting the families of handicapped children.

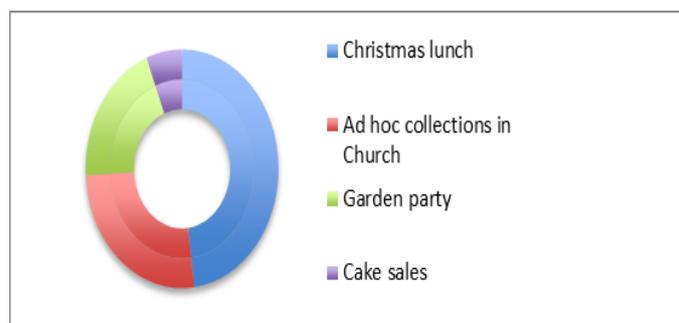
These amounts were raised through the Association's regular annual events: The June Garden Party and the Christmas lunch. STEJ Togo, a charity assisting children and communities has been suspended due to the retirement of Aimée Tenu who had pioneered the project. The Resto du Coeur receives our support every year in the form of donations of non-perishable goods. Four Lenten Seminars talks that proved highly popular were given last year in Divonne on the theme of "Geopolitics and conflict in the Middle East: some Christian reflections"

An application submitted to the French Authorities for *Association culturelle* status under the Law of 1905, in addition to our present Law of 1901 status, was turned down in March last year by the authorities on the grounds that, it was no longer possible for an Association to benefit from both statuses. It was decided to shelve further action.

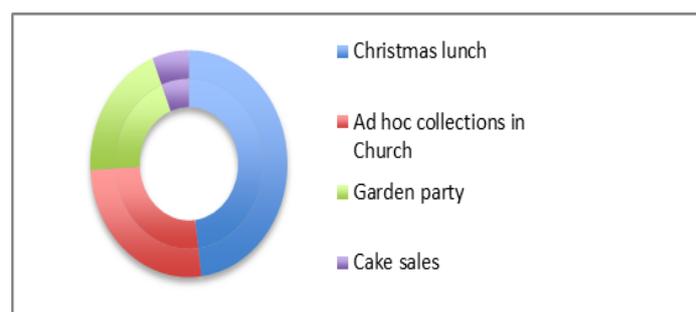
The topic of the Lenten Seminars this year is "*The Ethics of Death and Dying: Christian Perspectives*" commencing March 20th.

Throughout the rest of the year, we plan to pursue our traditional activities in support of charities and welfare organizations, including the annual Summer Garden Party in Divonne and the

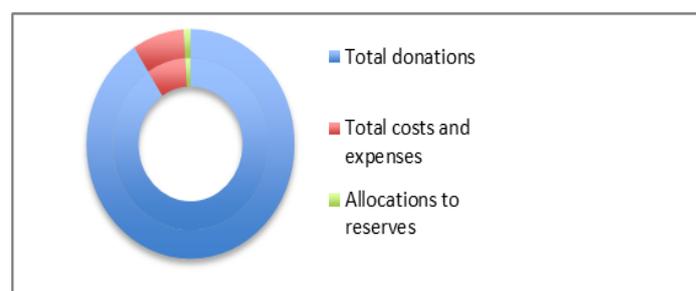
traditional Christmas lunch. Further events may be held as opportunities arise over the course of the year.



Recipients to date



Sources of funds



How funds were spent

George Mills

Treasurer



Safeguarding at La Côte

Our work as Safeguarding Officers at La Cote has continued in 2018 helping and encouraging our volunteers to complete police check clearance and attend training days. We are encouraged by the growing awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting our children, young people and vulnerable adults within our chaplaincy and outside.

Our Wardens and everyone who works with children or vulnerable adults are required to complete clearance checks for all countries they have lived in for over 6 months since the age of 16. As an international community this may seem extensive with so many of our congregation having lived and worked worldwide but we are a committed team who is ever ready to help you through the process. We thank everyone who has completed clearance for their commitment and encourage others who have not, to persevere. We have been in constant discussion about clearance requirements with the Diocesan Office in London, and we are awaiting a new protocol for Europe in April and May 2019. We have started networking with other Safeguarding officers in Switzerland and following an initiative by Archdeacon, Adele Kelham, a meeting of Safeguarding Officers is being organized in Bern on June 29th. We welcome this and Christine and Catherine will attend.

Our training programme on increasing awareness about safeguarding is going well. In May we organized the second all-day level 2 training course for all who had newly completed the on-line level 1 courses. We thank everyone who attended, and it was a very successful day. In November we decided to initiate the first ever open to all session to work on the level 1 online course on Child Protection as a group. An internet link was established in the parish room in Gingins by Johan Crocoll and 5 people attended. The feedback was positive and those who attended appreciated sharing and discussing the contents of this course over tea and cake. We were congratulated on this initiative by the Diocesan Office who sent each attendee a certificate. Our grateful thanks to Johan without whom we could not have managed. In 2019 we plan to organize a similar open course for the level 1 on adult protection. We encourage you to come along, whether you have already completed the course or not. Discussions are both interesting and help to raise awareness within our community. The more that attend – the greater the awareness.

Sadly, Cassie Whetham will be standing down from our team and we will miss a great team member very much. We have appreciated her commitment and good advice. Thus, we will be looking for more support to join us on the Safeguarding team in the next few months.

Christine Warren, Catherine Crocoll

Outreach and visibility at La Côte

Expat Expo 2018 Geneva

In response to a suggestion made at our AGM 2018, last year we secured a place for La Côte Church to be present at the annual Expat Exposition in Geneva. The event was held on Sunday 4 November at the Starling Hotel next to Palexpo.

The event runs for one day each year and features stands for local business and groups, to showcase the services they offer. The aim is to act as a resource for newcomers to the Geneva area, so that they may feel supported and made aware of various opportunities and activities in their new living environment.

In preparation, we summarised all our church activity groups and displayed this information on 2 large notice boards, along with information about our two churches and the services we offer. Given that the date of the event was November, we also printed fliers with our Advent service dates on, to hand out. We had some SAS and La Côte general information



fliers also. Posters previously made by the younger members of our community were also displayed.

On the day of the event, the organisers reported an increase in visitors of up to 50%, compared to 2017. As this was our first time as a Church at this event, it was difficult to assess what success would look like. However, the interest and comments we received on the day were all very positive. Many people went away with

fliers and information about our upcoming Advent services.



It was also noted by a few how lovely it was to see a few different churches present at the event – Westlake Church were also there, but for their second year at this event. It was felt generally that our presence complemented each other.

Several people passed by from Cursillo and other organisations, so it was a blessing to have Betty, Louise and Calen present, who knew many there. There were also some exhibitors who may be of interest to us as a church, for talks and other activities.

In later feedback from church services at both Gingins and Divonne during December, it was noted that we had several newcomers, due to our presence at the Expat Expo. As our goal was to increase our visibility in our local area and encourage people to come along to our services, the council viewed this a success and feel it is an important opportunity to be part of again, going forward.

A huge thank you to all those involved in the preparation of the event and on the day itself with 'manning the stand' - Louise Burrows, Betty Talbot, Calen Gayle, Johan Crocoll, Sue Both, even baby Zedek and Daphne!

If anyone has any questions about this event or would like to be involved with the 2019 Expat Expo, please speak to

Diantha Terry.

Asylum Support

MENTORING

A six-month pilot phase of the 'Mentoring for Integration' (MINT) project, started by Joy Stephens, was undertaken by Eileen Wiley and Andrea Goovaerts. The purpose of the project is to contribute to the orientation and integration of asylum seekers and refugees into life in Switzerland.

The aim is to pair a personal mentor with an asylum seeker in order to guide and follow their progress until full integration and financial independence, through to eventual employment.

The pilot aims were to:

- ♥ evaluate the effectiveness of the project
- ♥ recruit, orient/induct and support/guide mentors
- ♥ Identify mentees and pair with mentors
- ♥ Organise and lead regular mentor team meetings to pool experiences and share ideas on how to best support each other
- ♥ revise and develop guidelines and training manual

The pilot scheme concluded in Spring 2018, with the creation of a Swiss Association '**COUP DE MAIN**' to coordinate the MINT mentoring project as well as other activities (advocacy, legal assistance, social activities) to help migrants integrate. A web site www.coupdemain-ch.weebly.com has been set up to keep us informed and help keep in contact with the very geographically



displaced migrants and volunteers, now that the EVAM day centres and shelters have been closed. The members of the Association meet regularly, and MINT mentors also meet to share information and experience. There are presently nine mentors working with mentees under the project.

During February 2019 a Jobs Search Workshop was organised for the asylum seekers and refugees by Vivienne and Chris Talbot and Vincent Woo to assist with creation of CVs and letters of motivation, improve interview presentation and skills and search for jobs.

Summer b-b-qs, Westlake friendship meals and meals in private homes, pizza nights and walks have continued on a smaller scale due to diminished numbers of migrants in La Côte area. Anyone interested in learning more about this project and mentoring, please contact

Andrea Goovaerts



La Côte Groups and Activities Update

What a summer!

Ladies Night

La Côte ladies and friends enjoyed a summer evening together with bubbly



and nibbles at the movies in Nyon. The ladies took advantage of a special, women-only showing of ***“Mama Mia, here we go again!”*** It was

an opportunity to test the vocal cords and hopefully win the tombola.

La Côte Garden Party in Divonne

A sultry June evening relaxing in the garden of the Divonne Temple. Members of the La Côte family and friends were entertained with a mixture of gospel, jazz and the homegrown musical talent of the La Côte young people under the technical direction of Steve Rawcliffe. There was plenty of grilled Saté washed down with a selection of wines and ice-cold beer. The proceeds of the evening were donated to Eclat, a local charity assisting the families of handicapped children.



Autumn the fun goes on

La Côte holds second barn dance

Country music, line dancing and Western gear was in vogue on Friday 28 September when La Côte Church held its second barn dance. The aim of the barn dance was to



build our community AND welcome people beyond our regular church

attenders to enjoy time together.

Fortunately, the event took place in an appropriately decorated Catholic church hall in Nyon on Lake Geneva rather than a drafty barn. The music, food and

congenial atmosphere encouraged almost all of the 120+ would-be westerners onto the dancefloor.

With our very own caller to guide our steps and the accompaniment of our own country singer backed by assorted musicians, we had a hand-slapping, foot-hand slapping, foot stomping time. Large quantities of chili



and rice, washed down by French beer and Swiss wine, provided the sustenance we needed to get through the evening.

La Côte Anglican Church quiz night a sell-out

Who said: 'I never forget a face, but in your case, I'd be glad to make an exception?'*

This question was in the 'Quotations' round of our annual Quiz Night on 17 November. It's become such a popular event that it was sold out well before the date and draws in many from outside our church community. David Bramley's Quiz-mastering has become legendary and with Liz, his wife, organising the event and in charge of marking, they make a great team. Add to that our computer expert, Les Bolingbroke, who provides all the visuals, and you know you're in for a puzzling, intriguing and fun evening! A competitive streak creeps in nevertheless and it was a close finish, with the 'Movers & Shakers' narrowly beating the 'Jeanius' team to take 1st prize. The quiz raised CHF2,500 for the Youth Meals Project in Malawi, which provides primary school children with a meal of porridge, prepared by the youth, in the district of Ekwendeni.



***Answer: Groucho Marx**

The Joy of Christmas La Côte Christmas Lunch in Divonne

A willing team of helpers transformed the parish rooms on the Saturday afternoon in readiness for the party on the Sunday. Forty-nine adults, ten young people and five children attended the party which followed the Nativity Play service which took place in the Church. A selection of cold dishes was served which seemed to be well appreciated by everyone and this was followed by an excellent assortment of desserts and fruit, mince pies and cheeses.

Sadly, the kitchen facilities and electrical capacity of the hall make the serving of hot food very difficult.

During the meal Georges and Ed performed an hilarious but thoughtful sketch and Richard and Heidi led a very lively and noisy rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas and other seasonal songs. Thank you to everyone who helped make the party such an enjoyable occasion. The money raised was donated to Médecins Sans Frontières.



The Calm before the storm

La Côte Groups and Activities Update

Divonne Song Group

Since April 2018, the Divonne song group has sung on several occasions, including Ascension, Harvest, the Nativity service and the Candlelight Carol service, as well as the service of baptism for Julia's granddaughter, Penelope. About 15 in number, we sing a range of music, from modern songs to more traditional pieces sung in four-part harmony.



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 home, including a special practice held in August to focus on new music, followed by a barbecue lunch in their lovely garden. Last year, we welcomed a new member, Peter Schoen. We are particularly sorry that Calen Gayle will be leaving us and have greatly appreciated his many gifted musical contributions over the past five years. New voices are always welcome, so please let Richard or Heidi Hawkings know if you would like to join us

Heidi Hawkings

Gingins Song Group



The Gingins Song Group led by Margaret & Harold Corrigan was formed in 2007. The idea came from Paul Holley, the Chaplain of La Côte at the time, following a Carol Singing Evening in December 2006 at the home of Margaret and Harold in Luins. Paul asked Harold if he would be willing to set up a Song Group to add another dimension to the singing in Gingins. Harold found the idea was interesting and said it was certainly worth a try. We celebrated our 100th performance on 22 November 2015 and are now entering our 13th year!!

The aim of the group is to lead the congregation once a month and also at important festivals. We have 23 members and on average we are 12 to 15 who attend regularly, and we are always almost at full strength for the Christmas Eve service in a packed Church.

Practices are normally on the Wednesday evening preceding the monthly Sunday service. We meet at Margaret and Harold's house for a practice which is always followed by drinks and refreshments. This is a special time for developing camaraderie and friendship around our round table discussions!

Apart from singing at Church, we have also performed at Ted's Musical Drop in –

Abba evening, carol singing... *all a great joy and success.*

Calen often enhances our music with his welcome guest appearance on the flute. We have joined forces with the Divonne Song Group and greatly appreciated and enjoyed being directed by Richard Hawkings.

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 all newcomers, especially male voices!

At the time of writing, we are so very sad to say that we have lost one of our very dear members, Dorothy Davies. Dorothy has been with the Song Group from the beginning and she and her husband, Trevor, have been staunch supporters. Our love and prayers go to Trevor.

Dear Dorothy, we will miss you, but you will always be in our hearts. (March 2019)

Prayer group

The Prayer Group meets at the Traceys' home every other Tuesday, 09.15-10.30. There are 10-12 of us at any one meeting, out of a possible 15. We meet as a home group, starting off with coffee and sharing news and concerns for prayer. Then we follow an order of service, from the Northumbria Community, which is along the lines of a Celtic liturgy and gives us a framework for our prayers. These are prayers for the world, our church, our community and those we have been asked to pray for - all in strict confidence.

Sometimes we use a different format for special occasions, such as Shrove Tuesday, when we make up the pancake batter as part of the liturgy, and then enjoy eating them afterwards! Below are photos of this occasion, on 5 March 2019. Since then we have been shocked to lose one of our much-loved members, Dorothy Davies. We remember her with great affection, as a faithful, prayerful, wise and dedicated listener, who will leave a big gap in our group and our church family. We pray for Trevor and his family in their grief and loss.

If you would like to join us, just once or regularly, please do get in touch with Peta Tracey: tracey.p@bluewin.ch



Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study meets twice a month in our home in Founex. We meet at 09.45 for a coffee before starting our study at 10.00. For the past year we have studied the book of Acts ch 13 to the end, being amazed at the spread of Christianity through the witness of so many people. It has challenged many of us to examine how we witness today and in our church. We have around around ten who attend. We are ecumenical from at least three churches in the area.



We are currently engaged in a study on the book of Daniel which has raised many issues for us all and yet the study is so apt for this generation and for a time such as this. We have still to read the different visions in the second half of the book which will no doubt bring about much discussion and theological questions. We are helped by Carolyn and have enjoyed the contribution of Calen this past year. We are an open group and if anyone would like to join you would be most welcome, just make contact with Carolyn or myself.

Trevor Davies

Coffee, Cake and Catch-Up

Our CCC group continues to thrive and grow. We now have 20 on our email distribution list and have also created a **CCC WhatsApp group**.

Since the new academic year started in September 2018, we changed the day of our regular meetings. Previously being on a Wednesday, various members would no longer have been able to attend this year, so we changed the day by popular request to a Friday. The timing remains the same

9.30-11.30am in the church salle in Gingins and we still very much have coffee and cake high up on the agenda! We now call ourselves **CCC Fridays**.

Since September we have been studying a book by John Ortberg which has an accompanying DVD series called 'If you want to walk on the water, you have to get out of the boat'. I think that the group would agree this has been a most inspiring and uplifting read. The leading has been shared between 4 of us. We are always looking to encourage people to have a go at guiding the



sessions. We are about to embark on a Lenten study by Hilary Brand called '**The Mystery of Everything**.' It is based on the film, 'The Theory of Everything'.

Although our group has grown, we still pride ourselves on being an intimate, closeknit group, willing to share our joys and fears (in confidentiality of course) and we always try to end with a time of prayer for each other and the wider community. I think that this has been a vital support group for many especially as we cannot all make church every Sunday.

For more information please email Alice Debell on debellalice@gmail.com or telephone 0791034268.

Alice Debell

Thursday Space

The Thursday Space group has moved from the rooms on rue de la Colombière and now meets at the Prieuré next to the Temple in Nyon. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month for a light meal followed by an hour's study. We finish with Evening Prayer. In our study we are currently working our way through the book of Acts, using Tom Wright's study guide. We are studying Paul's ministry to the early church and how the early church (and its members) compared to our church (and us) today. As the group has grown in number (sometimes we have more than ten participants) we are wondering about splitting the study part of the evening into two but staying together for the fellowship and evening prayer.

Chris Potter

Blokes Night

The La Côte Blokes continue to meet monthly. We typically number about 12 and share dinner together while discussing a topical subject. Recent themes having included



"Men and Feminism", "Why we go to Church", "What does it mean to live a life of Abundance?". The venue has shifted to the Prieuré, a community room adjacent to the Temple in Nyon. With the space to ourselves and home cooking on offer, the

Blokes Dinners are as popular as ever. All (men) are welcome. Contact David Cooke for details *David Cooke*

Musical Drop-ins 2018



The 1st Sunday evening of most months in 2018 found a crowd of regular supporters, friends, and visitors cramming into Ted's Trelex living room and java-scripting into hall and kitchen for an evening of music and fun.

The music varied from classical to sing-along, folk, jazz and music hall.

Then came a shock announcement – Ted is moving to a chapel in Duillier!! But the Musical Drop-in moved too! The inaugural event in December was animated by the inimitable, indefatigable ensemble of the Barbershop quartet (plus the chapel was packed with over 30 enthusiasts)

It is so exciting to see that at every event there are some newcomers and we hope that these evenings have not simply been fun but provided an environment for people new to the area to make friendships, and an encouragement to everyone to get involved with the La Côte community in some way.

The journey continues

