

La Côte Anglican Church

Weekly Bulletin

Reflection and prayer for week of 1 to 8 December from Carolyn

I love how the poet Malcolm Guite sums up the tension of Advent. On one hand it is a season of seeking spiritual stillness and expectant waiting on God, while on the other it is an outward season of busy preparations for Christmas itself. He writes:

“Advent is a season for stillness, for quiet, for discernment. It is a season of active waiting, straining forward, listening, attentive and finely tuned. It is also the season when our eyes and ears are most completely assailed by all the glitz and glitter of a prematurely celebrated Christmas, all the pressure and sales-hype, the stresses on the diary and the wallet, the unremitting insistence of syrupy canned carols in the shopping mall.”

He goes on to urge us to find space for stillness even in our busyness.

“Of course partying and celebration are wonderful things and there is great joy to be had in the real meetings of faith and friendship in these days, but whilst Advent is still Advent, it’s good to keep a quiet space, a sacred time, an untrammelled sanctuary away from the pressures, to be still and hear again one’s deepest yearnings for a saviour.” Adapted from <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/tag/advent/page/3/>

At La Côte Church this year, to help “hear again our deepest yearnings”, we are offering six half hour sessions of quiet space – with the meditative practice of Lectio Divina. With the help of a short Bible study passage read aloud three or four times, this is a chance to allow a word or phrase from the passage to speak to you and to listen for what God may be saying to you in the moment. You are welcome to come along to one or more of these if you can:

Tuesday 3, 10, and 17 December at 18:30 – 19:00 in the Temple de Nyon, (EERV) in Nyon.

Wednesday 4, 11 and 18 December at 18:30 – 19:00 in the Temple Protestante de Divonne where we normally meet for worship.

Also - every Wednesday lunchtime at 12:30 there is a Lectio Divina at Holy Trinity Church, Geneva to which everyone is welcome.

The image on our Advent and Christmas Flyer this year is the warm glow of a flickering candle. The advent theme of light that shines in the darkness is as poignant as ever. We come to God in the night-time of our fears, longing for the light of Christ. Let’s make this our prayer for the coming weeks – for ourselves and those around us:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see. (Bernadette Farrell)

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SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER – Advent Sunday

08:45-09:15 Chapelle de Signy, Said Eucharist

Everyone is welcome both for our worship and then afterwards in the local village café.

16:00 Gingins, Holy Communion

SALE IN FAVOUR OF AMITIÉ CLIT – ST-CERGUE AFTER THE SERVICE

29 years ago, (thanks to Gail Farrell, a good friend of our committee), La Côte Anglican Church started supporting the sponsorship of Clit, a village North-East of Romania.

This village, like many others, has no sewage system and no running water. There are no places of work in Clit. So, the bravest have left to try and earn a little money elsewhere. Those who remain behind are mainly the elderly, the sick, the alcoholics and the mothers and children waiting to join their husbands/fathers once they have found stable employment abroad.

That is why our support is targeted at child development. Since 2007, we have organised a 10 day summer camp for 15 children. Last summer, 60 children registered! The need speaks for itself. We hope, with your help, to organise a second camp during the summer of 2020.

We have also financed the purchase of books to create a school library and spring and Christmas theatre trips. We feel it is important to help them develop their skills in all areas.

In addition, twice a month, 26 elderly, poor people receive a bag of groceries and some firewood. Those living in conditions of extreme poverty receive help to buy essential medications.

The Sale will take place after the service in Gingins this Sunday, 1 December. Please come and stock up for Christmas and support this great cause by buying beautiful hand-made Christmas cards, nut oil and jams, etc.

We and the people of CLIT thank you for your support.

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ADVENT SERVICES:

8 DECEMBER, SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00 in Divonne, Holy Communion

16:00 in Gingins, **Christingle Advent Service**, led by our youth for all the congregation

15 DECEMBER, THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

16:00 Gingins, **Nativity Play Service** for all La Côte Children

and:

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER

20:00 Temple de Nyon, **Service of Light in the darkness**

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER

19:00 for 19:30 start, Temple de Nyon, **Jazz Carols**

Please find the Christmas flyer attached.

Please note that in Gingins we have been asked not to park in the courtyard in front of the church house and meeting room. This is a private parking area for residents.

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

19:00-22:00 Duillier, Musical Drop-In: *A Christmas Mix*, animated by The Barber Shop Boys

For more information, please contact Ted Talbot - [email](#)

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER

09:15–10:30 chez J&P Tracey, Coinsins, [Prayer Group](#)

Please contact Peta if you would like to join us or have prayer requests (in confidence). ([email](#))

COMING UP

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2019

12:30 Bern, Ecumenical Service for opening of parliament

More information [here](#).

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BOSSEY DAY 1 FEBRUARY 2020!

Plans are progressing for our annual La Côte Church away-day at the Château de Bossey. Dave Tomlinson, and his wife Pat, are all set to come and we know he will be an excellent speaker. He describes himself on his Twitter page as a 'bad Christian, slightly better vicar, struggling writer, improving husband, model epicure, awesome dreamer'. Most of us can relate to at least one of those - as do nearly 1,500 'followers' on Twitter! Since retiring, Dave has become chaplain of St. Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace in London and broadcasts on Radio 2 for 'Pause for Thought'. Along with his wife, Pat, he co-founded 'Holy Joes', a church in a pub. His focus is frequently on 'keeping faith in changing times'. Don't miss this unique opportunity at La Côte!

Information and requests

From the Safeguarding team

Basic information Safeguarding course C0

The aim of this course, as well as the C1 course, is to raise awareness of what safeguarding is and promote understanding of it. These courses are open to all and we encourage you to follow them.

On 17 November, we held a group course in Gingins before church. This was well received by the attendees. It was suggested we publish the link to the login to access the courses so that other members of the congregation can also follow them.

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>

There are 2 basic courses which are well presented, easy to follow, informative and support our Safeguarding team's objective to promote awareness and an understanding of what safeguarding is about for this Chaplaincy. We highly recommend the basic course called C0 for all.

Contact us at any time on our new email safeguarding@lacotechurch.ch or in person after services. We are always happy to answer your questions about training and safeguarding matters and we especially welcome feedback on the courses.

Special thanks to all who attended the group course on 17 November.

Christine Warren, Cate Bichara, Liz Martinez

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PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS

The church is in the process of renewing the website and in order to make the church look interesting to newcomers we would like to put on photographs taken at events.

If you do not wish any photographs with you on to be used please send a message to Liz Bramley [email](#).

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Work with asylum seekers

MENTORSHIP opportunity. Would you like to mentor an asylum seeker or refugee? The only requirement is that you speak English or French, and if possible both languages. Mentoring can be deeply satisfying, a win-win relationship for both mentor and mentee. Just give it a try! For more information (no commitment), contact Andrea Goovaerts ([email](#)).

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ACCOMMODATION. There is a need to help these people find a welcome and integrate in our local society – even though they are far from home. Please do prayerfully consider if you can help or know someone who can.

Please speak to Diantha Terry with any thoughts you have. ([email](#))

Do you have jobs that need doing?

If you would like help with odd jobs - for example, gardening, moving furniture, paint work – likewise do get in touch with Diantha Terry ([email](#)) who will be able to match you up with one of our refugee friends in the community.

LA COTE ANGLICAN CHURCH IS ON TWITTER!

Please let Peta Tracey know ([email](#)) if you would like info about a church event to be 'tweeted' or tweet to [@lacoteanglican](#)

Follow us on <https://mobile.twitter.com/lacoteanglican>

PARKING OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE IN GINGINS

We have been asked very clearly to park ONLY in the four places to the right of the church as you approach it. This will thus be reserved for those setting up in church and needing to drop off equipment. Please ensure that you park either behind the Auberge de la Poste, in the village itself – or down by the Post Office and playing fields at the entrance to Gingins.

We apologise for any inconvenience this will cause you, but we are keen to work with the commune and to continue enjoying good relations with the local people of Gingins.
