



# NEWSLETTER

June/July/August 2011



Simon and David - Spring Fair musicians

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## Christian communities in Gingins and Divonne

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



## Message from Carolyn

**WORDS...** *'sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me'* is one of the least true sayings in my experience...

From within our closest circles to far flung communities, words have the potential to wreak havoc. You may remember the shocking news of a shooting in an Arizona supermarket back in January 2011, in which a US congresswoman was seriously wounded and six people died. There were rumours circulating at the time that Sarah Palin's tweet 'Don't retreat, instead – reload!' may have added fuel to this politically motivated attack. Critics warned her and others to tone down their language and the unhelpful connotations between politics and guns.

Words written down, words flying across the world via our media, internet, email, Twitter, Facebook, text or combox messages – all once 'out there' take on a life of their own. Words, open to multiple interpretations, have the power to change things for good or for evil. I hardly dare continue putting words on this page!

I wonder what memories of words you have which have stayed with you through your life? I'm sure we all have regrets about some of the words we have uttered in the heat of the moment. I will never forget the string of expletives that spewed from my mouth, as a teenager, when I accidentally slipped down the stairs, landing at the feet of several shocked parishioners who were chatting with my Mum in our vicarage hallway! A few years later, I spent a gap year living with a missionary family in Paraguay. I noticed how the father chose his words with care. When I asked him about this he explained that he was often inspired by reading the book of Proverbs with its many references to the wise use of words.

At the memorial service of those who died in the Arizona shooting Barak Obama, no doubt with the help of his word smiths, chose his words with care. He moved the public away from laying the blame at Palin's door and instead he urged that "*At a time when our discourse has become so sharply polarized... it's important for us to pause for a moment and make sure that we are talking with each other in a way that heals, not a way that wounds.*" Surely this is a prophetic word for all of us to grasp and strive to put into practice in our private and public lives.

How and what we communicate are a crucial part of our La Côte Church life – both within our church body and how we relate to our wider community. The Bible has plenty of wisdom to offer on this matter. The book of James offers us a sobering image: 'the tongue is a fire which no one can tame' (James 3). Being an extrovert who often thinks out loud, I for one need to ask for God's help with James' challenge to 'be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger', (James 1.19). My prayer for our La Côte church community is that with God's help we will be known as people who listen and talk to each other in a way that heals. I hope too that this newsletter will be another tool in our communications bag which speaks of God's hope and welcome for all.

In the midst of our often busy and noise-filled lives, finding a moment to be silent before God, will help us to check and to choose our words with care. I end with this prayer.  
Saviour, teach me the silence of humility, the silence of wisdom, the silence of love, the silence of perfection, the silence that speaks without words, the silence of faith. Lord, teach me to silence my own heart that I may listen to the movement of the Holy Spirit within me and sense the depths which are of God.

Carolyn

## “ Let the little children come to me “

These often-quoted words which Jesus spoke to the crowds following him remind us of his love for children and the value that he placed on their presence. As happened so frequently, Jesus pushed his followers' thinking further than they may have felt comfortable with: “...do not hinder them for the kingdom of



heaven belongs to such as these.” Those around Jesus were used to seeing the idea of the kingdom in very adult terms – as a political ideal, as a way of gaining freedom from oppression, as a land which they could govern themselves. Yet Jesus subverted these ideas and talked about the kingdom as a place where human beings would be at their best, where all human relationships would be good and where God's will would be desired and worked for. Part of this was about the humility and trust that adults often lack but that children display: “...unless you change and become like little

children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

At La Côte we work hard at creating an environment where children may discover God with us. We are committed to providing good programmes to share the Christian story with children and we are very grateful indeed to all who lead our children's groups in both Gingsins and Divonne. We make every effort to include the children in our worship and give them the space, safety and support to express themselves so that we may also learn from them. We provide a warm welcome for families so that all may feel comfortable as we gather and come before God together. Since Carolyn's arrival we have seen an increase in the number of families and children who are joining us and this is a great joy. As we review our child protection procedures in the light of the new Archdeaconry guidelines, it is a good time to both ensure their safety amongst us, and to renew our commitment to children and remind ourselves that they represent the future not only of our churches, but of our society and of our world. At the same time, we demonstrate what we believe about the nature of God through the way in which we open our community life to children. “...whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.”

*(Bible quotations from Matthew chapters 18 and 19)*

**Julia**

**Over the summer, we give our Sunday Club leaders a well earned break. We aim to have something for children to do during services while sitting with their parents.**

### **Soul Spark**

*Are you keen to explore prayer and spirituality in more depth? We could have just the thing for you! Soul Spark is a six-session course that opens up some of the riches of the Christian tradition to enable a deeper and healthier spirituality. The name of the course comes from Meister Eckhart's image of the 'Spark in the Soul' and the idea that this spark can be fanned into flame. Importantly this needs time and attention. Soul Spark gives an opportunity to attend to soul life, to dispose oneself to the Spirit of God, to pray, to reflect, to share, and explore perspectives on the dynamics of the spiritual life. Please contact Julia on [julia.chambeyron@orange.fr](mailto:julia.chambeyron@orange.fr) or 0033 4 50 20 19 37 if you are interested in pursuing this in the autumn.*

## Spring Fair

On 21 May, the two la Cote congregations came together to hold our hugely successful first Spring Fair in the salle communale at Gingins. Carolyn Cooke, Janet Sydney, Peta Tracey and Mark Warren worked hard on the planning



committee, coordinated by the intrepid Christine Bühler, who also led the kitchen "dream team". The

many stalls included multimedia, bric-a-brac, ex-pat, arts & crafts, cakes, games, toys, bottles, garden plants, green & white, accessories and facepainting. Over 40 people were involved in manning the stalls and serving refreshments at the bar and in the



kitchen. Food and drink alone raised almost one quarter of the total profit: (about CHF 8,000.-). This money will be used to fund the ministry of our church and the various charities we support. The team would like to thank everyone who helped the Spring Fair achieve this brilliant result, whether by working at the stands, putting up posters or by coming along to buy. It was a convivial community event, and showed what La Côte folk can do when they put their minds to it!

*Val*



## Council Update







Following elections at this year's Annual General Meeting in March, the newly formed La Côte chaplaincy council convened in May with members from both congregations in Gingins and Divonne. We began our first meeting of the new church calendar year with a short communion service, discussed the role of the elected PCC, and set priorities for the year ahead. Among these will be a re-examination of the whole area of communications, which was the focus of our discussion at the AGM. The Council will look into new ways to make these more effective both within our church community and beyond, and has set up a sub-group to look into the technical aspects. Keeping an eye on finances is also a necessary part of the Council's responsibilities. The pledge scheme was re-launched at the beginning of the year and the Council will consider how to encourage members of the congregation to think about how they give. The Treasurer reported that the end of April, figures showed that we were more or less on track. However, in line with budget predictions, in order to balance income and expenditure at the end of the year, our community will have to find about CHF20,000.- from fundraising and donations. Another top priority for the Council will be to focus on reaching out to young people. Working in this area is of vital importance for the future of our church and during the coming year we will be spending some time on this topic.

If any member of the congregation would like an issue to be raised at a Council meeting, do not hesitate to contact the clergy or one of these people listed below.

*Val Geschonke, Council Secretary*



**WHO ARE WE? Meet the church council members who represent the congregations in Gingins and Divonne**

<p><b>Austin Ball</b> Churchwarden A physicist in an international research institute, a busy schedule limits his free time, but he likes to be outdoors, cross-country skiing, sailing and travel. Youthful interest in archery, likes books on naval history</p>		<p><b>Philippe Chambeyron</b> La Côte Treasurer Often travels to the Middle East for work. Likes Formula 1, plays piano (with headphones), has started gardening and reads historical novels.</p>	
<p><b>Liz Bramley</b> Churchwarden Has lived in Switzerland for 22 years, and stopped work recently. Likes to spend time with her family, walk the dog and photography.</p>		<p><b>Val Geschonke</b> Council Secretary and Archdeaconry Synod Rep. Worked in an International Association in Geneva, likes sailing, swimming, interested in current affairs, foreign languages and history. Designs and makes couture garments, but does not take commissions! New interest: journalism.</p>	
<p><b>John Tracey</b> Lay Vice-Chairman Semi-retired after a 35-year career with a multinational company in Geneva, continuing to work in an advisory capacity. Seen wearing shorts at every opportunity, perhaps a kilt substitute, reflecting his Scottish origins! Enjoys theatre, singing, walking and relaxing with family and friends.</p>		<p><b>Catherine Crocoll</b> Archdeaconry Synod Rep. Works full time in the field of aviation, likes to play piano, cross-stitch, read, swim and walk. Helps newcomers settle into Switzerland, amateur physicist!</p>	

<p><b>Caroline Allsopp</b> Council Member Works in an international organization based in Geneva, in publishing. A heavy work load does not allow her much spare time, but she likes to walk, spend time with friends, go to the gym and listen to music, whether classical, rock or opera!</p>	
<p><b>Harold Corrigan</b> Council Member Moved to Switzerland 8 years ago from the UK, trying to retire. Likes walking, reading biographies, golf, live theatre, and London shows. Enjoys travel, time with family, and is a gifted musician. Occasionally plays the organ in church and leads the La Côte Song Group.</p>	
<p><b>Ed Kelley</b> Council Member Works for an international organization in Geneva, likes to run half-marathons, play guitar, do gardening and has culinary interests.</p>	

<p><b>Dwight Moe</b> Council Member Just started a new job with an audio-visual production company. Interested in sci-fi, technology, sports, ancient history, chasing small children!</p>	
<p><b>Monika Rawcliffe</b> Council Member Works at an international ecumenical organization, likes to watch films, read historical novels and sing.</p>	
<p><b>Geoff Senogles</b> Council Member Works in the financial field, plays football and touch rugby, was until recently a scoutmaster, and enjoys family life.</p>	
<p><b>Susan Werkhoven</b> Council Member Came to Switzerland 3 years ago and recently started working again. A self-confessed fanatical runner, interested in Tudor history and the Reformation. Likes to listen to the Rolling Stones!</p>	

## Bon Voyage, Keith!

Our links to Keith Dale go back over 14 years, when he started work at Holy Trinity, Geneva, and was welcomed into our midst as our organist. At that time, the Gingins congregation was linked to Holy Trinity, and we were grateful for his interest and enthusiasm in widening the musical scope of our worship.

Peta Tracey particularly remembers him at our Bossey Community Day in 2001, when he helped us to prepare lay-led services by playing the suggested hymns on the grand piano in the large meeting room there. The children at Gingins liked to gather around the organ to watch him play at the end of the service.

When services began over the border in Divonne, Keith played there when his schedule allowed, and he gave us advice on the purchase of a clavichord. At the end of July, Keith will resign his post as Director of Music at Holy Trinity and will join his wife, Claudine, in Bangkok, where she has started an exciting new job working on durable solutions for long-term Burmese refugees.



He  
and

Claudine were regular participants in our community activities and were married at the church at Gingins in 2000. Our thanks to Keith for the way in which he has enriched our worship over the years. We wish them both well and hope to see them again when they return.

*Val*

### **Keith's last concert in Gingins before leaving**

*Saturday 18th June at 8 pm*

*Gingins Church*

*Rise Harmony*

*Purcell, Händel, Stanley, Clarke, Boyce*

*Organ: Keith Dale*

*Trumpet: Christian Crocoll*

Free entry, retiring collection



## Asylum Gardening Project

Onions, leeks, courgettes, tomatoes, aubergines, beans, peppers, carrots and herbs, about CHF80 worth of vegetable seedlings were kindly donated by M. Guichard's enterprise at Borex! Now they are growing in the garden. Ten asylum seekers are signed up to the gardening project, and every week four or five of them come to work in the garden. They also have a "pot" garden at their social centre (Mama Africa) in Nyon. Please drop in to visit the garden, or to help, on any Thursday evening between 6.30 and 9.00 pm. After working, we share a meal together and you are welcome to join us. Come and meet Sharif, for example: a friendly Kurd from Iran who is stateless, hence unable to legally work or to marry. The problem was caused by an error made by a clerk when copying his father's family name into a register!



**How to find us:** By the St. Cergue red train. Get off at the La Chevrerie halt (between Arzier and St. Cergue). The garden borders the train line and forest in south-east corner of La Chevrerie. **By car:** La Chevrerie turn-off lies between Arzier and St. Cergue. The garden is in La Chevrerie de Genolier.  
**Joy (tel: 079 798 0190 and 022 366 4535)**

## Cycling for Charity



Phil Price and David Cooke  
*David*

At the end of May, three of our church members completed the Cyclotour du Léman, around the lake of Geneva. Tim Price, Chris Potter and David Cooke completed the 180 km in 6 hours 15 minutes, starting and finishing in Lausanne. In doing so, they raised CHF2,800.- to support the Nyon Asylum Seekers' Gardening Project. Funds will be used to buy tools, pots and seeds to help the young men develop skills in landscape gardening and horticulture. A special mention should go to Ruth Ruffieux, who completed the 110 km from Evian to Lausanne despite a crash and a puncture!

Photo shows (from left to right), Chris Potter, Tim Price,

## The Bible: opening a closed book for today

In 1607, King James I of England commissioned a team of forty-seven men to create a new translation of the Bible. Four years later, the work was finished: eighty-one chapters of prose and poetry that were destined to become one of the most read works of all time: the King James Bible, or the Authorized Version. This year the world is celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KJV as a holy book and as a literary masterpiece.

A study day to mark the anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible, to explore the history of the translation and parallel issues for the use of the Bible in contemporary mission and ministry in Europe, will be held on Saturday 17 September 2011, venue: Theologisches Seminar St. Chrischona, Chrischonarain 200, CH-4126 Bettingen, Basel. The day has been organized by the Anglican Church in Basel on behalf of the Swiss Archdeaconry of the Church of England Diocese in Europe (SACEP). Key speakers are the Diocesan Bishop, Geoffrey Rowell, Grace Davie, Professor of Sociology at the University of Exeter (UK), and Thomas Schlag, Professor at the

University of Zürich. The day is open to all and will be held in English. It will cost CHF 35 with lunch, and runs from 10:00 to 16:00. Overnight accommodation is available.

The day is suitable for church members, students and anyone interested in this fascinating topic. Bishop Geoffrey Rowell will speak on the history of the KJV. Grace Davie has researched and written extensively on the sociology of religion with a focus on trends in Europe. Her topic is "Hearing the Bible today: understanding the Western European context". Prof. Schlag will speak on opening the Bible for a new generation of children and young people. A roundtable discussion will consider the place of the Bible in public discourse, transmission of the Word in a visual society and using the Bible with confidence in the life of the local church. There will be readings from the KJV and music and a small exhibition of facsimiles of historic Bibles. "The Bible: opening a closed book for today" is organised in partnership with Theologisches Seminar St. Chrischona and STH Basel.

For more details: see [www.anglicanbasel.ch](http://www.anglicanbasel.ch). You can register on [admin@anglicanbasel.ch](mailto:admin@anglicanbasel.ch) or by phone: 061 321 74 77

*Geoff Read, Chaplain, St. Nicholas, Basel*

## Looking Back - And Forward



Among these young people shown here with Bishop Geoffrey at Holy Trinity, Geneva at Whitsuntide in 2003, is the very first group from La Côte to have been confirmed. They were also the first children to start at our Gingsins Sunday Club, set up by Peta Tracey and other volunteers in 1993. This year, La Côte will mark its **Silver Jubilee Year** and the Council is making plans to celebrate this important anniversary. More on this in the next issue of the La Côte Newsletter.

## Baptisms



### **Annemiek Werkhoven**

Annemiek was baptised on Easter Sunday 2011 in Divonne. This was a joyful celebration as we heard her commit herself to Jesus Christ and



### **Margot Giraud-Guigues**

On 15 May, we welcomed Margot into our church family at her baptism in a joyful all-age worship at Gingins. Here featured with her proud parents Luc and Clare.

### **Pastoral Care Group Training Day**

On Tuesday 26 May, sixteen members of the team gathered in Julia's home and garden for a day of learning and reflection. We welcomed Revd. Elaine Labourel, Assistant Chaplain of St Mark's, Versailles, who has led many days of this kind in various chaplaincies and offers Reader training in our diocese. The day began with a time of worship, followed by a review of our work so far. Carolyn asked questions about the main issues we encounter as we support people: how we have responded so far, and how we would like to see our care develop in the future.

Elaine led her first session on Healthy Boundaries, which gave us much food for thought with respect to our personal lives as well as offering valuable principles for our ministry as a group. She spoke engagingly and with humour, which made for easy listening and a relaxed atmosphere. After a lovely pot-luck lunch in the garden, Elaine gave her second presentation on Bereavement and Loss, which was very moving and again engaged our attention and offered insights into our personal situations and ministry. We ended with a time of prayer and quiet.

We were most grateful for Elaine's expertise and wisdom and we ended the day with some excellent ideas for future development and further training. For more information about our pastoral ministry at La Côte, please contact Carolyn or Julia.

*Julia*

### **La Côte activities**

#### **SAS**

Ted Talbot first started SAS in 2001. It stands for Special Activity Scene for 10 to 14 year-olds and provides fun activities and a meeting point for English speaking young people in the Nyon area. Some participants are La Côte community youngsters, others not. The event which took place on Friday 27 May was "Cluedo en ville". None of the teams got it right, and as usual, one team disappeared completely, but a great time was had by all, followed by the inevitable, irresistible



chicken nuggets and pizza. The next SAS date will be "Pool Night" on 10 June, and the Camping Weekend from June 24 to June 26. Contact Ted for further details.

Email [tedtal@vtx.ch](mailto:tedtal@vtx.ch) - tel: 022 361 0401

#### **Musical Drop-In**

On the first Sunday of the month chez Ted Talbot, 28 chemin de la Combe, Nyon, with drinks and cold buffet provided. The next Musical Drop-In will be held on **3 July: "Almost Bastille Day - street and café songs of Paris"**, led by Yvette Cailler accompanied by Philippe Berthoud on piano accordion. Bring a baguette, a friend or a neighbour and something to drink – fromage,

charcuterie, tartiflette, soupe à l'onion provided – cover charge: CHF 10.00. **For a map and further information, contact Ted Talbot, tel: 022.361.04.01 E:Mail: tedtal@vtx.ch**

Please send contributions to the La Côte Newsletter to: [lacotenews@vtxnet.ch](mailto:lacotenews@vtxnet.ch)

Deadline for the next issue: **17 August 2011**





### **LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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### **La Côte Weekly Bulletin**

The Bulletin is emailed by Roy Simpson to regular members every week, and printed up for Sunday services. If you would like to receive this, or have any information to be included in it, please contact the Chaplain.

In order to keep our database details correct, please inform Steve Rawcliffe of any changes to home or e-mail address or telephone number at: [srawcliffe@wanadoo.fr](mailto:srawcliffe@wanadoo.fr)

### **Home Groups for study and prayer**

**Coinsins:** Bible study group meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at 19.45, Prayer group meets on alternate Tuesday mornings between 9.15 and 10.30 chez John and Peta Tracey at: [tracey.p@bluewin.ch](mailto:tracey.p@bluewin.ch)

**Gingins:** Bible study on alternate Tuesday mornings, at 9.15. Contact Machteld Kelsey at: [denmac@club-soft.ch](mailto:denmac@club-soft.ch)

## **Services at Divonne and Gingins**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Divonne 10:00</b>	<b>Gingins 16:00</b>
3 July		Holy Communion
10 July	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
17 July		Holy Communion
24 July	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
31 July	Holy Communion	All Age Worship
7 August		Holy Communion
14 August	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
21 August		Holy Communion
28 August	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
4 September		Holy Communion
11 September	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
18 September		All Age Worship with baptism
25 September	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
2 October		Holy Communion
9 October	Harvest - Family Communion	All Age Harvest Celebration
16 October		Holy Communion
23 October	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
30 October	Holy Communion	Holy Communion

For further information, please see the La Côte Weekly Bulletin

### **Mission statement**

We work together to provide a welcoming, informal environment for deepening our love and experience of God and to build a community that responds to the needs of others.