



## NEWSLETTER

September/October/November 2011



People of La Côte

John and Ted, veteran entertainers of the community!

**We look back over 25 years as we get together to celebrate our Silver Jubilee this November.**

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**Christian communities  
in Gingins and Divonne**

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

## Message from Carolyn

### Thanksgiving and celebration at the heart of our faith



I wonder why some people, especially children, find saying thank you difficult. Maybe the Portuguese expression of thanks sheds light on this question. The Portuguese say 'obrigado' or 'obrigada', which more literally translates 'I am obliged to you'. In saying thank you, you express an obligation to another, an underlying indebtedness. Indeed 'obligare' has its root in the Latin word 'ligare' which means to bind or tie up. Saying "thank you" somehow ties you in to another.

Some of you may be familiar with the children's chorus 'If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings.' I remember, as a teenager, cowering in the pews as my grandmother enthusiastically led our church in song and actions encouraging us all to be wiggly worms that thanked God that we could squirm, (most of us in the pews!) As an adolescent with unruly curly hair I begrudgingly sang 'If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear, I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy

wuzzy hair!' Yet I have to admit in my 'old age' that I like the theology of this song: giving thanks to God for what he has given to us. It is worth quoting the chorus in full:

*'For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile,  
you gave me Jesus and you made me your child,  
and I just thank you Father for making me, me.'*

In childlike simplicity we say thank you to God for the gift of creation, of life, of being human and able to feel and think and relate to others. We give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ who has reconciled us to God, making us children of God, co-heirs with Christ. At this point I say thank you to the Divonne children and youth for leading us in singing this chorus a few weeks ago.

People in the Bible sometimes forgot to say thank you. Take the ten lepers whom Jesus healed. Only one of them remembered to turn back to thank him. The other nine were more concerned about going to the temple to show that they were clean, putting ritual before what is most important - thanking God.

Many people believe that miracles like the one described in the story do not happen. When asked what he thought about miracles, Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientists of the 20th century, said the following:

*'There are only two ways to live your life: as though nothing is a miracle, or as though everything is a miracle.'*

As our wonder for life is heightened, so our thankfulness increases, and we don't take things for granted, but make the small things count as we notice them with gratitude. Our starting place, each day, along with children, is one of thankfulness and indebtedness to God. We may not have had a good start in life, we may have been deeply wounded by what life has thrown at us – but we are nevertheless urged to give thanks to God in all things. (Philippians 4.6) This does not undermine suffering but it does call us back to the basics of indebtedness to God – creator, giver of life, redeemer, Lord and friend – whatever title inspires you most to give thanks.

#### **Our autumn season of thanksgiving and celebration**

We are embarking on a season of thanksgiving in our church life with harvest celebrations in the autumn and our La Côte Church 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on 6 November. I take this opportunity to thank God for the richness of our church life, for each individual member, with their unique story and contribution to make to our church family. I give thanks for young and old, for the rich diversity of life experiences and cultures which we share. I look forward to giving thanks for the way La Côte

has grown into the church community it is today, when we celebrate 25 years of life here in this region of France and Switzerland.

Thanksgiving is more than just saying 'Thank you' however heartfelt these words might be. JF Kennedy is quoted as saying

*'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.'*

In a similar vein of gratitude, King David acknowledged his thanks and indebtedness to God in what he offered back to God with this prayer:

*Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.  
And now we give you thanks, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.  
For all things come from you,  
and of your own have we given you.*

(An extract from the Song of David in 1 Chronicles 29)

As we acknowledge that all we have comes from God, we are able to hold more lightly to our possessions. If all is gift, then it is ours to use with great care, out of respect for and in line with the generous giver. This autumn our services and some of our Bible study groups will explore how we value the gifts entrusted to us, and how we use them in God's purposes. Rest assured, that as we explore these questions as a church, no one will be looking over anyone's shoulder. We are not aiming at an open debate around who spends what and how. Rather we are seeking to create a healthy and liberating conversation around money which I hope will help us all grow to maturity in this area of our faith.

## LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH, A SUCCESS STORY IN THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE

It all started 25 years ago when a small group of Christians, who mainly attended Holy Trinity Church in Geneva, met regularly for prayer and Bible study in the La Côte region. They realized that there was a good number of them scattered along the shores of the lake Léman and that there could be scope for more. Thanks to their efforts, including those of John Tracey, Chairman of the Development Association, La Côte has grown into the church family we have today, with two worshipping centres in Gingins, Switzerland and in neighbouring France at Divonne.

Anglican services first began in the Temple de Gingins, Vaud in November 1986. Mervyn Puleston, the chaplain of Holy Trinity, Geneva at that time, conducted the services held once a month and encouraged the nascent congregation. Later, Martha Clark, who was

appointed Assisting Priest by Holy Trinity in 1997, took care of our community on a part-time basis, and we moved to two services a month. We maintained our close links with Holy Trinity, supported by succeeding chaplains Keith Kimber and Mike French and Assisting Priest, Sue Nightingale, who all helped us towards our goal of becoming an independent congregation led by our own chaplain. This was to be Paul Holley, who was appointed Priest in charge in 2003, and by



that time we were holding weekly services in Gingins. Shortly after his arrival the first La Côte chaplaincy council was elected. Austin Ball and Liz Bramley were our first churchwardens. In 2005, a second congregation was established at Divonne. This demonstrated the dynamic Christian faith in the lives of many who have attended. Julia Chambeyron, Assistant Curate, who has taken care of the Divonne congregation has long been a member of our community and was



licensed as a Reader in 2002. She went on to pursue further theological training and formation. She was ordained deacon in 2006, and priest in 2007. By this time the two congregations were each running a lively Sunday Club for our youngsters and the first of our four youth interns arrived in 2004. They helped with the development of our work with



young people to which Ted Talbot and Peta Tracey have made an enormous contribution, not forgetting that of the late Gail Farrell and many other

**Ted Talbot, SAS Leader, and Musical Drop-In host, with Gail Farrell, fondly remembered for her tireless work on charitable projects and with our children**

dedicated volunteers from both congregations.

In 2010 a new Constitution was adopted and La Côte finally achieved the status of an independent chaplaincy within the Diocese in Europe. Carolyn Cooke was appointed chaplain after Paul Holley resigned the same year, in order to manage the Anglican Health Network. Bishop Geoffrey said that the La Côte chaplaincy was one of the success stories of the Diocese during the past decade and that it had been good to see how this congregation had grown through the years to a point where it could support a full-time chaplain.

**Val Geschonke**

## LA CÔTE SILVER JUBILEE

This is our Silver Jubilee year and the two congregations are making plans to celebrate this important anniversary together. On Sunday 6 November, there will be a thanksgiving service, which will take place at the earlier time of 10.a.m. All are warmly invited. Key church members and leaders from over 25 years will also be invited to join us. We are delighted that Rev. Mervyn Puleston has agreed to come back and preach at this service. There will be Sunday Club for children with everyone coming in for Holy Communion towards the end. A celebration aperitif will be offered at the *Stand de Tir* straight after our service. **Please note that the usual 4 p.m. Gings service will not be held on this day.**

## SPECIAL GUESTS IN DIVONNE

On 22 May, we had some special guests in Divonne. Revd. Ian Smale (Ishmael) and his wife Irene were visiting the Geneva area as guests of Eric and Luciana. Ish is a well-known Christian musician and songwriter, now a Church of England deacon attached to Chichester Cathedral. Irene has a special interest in working with children and families and is soon to start training for ordained ministry too. Ish spoke movingly about his troubles with cancer, and the loss of their baby grandson to a rare form of the disease just over a year ago. He regaled us with some of his own songs, bringing our worship to a close with the song "Bigger Barns" (including dance moves), a great hit with children and adults. Many thanks to Eric and Luciana for organising the visit and bringing Ish and Irene along to our church.

**Julia**



## FACES FROM THE PAST



Revd. Mervyn Puleston, Chaplain at Holy Trinity from 1986-92 on a very hot day after a Baptism at Gingins, August 1988



Martha Clark at her farewell party in 1999

This group participated in our 3rd annual Community Day at the Château de Bossey in March 2000. Photo shows Keith Kimber, Chaplain at Holy Trinity from 1992-2000 (top row, first left) and Sue Nightingale (second row, first left) who continued to support us after Mervyn Puleston returned to England. The front row shows some of the first children to be confirmed from our community.



Mike French, Chaplain at Holy Trinity, Geneva between 2001 and 2008, who looked after us until the arrival of our own Chaplain in 2003



Paul Holley, La Côte's first very own Chaplain 2003-2010

## LA CÔTE YOUTH INTERNS



Paul (or PJ as we liked to call him) our first intern (2004-5), adored by the kids of all ages, who returned home to train as a fire-fighter

Dieter was with us from 2006-7 and liked life here so much that he stayed on in the area.



Daniel (2005-6) our second intern who returned to the UK to teach



Anna (2007-8) the last of our resident interns to date, who continued professionally with youth work after returning home.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

Council met on 20 June 2011 before the summer break. Rosemary Raedler, Treasurer at Christ Church, Lausanne was invited to attend this meeting to share with us her experience of setting up a charitable association for her church. This has also been done at St. Ursula's, Bern. La Côte was looking into the possibility of gaining tax benefits for us. Lausanne had decided to do this because donations were vitally needed to pay for the heavy costs of restoring the church building, a listed monument. Although tax deductions are applicable to donations to the charitable association, they could only be used to fund limited building and heating costs, and not the stipend. This would mean that for La Côte, pledges and money collected to finance the running of the church could not be paid from the charitable association funds. Two years ago, the Canton de Vaud voted a Resolution whereby the Swiss Catholic and Reformed Churches obtained cantonal financial support. At that time, the Jewish community was officially recognized, but received no financial benefit. If the Anglican application for cantonal recognition were eventually successful, it would be unlikely that this would result in tax benefits. The Council will keep the idea of the creation of a charitable association in mind, but does not plan to take further action in the short term.

Also discussed at this meeting were La Côte communications and the Newsletter. An editorial policy is being developed by the communications group. The website will be revamped and the team is exploring ways of making the most of its potential.

Finally, La Côte Church has requested the Bishop's permission for Ken Kvistad to officiate under the ecumenical canons. This will be in a non-stipendiary capacity, recognizing Ken's contribution to our church community over many years, helping pastorally, with leading reflections and Bible study groups. Ken will assist Carolyn and Julia, and will have a similar involvement with the Holy Trinity congregation in Geneva.

*Val Geschonke*



Ken and Millie Kvistad



## Divonne Youth-led Service

On 26 June in Divonne, we had a wonderful youth-led service on the theme of "Serving God's Kingdom". Everything was in it - great songs, a sketch, a talk by Martine on her trip to Tanzania, some thoughtful and moving quotes about oppression, time for each of us to make a private commitment of service to God, and beautifully led liturgy and prayers. Many thanks to all our young people and to Ed and Nigel, who organized the worship with them. Afterwards, we all enjoyed time to relax, have lunch and a dip in the pool together at the annual picnic chez Chambeyron.

*Julia*



**La Côte Special Collection for East Africa:** A total of SFr.1,800.- has been collected from church members and the Social Action Group has decided to add another SFr.1,000.- from the budget for charitable giving. The La Côte Treasurer has sent a donation totalling SFr.2,800.- to Swiss Solidarity from our community.

## SAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The SAS 10-14 year olds had lots of fun this summer enjoying the outdoors. Firstly there was the poolside barbecue at Ted Talbot's on 10 June. A highlight was the Jacuzzi. Secondly, there was the camping trip to Rolle with a total of nine SAS members pitching their tents down by the lakeside at Rolle. Among other exciting activities there was a trip out on speedboats to try water skiing. Parents enjoyed the fun with a barbecue on the Saturday evening. Using a Bible Reading booklet, Ted led the group of young people through the first four sessions based on Mark 1: "Get the message", about John the Baptist, "Dove from Above" - Jesus' Baptism, "Tempting Offer" - Jesus in the desert and "Fisherman's Friend". Many thanks to Ted, Sharon, Jane and Adrian who made this weekend possible for our young people and to all our SAS members for taking part.



**The Next SAS meeting will be held on 16 September.**  
**Contact Ted for details: E-mail: [tedtal@vtx.ch](mailto:tedtal@vtx.ch)**

### NOTICE

Peta Tracey is compiling a commemorative brochure for our 25th anniversary. She requests anecdotes and old photos, which will be returned, from members of our community. Contact the Newsletter: [lacotenews@vtxnet.ch](mailto:lacotenews@vtxnet.ch)

## LA CÔTE NEWS

**BIRTHS:** Best wishes to Funke and Chris Stauble and especially Jordan who welcomed her brother Lucas Oluwatobi, born on 30 May 2011 at Nyon hospital.



Congratulations to Sanna Ratilainen and Tim Price, Sasha and Bibi, on the safe arrival of Charlotte Emilia in the early hours of Sunday 17 July.

**SUMMER WEDDING FEVER.** Our warm congratulations to Rory Armstrong and Sarah Heery who were married in Gingins on 23 July. The blessing of the marriage of Julie and Louis Sautelle-Smith took place in French and English on 14 August at Gingins. The La Côte Song group led the hymns.

## SONG GROUP SUMMER PARTY

Members of the La Côte Song Group gathered at the Traceys' on 10 August for an evening practice session followed by a delicious buffet. Not all members were present, but those who were enjoyed the outdoor aperitif and were more than happy to let Antonio and Robert do the clearing up!



### **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.*

## **The Bible: opening a closed book for today**

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.

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**



## MUSICAL DROP IN

It was a glorious clear, sunny evening for the forty or so people who gathered in Ted's garden on 3 July to celebrate "Almost Bastille Day". This gave all an opportunity to listen and join in with street and café songs, featuring Yvette Caller and Philippe Berthoud.

### AUTUMN PROGRAMME:

**4 September** - "Farewell to Summer", a nostalgic mélange of classical and contemporary music, featuring Simon Hunt and David Cooke with "Spot the Tune" for which there will be prizes!

**2 October** - Kirsty Griffiths, an accomplished Harp player and opera singer. Her theme will be Arianna A Naxos, the Greek myth of Arianna who helped Thesus slay the minataur!

**6 November** - Swinging 70s Evening with Harold Corrigan and the La Côte Song Group.

**4 December** - The Moonlight Quartet, jazzing towards Christmas.



The Musical Drop In evenings are held on the first Sunday of the month chez Ted Talbot, 28 chemin de la Combe, 1260 Nyon, with drinks and cold buffet provided, (cover charge: CHF 7.00-.) . The idea is not just to provide great live music, but to create an opportunity to meet old and new friends, invite neighbours or merely relax in pleasant company. **For a map and further information, contact Ted Talbot, tel: 022.361.04.01 E:Mail: tedtal@vtx.ch**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Our next Quiz Night will be held on 19 November at the *salle communale* in Gingins**

The photo shows Warwick (left) and David (right), La Côte Quiz Night hosts, at the first ever Quiz Night at the Auberge de Gingins in 2007



**Christ Church Lausanne will be holding their Christmas Market on Friday 25 November (evening) and Saturday 26 November (day-time).**

The **Divonne Christmas Market** will be held on Saturday 3 December. Further information will be given in the La Côte bulletin in due course.

**HOME SELECTA SA** with offices in London and Lausanne will help you buy or sell a property between Geneva and Montreux. Janet Schiewe-Orchard (bilingual English/French) is our local contact for free valuations and advice. Call 079-500-1922.

Please send contributions for the La Côte Newsletter to: lacotenews@vtxnet.ch  
Deadline for the next issue: **15 November 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)

## LA CÔTE SERVICES

Date	Divonne 10 a.m.	Gingins (services are held at 4 p.m., unless otherwise indicated)
4 September		Holy Communion
11 September	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
18 September		All Age Worship with Baptism
18 September	<i>10 a.m. Abbaye de Bonmont Jeûne fédéral ecumenical service in 3 languages</i>	
25 September	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer + Baptism
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
<b>6 November at 10 a.m.</b>		<b>Thanksgiving service at 10.a.m.(no 4 p.m. service)</b>
13 November	Morning worship (Remembrance Sunday)	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
20 November	Joint service with Eglise Réformée de France	Evening prayer with Sunday Club
27 November (Advent Sunday)	Holy Communion	All age worship

Any changes to this schedule will be indicated in 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.