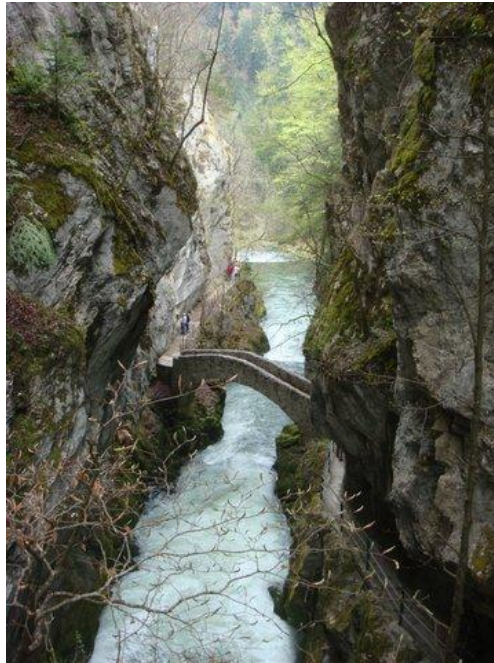




AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2012



Gorges de l'Areuse (Taken by Mollie – day out “La Côte Hiking group”)

**“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory”
Isaiah 6:3**

Creation Tide has been our Autumn focus for worship

Chaplain’s message	2
Harvest service Divonne & Gingins.. ..	3
SAS summer camp.....	4
Baptisms Gingins & Divonne.....	5
Weddings Gingins & Divonne.....	5 & 6
Jeûne Fédéral sevice, Bonmont.....	6
Archdeaconry Synod report	7
All Age worship welcoming the doctors, Centre for Disabled Children in Narasaraopet	7 & 8
EAPPI	8
Next steps for youth worker.....	9
Social Action update /Asylum Garden photo... ..	9 & 10
Quiz Night reminder	10
La Côte services October / November	11

Christian communities in Gingins & Divonne
working 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



MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN

Ephphatha (you try saying it!)

A few weeks ago in our Sunday services on 9th September, we began to think about the nature of conversations and how they unfold, either fruitfully or ending abruptly – due to a conversation stopper! We thought about some of the unspoken ‘ground rules’ of conversation and some positive outcomes – such as listening, engagement and greater mutual understanding between those involved.

We then explored the nature of the conversation Jesus had with a woman from the region of Tyre and the uneven playing field on which they met, (Mark 7.24-30)) On ‘high and level ground’ Jesus, a male and a Jew was approached by an unnamed woman on her knees who was a Gentile and with an unclean, demon-possessed daughter. The conversation starts in a place of desolation for this woman in her vulnerability and need. It moves to consolation as Jesus affirms her persistence, trust and wit – and grants healing to her daughter. Through their exchange there is a breaking open of Jesus’ mission focus. He moves beyond God’s chosen people, the Jews, to embrace this woman – of the Gentile world. In this encounter Mark points the early church towards the far-reaching mission of God’s love for all races.

In our sermon slot we then moved on to think about this conversation in the light of the holy conversations I would like to see unfold in the midst of our La Côte church congregations. These ‘Holy conversations’ will involve careful listening to one another and to God in various settings. Ultimately this is to be a process that helps us renew our self- understanding as La Côte Church. We will be thinking about who, under God, we are called to be now and into the future. This is NOT about getting down on paper a ‘mission statement’ that we can then put away in a bottom draw and neglect until it’s time to do another! These holy conversations will aim to help us refresh the values and goals we hold dear as Christians in this particular community of faith – and to clarify and unite us around some core areas of church life and mission.

In order to do this, we are setting up a small planning team – approved by the Council, to design and help facilitate these holy conversations across the life of our chaplaincy. This planning team will meet together over the next four months to set up a process of conversation and discernment with the aim of encouraging as many of our congregations as possible to engage with it. We will use our Bossey community day, on Saturday 2nd February 2013, as a key focus for our conversations – so please put this date in your diaries – and safeguard it for the sake of our church.

Straight after Jesus’ encounter with the Syrophenician woman, Mark records his healing of a man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. The term Mark chooses for ‘the speech impediment’ is an unusual word - only used on one other occasion, in Isaiah 35.5-6. Mark is making a strong link between the one foretold to save Zion, in Isaiah – and this Jewish rabbi Jesus. ‘He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak,’ conclude the bystanders marvelling at his power to heal.

Beyond the physical cure - there is an inner meaning to this miracle which challenges our spiritual deafness and lack of speech. In the old Roman rite of baptism, the priest would use his own saliva to touch the ears and mouth of the newly baptised person. As he did so, he would shout into each ear: ‘Ephphatha! Be opened!’ the same command Jesus used in this miracle story. Although it might seem a little over the top, this ritual does at least remind us of the disciples’ struggle to grasp the truth of Jesus’ messiahship. The challenge for us as Christians and congregations is to recognise that we often resist God’s message to us – especially when it may bring challenge and transformation. At best, along with our pets or children, we too have selective hearing when it comes to the truth we can cope with, while blocking out the rest. Bishop Jeffrey John gives us hope:

‘Thankfully God does not deal in illusions, but keeps pushing to make us hear and see the truth – about him, the world, others and hardest of all, ourselves – because ‘it is the truth that sets you free’. (Jeffrey John, 2001) As we engage in holy conversations with one another and with God, about the life of our La Côte Church, we can pray for ‘Ephphatha’ to ring in our ears. We can entrust to God in prayer the adventure of listening to the promptings of his Spirit, and taking the risk of speaking and acting in love.

Carolyn

Website – up and running – another way to build our community.

Go to our new Website at www.lacotechurch.ch – with special thanks to Olivier Froidevaux, Chris Potter and David Cooke and the communications team for all their hard work. This is indeed a work in progress, so take a look and keep looking as things develop. If you have ideas of what you would like, or are willing to contribute, get in touch with Carolyn or Julia, or David.

Harvest service in Divonne

On Sunday 23rd September we gathered around the hornbeam tree in the garden of the church – a fitting place to begin our worship as we were to explore the theme of trees. Remembering that we had planted this tree back in early summer 2006 to contribute to the garden and as a sign of our commitment to this area, we reflected how much the tree has grown – and so has our Divonne congregation!



We proceeded to the entrance of the church and collected



our Harvest gifts, asking God to bless those who would receive them – local French charity les Restos du Coeur.

Inside the church we continued to focus on the theme of ‘The Tree of Life and the Life of Trees’ using resources from Arocha, a Christian environmental and nature conservation

movement with branches and projects worldwide. Sarah French, Director of Operations for Arocha UK, told us more about the organisation and about her recent trip to the many shanty towns in Lima, Peru. She got the children to help show us how every part of a tree contributes to its local environment and provides a home and nutrition for plants, insects and animals, and often contributes to the human community too.



Heidi, Richard and the Divonne song group led our singing. Jane and Sebastian read the Bible passages beautifully, and the Churchill family led us in prayer as we reflected on trees and God’s creation – and thanked Him for all His gifts.



Harvest service in Gingins

Our Harvest Festival in Gingins this year, on Sunday 30th September, drew on Christian Aid resources. Thank you to Chris Potter who led our worship, encouraging us to wonder at God’s creation – especially the bees and their honey. He then turned our thoughts and prayers to some of the poorest communities in India, who depend on the forests for their livelihoods, and who are being denied access to the land. Our thanks go also to Sandra Barnes our Christian Aid rep and the little jars of honey she supplied for us to take home and savour.

Thank you too for all the dried produce which were gratefully received by the Armée du Salut in Nyon, to be able to share with vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

Looking back – summer happenings

SAS Summer Camp 2012

This year's SAS summer camp went to Rolle beach situated on Lac Léman with stunning views of the Alps. We camped for two nights and had our own corner for our tents right next to the beach. When we first arrived, we were shown the area by Ted. We then had dinner and a late evening swim as the sun was setting. The lake was lovely and cool. We discovered a floating platform and had lots of fun trying to tip it but unfortunately, with only 8 or so people, we couldn't. That changed the next day. But before all that, we went to sleep. We shared a tent and were quite comfortable (except for the insects buzzing outside!).



The next morning, first thing, we led a group to the beach to have another early morning swim. We still couldn't tip the plank but that changed as more people came. We had breakfast together and then went to the beach again. We rented pedalos and went out for adventure! We landed on an island nearby and swung about on a rope hanging from a branch into the water. Not many people managed to hold on long. Then we returned to the pedalos and started pedalling back. We were

greeted by a very angry man who clearly needed anger management. That said we had arrived 15 minutes late and got in trouble for landing the pedalos on the steps of the island. Still, after being forced to pay a fine, we returned to camp.



For lunch, we had sandwiches. The cheese provided was individually wrapped in plastic packets. It was the orange sort of cheddar. It was quite warm and the cheese had melted so much that worryingly, it virtually merged with the plastic wrapping. Most people gave the cheese a pass.

That afternoon we went speed boating with some of Ted's friends. We did "doughnutting" and water-skiing (William didn't do the water-skiing, though - too wet). It was great fun and we managed to go very fast! We also had fun swimming around the boats before retiring back to camp. We then played some games back at camp and chatted a bit. In the evening we had a big barbecue and parents were invited. Before bed, and also in the morning, we had Bible readings and study in small groups.

The next day, we played a treasure hunt in Rolle. We had to find things, like a plaque dedicated to someone, and the only pub in Rolle. In the end our team lost, but we had fun anyway. It was a great day and we all enjoyed it.

Overall camp was great - if you didn't come, you should make sure you join in next year!

William and Louis Inglesfield

Baptism in Divonne

On Sunday 29th July we celebrated the baptism of Joshua Gaymard and welcomed him into God's family. We explored the theme of light through looking at different candles used at home and at church, with Thomas and Zoë Gaymard reading our Bible text in English and French, and Heidi leading bi-lingual prayers which gave us all the opportunity to remember a person or situation by lighting a small candle. We finished by presenting Joshua with his special candle, a sign of Christ's light which he will carry with him throughout his life. The music was led by Joshua's granddad, Ray Fiander – so a real family affair!



Baptisms in Gingins



Congratulations to Arnaud and Caroline on the baptism of their little boy Grégoire on 29th July. This all age worship, conducted in French and English, was led jointly by Christian Heyraud the Swiss Pastor at Gingins, together with Carolyn. (Photo left)

Congratulations to Emma and Stephen on the baptism of their little girl Martha on Sunday July 8th at Gingins. (Photo right)



Wedding in Gingins

On Friday 31st August, Nathalie Chambeyron and Adam Selby were married amidst much joy and laughter (and a few tears!) in a lovely service led by Revd. Jenny Paddison (née Dawes) and Julia, with superb music from Richard Hawkings. Thanks to those members of our La Côte church community who came along to support us all and to join in the celebration before God. Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Selby!



Wedding in Divonne

Congratulations to Shane Justin Avison and Helena Stouvenel who were married in Divonne Church on Saturday 4th August by Carolyn

JEÛNE FEDERAL SERVICE, ABBAY DE BONMONT, 16 SEPTEMBER

The Jeûne Fédéral was marked with the annual ecumenical service at the Abbaye de Bonmont on 16th September. Here Carolyn is featured with the Eric Monneron, Deacon of L'Unité pastorale catholique Nyon, Terre Sainte, Crassier and with Jacques-Etienne Deppierraz, pastor of the Eglise Evangelique Réformée Région La Côte.' This year Carolyn was "volunteered" to preach and was able to do so in French with much help from Christian Heyraud, the pastor at the Temple de Gingins. Our thanks also go to Michel Hubert and his German male voice choir: Männerchor Liederkrantz, for inspiring our worship and to his wife Pat Huber-Brown who led us on the keyboard.



Many thanks to our La Côte team (some of them shown in photo) who helped to provide and serve the apero after our Bonmont service to at least 300 church members from across the region. The sun shone as we supped our drinks and were able to get to chat with fellow Christians from other denominations strengthening the bonds between us.

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD JUNE 2012

Montreux – a nice venue for a summer synod, despite the fact that we spent the whole day in the church of St. John the Evangelist. Nevertheless the lake and surroundings were beautiful.

The main item on the agenda was an address by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell on the theme “Internet of the Spirit and what have emails to do with the Spirit?”

For this he took the 3 C’s – Communion, Community, Communication. Just as the Internet networks us, all these words mean being part of the world around us. A person is an individual, but also stands in relationship with others; where we live, work, worship, family, friends. By praying for others we bring them into the community of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Of course, we think of the Holy Communion, but the bible is full of examples of communion and community. Paul wrote to the communities in Asia Minor, we speak of the communion of saints, the New Testament quotes the vine and the branches, one grows from another, just as we cannot exist without others. Long before the Internet networked us, society recognised that we are bound together.

On a practical level, we must be careful about the loss of the personal contact which modern technology brings with it. Email is a flat communication: no voice, no body language, a message sent cannot be retracted. We must show and practise the art of loving; our love of God, love of our neighbours in our daily communion, community and communication with them. That is the Internet of the Spirit.

The afternoon session was mostly devoted to a short presentation by Cynthia Gunn, Ecumenical Accompanier at the World Council of Churches, on the work of this group. (see article below on EAPPI)

On the business side, the motion submitted to the Diocese in January regarding more authorisation for lay ministry was not accepted by Diocesan Office on the grounds that our Diocese is already well covered with ordained clergy and licensed lay readers. Finance is all in order and reports were submitted among others on the annual Choir Festival, the Ignatian Retreat, archdeaconry training events, and relations with the Old Catholics.

The Synod approved the transfer of 200 euros per month to St. Paul’s church in Athens, to be reviewed every 6 months, in order to help the chaplaincy in its efforts to mitigate some of the hardships at present suffered by many people in Greece.

With thanks to Miriam Keller, (Secretary to the Swiss Archdeaconry)

All Age worship welcoming the doctors from the Centre for Disabled Children in Narasaraopet S. India.

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Peter Le Feuvre and his wife, Dr. Sarah Montgomery (here enjoying a walk on the mountains during their visit!) to La Côte on the weekend of 1st/2nd September to bring us up-to-date on the Centre for Disabled Children in Narasaraopet, S. India. This is where our Sunday Club in Gingins sponsors two children – Maruthi and Srinivasarao. It was wonderful to hear first-hand from Peter & Sarah of how the Centre started, through the vision of Mohan Rao (Mohan & Indira Rao photo right) who, himself disabled, started welcoming disabled children into his home for physiotherapy. These humble beginnings have grown over the years into a flourishing high school that is unique in integrating handicapped with able-bodied children.



We would like to thank our good friends at ‘Friends of India’ for kindly donating items from India to sell after the service on 2nd September. Thanks to this, we were able to add to the children’s Sunday Club collections plus the money they raised from the Sponsored “Roll



around Divonne lake”, and send a grand total of CHF 1’238 to the Centre via the charity ‘Friends of the Centre for Disabled Children’, run by Peter & Sarah in the UK.

Congregation outside Gingins Church 2nd September

Have you heard of EAPPI ?

EAPPI is the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, an initiative of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. In 2000 the heads of churches in Jerusalem called on the WCC to provide a protective international presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It took two years of negotiations before the programme was able to start in 2002. The programme works closely with Israeli peace and human rights groups that support an end to the military occupation of Palestinian territory.

The purpose of the Ecumenical Accompaniers (EA’s) is to monitor and report human rights abuses, collect data and case studies and write reports for the WCC and other agencies. They are involved with local churches and Christian related organisations, but their work goes beyond what they have experienced in the field and on return to their own countries take stories and pictures home to promote their cause.

Cynthia Gunn is a member of the Scottish Church in Lausanne. Over the past few years she has developed links with the EAPPI and has recently spent three months staying in Palestine and Israel to understand the daily reality of this conflict. During Lent last year she came and shared some of her experiences with a La Côte Lent group and helped us to engage with this complex Middle Eastern conflict. Here she writes about the programme, her own experience with particular reference to human rights and how churches can seek to engage further with the needs of Palestine. For the three months Cynthia worked as an EA, she and her colleagues accompanied the Jerusalem Vigil of Women in Black; she worked closely with Checkpoint Watch who was monitoring the wall from the Israeli side. They were in contact with the founder of New Profile aimed at de-militarizing Israeli society and were impressed by an interview with two members of Other Voice, an organization which works continuously on creating contacts with civilians in Gaza. The Israeli Committee against House Demolitions has offices on three continents, as have Rabbis for Peace. (go to the websites of these organisations for more information).

At a recent conference of the Iona Community in Scotland the question “what can churches do” was explored at length in the light of the Kairos Document (this document described as ‘a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering - WWW.kairospalestine.ps. The following suggestions were made.

- ❖ In order to fully understand the reality of this situation include Palestinian territories and East Jerusalem in tours of the Holy Land. (WWW.greenolivetours.com).
- ❖ Think about ‘twinning’ with a Palestinian church or a Christian organization there. This need not necessarily be a financial commitment, but contact from a church through prayer or exchange of e-mail will encourage both priest and congregation. Amongst Palestinians are the original Christians in the Holy Land whose plight is often forgotten by the western churches.
- ❖ Sponsor a sale of Palestinian handcrafts. This can be achieved through the Sunbula organization, a high quality co-operative which supplies a catalogue of handmade, attractive products to churches and other organizations. Embroidery, oils and soaps etc. all feature amongst the Sunbula fair trade goods.(see info.@sunbula.org)

- ❖ Consider becoming an Ecumenical Accompanier (WWW.eappi.org). We all share a common goal: accompanying, witnessing and demonstrating solidarity with all who call for a just peace in Israel and Palestine. The World Council of Churches believes that ‘there can be no peace without justice and no justice without peace’. EA’s wear distinctive jackets and when one Palestinian told us “*the Israelis behave differently when they see you there*” we knew that the challenge had been worthwhile. Cynthia Gunn (edited version)

Looking ahead to autumn 2012

Next steps for youth worker and some steps towards clarifying our vision as La Côte Church

In my capacity as Youth Leader Pledge Scheme administrator, I have been asked by the council, to bring the La Côte community up to date on where we stand financially and seek your feedback.

To date we have received 13 pledges totalling CHF34’960 over 3 years – or expressed in a different way, these sums would provide monthly support for a Youth Leader of CHF 1’397 in year 1, CHF 808 in year 2 and CHF 708 in year 3.

These sums fall well short of our budget for a fulltime Youth Leader and so while trying to work out why the response has been so low, we are also looking at alternative ways forward. While we do not want to rush into a compromise, we certainly don’t want the initiative to die.

It would seem we have three alternative strategies to be looked at in parallel to each other and prayed about:

1. Look for a local hire Youth Leader which would eliminate the housing and potentially the health insurance element – but finding someone with the required job qualifications may be an issue.
2. Look for an intern from the UK or elsewhere such as we have had in the past – which requires, however, offered accommodation and transport.
3. Hold off the search for the above and continue with volunteers while we try and build the fund to a level that will sustain a full time Youth Leader.

Any feedback and ideas would be much appreciated as would a willingness to commit to this vital ministry in our church. Your replies will be treated in total confidentiality. Thank you.

Ted Talbot – tedtal@vtx.ch. 28 chemin de la Combe, 1260 Nyon

SOCIAL ACTION GROUP - Making it happen...

Just to remind you of the threefold aim of our social action team:

- 1) To help us think about and act on issues of social justice and injustice, in the light of our Christian faith.
- 2) To engage at a local level with vulnerable communities, whereby we can all grow in faith and mutual understanding.
- 3) To connect the church to projects we support involved in development and mission – and to help the church raise funds for these projects.

A link with Christian Aid

As a group we have also made the decision to look beyond the current projects we have been supporting to a wider reaching aid organisation. After much thought and discussion we have opted and had approval from the Church Council, to link with Christian Aid. We will review this link each year to evaluate its success.

Our initial project through Christian Aid is to send part of our charitable giving to support an education project working with women in Afghanistan. Accessing Christian Aid resources provides us with the materials to think through the developmental and theological issues underpinning the needs of impoverished and disempowered communities. The link to the site with regard to the project in Afghanistan is: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/partnerfocus/afghanistan-womens-education.aspx>

Our future goal is to choose a Christian Aid partnership scheme project. We aim to raise CHF6,000 for this project over two years. This amount will then be match funded by the European Commission (EC) so that our CHF6'000 could become as much as CHF 22'000. This is certainly something that as a group would like to aim for.

Charged with this responsibility, we would like to acknowledge every contribution as valued and aim to keep the wider church informed about the projects we are supporting and the funds we are raising. With this in mind, thank you to everyone who contributed to our extra summer collection on behalf of the emergency threat of hunger in Somalia. In mid-September we were able to send off CHF1'774 to Save the Children for their relief work.

Our biggest fund raiser for all our charitable giving is our famous Quiz night. This always brings out the energy and enthusiasm of our Church. We embrace the support that you share at this event and do hope that even now you are getting your winning team together and swotting up on random facts!

One last thing you can guarantee is that this enthusiastic group will rise to any challenge, and this summer has been no exception. Joy, Anne, Margaret and Carolyn took part in a local gardening project with the community of asylum seekers in Gland. This initiative proved to be a tough undertaking, especially with such a transient and unsettled group of asylum seekers. Nevertheless, it built worthwhile relationships with other local Swiss volunteers and it helped to deepen mutual trust and understanding with this vulnerable group of asylum seekers. We look forward to seeing you at the Quiz night. (Sandra Barnes. Sept 2012)



Sale of fresh vegetables from the Asylum Garden.

Come along to our annual
“QUIZ NIGHT”
Saturday 17th November 2012
Salle Alinghi, Coinsins from 7pm onwards
A simple meal of bread, soup and cheese will
be available to buy
Bring your own wine!
Start getting your teams together now, tickets
available soon.
Contact Liz Bramley: liz@bramley.ch

LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH

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La Côte Weekly Bulletin

Please contact Carolyn or Julia for the weekly bulletin.

We have a number of small groups that meet regularly across the region and form an important part of building our church community, deepening relationships and also giving us space to grow spiritually.

On 14th October, after both church services, first in Divonne and then in Gingins, there will be people and flyers available for you to find out more about these groups and to see if you'd like to try one out.

LA CÔTE SERVICES October - November 2012

On St Francis Day – Thursday 4th October – at 6pm – a service of blessing for animals at Gingins. All are welcome – please click here <http://www.lacotechurch.ch> to find out more and to register if you are bringing an animal.

		Gingins 4pm	Divonne 10am
Trinity 18	7 th Oct	Holy Communion (with anointing)	Joint service with the Eglise Réformée
Trinity 19	14 th Oct	Evening Prayer	Morning worship
Trinity 20	21 st Oct	Holy Communion (no Sunday club this week)	
Trinity 21 Bible Sunday	28 th Oct	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
Trinity 22 All Souls	4 th Nov	Holy Communion with All Souls focus	
Trinity 23 Remembrance	11 th Nov	All Age Worship with focus on Remembrance	Morning Worship
Trinity 24	18 th Nov	Holy Communion	
Trinity 25 Christ the King	25 th Nov	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion

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.