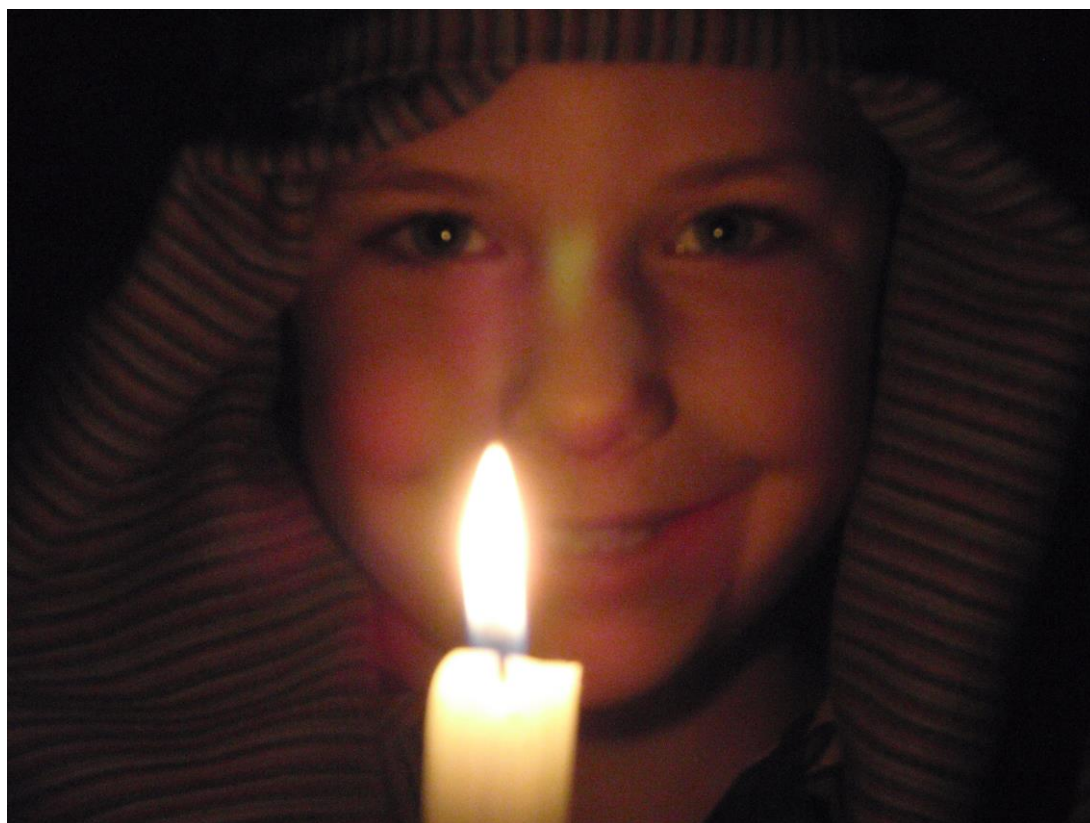




# NEWSLETTER

**December 2013 - February 2014**



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**Christian communities  
in Gingins and Divonne**

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

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

### Let's call the whole thing off...

I had almost had enough of Christmas by mid-October this year; in a rather unpriestly fashion I felt tempted to call the whole thing off!

What exactly did I want to call off? Was it the whole festival, (what a bar humbug!) or just parts of it? As I looked ahead to December, I was feeling the pressure mounting within me to "keep the show on the road", to meet the high expectations everyone seems to have around the Christmas programme. Please do not misunderstand this foreboding. I did not want to call off celebrating the story of God becoming flesh and pitching his tent among us. However, I was having serious misgivings about so much else which threatens to overwhelm us as we head into the frantic run up to Christmas Day.

I am grateful to the group of Sunday club leaders for our gatherings in October which brought to the table the key questions: "What do we want our children to grasp over this build up to Christmas? How do we help our children once again enter into the Christmas story of Jesus' birth in a way that will inspire wonder and hope into their young lives? How does the fairy tale-like nativity story resonate with living truth? Maybe this question becomes more of a challenge as our children morph into teenagers who want to distance themselves from childhood fantasy and begin to establish their own grittier creeds about life and their place in this world? And just maybe, this is where many of us adults find ourselves, caught between nostalgia for childhood memories of Christmas yet hoping to discover fresh truth in the



story of Jesus' birth to inspire hope in our adult lives today.

I would like to suggest that at least part of "the meaning is in the waiting" as Paula Gooder suggests with the title of her Advent book. (Gooder, 2008) The way we journey through Advent will affect the way we experience the Christmas mystery when we get to it. Factors such as busy lives, Christmas commercialism and the lack of Sundays between November and December 25<sup>th</sup> encourage us to conflate Advent and Christmas into one season. Advent, however, was originally intended as a time of fasting and facing up to our sin and our need for God. So by the time we approached the crib, Christians were once again sorely aware of their need for the Word to become flesh and dwell among us.

The Advent season also encourages us to remember in hope and faith that one day Jesus will come again, and that the whole of creation will be somehow made new. We are preparing to celebrate the first coming of God in Jesus, but also looking forward to his second coming. So the Advent cry, "Come Lord Jesus" invites God into our world, past, present and future. In fact, as Richard Rohr points out, "our entire lives and the life of the Church

can be understood as one huge Advent.”

So you may be relieved to know that we are not calling the whole thing off this year but I would like to encourage us to treasure the Advent waiting and preparation time. This may take the form of a manageable goal, however small, such as being attentive to God each day through Advent with some sort of prayer or quiet. Or you could repeat the Advent invitation, “Come Lord Jesus” as a kind of mantra, calling him into situations, lives, challenges and into our festivities. In addition, there is a selection of Advent resources for daily readings which we have posted on the weekly bulletin, which you can order online from Amazon or Church House Bookshop in London.

I pray for me and our church that Advent will not rush by unnoticed, but that these weeks of attentive waiting will deepen our spiritual hunger and our expectation for Christ’s coming. So

when we get to Christmas night and kneel once again at the crib we will glimpse God who became child with renewed wonder and hope.

I end with the Wesley’s well known prayer as an Advent invitation:

*Come down, O Love divine,  
Seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with thine own ardour  
glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
Within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, thy holy  
flame bestowing.*



Wishing you God’s blessing and peace as you journey through Advent and as you come to celebrate Christmas,

*Carolyn*

## **BISHOP DAVID'S 2013 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

*And the Word was made flesh and lived among us (St John 1.14)*

These awesome words will soon echo around the world as the Christmas Gospel is proclaimed in churches everywhere. They announce that the ancient promise to God’s people is fulfilled in a surprising way, when the Eternal Word of God enters into time and becomes Emmanuel, God with us. The infinite, invisible, mysterious God becomes known and accessible to us in the life of a human being, Jesus Christ.

The original Greek of this text is more nuanced than our translations reveal. “Lived among us” is actually more like “pitched his tent with us”. We are drawn back to the Exodus story of the tent or tabernacle in the desert, where God dwelt during the wanderings of God’s people following their flight from Egypt. God comes to us and dwells with us in a way that is humble and earthy – close to the soil, like in a tent.

From the doctrine of the Incarnation we know that the mission of the Church is not about bringing God’s presence to the world, for the Incarnate One has already done this by “pitching his tent” with us. The mission of the Church and the task of her members is to find out where God’s presence, God’s Spirit, is active in the world and *pitch our tents* alongside and work alongside that active presence. Thus throughout the Advent Season, the Church prays each morning:

*“As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and our hands to do your work.” (Morning Prayer in Advent, Common Worship)*

It is a task of discernment to open our eyes to see where God’s presence is at work. The Gospel teaches us that the very sign of the Incarnation was so humble that very few, except for the poor shepherds, even took notice of it. A little baby, wrapped in swathing bands and laid in a manger is a sign that is so easily overlooked. It is a sign that is far from triumphant; it is not magnificent in splendour, but lowly, gentle and even fragile and vulnerable. At Christmas we celebrate what no other religion teaches, that God, the Creator of heaven and earth, pitched his tent with us, and lived among us. His manner of coming was as a vulnerable child, born among animals in a stable, to a humble family. This is the nature of God’s saving presence with us.

We are in an episcopal interregnum. Those who will make a decision about the next Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe are reflecting on our profile as a diocese. Many of us in the diocese are sojourners, outside our homeland, for a variety of reasons. Many of our congregations have no home of their own. We have no historic endowment or inherited wealth, and we do not have the privileges that come with being an established Church in the countries where we serve. We are accustomed to pitching our tent in borrowed or rented buildings. Whatever else might be discerned about us in this process to appoint the next diocesan bishop, let it also reveal that we are Christians who, remembering the manner of Jesus’s birth, seek God’s light and love around us, revealed in simple and humble ways. May our communities be a place of welcome for sojourners, even strangers. May we be known as a people, fed by God who comes to us in Word and Sacrament, who then seek God’s presence in the world, especially among those, like the shepherds, who do not count for much and survive on the margins. We remember that Jesus teaches us that it is the poor in spirit, those who are peacemakers, who have mercy, who hunger and thirst for righteousness and justice, who will be able to see God. This Christmas may you rediscover the Incarnate One, the Christ Child, who comes to us in humble form, and be blessed, with your family, your friends and your community, with deep peace and joy, as you serve Him.

*+David*

*Bishop David Hamid is our Suffragan Bishop.*

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## **COUNCIL NOTES**

The La Cote Chaplaincy Council met on 7 October and 12 November 2013 in Divonne. At the October meeting, the Chaplain opened the discussion by introducing a paper entitled “I Have a Dream.” This came from a review of what emerged from the Bossey Community Day earlier in the year and a request by the Visioning Team to take these elements and the visioning process and lay out the Chaplain’s vision. Council members commented on the strength of “Who we are”. Others commented that the document envisaged a “large church” vision with more staff. This led to a discussion on the nature of growth for the Church, the current La Côte community and its impact on it. There was also a distinction made between the two congregations: Gingins had expanded considerably, while Divonne had reached a plateau.

The Chaplain stated that the focus of the document was not concentrated solely on growth but concerned the shared values expressed and the deepening of the La Côte presence

in a “growing” way. The visioning committee members reported that there was little or no mention of geographical or physical presence in the document. The Council noted that this raised the question of Nyon, but with serious consideration of what that would take to make it sustainable. The Chaplain informed the Council that a group had met to discuss the question of La Côte's presence in Nyon. They looked at the merits of offering various alternative services midweek and will continue to explore these ideas. Council members made other suggestions of alternative style, venue and timing. The recent Remembrance Sunday service was a focus for this expansion in Nyon with a service on the theme of Peace. Unfortunately, there were not many new and local people present, and in this instance, it was disappointing as far as outreach was concerned. The Jazz Carols event, to be held in December, will also show La Côte's presence in Nyon.

Also at the October meeting, Philippe Chambéryon, Treasurer, reviewed a meeting of the Church Finance sub-group, which had discussed options for his replacement. The Group regretted the lack of potential candidates but felt that splitting the tasks might encourage more people to come forward. The task of the new Treasurer would primarily involve payment of bills, supported by the Finance sub-group. Council thanked Philippe for his on-going dedication and the Finance Group for support in decision-making. It asked the clergy to approach experienced individuals in the congregation to ask if they would serve.

At the November meeting, Council reviewed the financial statement up to 30 October 2013. This showed that total year-end income is expected to be around SFr.122,000.-. Receipts from the Autumn Fair proved necessary to bring our annual income up to required levels: (it made approximately SFr.10,800.-). A strong note of support was made to all involved in the Autumn Fair and special thanks were expressed for Christina Majakari and Sharon Senogles for their leadership. La Côte is now expected to have a surplus at the end of the year. The Finance sub-group will prepare the budget for 2014, to be presented at the next Council meeting.

With respect to youth work, Council noted that on the whole, the arrangement for a part time youth worker had been beneficial for La Côte as it suited our situation at the moment. It had been a satisfactory interim solution and we would therefore have to reassess the situation early next year. The Chaplain concluded that this had been a positive learning experience for all concerned.

Georges Mills was invited to address the Council on the steps taken for the formation of a French Association. Two types of association can be created under French law: an "association culturelle" (standard), under a law passed in 1901 and an "association cultuelle" (religious) under a law passed in 1905, (whereby La Côte would have official status as a Church in France). A "déclaration préalable" for an association under 1901 law had been prepared in the first instance and had been worded to be valid for both types of association. The assemblée constitutive de l'association de La Côte Anglican Church, (the Association Founders' meeting), was the Chaplaincy Council meeting of 12 November 2013. The Council approved the election of Susan Passmore-Werkhoven as President of the French association.

The officers of the French association are Treasurer: Georges Mills, Secretary: Dwight Moe, and those members present at the Council meeting (membres du conseil d'administration) were named as follows, Austin Ball, Julia Chambeyron, Philippe Chambeyron, Carolyn Cook and Edward Kelley. When the Annual General Meeting of the



La Côte Anglican Church Development Association is held, the French Association will be included in it. At a later stage, once approval for the 1905 religious association has also been obtained, separate bank accounts will have to be opened for each association to facilitate bookkeeping. The statutes will not have to be modified. As an officially recognised Church in France we would be entitled to rent, buy or build premises for worship or for clergy and to employ clergy and church staff. There could also be financial advantages for French residents, for example, tax relief for charitable giving.

In mid-October the Vacancy in See Committee started the process to appoint a new Bishop for the Diocese in Europe. Chaplaincies and individuals were invited to express their views on the style of leadership and other attributes they would like to see in the new Bishop. Some members of the clergy in the Swiss Archdeaconry were concerned about the fact the Archbishop of Canterbury had received requests from within the Diocese that the new Bishop be "another traditionalist" and were anxious to let the Archbishop know that the vast majority of people in the Diocese was in favour of women in priestly ministry. The Chaplain commented that the Diocese in Europe was growing, in contrast to the situation elsewhere and should not be seen as a backwater. The Council decided that an e-mail should be sent to the community regarding the need for people to write individually in support of female clergy and that this issue should be mentioned in Church.

*Val Geschonke*  
*Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council*

## **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ASSEMBLY**

**28 OCTOBER - 8 NOVEMBER 2013**

### *Paul Holley reports*

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has its assembly once every 8 years to allow a breadth of voices to influence its work, and to promote collective activity and unity amongst its member churches. The host country this time was South Korea. We were based in the city of Busan, on the south coast of the country. Around 4000 delegates and participants gathered for 10 days under the theme, 'Lord of Life, lead us to justice and peace'.



With a full programme of worship, bible studies, plenary sessions, workshops and business meetings, the pace was demanding. Nevertheless, the opportunity to meet and work with colleagues from all over the world ensured that energy levels remained high. It was an excellent opportunity for networking, and uniquely structured so that we could listen to contributions from communities in marginal places that would not normally have a strong voice in global gatherings.

I was invited by WCC to attend the assembly as an advisor to discussions about health and healing. This has been a significant area of work for WCC over many decades. Indeed, at its height, the WCC had a team of nearly 40 people working with WHO on a weekly basis to draw from the experience of medical missionaries. Together they came up with the concept of Primary Health Care. This was launched in 1978 by world leaders at Alma Ata, Kazakhstan,

and is one of the most significant initiatives in the history of global health. More recently, however, this activity has dwindled, and the remaining post is currently vacant. I was keen to be a part of the assembly to help renew the work of WCC in this area rather than let it slip away. The conversations went well, and I trust that in due course, the planning process for WCC programmes will re-establish this role.

Perhaps the most striking thing about the assembly was the warm and generous hosting by the Korean churches. South Korea has seen major growth amongst its churches. Around 25% of the population are now Christian. The largest churches in the world exist in Seoul. One Pentecostal church claims to have a million members! Over the middle weekend, about 600 of us travelled to Seoul to see the border with North Korea and to share in worship with churches in the city. Our Korean hosts had rented a train to take us swiftly across the country. It was rather a surprise when a TGV turned up on the platform! Along with the Archbishop of Canterbury and various other dignitaries, we travelled to a military base on a hill overlooking the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas. Our visit was described as a pilgrimage of peace, and was an important gesture for our hosts, whose pain at the separation of their country runs deep. Following that, we were offered a cultural evening in a Presbyterian mega-church. It was quite something. I believe the membership was a modest 70,000...

The next morning was a wonderful contrast. I preached in a small Anglican parish just outside of Seoul. Lovely family atmosphere, with about 50 people present. It reminded me very much of La Cote. Very comforting.

The business of the assembly was to prepare for the following 8 years, with elections to a new central committee – which is formed by representation of the relevant member churches and is 150 strong. This in turn elected a new moderator for WCC – in this case a very impressive Anglican lay woman from Kenya, Dr. Agnes Abuom. She is the first woman moderator in the history of the organisation.

As well as contributing to sessions on health and healing, I took particular interest in workshops about economics. The WCC has a history of radical leftist politics, and I wanted to understand their anti-capitalist arguments. Sadly, I was not able to make sense of these, because most of the presentations were long on stories, and short on analysis. I do think this is a weakness, and I heard some crazy things said about how we should live in the face of financial and climatic stress. Nevertheless, I take seriously the voices of those who suffer directly from the excesses of global business – particularly those whose lands are subject to great mining exploits. I would certainly balk if the Jura was turned into one giant mining enterprise.

The assembly was a fascinating experience. Indeed I had not been to the Far East before, and this in itself was a revelation. The WCC may be struggling these days to retain the impact it had in the past, but its role as a convener of diverse churches in this way is unique.

*Paul*

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### A NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE

#### Feedback from the Archdeaconry of Switzerland

Following requests for input from chaplaincies and individuals, seven of the nine chaplaincies in Switzerland sent feedback from council discussions to the Archdeaconry representatives and a number of parishioners wrote individually. Of the seven, five asked for gender equality and full recognition at all levels of the sacramental ministry of women, including the ordination of women to the priesthood by our own Bishops. There is a very pronounced feeling throughout the Archdeaconry that our diocese needs a Bishop who is committed to making the Diocese in Europe an affirming location for women in ordained ministry. The clergy chapter also met and came out very strongly in favour of the ordination of women within our diocese, seeing it in no way as a mere following of the *Zeitgeist* but as a legitimate development of the implications of the gospel.

Six of the chaplaincies mentioned the need for the Bishop to understand the differences and challenges facing the churches in the Diocese in Europe, compared with those in the UK. This covered several aspects:

- The importance of understanding and positively affirming the diversity of backgrounds within our chaplaincies and diocese - ethnic, cultural and ecumenical with their distinctive needs. The days of being an ex-pat church of the English abroad have definitely gone.
- The ability to appreciate the difficulties facing English-speaking churches in non-English-speaking countries, our smallness, vulnerability, and dependency on good local ecumenical relations. The Bishop should devote time and resources to supporting and encouraging chaplaincies and in fully understanding their ministry contexts.
- The need to be open and broad-minded and to support and encourage the full range of Anglican churchmanship and ministry, from catholic to evangelical, from liturgical to fresh expressions, sometimes present within the same chaplaincy.
- The clergy expanded this to a need for an understanding of evangelicals and chaplaincy members of non-Anglican traditions.
- The breadth of vision which the above points imply makes it highly desirable that the bishop speak fluently at least one European language other than English.

The need for a greater vision and more support and encouragement from the diocesan level for mission within Europe was an important theme, with an underlying message that current structures did not allow opportunities for mission to be creatively exploited and that chaplaincies were not sufficiently helped through the early stages of building worshipping communities. There needs to be good co-operation with mission agencies such as ICS, and with other churches, e.g. the Convocation of Episcopal Churches, to optimise opportunities.

There is also a need for an imaginative approach to the area of lay ministry which may not always reflect customary Church of England patterns. This may entail more discretion for chaplains at the local level, both in terms of encouraging and supervising extended forms of lay ministry, and also in building cooperation with other churches.

Several chaplaincies expressed the need for our Bishop to define a clear vision for the Anglican Church in Europe, as distinct from the UK, which recognised the Diocese in Europe's unique character, challenges and opportunities.



- The clergy expressed this as the Bishop embracing enthusiastically the five marks of mission and incorporating these into his vision.
- There was a call for a Bishop who will have the flexibility to think creatively about the structures of the Anglican presence in Europe, both within the Diocese itself and with the Churches in communion. He should be committed to the ecumenical future of Christianity in Europe.
- Several chaplaincies referred specifically to the need to build closer ecumenical links, to develop strategies at local as well as international level, to deal with problems of overlapping jurisdictions with Churches in communion. Particular mention was made of relations with the Old Catholics, Lutherans, and the Episcopal Convocation, these reflecting our situation in Switzerland.
- It was also mentioned that the new Bishop needed to be a credible representative of the Church of England/Anglican Communion in ecumenical circles, theologically competent to represent the Anglican tradition before the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant theologians.
- Several chaplaincies mentioned the need for the Bishop to engage in public debate on current important ethical issues, such as migration and the environment. Where possible this should be done together with other Churches. One chaplaincy asked for a Bishop with «an orthodox understanding of Christian morality».

There were several comments on the importance of the Bishop providing good pastoral care at a grassroots level. Therefore it is vital that the thinking on adequate diocesan structures to enable this be continued, even if the model of four free-standing archdeacons is suspended. The clergy were especially concerned about pastoral care and support for themselves and families. Mention was made of possible tensions between the Bishop's commitments outside the diocese and the need for pastoral care within the diocese. Maybe any bishop of the Diocese in Europe has to accept for his period of tenure some reduction in other cherished interests.

With respect to personal qualities, the clergy identified the following:

- Good managerial and leadership skills.
- Adeptness at conflict resolution.
- Willingness to listen to people carefully, yet hold his own in the face of articulate opposition.
- Ability and willingness to delegate to competent people.

## **REVISED PLANS FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIOCESE**

For the past seven years, plans have been under development in our Diocese to enhance and extend the pastoral ministry of Archdeacons. These would have included replacing seven part-time positions with four full-time, in key locations across the continent in order to relieve the existing Archdeacons of their dual role of serving as priests in a church situation as well as their wider pastoral oversight and mission leadership duties. An essential step was first to seek new legislation to allow central funding from the Church Commissioners. The legal changes involved an Act of Parliament which was supported by General Synod. The Diocese in Europe Measure 2013 was given royal assent during the Summer and brought the Diocese in Europe more in line with the other 43 dioceses in England.

The Archbishop's Council, the executive committee which agrees funding distribution, has agreed their allocation to the Diocese for the next three years. The Diocesan Bishop, Rt Rev Dr Geoffrey Rowell, says he is disappointed to learn that Europe will be given support of only £84,000 a year until 2016. "This new help is gratefully received and will be well used by the Diocese, which has the fastest growing numbers of churches and members in the Church of England. We had hoped for enough to fund Archdeacons in full-time ministry. Nonetheless it is good that at last we have a foot on the funding ladder and so can make our case for central church help in the future". It was also good to know that, for the first time, the Diocese will be eligible to submit a bid for a portion of an additional £15m of funding for strategic development. Although this cannot be the basis for taking on long-term commitments, the Diocese will work hard to seek funds to enable future mission and ministry in the Diocese.

Bishop's Council which met in late October considered the practical implications of this funding decision as will the full Diocesan Synod at its annual meeting in June 2014. "For the moment", says Bishop Geoffrey, "we will need to continue with our pattern of seven Archdeacons, some of whom are currently serving in an 'acting' role, while we consider how best to manage the Diocese for growth, conscious that this imposes an inequitable burden on those chaplaincies who have an Archdeacon as their priest and pastor."

The Diocese, which has almost 300 congregations in more than 40 countries across Europe, is also entering a time of transition as Bishop Geoffrey retires in early November and it is likely to be some months before his successor is appointed. The four archdeacons in post (The Archdeacon of the Eastern Archdeaconry, The Ven. Patrick Curran; The Archdeacon of Switzerland, The Ven Peter Potter; The Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe, The Ven Jonathan LLoyd; and the Archdeacon of Italy and Malta, The Ven. Jonathan Boardman) will therefore remain in their present positions working from their respective chaplaincies. Bishop Geoffrey said that he was grateful to all concerned for generously continuing to serve in, or to take on, these significant roles, particularly at this time of transition with his own retirement and an impending Vacancy in See.

## **BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2013**

As one of my last duties as Bishop of the Diocese I write to commend the Bishop's Advent Appeal to you all. This comes with the endorsement of Bishop David and the Archdeacons and Senior Staff of the Diocese.

The Diocese has a number of twinning links – with the Diocese of Visby and the Swedish Church Abroad, with the Diocese of Luweero in Uganda (linked particularly with the North-West Archdeaconry) and the Diocese of Peru (linked particularly with the Gibraltar Archdeaconry). Bishop Bill Godfrey of Peru, whom I know well, has visited the Gibraltar Archdeaconry Synod on a number of occasions, and this year's Advent Appeal is for a project in his Diocese. It is focussed on the San Mateo Mission and School on the edge of a shanty town on the north-east of Lima. As you will see from the attached information this is a clearly practical project which will make a real and significant difference in a place of real



need, and assist the educational and spiritual development of children. I need not say how important this is as part of Christian witness and service.

As we prepare for Christmas, and remember with awe and wonder the love of God shown in his coming among us in the fragility and poverty of the child born in a cow-byre at Bethlehem, I commend this project to you for your support this Advent. Please give generously, and find imaginative ways of raising money for this.

With every blessing,

*+ GEOFFREY*

## **SAN MATEO PROJECT- NEW SCHOOL AND MISSION CHURCH**

San Mateo is a mission and school, founded in 2000 to fulfil the Church's life, mission and ministry to the people of a poor urban area. It is situated in the north east of Lima (Peru) on the edge of a shanty town. The School, provides education, nutrition and medical care for children from surrounding poor areas. It has approximately 250 pupils and seeks to offer them education with excellence. In addition to the formal subjects, cares for the complete development of the children, and offers art, music, dancing, physical education and sport, not available in state schools. The patio in the middle of the classrooms has plants and trees, and its beauty reminds the children of the need to take care of creation, and the outstanding beauty of their country. The life of the school is centred around Christian faith and values, in a family atmosphere.



Because of poverty, many of the children arrive at school without breakfast, so one of our support projects is to provide them with both breakfast and lunch. This has had the added bonus of creating a family atmosphere as children and teachers sit down to eat together. A good diet is essential for health and vital for proper learning. In addition, each child receives regular check-ups from the diocesan doctor and medical team. School begins at 8am and finishes at 5pm. These long hours are important for families and enable mothers, many of whom are single, to find work without worrying about their children, knowing they are safe and cared for. State schools run for only half the day and consequently many children are either home alone or on the streets. Education is one of the chief areas of mission of the Diocese of Peru and enables the Church to serve and reach out to the local population.

The school is part of St Matthew's Mission and the priest, Padre Ruben, runs the mission church and offers pastoral care to the school, its children and families. The school has a regular weekly Eucharist and the life of the mission is like that of any normal parish. There is a piece of land adjacent to the school and the aim is to build a mission church, which will also be used as a chapel for the school, and two new classrooms. These will face the central school patio, and the chapel, a public square.



The mission and school have started raising funds for these buildings but need the boost of help from their Christian partners. We are requesting help with this project, to join with the mission and school in providing this extension to its work. The classrooms will cost approximately US\$15,000 and the chapel US\$30,000. The long-term gain for the school is that it will enable the school to have more pupils and move towards greater financial sustainability. At present, it just breaks even.

*Project San Mateo School from Bishop Bill Godfrey*

## **ARCHDEACONRY CHARITY PROJECTS - PARTNER SEIN (PARTNERS)**

Partner Sein is the Swiss Old Catholic Church charity, which is supported by our Archdeaconry and by individual Swiss chaplaincies. La Côte contributes to these via our Archdeaconry payments. Robert Amstutz is our Synod delegate for these projects.

### **A glance over the fence.....**

When thinking, reading or talking about Africa in Switzerland, very soon the subjects of war, refugees and poverty arise. However this sells Africa short and is not fair to the continent. Of course, the major problems of population growth and the tendency to cronyism in the economy cannot be denied. However, whoever visits these countries with open eyes, and meets their people, will recognise quality in the smallest things. For instance, the warm hospitality, the importance of gifts, irrespective of value, the desire to appear well dressed if affordable, their zest for life. It is also impressive to see with what intensity and matter-of-course they live their religion in everyday life and during church services. We all could benefit from a pinch, or even a handful, of this sensuousness, light heartedness and cheerfulness in our lives.

### **Uganda and Congo**

In 2013, 14 projects for a total of CHF 105'000 were supported in Uganda and Congo by Partners (Partner sein). In the summer of 2013, a three-strong Swiss delegation travelled to Africa and reviewed the appropriate use of the funds. Clean drinking water in every house, free education, the provision of medical services, everyone insured against sickness and injury, the right to an old age pension – in our part of the world we take most of these things for granted. For millions of people in the Third World, even in Uganda and Congo, they do not, or only partially exist. Both countries are target countries for Partners which deliberately concentrates its development cooperation on a few countries. As a smaller charity, Partners must use its limited strengths and resources in a targeted manner.





The area of Kanoni in Uganda has become their trademark over the last 20 years. With support from Switzerland, functional school buildings of a good standard could be erected and the general infrastructure improved. Wells have been bored, solar power installed where required, a new rectory is under construction and, since 1993, the schooling costs of aids orphans have been subsidised. The Kanoni School warmly welcomed the Partners delegation, whose members were Rev. Christoph Schuler, Director of Projects, Robert Amstutz, Anglican delegate, and Urs Müller, Board Member. In the presence of Bishop Godfrey Makumbi, a ceremony was held to recognise the end of the construction and the official handing over of the school to the local community.

Bishop Godfrey Makumbi of the Church of Uganda is responsible for the Diocese of West Bugunda. He is the primary contact person for all projects of Partners in Uganda. For the visit of the Swiss delegation he had arranged a very “sportive” programme. Eight days long, the delegation travelled with him from morning to evening. They visited completed and on-going programmes, reachable partly over bumpy and very dusty roads. In the villages, he listened to the challenges, worries and hardships of the schools, the parish and the local people. An on-site inspection is ten times more valuable than presentations and photographs. For this reason, it is important to Partners that projects are not only accompanied by a reliable local project manager but also visited regularly by a trustworthy person from Switzerland who can, if necessary, provide constructive criticism. Partners owe this to their donors. Not least, our visit will help us move forward. Which of the multitude needs of the people in this part of the world are suitable for a project of our charity? Where can our principle of helping people to help themselves best be applied? By which persons and organisations do we sense initiative and creativity? We do not simply wish to dole out aid but specifically invest our funds in a manner which will improve the long-term living standards of the local people. That a little of our prosperity is transferred to less privileged areas in the process, does not make us any the poorer.

For years, Eastern Congo has been counted as one of the most unstable regions of the world. The area has not only been negatively influenced by inner Congolese problems but also by political interference from both Rwanda and Uganda. Despite the difficult conditions, Partners has been engaged for a number of years in this oppressed area. The charity works closely with the Anglican Church in Congo. It has worked successfully for ten years together with S.I.B.A.P. (Soutien aux initiatives de bases pour l'autofinance paysanne), an association assisting small farmers to obtain credit.

The Swiss Foreign Office strongly advised the delegation not to enter eastern Congo. For this reason, after an impressive tour of their projects in Uganda, the delegation travelled by road through Rwanda to the Congolese border. In the Rwanda border towns of Cyangugu and Gisenyi, delegates from the Congolese cities of Bukavu and Goma crossed the border to present their projects and needs to the delegates of Partners. Although the projects could not be inspected on-site, it was a valuable opportunity to meet and engage in intensive discussion with our Congolese partners. In addition to the construction of a school, the financing and delivery of medicine and the tapping of further fresh water springs, much emphasis is placed on projects to help people to help themselves. A small credit programme for women will enable them to get a foothold in business. The project, a cow for a poor family, will be continued. In 2014, the creation of a pool of sewing machines is planned to increase the earning possibilities and self-sufficiency of women in Goma. Whilst the situation in the Bukavu area has quietened down in recent years, the area around Goma is a potential war zone. Our reliable local partners provide assurance that, despite these difficult circumstances, our charitable payments are being used responsibly and for the right purpose.

*Robert Amstutz*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Editor thanks Liz Bramley and Peta Tracey for the photos shown in this edition of the Newsletter and Sue Brown for her invaluable technical assistance*

## LA COTE NEWS



ANIMAL BLESSING  
SERVICE 3 October 2013 at  
the Temple de Gingins



## AUTUMN FAIR 28 SEPTEMBER 2013 at Crassier Salle Communale



Organisers, Sharon & Christina

'Well, if this is what your church is like, I think I'd like to come!' This comment, made to a member of our congregation at the Autumn Fair, conveys the welcoming, happy atmosphere that visitors entered at the Salle Communale in Crassier. So much trouble had gone into decorating the hall and setting out the stalls in an attractive way. This was very much due to Christina Majakari & Sharon Senogles, who had put their 'stamp' on this Fair with their creativity and really conscientious hard work. Three Craft Workshops held before the Fair attracted a large number of participants and provided goods for the stalls, as well as building momentum for the Fair and bringing us together as a community.

On the day itself, we were lucky with the weather (at least until 3pm!) and able to have several stalls outside as well. People commented on the great choice of food, inside and out, where they sat down with friends over a snack or meal. We were pleased to have visitors of all nationalities, including local Swiss, and felt that we had reached a wide public through the many ways the Fair had been publicised. True to the promise, there was fun for all the family. Games provided by our youngsters and great entertainment, in the form of line dancing by Lorraine's 'Silver Spurs' and tap displays by champions Olivia & Rebecca Grobéty, delighted those watching.



A huge thank you to everyone who took part, to the local businesses who generously donated prizes to the Tombola, and to everyone who came to buy! The final result (tbc) will be over CHF10,000 which provides essential resources to our church and its charitable giving. The story doesn't end there and we had a very productive evening on 7 Nov, both celebrating and discussing all aspects of the Fair with a view to future fund-raising activities (watch this space!).

*Peta*

## QUIZ NIGHT

15 teams participated in La Cote's famous annual event Quiz Night on 16 November in the Salle Alinghi at Coinsins. The worthy winners were the Quizerables, (right) with Mosquitos and Oxymorons second. David Bramley was Quizmaster and everyone had great fun competing. The proceeds of the evening CHF 2,705 will go towards the the Afghanistan Women's project with Christian Aid.



## IN THE STEPS OF THE DINOSAURS - Asylum Seekers' walk, Emosson, September 2013

Seven asylum seekers participated: Abel, Eskindir, Biniam, Fesshay (Fishi), Ermias, Yasser, Nabyat, plus Paul Holley and myself. We drove up the Rhone valley to Martigny and snaked our way up towards Finhaut and Chamonix. Just before the French border we turned up a side road to the Barrage d'Eposson, an artificial lake and damsite where we started our walk. The day was cold, cloudy, but dry. The Eritreans romped to the top in about 2 hours while Paul, myself, and Yasser (in that order) puffed some distance behind them! (Note: will get fit before I next offer to accompany Eritreans) It seems they share a gene with Mo Farrah and the Ethiopian runners! Everyone reached the goal, a 2500 metre high site with tracks of a herd of three-toed dinosaurs. I think they were under-impressed with the fossil footprints but never mind; they enjoyed the hike. Our next planned event is a meal out together at an Ethiopian restaurant in Lausanne. Please contact me if you would like to attend and we will try to arrange a suitable date.



*Joy*

## POTLUCK LUNCH



Lunch gathering hosted by John & Peta Tracey on November 24 for asylum seekers attending church, Bossey students, and those in our congregation who kindly provide transport

Back row: Eskindir, Abel, Sam,  
Front row: next to Carolyn, Gabriel and Maxwell



## IN MEMORY OF GAIL

### Dedication of an icon

Gail Farrell was a close and loyal friend to many of us at La Côte, and a very active and faithful member of our church community, contributing to the life of our church in many different ways. Since her death in 2008, we have wondered how to remember her in a concrete way but never found the right idea, the right way to honour her memory here in this church which Gail loved so much.



One of the local projects Gail was involved in here was the Amitié Clit-St Cergue organization. Clit is a village in Rumania which Gail had actually visited and taken part in a scheme to train teachers there. Andrea Goovaerts (left on the photo with Gail and Sue Brown) is now involved in this association and a few months ago was shown some Rumanian-made icons for sale in aid of the association. She showed me photos of them and we both thought that this particular one, depicting the resurrection, would

be a most fitting physical reminder of Gail and we would like to honour her memory by displaying it at Gingins during our Sunday worship. We are grateful to Carolyn for agreeing to this.

The person who made the icon, Ellena Martinov is a school teacher who once lived in the village Clit where Gail visited. We worked out that she may even have met her! So thank you to Andrea for pursuing this on our behalf, and thanks to all who have contributed to the cost. As well as remembering Gail, we are also participating in the ongoing work of the Amitié Clit association, and I know Gail would have very much appreciated that.

We ask God's blessing on this icon and thank Him for the artist, Ellena, and her creative gift. We trust that this icon will be a reminder for us of the hope of the resurrection through Jesus Christ, and a tribute to our dear friend and His faithful servant, Gail.



*Julia*

### 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.

## LA COTE ACTIVITIES

### Musical Drop Ins

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.** Look out for details of future events on the website and in the La Côte Bulletin.

### 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. SAS is proving a popular way of drawing our 10 - 14 year-olds together on Friday evenings, to wind down, have fun, build friendships, eat lots of chicken nuggets(!) and make connections between their lives and the Christian faith. Thank you to Ted and the team of committed parents for heading up this group.

Contact Ted for further details. **Email tedtal@vtx.ch - tel: 022 361 04 01**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### AN ADVENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Come and join us on Wednesday 4th December from 7 30 pm to 10 pm in the Divonne parish rooms. We welcome back Clare Amos who will lead us in exploring the Gospel of John. Clare is an Anglican biblical scholar currently working at the World Council of Churches as Programme Coordinator and Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation. Before coming to Geneva she worked in the Anglican Communion Office in London as Director for Theological Education.

Those of us who attended Clare's session on Luke back in May were very much inspired by her insights and knowledge and we look forward to this second session with her.

Please send contributions or comments to the La Côte Newsletter at: lacotenews@vtxnet.ch  
Deadline for the next issue: **15 February 2014**

**La Côte Anglican Church  
Community Day in Bossey  
Saturday 1 March 2014**

Note the date –!

This year we are delighted to announce that our guest speaker will be Revd David Runcorn. David has worked as a Church of England priest and in theological training and development. He is now a 'free-range' priest working in the areas of spiritual accompaniment, prayer and retreats, vocational guidance and leadership training. He has also written a number of books – Julia has copies of most of them!

For more about him go to [www.davidruncorn.org](http://www.davidruncorn.org)

We very much look forward to welcoming David to our Community Day – we decided to be flexible about our date because of his very busy schedule. We will announce the theme of the day nearer the time. Our usual time-table will apply and there will be separate programmes for the children.



**Celebrate Christmas with ...  
La Côte Anglican Church in Nyon,  
Gingins and Divonne**

***In the Salvation Army Church in Nyon***  
*21<sup>st</sup> December 18.30 An evening of Jazz & carols*

***Services in the village church of Gingins (near Nyon):***  
15<sup>th</sup> December 16.00 Family Nativity Service with Christingles  
*(followed by mince pies and mulled wine nearby)*  
22<sup>nd</sup> December 16.00 Advent 4 Evening prayer and baptism  
24<sup>th</sup> December 14.30 Crib Service for children  
24<sup>th</sup> December 16.30 Christmas Eve Eucharist

***Services at the Eglise réformée in Divonne:***  
15<sup>th</sup> December 11.00 Nativity Play & Carols  
*(followed by festive lunch and fun for all the family)*  
22<sup>nd</sup> December 18.00 Carols and Readings for Christmas  
25<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 Christmas Day Family Communion

**LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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**La Côte Weekly Bulletin** The Bulletin is emailed 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 the Chaplain of any changes to telephone number, home or e-mail addresses.

## LA CÔTE SERVICES December 2013 – February 2014

		<b>Gingins 4pm</b>	<b>Divonne 10am</b>
Advent 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Holy Communion and anointing for healing	
Advent 2	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
Advent 3	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nativity Play with Christingles service with mulled wine and mince pies	<b>At later time of 11am</b> - Nativity Play and Carols followed by a festive Christmas meal
	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>IN NYON</b> at the Salvation Army Church Evening of jazz carols and dramatic readings at 6.30pm	
Advent 4	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Evening Prayer with Baptism	<b>At 6pm</b> Christmas readings and carols
Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Crib Service 2.30pm Christmas Communion 4.30pm	
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Family Christmas Communion
First Sunday of Christmas	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Evening Prayer	
Epiphany	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Holy Communion (all ages welcome)	
Baptism of Christ	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Holy communion	Morning Worship
Epiphany 3	19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Evening Prayer	
	19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	5 pm at <b>Crossroads, Ferney-Voltaire</b> An ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Epiphany 4	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion (anointing for healing)
Candlemas	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	
4 <sup>th</sup> before Lent	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All Age Worship	Morning Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion (anointing for healing)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion

Any changes to this schedule will be indicated in the La Côte Weekly Bulletin