



NEWSLETTER

August - September 2014



Social Action Fundraising at La Côte

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**Christian communities
in Gingins and Divonne**

www.lacotechurch.ch



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house”, (1 Peter 2.3). During the summer term we have used this image to think about the household of faith we are building here at La Côte. Hence the picture which many of you may recognise, with our foundational mission statement, and the four pillars representing broad areas of our church life working together to create a household of faith. Unwittingly we arrived at the structure below which looks like a temple. Until it was destroyed in 70 AD the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was a crucial place of worship, community and identity for the Jews, as the people of God. 1 Peter

enlarges the vision of the Temple so that it is no longer confined to stones and mortar but is a living organism. As God’s people we can create a dynamic Temple in our worship together and then as we are sent out to love God in the world.

I recently came across this dry stone wall up in the Jura hillside above Bassins. Whoever built it was skilled at fitting stones of all shapes and sizes together into one characterful and rather “higgledy-piggledy” wall! This adds a note of realism to the sort of living Temple we can become with our unique shapes, sizes, gifts and characters.

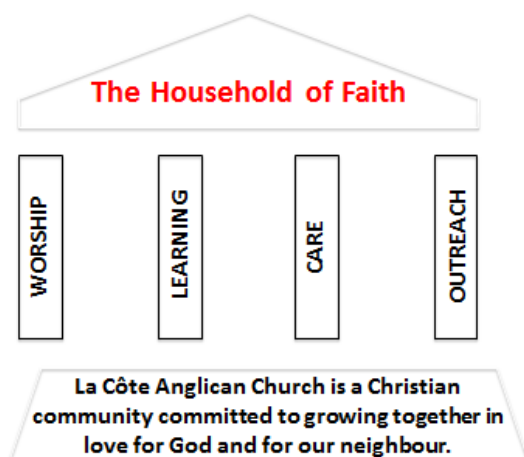
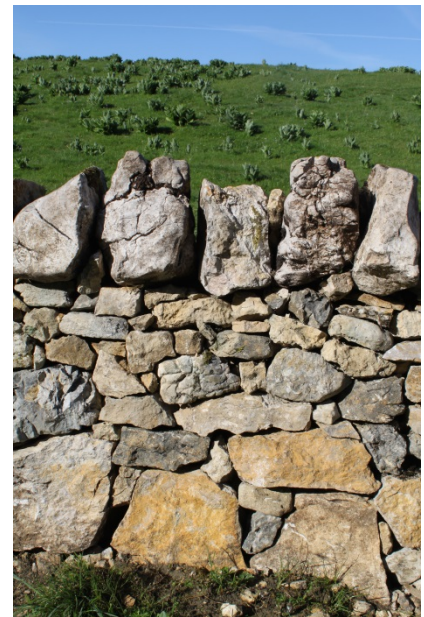
Yet both the Temple and the dry stone wall are still rather static pictures for a church, whereas the idea of being “living stones” suggests that we are organic and growing and open to change. La Côte church council has spent time since the AGM evaluating each “pillar” of our church life, thinking about how we might continue to develop our worship, our

learning, our care and our outreach – in order to fulfil our mission

statement “committed to growing together in love for God and for our neighbour. “

As we commit ourselves to building this Temple with Christ as our cornerstone my prayer is that we will continue to be an open and welcoming home for people to find shelter, comfort and inspiration for their faith.

Above all, that they will find signs of God and his kingdom – not in our perfection – but



his presence among us in our “higgledy-piggledy” life together.

The writer and columnist A N Wilson rediscovered his faith after years away by hanging around Christians. John Pritchard notes how he came back to God: “It was the quiet lives of ordinary Christians and the experience of a worshipping community that brought Wilson back to faith. Few things are more persuasive than the compassionate embrace of a living community of Christ’s disciples.” (*God Lost and Found*, 2011, p.123) As we continue to build our living household of faith, let us dare to pray that people will find God in our midst.

Carolyn

COUNCIL NOTES

Since the 2014 AGM on 23 March, there have been three meetings of La Côte Chaplaincy Council. The Chaplain welcomed newly elected members, Lexa Nicholson and Craig Thompson to the first post-AGM Council meeting on 7 April, and the following officers were elected: Lay Vice-Chairman: Dwight Moe, Treasurer: Craig Thompson, Secretary: Valerie Geschonke. In the light of these changes, The Council decided to amend the names of the persons who were officers in the conseil d'administration of the La Côte Anglican Church Development Association. John Tracey remains President.

Following the Holy Conversations process last year, the Chaplain was encouraged by the planning team to paint a vision of how La Côte might develop, leading to a new direction. The community had looked at its identity: who we were, the way we worship, learn, care for others and look beyond ourselves. At each meeting, the Council held in-depth discussions on these different aspects of the life of the community.

Worship The Chaplain wanted to broaden the idea of worship, with a greater integration of youth, and look at this in terms of other activities and prayer, exploring growth and different ways of approaching God. Ours is a richly diverse community, which gives us freedom to explore other options.

Learning, in the context of discipleship, and life-long growth and development. There is a tendency towards an informal approach towards learning at La Côte, and as suggested at the recent AGM, there could be more investment in teaching, possibly by members of our own church community.

La Côte Presence. This was with the aim of making ourselves more accessible to the community. The focus on presence in Divonne was more confined to a precise area, whereas Gingins covered a wide geographical area, which made our presence difficult to pin down. Visibility is an important factor and Divonne has moved ahead with the French Association with the objective to increase our profile in neighbouring France and build community within and outside the church, leading to an officially recognized status. Gingins was considered to be rather isolated, especially from the point of view of youth, and another operating base in the area would be positive. The Chaplain proposed setting up a meeting to look into the possibility of holding alternative services once a month in Nyon, with a different format, and setting up a youth centre.

Supportive community The Council acknowledged that pastoral care was a vital aspect of community life and the role of Pastoral Worker was considered to be as important as that of Youth Worker. A valid goal for the development of our community was therefore to work towards the appointment of a pastoral coordinator. The right person needed to be found on the basis of a voluntary honorarium.

Outward-looking community. It had been established that our church wanted to look outwards to the wider world. However, the Council was aware that there were needs closer to us and discussed ways to bear witness to our faith in the secular world. There were challenges in the working environment where it was not possible to bear witness in an official way. The approach had to be different: it amounted to applied Christianity. These discussions will be continued.

Finances Craig Thompson took over the role of Treasurer following the AGM. Due to a predicted deficit at the end of 2014, the Council looked at fundraising ideas. Another Autumn Fair was planned to take place on 27 September 2014. Flyers have been produced on how the church is financed, showing different ways of giving.

Youth Work There is a reserve of SFr.15,000.- available from the Budget to finance youth activities in the coming year, which would enable us to search locally for another Youth Worker. An advertisement for a Youth Worker was sent out to all local churches. The Council decided that the Youth Interest Group should be reactivated.

A new Diocesan Bishop. The Reverend Canon Dr. Robert Innes was appointed and was consecrated and commissioned in Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday 20 July. Canon Innes was Senior Chaplain and Chancellor of the Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity Brussels from 2005. He will be based in Brussels and work closely with the Diocesan Office in London. The Chaplain stated that she was delighted with the choice of Bishop and that La Côte should invite him to visit our community when he has time.

The Council will meet again after the summer break in September.

Val Geschonke,
Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD JUNE 2014

The Swiss Archdeaconry synod takes place twice a year, and the second meeting in 2014 was held in Zurich at the end of June. La Côte's Synod Representatives, Susan Passmore and Val Geschonke were elected at the March AGM to serve for a three year period. A new feature on the agenda was a short report from each of the chaplaincies about some highlight, problem, or event in their church. It emerged that the same problems are faced everywhere:

- Not enough teachers for Junior Church
- Lack of opportunity for young people to do things together and attempts to attract younger people into the church
- Music: either a great success as in some chaplaincies, or less so as in another church where the congregation can hardly be persuaded to sing
- All churches try to be open, taking part in events in their city. Lausanne opened the church for the "Feast of Light" showing people their stained glass windows, Berne will take part in the "Kirchenfest", an attempt of the churches to show Christ's presence among us.

The afternoon session was a presentation by Catherine Jackson, Diocesan Appointments Secretary, on the procedure for the appointment of a new chaplain. Synod members find the exchange of ideas very informative and encouraging. Just to find out that you are not the only ones struggling with too few Junior Church teachers is comforting.

Miriam Keller, Archdeaconry Secretary
& Val Geschonke

Meet our new La Côte Officers

Craig Thompson, Treasurer.

I moved to Switzerland in October 2012 from South Africa, where I was born and lived all my life. My wife Janet, and our two daughters, Paige and Cleo joined me the following December. I work in Nyon for an Inter Dealer broking Company, assisting banks to trade in African financial instruments. When we were looking for a church to celebrate Christmas, we discovered La Côte. We were Anglicans in South Africa, so there is not too much of an adjustment to make regarding worship. My family and I live in Nyon, so we worship mainly at Gingins, but at times we also like to visit the Divonne church. For relaxation, I like to cook, and read crime and fantasy novels. As a family we enjoy skiing in winter and cycling in summer, both of them in a relaxed manner. It has also been fun to discover various places in and around Switzerland. I am still learning about European wines, and particularly appreciate the open days when we walk around various areas, tasting the wines produced there. This is a big change from my home country, where the wineries are far apart. This February, I offered to take over the role of Treasurer from Philippe Chambeyron, who has done a great job for over 13 years. The time involved in completing the administrative procedures have meant that I am only just starting to assume those responsibilities.



Craig

Lexa Nicholson, Council member



Lexa moved to Switzerland from London in the autumn of 2011, relocating with her husband James for his work. Until then, Lexa had been working in the UK as a lawyer in private practice and latterly in-house for a diamond mining company. They now have three small children, Harry, 5, Annabel, 3 and Elsa, 1. Having settled in Gingins, they swiftly found their way to La Cote Church. As the family has become increasingly involved in church life over the last two years, it became a happy next step for Lexa to serve on the La Cote Church Council. When she is not juggling her three lively little ones, Lexa enjoys sewing and making things for the children, and is also interested in ballet and dance.

Carolyn

Katharine Minton, Safeguarding Officer



I'm Katharine Minton. I grew up mainly in the South East of England, studying at Keele University and then the Institute of Education. I worked as a teacher for many years before moving to Switzerland in 2002 with my husband Graham and children Sam and Ella. A few years ago I came along to La Cote through the baptism of a friend's child and have been getting more involved ever since, especially through the Wednesday group. In my role, I am keen to support volunteers in the process of safeguarding, and ensuring the best possible care of our children, youth and vulnerable adults. You may also have come across my name on your weekly bulletin email as I now send it out on behalf of Carolyn and Julia!

Katharine

Update on La Côte in France and the 1901 Association

In May I held a meeting with Georges, Susan and Dwight, the officers of our new 1901 *association culturelle*. We invited Peter, Nigel, Mollie and Philippe to help us reflect on next steps. After a very creative and fruitful discussion, we decided to work on:

- Setting up the 1905 *association culturelle*
- Booking stall in the Sunday market in September and/or November
- Participating in the big Marché de Noël in the Esplanade du Lac
- Exploring the possibility of holding public lectures/seminars during Lent
- Holding a musical garden party with our French hosts in the church garden during summer 2015. Anyone who would like to participate in making these events happen, please contact one of the above group.

Julia

Palm Sunday Passion narrative and service in Divonne.

Palm Sunday was joyfully celebrated at Divonne and Gingins. At Divonne Temple there was a Communion service. It began with the congregation carrying bamboo branches as 'palms' in a procession around the church and was followed by a dramatised reading, by a large cast of members, of Matthew's moving and meditative account of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



In Gingins a similar dramatized reading took place and the passion story was enacted as we walked around the church building outside and into the adjacent field. We finally gathered inside the church to share in Communion. It was special to have so many people taking part across both congregations. Carolyn conveys special thanks to Georges and Ted for producing such moving acts of worship to lead us into Holy Week.

Children's spirituality



One of our two La Côte strategic priorities is children and youth. Rather opportunely, a friend sent me a book by Rebecca Nye called 'Children's Spirituality - what it is and why it matters.' The introduction states: "Sometimes we seem to behave as if spiritual life can only begin once a child has been filled up, by us, with enough religious knowledge. In this book, facilitating children's fluency in religious understanding

is seen as enriching the spiritual life they already enjoy." I was so impressed by this short and accessible book that I have ordered more copies to be circulated amongst our Sunday club leaders in both Gingins and Divonne, with the aim of getting together to share our thoughts and ideas in the Autumn.

Julia

Looking back - Easter Sunday at Crassier Church



Jane shows off her Easter Garden before the service



With Julia, Eoin Rollins.

Kids from left to right :
Cal Rollins, his French friend Paul
and Louis Djabaté

Julia

Divonne Bake Sale

A bake sale was held in Divonne on Sunday 29 June to raise money for STEJ Togo and StandProud Congo. As it was raining the children escorted members of the congregation from church to parish rooms with umbrellas!



Confirmation at Gingins

The day before the confirmation, Bishop Whalon sat in the midst of the confirmands at Holy Trinity and encouraged a frank and wide discussion about the important step of going public with our faith. He was warm and engaging in talking about the big step they were taking. The service the following day on Sunday 22 June was an inspiring celebration, led with charisma by the Bishop and the challenge of discipleship for all of us came through. We really appreciated the way he took time to chat with the newly confirmed and their families after the service. It was a memorable day.

Carolyn



Confirmation candidates with Bishop Pierre Whalon (left to right):
Talisker Weston, Cameron Weston, Emilia Majakari, Cleo Thompson, Katharine Minton, Fiona Ball,
Paige Thompson, Chaplains Julia and Carolyn

Social Action Asylum Seekers' Fundraising Day



On Saturday 14 June a group from La Côte church gathered in a clearing on the edge of Gland to set up a sponsored event organised by the Social Action Group. At about 10.30am about twenty of us, including ten refugees connected to our church, set off on a sponsored run, walk or cycle ride. Our aim was to raise funds for work with refugees, both locally and further afield. Children, youth and those of more advanced age came along to take part or to support the participants – which was just as important! The sun shone throughout the morning, dogs barked, sausages were grilled and eaten, bikes rolled and legs ran or walked around the Gland circuits. It was a sweltering day but everyone enjoyed the experience and those participating were grateful for members of our church who came to support and help with refreshments.

We would like to thank all who came along, and our friends from Eritrea, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for their enthusiastic participation, and supporting participants and sponsors from La Cote and elsewhere. A total of SFr.1'600.- was raised from sponsors and refreshments sold on the day. Half of the proceeds have been donated to relief work with Syrian Refugees and half have gone into our La Côte funds for on-going activities with refugees in the area.

In total, our church donated SFr.1'000.- to La Chaîne du Bonheur to be used in carrying out relief work with Syrian refugees. The amount was increased by a donation of SFr.300.- from a special collection for humanitarian aid from congregation members in both Divonne and Gingins.



Joy

First Communion at Divonne



During the celebration of Pentecost on 8th June in Divonne, four children were welcomed into Holy Communion. All of us were delighted as Louis Djabaté, Thomas and Zoë Gaymard and Finnbar Rollins received Communion for the first time. After participating

in a special preparatory course led by Andrea Goovaerts, Heidi Hawkings and Alison Ball, and with the help of Saskia Werkhoven, the children were quite enthusiastic about joining in during the Communion service. The celebration continued after the service with special nibbles offered by the children's families.

Heidi

Youth Group Canal Trip 2014



Several members La Cote Anglican Youth Group, accompanied by leaders and adults, took part in a canal tour of the south of France over the Ascension weekend this year. Much fun was had by all who participated in the event. Highlights were visiting the Mediterranean Sea and braving the chilly waters for the first summer swim. Thankfully, no one lost any limbs to frostbite or the cute little crabs that were scurrying along the rocks and sand. Later that night, there were also s'mores to be had, much to the delight of everyone. The young people also learnt about knots and boats and were even permitted to steer the vessel every now and again. We enjoyed the magnificent scenery and the occasional sighting of wildlife, mainly wild

rabbits and birds, the most exciting of which were the flamingos. The penultimate day of the trip was spent on a different beach with softer sand and wandering through the streets of the town, seeing different people going about their day, and ended with a lovely meal at a restaurant by the lake front.

Discussions revolved around two powerful women of the Bible: Ruth and Esther. Questions were asked surrounding themes such as loyalty, generosity, friendship and values. There was time to give all manner of opinions and we looked at every viewpoint. These discussion times provided a valuable insight and strengthened group bonds. The weekend allowed for personal and group development, as well as much relaxation time for all. Many thanks to Ted Talbot, Ronald Werkhoven and Éamon and Lois Parkes for organising and accompanying the youth group on this marvellous journey - both physical and spiritual.

Paige Thompson and Sorchu Bhreathnach

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. Thanks 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 0401**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

La Côte Autumn Fair, Saturday 27 September 2014 in Founex.



Plans are fast being developed for the Autumn Fair to be held in Founex. There will be many stalls (books, bottles, cakes, toys) hot food and live music! More details will be available at the end of the summer. We are looking for very good quality new items & second hand. Help us to fill in the gaps in terms of stallholders and helpers if you can, (see the Bulletin for details). If you are creative, there is scope for you to donate something you have made, be it jams, pickles, cloth, wood, cards, pictures, pottery, autumn plants and summer produce from your garden. Do join us if you can on 23rd August for another craft session in Gingsins. The last one was lots of fun!

La Côte Quiz Night

The next of these popular events will be held on the evening of Saturday 15 November. Details to follow nearer the date



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

The Editor thanks Churchwarden Liz Bramley and all those who have contributed the photographs shown in this issue of the Newsletter

Mission Statement

La Côte Anglican Church is a Christian community committed to growing together in love for God and for our neighbour.

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La Côte Weekly Bulletin The Bulletin is emailed to regular members every week. 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 August – October 2014

		Gingins 4pm	Divonne 10am
Trinity 7	3 rd August	Holy Communion	
Trinity 8	10 th August	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
Trinity 9	17 th August	Holy Communion	
Trinity 10	24 th August	Evening Prayer – lay led	Morning Worship
Trinity 11	31 st August	Holy Communion (Sunday club restarts)	Family Communion
Trinity 12	7 th Sept	Holy Communion	
Trinity 13	14 th Sept	Holy Communion	Morning Worship
Trinity 14	21 st Sept	Harvest Celebration with Communion (All ages welcome)	Ecumenical Worship at the Abbé de Bonmont for the Jeûne Fédéral
Trinity 15	28 th Sept	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
Trinity 16	5 th Oct	Holy Communion with healing	
Trinity 17	12 th Oct	Holy Communion	Family Communion – Harvest celebration
Trinity 18	19 th Oct	Holy Communion	
Trinity 19 Bible Sunday	26 th Oct	Evening Prayer	Holy Communion with healing

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