



**LA CÔTE**  
*Anglican Church*

# LA CÔTE CHURCH NEWS



*Advent at La Côte*

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**CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITIES  
IN GINGINS  
AND DIVONNE**

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

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

### **The dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

This morning as I drove along the motorway I was struck by the foreboding bank of dark cloud stretching low along the far side of Lac Lemman. Shafts of sunlight cut through the grey haze shedding light onto the lake. As it so often is, the view was awe-inspiring.

The song of Zechariah prophesies about the coming of God's light through Jesus and ends thus:

*In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

**Luke 1.78-79**

I look back on the last six months of La Côte Church life with deep thanksgiving for many moments when the dawn of God's presence seems to have broken upon us and shone among us. We have relished our musical gifts, shared for example at the Divonne garden party in July, and in our worship, such as the Songs of Praise led by the Gingins song group, to mark their 100<sup>th</sup> service! We have delighted in the creative, generous and community-minded spirit of so many coming together for the Autumn Fair. We are no doubt aware of many moments of care among us - and for example joining together for our highly popular charity Quiz Night. Our church has also been privileged to connect with local refugees together with other churches in the area. We have enjoyed rich moments of celebration with special anniversaries, in particular the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Divonne congregation and the much-appreciated visit of our Diocesan Bishop Robert. We are also aware of many more so-called ordinary moments of worship week by week when the extra-ordinary light of Christ has dawned from on high upon us. The same is true of numerous mid-week encounters and gatherings of adults and youth to grow in faith and friendship so that together we discover the tender compassion of God dawning on us.

As we enter the new church calendar year with this season of Advent we are only too aware of the darkness and shadow of death described by Zechariah. In the wake of so many acts of brutality these last few months we are all the more mindful of our need for God's tender compassion to break through the clouds of suffering.

Through Advent these lines from Zechariah's Song offer us a way into prayer. We can pray for the victims of terrorism and their families for all who grieve and are fearful to know God's tender compassion shining in their darkness and shadows. As followers of Christ we ask for ourselves and for others that the light of Christ will guide our feet into the way of peace in all our daily relationships, in particular our get-togethers with friends and family to celebrate Christmas.



picture: J. Boulat

**Lord, May your tender compassion break upon us from on high and shine in our darkness and shadows.  
In our journey through Advent and into Christmas, guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen**

*This comes with my warm greetings for you for Advent and Christmas.  
I look forward to celebrating with many of you.*

*Carolyn*

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## **SOCIAL ACTION AT LA COTE**

### **Work this year with local Refugees and those in need further afield**

#### **Walking together**

As of the end of September 2015, there were 5,600 asylum seekers in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland. With the recent influx of refugees, the government has been opening a new shelter weekly and our immediate area has recently received 50 new asylum seekers. Members of the Social Action team make a weekly collection of clothes and other needed items that are delivered to the two Day Centres closest to us in Nyon, and Gland. Two of our members have worked with the asylum seekers since the shelter opened in Nyon in 2009. We also set up and ran a Garden project (privately and then in the grounds of a local hospital). We have also provided, through the generosity of parishioners, a dishwasher to the newly opened Nyon Day Centre - and a child's bed for one of the families, as well as bed linens for those individuals and families being moved into private housing. Members of our church have also offered accommodation/rooms to rent to individual refugees who have been granted permission to stay but who struggle to find accommodation of their own.



In addition, we offer language lessons and conversation, mainly English and weekly Art Therapy sessions at the Gland Day Centre. When possible, we include asylum seekers whom we get to know in church and family activities, offer transportation and assist with legal procedures. Through a coordinator, refugees are linked up with members of our community (church and other) to assist with gardening, decorating, moving house etc. in order to earn money. Our Chaplain Carolyn works with a representative of the Westlake Church in Nyon, in a weekly "open house" for refugees and with the Pastor of the local Swiss church in Gland, ministering to the asylum seekers in general and to individuals with specific needs. Apart from these local projects, our Church looks to the wider world and has made the following donations to charities in 2015:

£120	Christian Aid Afghanistan project.
SFR500	Hostel for unaccompanied minor refugees in Athens.
SFR 500	Insieme Vaud, local charity
SFR 500	Ikwesi Lokusa rehab home in S. Africa
€863	Médecins Sans Frontières and SFR1'510 to Act Alliance for relief work in Nepal
€550	Calais Migrants
€420	STEJ Togo
SFR 1'000	Athens Migrants Emergency Appeal
SFR 1'000	GRAAP - Nyon
SFR 600	Favela Phoenix in Rio Di Janeiro
SFR 1'500	UK charity for work with refugees

The Social Action team is grateful to everyone who has contributed financially and helped with fundraising for the above and other causes supported by our Church.

*Anne & Liz*

## **BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2015**

At Christmas time, we remember that the infant Jesus was a migrant, born away from home in Bethlehem and then fleeing with his family from Herod's persecution to safety in Egypt. Today, migration is 'the big issue' across Europe. But whilst every country is talking about migration, some countries are affected more than others, and amongst the most affected is Greece. It is therefore without hesitation that in my appeal for Advent 2015 I encourage us to respond to the needs of migrants arriving in Greece.

There are two projects. One is the 'Lighthouse' project aiming to bring relief to migrants arriving on the island of Lesbos. Because of its proximity to Turkey, this is the island, which has been receiving the highest arrival rate and where the conditions seem to be amongst the worst. 'Lighthouse' is a new non-profit organisation set up to meet some critical and acute needs. The other project relates to our long term support for Apostoli, the Greek Orthodox diaconal organisation providing assistance to refugees in Athens, and also on the islands of Chios, Samos and Kos. Funds will be allocated to the two projects as seems right when the money is ready for distribution in 2016.

As usual, we invite each chaplaincy to make its own arrangements for collection of money towards the Bishop's Appeal and then for the local church treasurer to forward collections to the diocesan office. This is a very practical way in which the whole diocese can contribute towards the needs of some of the most vulnerable people on our continent.

With every blessing, *Dr Robert Innes*

*+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe*

## **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE**

### **Important Safeguarding update**

Several recent well-publicised cases of historic child abuse in the United Kingdom have served to underline the importance of Safeguarding in the church. In October this year, Members of Bishop's Council were assured by Bishop Robert that "we are going to change the culture of the Diocese in Europe to demonstrate that we take safeguarding seriously." There are a number of changes and new aids to help individual congregations fulfil their obligations as safe churches.

### **TRAINING**

More than a hundred people have now completed the online training package for basic safeguarding with the emphasis on children and young people. Everyone who needs safeguarding clearance is required to do this course. A new course on keeping "vulnerable adults" safe is due to be released by the end of this year. In addition to the online training courses, the Diocese is looking to recruit more than 20 people with training skills who will be invited to a "train the trainers" course in the spring of 2016. They would then be available to offer face-to-face group training at local and regional level. Safeguarding Administrator

**Katherine Harris** now supervises applications for safeguarding clearance for anyone in local churches who needs it. The provider of these certificates has changed and APCS (Access Personal Checking Services) now issue them. Anyone in doubt about whether they need clearance for their local church role can check out the guidelines on the diocesan website or consult Kathryn.

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

A full and extensive revision of the diocesan Safeguarding policy is almost complete and is due to be published before the end of 2015. It updates and upgrades. This will mark a minimum standard across the Diocese. If local law is stronger on any item, that will apply to strengthen it in that country. The protocol identifies key responsibilities and who is responsible for which aspect of Safeguarding in the local church. It also has guidance on staff selection, whether for paid or voluntary roles and the importance of keeping full notes and records for future reference.

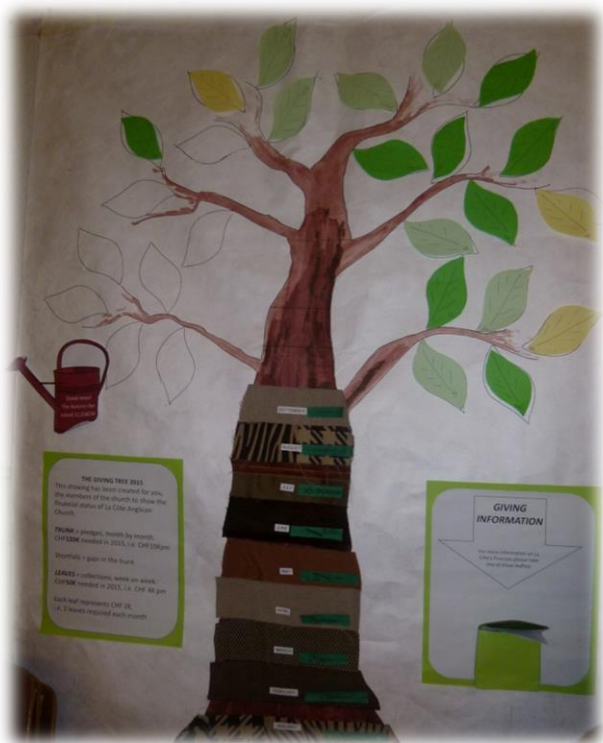
**Ian Carter**, a former police Inspector with Essex Police has been appointed Interim Safeguarding Manager and Consultant and will have overall responsibility for Safeguarding matters in the Diocese. He has special skills and experience in child protection and the wider issues involved. For the time being, Ian is also acting as the Safeguarding Adviser.

**Katharine Minton** (right) is our own Safeguarding Officer at La Côte Anglican Church. Please contact her for guidance via the church website:

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



## FINANCIAL UPDATE



### The Giving Tree

You will find it displayed in the parish rooms at Gingins and Divonne after services. It tells you how we are doing financially.

Our Church receives no financial support other than from the generosity of members of our two congregations. Our annual Budget covers the running expenses of the church, allows us to employ a Chaplain, run youth and other programmes and contribute a percentage to charitable projects in addition to amounts raised by members independently for these.

At the end of this year we are expecting a deficit of SFR10,000.

## LA CÔTE NEWS

### Gingins Song Group celebrates its 100th Performance

On 22 November 2015, the Gingins Song Group performed for the 100th time since it was formed. Margaret Ducommun (second from the left) told members of the congregation during the service at Gingins that it all began with a carol singing evening at her home in Luins in December 2006 to which she invited Paul Holley, the Chaplain of La Côte at the time, and his wife Denise. Worship was a topic of conversation over lunch a week later with Paul when he asked her husband Harold if he would be willing to set up a Song Group to add another dimension to the singing in Gingins. They thought it was a good idea and were willing to give it a try.



Margaret says: "we looked for volunteers and we were very lucky to find a few people who were interested. The first service at which we sang was on 20 January 2007 and little did we think that we would still be here now, passing our 100<sup>th</sup> milestone. Practices which we held once a month became an important part of the package, both in preparing for service the following Sunday and also developing camaraderie. Refreshments, of sausage rolls, cakes and wine at the practices were offered. Their consumption grew by the month, as did the members. Believe me, après-ski does not compare to our après-practice! Friendship has been developed thanks to our round table discussions and long may that continue. I feel we have really got to know one another. We support one another and work together as a team. Drop-In performances at Ted Talbot's house put us in the limelight but we kept our feet on the ground. No, we never made it to the London Palladium, but we were invited to Ted's four times and had a great time."

Margaret added: "On a more serious note, I would like to say that we are so happy that the seed sown in December 2006 has grown and thanks to Carolyn and Julia, continues. I know I speak for the Song Group in saying that we are proud to be a part of the fellowship enjoyed by the congregations of our two churches.



The Gingins Song Group meets once per month, usually, on a Tuesday evening, for a practice in Luins. It accompanies the congregation in Church on the third Sunday of every month and also at important festivals, such as on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. There are currently 23 members on its list and, on average, 12 join regularly for practice and Church performances. The Gingins Song Group would be happy to welcome more male voices. The **Divonne Song Group** also meets and sings at church services there. For more information on these groups, see the La Côte website: [www.lacotechurch.ch](http://www.lacotechurch.ch)

## Quizzical Minds lead the field in La Côte's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Quiz

With a name like Quizzical Minds they were obviously confident of success. And succeed they did, by winning the 2015 annual charity quiz of the Anglican chaplaincy of La Côte, Switzerland. Fourteen six-person teams of hopefuls competed in the 100 question quiz, with the winners beating the Aspiring Nitwits and Flying Neurons into joint second place and leaving the rest – even the Crammers, the Crackers and Scattered Brains – well behind.



The November 2015 Quiz Night, raised over CHF2,600 for NGOs working with mentally ill people in our region and among children in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. Chaplaincy members from the two La Côte congregations based in Gingins and Divonne took part. Sad to report, the Chaplain's team did not quite make it into the top three, but then Carolyn is too busy taking care of the rest of us to spend her time reading trivia!

*Liz*

## The Bishop of the Diocese in Europe visits La Côte for the Divonne 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Both congregations of La Côte Anglican Church were delighted when Bishop Robert accepted our invitation to join us for the tenth Anniversary of our congregation in Divonne, France on Sunday 13 September 2015. The previous Saturday evening, Bishop Robert, who was appointed in 2014, dined with the Church Council and presented his thoughts on the situation in the Diocese in Europe and the strategy for the future entitled *Walking Together in Faith*. He made an interesting comparison between the chaplaincies in his Diocese and those in the UK. He spends roughly one third of his time in London, one third in Brussels where he is based, and another third travelling and visiting the far-flung chaplaincies stretching eastwards as far as Mongolia. Members of the Council discussed the challenges and priorities of our church and offered an overview of the history of our growth, starting from a lay-led home group to an independent, self-sustaining chaplaincy. The Bishop remarked on the surprisingly large number of outside-church activities in this rural area. Churches based in big cities often have trouble attracting people to activities during the week.



After a rainy evening and early morning, the sun came out on Sunday over the chapel that we share with the United Protestant Church of France in Divonne. The church was filled to capacity, packed with more than 80 members of our congregation to celebrate the anniversary. Bishop Robert led the service, assisted by Revd. Julia Chambeyron, Revd. Carolyn Cooke, and Revd. Paul Holley, our chaplain ten years ago, and the first to be appointed to the Church when it became an independent chaplaincy within the Diocese. The Bishop's message focused on the parable of the *Pearl of Great Price*. He also underlined how the refugee crisis facing Europe would be a defining issue for both the Church and the rest of society. The communion service was followed by a lunch reception prepared by members of the congregation, allowing time to chat with the Bishop. During the afternoon, Bishop Robert and Revd. Holley went to relax for a short time in the Jura hills. From there they could look down on the region where our two congregations live along the shores of Lake Geneva.



In the afternoon, Bishop Robert conducted the Communion service in the Swiss village of Gingins. Revd. Carolyn Cooke, Chaplain of La Côte, and Revd. Holley assisted in the Communion service, with music and singing led by Harold Corrigan and the Gingins Church Song Group. Despite the large congregation at Divonne in the morning, more than 100 people attended the service in the afternoon. Afterwards, there was an informal party with refreshments in the parish room, where members of the congregation were keen to meet our new Bishop.

*Dwight & Liz*

### **Carolyn's "Boogie-woogie wig" party**

Revd. Carolyn Cooke was a mere 45 when she came to lead our church in 2010, and we were all delighted she was still here to celebrate her half-century on 30 October 2015. It was the chaplain's idea to hold a "boogie woogie wig" party to celebrate her birthday. Not everyone was sure what that meant, but since it was her celebration, the members of the whole community agreed to go along with the idea. As the picture below shows, ridiculous wigs were in abundance. The evening of music and dancing in a Swiss chalet, considerably older than the chaplain, included a light-hearted resumé of Carolyn's life. A collection during the party raised over CHF800 for Carolyn's choice of charity, the church's on-going work among asylum-seekers in our area.





*Liz*

## Harvest Thanksgiving at La Côte

Our season of Creation Time over the past months culminated in two harvest celebration services.

On 4 October we gathered in **Gingins** with our worship focusing on the story of St Francis, on both his love for creation and on his compassion for the poor. The church was lavishly decorated in rich autumn colours with windowsills and tales laden with flowers, fruits, nuts and pumpkins of all shapes, sizes and colours. We were delighted to welcome M Daniel



Pache, the Salvation Army officer in Nyon together with his wife who joined in our worship. Daniel told us about the work of the Salvation Army locally, with two branches of care: one to offer practical help and advice and food and shelter, the other to offer spiritual counsel and wisdom. Daniel was able to take the many gifts of provisions back to Nyon for distribution over the coming months.



On 11 October we celebrated Harvest in **Divonne** with a focus on the theme of Time. A big crowd gathered outside the church for the start of our service where we welcomed Restos volunteer Anny Rolando. She arranged to collect our non-perishable Harvest gifts and explain how they are distributed locally, offering valuable care in the Pays de Gex. During our service we explored the different times and seasons of life, reflecting on

Ecclesiastes 3, “For everything there is a season...” We thought and prayed not only for our own times and seasons – but also for those further afield, hearing from Juana Rollins about communities around the world she has recently visited with the World Food Programme. The church was decorated with beautiful flowers from the garden together with colourful, oddly shaped squash! The song group led us in uplifting harvest anthems and harmonies.

### **TREVOR DAVIES - New Council member in 2015**

Trevor was appointed La Côte's second Archdeaconry Synod Representative and ex-officio Council member following the 2015 AGM. Brought up in an active Anglican church in Liverpool, Trevor became a Christian in his teens and has been engaged in Christian work ever since. He moved to Geneva in 1972 after having studied and taught Social Policy and spent eleven years with the WCC and latterly ten years as the main Representative of the Anglican Consultative Council to the UN in Geneva.

Trevor and his wife have had many opportunities to apply their faith in a variety of settings and look forward to what God has in store for them in the future.



### **Jeûne Fédéral Ecumenical Service welcomes Anglican students from the Bossey Ecumenical Institute**

Each year, in mid-September, a new intake of church and lay leaders from around the world arrives at the Ecumenical Institute at the Château de Bossey, to follow courses in ecumenical studies. It is so interesting and humbling to hear their stories and the step of faith they have taken in order to come and spend this time in study and fellowship with other denominations, enriching their ministries or lay work back home.

The Institute, housed in the Château de Bossey in the countryside around 25 km from Geneva, is the international centre for encounter, dialogue and teaching of the World Council of Churches. It brings together people from diverse churches, cultures and backgrounds for ecumenical learning, academic study and personal exchange. We look forward to meeting the students again and welcoming them to our services at La Côte Church over the coming year. They also appreciate being invited into a home while they are far away from their families!



The new intake of students at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey was present at a Jeûne Fédérale Service at Bonmont on 20 September 2015

*Peta*

## 2015 Autumn Fair

La Côte held its annual Autumn Fair at the Salle des Spectacles in Founex, Vaud on 26 September. It was a great success with many people attending. We saw quite a lot of new faces as well as many members of our two congregations, from little ones to our oldest member, Winifred, (right) who is well into her nineties.



There was music and dancing to entertain everyone with more than 20 stalls plus a restaurant and an Indonesian food stand. Over SFR 11'220 was raised after selling a few items from the gardening stall on Sunday afternoon. This will go towards funding the Church and its charitable activities.

## Welcome to the Lord's Table - Gingsins

Calen Gayle, Youth Worker, and Carolyn with the young people, 7 June



## **DIVONNE EVENTS**



### **Youth Service**

**Children prepare for the Glory and Fun Service on 15 June**

### **Musical Garden Party**

La Côte held a musical Garden Party jointly with our French Protestant hosts on 4 July in Divonne in aid of earthquake victims in Nepal. Gospel, jazz, our own families making music...delicious pot luck supper... very hot and balmy weather! À refaire!



### **Baptism of Leyla Selby**

**12 July 2015**

## La Côte Anglican Church Website

Our website has been re-vamped this year and we aim to keep on making improvements.

**Christina Geschonke** (right) keeps it up to date and invites you to take a look, give us your comments and let us know about information to be posted.

***www.lacotechurch.ch***



## ABOUT US

The Anglican community between Holy Trinity, Geneva, and Christ Church, Lausanne, is loosely based in the area around the picturesque town of Nyon (the Romans built it as Noviodunum, or New Fort). As we have no Anglican Church building to give a name to, the chaplaincy is known simply as La Côte (the traditional name of this area on the shores of Lake Geneva). We hold weekly services in the Swiss Reformed church in the village of Gingins, and on second, fourth and fifth Sundays in the French Reformed church of Divonne-les-Bains just across the French border. Our December 2015 “Jazz Carols” evening will be held in the Westlake Church in Nyon, and other chaplaincy events are held in different locations around the area. See our website for more information.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## AN EVENING OF JAZZ CAROLS

will be held on Saturday 19 December from 19h00 – 21h00

at La Fraternelle/Westlake Church  
6, rue Juste Olivier, Nyon  
Switzerland

**Admission FREE!**

Online booking essential at:

<http://lacotejazzcarols.eventbrite.com>

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

## LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH

### **Revd. Carolyn Cooke, Chaplain (right)**

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Email: carolyn.cooke@lacotechurch.ch

### **Revd. Julia Chambeyron, Assistant Chaplain (left)**

1199 rue Guy de Maupassant  
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Email: julia.chambeyron@orange.fr



### **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 chaplains of any changes to home, e-mail address or telephone number.

## **2015 CHRISTMAS SERVICES at LA COTE ANGLICAN CHURCH**

### **TEMPLE DE GINGINS**

Sun 13 Dec at 4 pm: **Nativity service with carols for children**  
Sun 20 Dec at 4 pm: **Christingle followed by mulled wine & mince pies**  
Thurs 24 Dec at 3 pm: **Crib service for children**  
Thurs 24 Dec at 5 pm: **Holy Communion**

### **TEMPLE DE DIVONNE**

Sun 13 Dec at 11am: **Nativity service followed by Christmas lunch**  
Sun 20 Dec at 6 pm: **Carols by candlelight**  
Fri 25 Dec at 10 am: **Christmas Day family Communion**

### **SERVICES ELSEWHERE:**

Sat 19 Dec 7 – 9 pm: **Jazz carol service at La Fraternelle / Westlake Church, Nyon**  
Tues 22 Dec at 7 pm: **Carols by candlelight at the Temple de Genolier**

See our website for up to date information: <http://www.lacotechurch.ch>

*The Editor thanks Liz Bramley and others who have contributed photos to the December 2015 issue of La Côte Church News*