

LA CÔTE CHURCH NEWS



Easter sunrise service 2016

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CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES
IN GINGINS
AND DIVONNE



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

The seeds of our community - our children and young people

As Christmas approaches, I would like to look back over the year and remind you of the two over-arching priorities which our church community set in 2013:

- 1. Developing our work with children and youth putting our resources into nurturing faith in the lives of our young, in other words in sowing seeds of faith and helping them to grow.
- 2. Showing our "presence" as a community in our places of worship and in the surrounding areas (including where we live and work).

For this message, I would like to review our focus on Youth and Children, which was in the fore of our thinking and planning over last summer. Thanks to many meetings together with Calen Gayle, our Youth Worker, and our youth and children's volunteer leaders, through this autumn term we have been glad to offer a range of learning opportunities for our younger members. In our Sunday Club groups in Divonne and Gingins, we needed to work out the best combinations of leaders and children, depending on age, maturity, people and resources, which is constantly changing. The outcome has been a healthy number of children currently attending in both congregations from very little ones up to age 18.

Earlier this year, a group of children in Divonne spent the spring and summer term preparing to receive their first communion. We are currently offering the same preparation to children in Gingins. We have also launched a series of evenings to explore faith with a view to confirmation for those who are 14 plus across the two congregations. Calen has been heading this up as part of the Sherbert youth group programme this year with support from other adults.

In terms of further opportunities for our children, with the help of committed parents, Calen continues to run the fortnightly group called SAS, (Special Activities Scene), that meets on Fridays to have fun together, build friendships and to make connections between daily life and Christian faith. In addition, there were extra weekend events, such as a muchenjoyed SAS camp in Rolle, which took place in June and a biking trip around the lake in early September, done together with other churches.

That is a potted summary of how our whole church priority is currently taking shape for our children and youth. It is going on in the background for some of us while for others it is part of our contribution to church life and our own discipleship journey. Also of course, many of us are parents or carers or friends of children ourselves who are benefiting from this nurture.

I would like to remind us all that our children and youth are a whole church priority. It does not mean we all have to be at the forefront of the work, but there are ways we can support this valuable time of sowing seeds of faith in our younger folk. As the saying goes: "it takes a village to raise a child." Likewise, it takes a whole church to raise children in faith. Margaret Withers, an author and champion of the child's spiritual journey writes, "Christian nurture is not an individual matter, nor is it the rote learning of statements. It is the handing down of the faith of the Church to its children by sharing of experience and example as much as direct teaching: 'These are the things we learned from our ancestors, and we will tell them to the next generation.' (Psalm 78)".



Margaret goes on to assert that: "Every member of the worshipping community is involved in this nurture at every occasion. The way the child sees each adult's faith expressed in worship of God and behaviour to other people will have far more lasting influence than all the preparation classes in the world." (Welcome to the Lord's Table). This is a timely reminder for us all: to ask how we can help our children encounter living faith in our worship and our community life.

In Margaret's view, children need the support and help of three groups of people: their families, their Sunday Club leaders or youth leaders and the local church community. I would like to encourage parents to help their children see church, and belonging to the local faith community, as part of the rhythm of life. I am aware that we all have so many options available

to us, and so many alternatives to Sunday worship to negotiate. However, I am convinced that children grow to feel more at home if a pattern of regular attendance can be established, so that they come along to people and a place that are familiar and where they find a welcome.

I would like to ask the whole of our church community to uphold this priority in prayer as we seek to sow seeds of faith in the lives of our younger people. Please pray for the parents of our children as they journey with them in faith, sowing seeds in the ups and downs of family

life. Please pray for our youth leader Calen and all our Sunday Club and youth leaders who give of themselves so generously. There are ups and downs for them in their leadership role, as they wait to see who will be joining them and then offer what they have prepared. Finally, pray for our whole community to be open to play our part in sowing seeds of faith and hope for the younger generations that we are so privileged to have in our midst. During this season, we often enjoy the wonder of Christmas through the eyes of children. I urge us not to short-change our younger ones with a fairy tale story of the stable birth, but to help them glimpse the mystery of it all, that we adults are



still trying to fathom: that God should become flesh and dwell among us. Maybe at Christmas, we are invited to become children again in our awe at this truth: that God in love for his world crept in beside us, "decked out in flesh", as Barbara Brown Taylor puts it, (Mixed Blessings, p.49). My prayer is that adult and child alike will be renewed in hope as we celebrate together the birth of Jesus, who came in flesh in Bethlehem, who comes to us now in now in Spirit, and who will one day come again.

This comes with my warm greetings for you for Advent and Christmas.

Carolyn

LA COTE PEOPLE

Alison Speed will come to La Côte and Holy Trinity under the CEMES programme (Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme) set up for people wanting to explore ordination in the Church of England. We will be welcoming her in January to spend four to five months as an Intern with us. Alison will be with Holy Trinity in Geneva until the beginning of January 2017, when she will start at La Côte. Interns who are graduates under 30, will have significant opportunity to reflect on their vocation as the day to day exercise of varied ministry is tested against their expectations and original impulse. They will be supported by the Chaplains, Pastoral Supervisors and Academic Supervisors. Alison is from north of England, in her mid-20s, and her interest is especially in the area of youth ministry, so she will be spending much of her time with Calen Gayle, our Youth Leader, and with youth confirmation and communion classes

Betty Talbot who was originally a member of the congregation of St Michael's in Paris and later of Holy Trinity in Geneva is a licenced Reader and has joined the congregation at La Côte. Betty leads small groups and we have heard her sermons in Church. Betty and her family left Sydney, Australia 1992 for a 15-month stay in the Geneva area, and after 24 years are still here. A familiar story? For the first three years as a trailing spouse, Betty spent her time maintaining the home, gardening, learning to cook local recipes, and gradually increasing her circle of friends among francophones, both Swiss and French. After a while, however, she felt the need for an intellectual challenge and so completed an MSc in Environmental Management from the University of London, specialising in land and water resource management.



Soon after beginning her MSc studies, Betty also began working as a consultant for UNHCR, producing teaching materials on human and refugee rights for the organisation's new website. Coinciding with her children going to university, Betty and her husband, Chris, moved to Paris where he worked for UNESCO while Betty continued her work as a consultant for UNHCR. In order to satisfy a hunger to know more about her faith and the Bible, Betty started a BA (Hons) in Theology, which combined with voluntary church work at St Michael's Paris took up so much time, that she and Chris decided that it was best if she stopped her consultancy work and focussed her time and energy on Christian-related activities. She became a licensed lay Reader in 2010. She is currently enrolled in a MLitt from the University of St Andrew's. The course is entitled "The Bible and the Contemporary World."

Betty has been involved in leading various Bible study groups in Paris and Geneva, and loves to help people explore the Bible for themselves, and is thrilled to see the 'light bulb switch on' in people when they get excited with new insights or understanding of Scripture.

During recent years, Betty has been drawn to contemplative practices of Christianity. She realises that her personal interior resources are finite, and that she needs 'to lie down in green pastures, and be led by still waters' and have her soul restored. She looks for opportunities to learn and practise Christian meditation. She is an active member of the Cursillo community in Geneva.

TRIBUTES

Winifred Elderfield

It is with great sadness that we learned that one of the most admired and respected members of our congregation, Winifred Elderfield, passed away peacefully on the evening of Sunday 17 July 2016, aged 97. A Thanksgiving Service and celebration of Winifred's life was held on Thursday 28 July at Gingins Church, packed to capacity, with tributes from those who knew her well.

Winifred was the youngest of four children and her early life was based near London. She matriculated from the North London Collegiate School and went on to University. During the war, her College was requisitioned for use as a

convalescent home, but she later picked up her studies and gained a degree in mathematics, followed by a teacher training qualification.

She met her beloved husband Leo at the start of the war. In 1940 he left for Paris at the age of 22 to serve in the Intelligence Services. Winifred took up her first teaching post and waited until they were finally able to marry in 1945. This was an extremely happy marriage and after her husband completed his training, interrupted by the war, he started his professional career in Rio de Janeiro in 1950. This was a privileged life, which lasted 11 years. Winifred set about learning Portuguese and taught at the American School. She travelled widely in South America and while home on leave in 1953, she attended the Coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey. A threatened coup in Brazil promoted a change of career for Leo and the couple landed in Geneva in early 1962. There was a shortage of accommodation but the International School at La Grande Boissière offered them an apartment on condition that Winifred taught maths part-time there. This became a full-time job for the next 20 years.

Sadly, Leo's early death in 1983 robbed them of the retirement they were soon to take. In spite of this blow Winifred, counted her blessings and continued to live her life to the full. She was an active member of Holy Trinity Church, Geneva and latterly La Côte. She was so interested in everyone and everything, keeping up-to-date with news and technology. She continued to drive until the age of 94, when to her annoyance, she had to return her driving license! Her faith was inspiring. Her energy, positive outlook and cheerful disposition served as an example to us all. We all miss her.



(partially based on an article printed in **La Cote Anglican Church Newsletter** Dec/Jan 2008/9)

Winifred & friends in May 2016

Carole Barnerias Evans

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Carole Barnerias was held on 14 June 2016 in the Divonne church, where she had been an active member. Carole had lived for many years in the Geneva area before retiring to Spain where she died in April. The service was organised by Peta Tracey & Dorothy Davies and was attended by over 30 friends of Carole's from UNHCR, Crossroads Church, Stephen Ministries, Cursillo, the English-speaking Cancer Association, and also from the UK. All spoke warmly about how Carole's strong Christian faith was expressed in these different circles and of her service in humanitarian work, pastoral care and counselling. It was very clear how much Carole was loved and will be missed.





"Well done thou good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of the Lord" (Matt 25:23)

Dorothy Davies & Peta Tracey

COUNCIL NOTES

The Chaplaincy Council has held seven meetings were since the AGM in March. The Council elected Dwight Moe Lay Vice-Chairman and Val Geschonke Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council. Craig Thompson (non Council member) was appointed Church Treasurer.

Gift Day In order to meet the Church's income requirements, the Council decided on a Gift day as an alternative to the Autumn Fair as a main fundraiser. This was seen as a day of reflection on how our stewardship and support could find expression and resource the work of the church. The Pentecost service at Crassier (15 May) was chosen for the launch of the gift week. The results of the Gift Day were impressive, amounting to over SFr.13,000. and indicated that virtually every family in the community had contributed.

Treasurer Following Craig Thompson's planned retirement as Church Treasurer at the end of 2016, efforts were made find a new Treasurer from among the members of the community. These had not proved fruitful and the Council was therefore obliged to look for an alternative solution. Contact was made with a local accountancy firm for a quotation for out-sourcing until a new honorary Treasurer

could be found. Subsequently, the Council unanimously agreed to pursue this option. The Diocese in Europe confirmed that the work of the Treasurer could be outsourced. However, a member of the Council should be the nominal Treasurer who would liaise with the Diocese. Council member, Geoff Senogles, agreed to take on this role.

Church Charity Project Jon Beaulieu of the Social Action team was invited to address the Council and give a presentation on a charity project in Malawi. The Council voted to adopt The Ekwendeni Hospital HIV/AIDS programme in Malawi as the main charity supported by the Church in collaboration with the Scottish Church. La Côte's contribution would be SFr.4,000.- per year for three years from the regular Budget. In addition, proceeds from this year of Quiz Night (SFr.2,285.-) would go towards Ekwendeni for a specific project within that programme. The Council also approved the following donations from the Church Budget: Foundation Théodor Association, Psy Pour Haïti: SFr.750.- and Mama Africa Art Therapy for Refugees. SFr.400.-.

Refugee Support Proposal The Council looked at a document setting out a "*Church Action Plan* for work with refugees", (later changed to *Framework*) drafted by a sub-group of the Social Action team, in response to Chris Talbot's Lenten Seminar on the Refugee Crisis in Europe. Following this, Hannah Elwyn, a Director of Refugee Support Network in UK, was invited to speak in September to those involved in the local support of refugees to run two capacity building workshops. Council noted that the revised document showed well what individuals were doing and was supportive of the involvement of members of our Church with this community.

Ministry and Vocations in the Diocese: The Council approved the placement of an intern in 2016-17 under the Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme, set up for young people wanting to explore ordination. The Diocese in Europe was looking to expand to Geneva and La Côte had been approved as a possible place for interns as well as Holy Trinity and WCC. Alison Speed will join us at La Côte in January 2017.

Church Twitter Account The Council unanimously approved the opening of a Twitter account and agreed that Peta Tracey should act as our La Côte Anglican Tweeter.

Review of Church priorities The Council looked at the Chaplain's document entitled: "Leadership Overview for La Côte Anglican Church" in the light of the Diocesan Strategy and the Church's mission statement. This strategy emerged from the grass roots, covering the main areas of focus of people across the Diocese. Members noted that in our community there was a connection with the strategy and our mission statement reflected this.

Council Membership The Council is one of the main resources of the Church: a leadership team and a strategic body, which represented the whole church. At present, there were more Council members with ex-officio status than directly elected members. The Council decided that it was desirable that three new people be elected at the next AGM.

Finances The full picture of the 2016 financial situation would not be seen until the end of December. The finance group met on 1 December to discuss the 2017 Budget. A deficit would probably be predicted, due to reduced expected income and additional costs. This will prove a challenge. Expected income from pledges would be reduced to the 2015 level. There had been some shifting of donations and it was not likely that we would reach the amount budgeted for this year. SFr.20,000.- would be budgeted for fundraising from a Gift Day. Total fixed costs stood at about SFr.220,000.- The Council decided to produce a "welcome package" and improved information about pledging and other ways to support the Church. Financial contributions towards Church expenses were important, but Council also recognized the effort everyone made in support of worship, mission, outreach, care of people within the community and outside it, discipleship and nurture of our young children, and our older youth. The Church ran as it did because members generously gave their time and talents.

Valeric Geschouke

SOCIAL ACTION AT LA COTE A New Charity project for La Côte

Every three years La Côte chooses a major charity project, which will receive donations from Church funds. Following a presentation by Jon Beaulieu, of the Social Action team, the Council decided to support **The Ekwendeni Hospital HIV/AIDS programme** in Malawi in partnership with the Church of Scotland. The Social Action Team liked the idea of low-cost local solutions to local problems, and direct communication. The Church of Scotland has maintained the programme for the last 15 years, in an area of 600 square km with 75,000 inhabitants of



which 75% are under 35 years of age. The aim is to reduce HIV rates by fostering behaviour change among youth, bring about economic empowerment and train more people. Programmes are for youth-friendly and healthy services with a heavy focus on orphans, home-based care, counselling and testing, a Teens' Club, a library, resource and sport centre. Until now, the Church of Scotland has provided all the Sustainable Livelihood budget.

HIV support consists of strengthening the existing services, conducting mobile HIV testing and counselling services, promoting behaviour change, peer education and life skills, training of volunteers and staff. The goal is to have 30 self-help groups by the end of 2017, working towards sustainable livelihoods. La Côte's contribution would be for the sustainability of funding for food security. The team suggested the involvement of our youth in fundraising with targets, which could be a useful learning experience for them, for education scholarships, computers and book purchases. Additional income from Quiz Night, would also go towards this project.

Charitable giving

Each year La Côte Church donates a sum of Sfr.5,000.- directly from the Church Budget for charitable donations. These are as follows:

SFr. 500,- to the Bishop's Lent Appeal for the Arab Evangelical Episcopal school in Ramallah.

SFr.4,000.- towards our Malawi project (including partial proceeds from Quiz Night)

SFr.750.- Foundation Théodor Association, Psy Pour Haïti:

SFr.400.- Mama Africa Art Therapy for Refugees.

Separate donations:

SFr.2,285 for a specific project of the Malawi programme

SFr.725,- for the Refugee Support Network in England

Divonne congregation donated separately the following amounts:

€365 to Stej Togo €625 to Médecins Sans Frontières €445,62 to Favela Phoenix €1,040 to ALIAS



12th Annual Charity Quiz



Bramley. We had a very efficient set-up team in the morning, consisting of the Thompson family, Geoff & Sharon Senogles, Anne Dyer, and Liz and David Bramley. The commune of Coinsins

Tickets for popular Quiz Night held on 19 November this year were a rapid were sell out. There were 14 teams competing. "The Amnesiacs" (below) took the coveted first place. Sharon Senogles (left) helped out with the questions, along with David Bramley. She did a great job, and has agreed to team up with David again next year. Christine Buhler provided and cooked the delicious soups. Ruby and Millie Debell sold tickets for food and the tombola and Dieter Heye joined us again to look after the computer and projection side of things. The Marking Team consisted of Anne Dyer, Trish Fluckiger, Andrea Govaerts and Liz



very generously let us use the Salle Alinghi free of charge.

Total proceeds (SFr.3,285.-) went to the Ekwendeni Resource Centre for food security in Malawi.



Lessons from the work of the Refugee Support Network Helping young asylum seekers and refugees effectively

Recently, La Côte Church was greatly encouraged by the visit of Hannah Elwyn, Senior Programmes Manager of the Refugee Support Network (RSN).



A broad vision at Gingins

On Wednesday 21 September, Hannah Elwyn spoke at Gingins to an audience of around 40 people from a number of churches in the Vaud and Geneva about the work of RSN in the UK, helping unaccompanied young asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of trafficking to build more hopeful and productive lives through education. Hannah's account of the lives of young asylum seekers in the UK was deeply moving; her explanations of the efforts of RSN to meet their needs were inspiring. Despite some political and institutional differences, there are many points of similarity between the struggles faced by the young people whom RSN supports and those of the young asylum seekers of the La Côte area. RSN's experience over the past seven years holds precious lessons for us in Switzerland and France. RSN's clarity of vision and strong sense of purpose have helped the small NGO stay focussed on its core mission and added value. Hannah conveyed to us some of the struggles and joys that she faces in work that can be very intense and stressful yet immensely rewarding. Her closing prayer for us was powerful and touching. A retiring collection realised the equivalent of SFR 725,- which La Côte Church donated to the charity.



Going deeper in Nyon

On Thursday 22 September, at The Hub, Westlake Church's space in Nvon. Hannah offered deeper training to 15 people from La Côte, Westlake and other churches and institutions, who are working most directly with asylum seekers in our area. Responding to needs articulated by participants in the Wednesday evening meeting at Gingins, she dealt with four major themes: the opportunities and challenges for a Christian organization in working with asylum seekers; working with volunteers; mentoring and

supporting refugees and asylum seekers into education and training; and strategic planning and management of such programmes. Those present were greatly encouraged by Hannah's and RSN's devotion to those whom they are serving, and their clarity of purpose in pursuing their mission. Supporting refugees and asylum seekers, whether in the UK or in Switzerland and France, is also work for Christ's Kingdom. The team working on these issues at La Côte Church took away many practical lessons and great inspiration from Hannah's training and example.

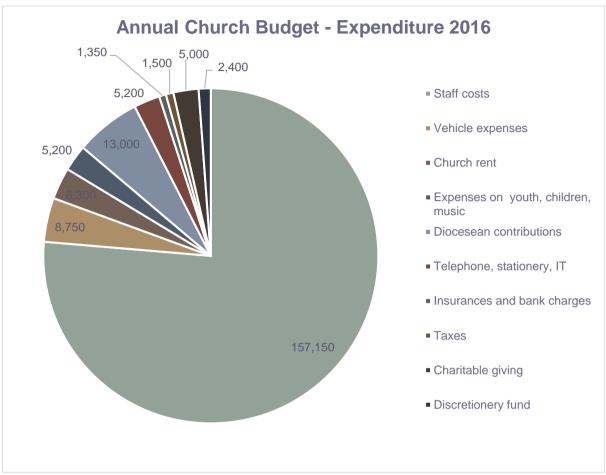
Refugee Support Network was established in 2009 by a group of Christians in North West London who wanted to support and empower young asylum seekers and refugees living in their community. What began as a simple educational mentoring project working in partnership with the English department of a local college has now grown to work across London, and supporting over 300 young refugees and asylum seekers per year at every step of the education journey. RSN's programmes range from support in accessing school or college, helping young people remain in education through the numerous barriers many of them face, to accessing higher education. RSN staff members believes that when they invest in young asylum seekers' and refugees' education, they are communicating that they believe they have a future, and that it is a future worth investing in. For more information, see: https://refugeesupportnetwork.org.

Chris Talbot



Hannah Elwyn joined RSN in 2010 and has been responsible for expanding its Educational Mentoring programme across London, as well as establishing its work equipping churches across the country to engage positively with asylum seekers and refugees. She travels across the UK supporting and equipping faith communities who want to engage and work with refugees, as well as managing RSN's Specialist Education Support team. Hannah has a BA in Law and Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and an MA in Human Rights from the University of Essex. She has over 10 years' experience working with asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people ranging from developing education programmes for orphans and vulnerable displaced children in Northern Uganda, detained asylum seekers in the UK, as well as young refugees in London. She has contributed to numerous research projects at RSN and spoken at many academic and sector conferences on issues affecting young asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of trafficking in the UK.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



We are a member of the Church of England Diocese in Europe. However, we receive no funds whatsoever from Swiss or British authorities, whether religious or cantonal, to support our work. Our church members pay for everything themselves.

The chart above summarises our church's annual budget in Swiss francs, in terms of expenditure. As shown, the vast majority of our costs are largely fixed in nature, which means that there is little scope for cost-cutting – unless we reduce our activities, and this would particularly affect the scope of our work with young children, and our older youth.

The total cost to resource all of our church's activities comes to over SFr. 4,000 each week and we thank members of our church who generously donate these funds.

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SWISS ARCHDEACONRY EDUCATION PROGRAMME Discipleship Day led by Rt. Revd. John Pritchard in Nyon, 8 October 2016

Almost 60 people attended this very rewarding SACEP Training Day at Nyon. Bishop John is a charming person and an excellent speaker, very easy to listen to. He used metaphor, visual imagery and poetry to talk about God and spirituality. We celebrated the Eucharist together and had the opportunity of meeting members of other Swiss chaplaincies. Discipleship – What kind of God do we believe in? How do we follow Jesus today? This requires long obedience with a whole life orientation towards the Kingdom of God. Bishop John divided the theme into four sections: Life in God, Life in the world, Life in the church and Life in ourselves.

We tend to see, or look for, God dramatically, but we can't grasp him. He is often not part of our daily life; we push him out; sometimes we are bored with Him. The real opportunity for growth

comes when we go deeper. We see God through Christ, he was with us, a tangible figure. Next we learn to understand Christ, maybe even through darkness until we find light, with an insight of calmer deeper confidence, where we discover God in all things. Not just God in the church and a diluted religion outside, a spiritual/secular divide. God on Sunday, the world on Monday to Saturday. True Christians are involved in the community all the time. How can we hold the world of Sunday and the world of Monday together? Why do we go to church?

Bishop John asked: Are our churches healthy places? What about the welcome? Is there an energizing faith? Is God at the centre of this church? Is there a joyful, playful, celebratory atmosphere? Is there a depth, a spiritual maturity? Does the church offer us a place for reflection, a space for us to put everything into place, sanctity, resources in hard times? And love? A church without love is no church at all. Life in ourselves: Are we experiencing the fullness of life? Does our faith give us life? Do we enjoy God's good gifts. Discipleship should be present in all aspects of our life.

Miriam Keller

La Côte Anglican Church Community Day at the Château de Bossey Saturday 18 March 2017

Note the date!

Our annual meeting at the Château de Bossey, near Nyon is a special day, for both congregations to spend time together, experience different perspectives and to discuss and share ideas and gifts. This year our programme will be interactive, with children encouraged to take part. The theme is "Walk through the Bible", looking at the New Testament. A crèche will be provided. Details will be announced in January. Look out



for information in the Weekly Bulletin and the website. www.lacotechurch.ch

Divonne Events

Saturday 23 July 2016 – the marriage of Joséphine and Ian Robinson was blessed with a joyful and informal celebration in the 'temple' de Divonne

Sunday 24 July 2016 – Family Service with the theme of 'Getting it Right', during which we gave thanks for the birth of Arthur and Susan Watts

Sunday 28 August – Family Communion for the Rentrée – 'Who's the most important?' which included the anointing of hands for the school year ahead

followed by a la côte church lunchtime picnic / barbecue before Gingins service on "Vy-de-l'Etraz, Gingins - an opportunity to reconnect and relax together.

Joyful arrivals

October 2016, to Joséphine and Ian Robinson, a son Andrew 6 September 2016, to Adam and Nathalie Selby, a daughter Izabella Rose, sister to Layla



First communion in June at Divonne



Calen plays at the Ecumenical Service at the Abbaye de Bonmont



Baptism 9 October in Divonne of Tobias Ives, aged three. We took the theme of building our faith on firm foundations and read the story of the wise man who built his house on rock



Sunday 11 December, Divonne Nativity Service, and Thanksgiving for Izabella Rose

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, 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.

2016 CHRISTMAS SERVICES at LA COTE ANGLICAN CHURCH



The Editor thanks Liz Bramley and others who have contributed photos to the December 2016 issue of **La Côte Church News**