

La Côte Anglican Church

Weekly Bulletin

Reflection and prayer for week of 11 to 18 March from Julia

This week I came across the following poem about Lent by Ann Lewin, which I think offers an honest yet hopeful perspective.

Lent is a time to learn to travel

Light, to clear the clutter

From our cluttered lives, and

Find a space, a desert.

Deserts are bleak: no creature

Comforts, only a vast expanse of

Stillness, sharpening awareness of

Ourselves and God.

Uncomfortable places, deserts.

Most of the time we're tempted to

Avoid them, finding good reasons to

Live lives of ease; cushioned by

Noise from self-discovery,

Clutching at world's success

To stave off fear.

But if we dare to trust the silence

To strip away our false security,

God can begin to grow his wholeness in us,

Fill up our emptiness, destroy our fears,

Give us new vision, courage for the journey,

And make our desert blossom like a rose.

I love the image of the rose – perhaps this Sunday, traditionally known as Mothering Sunday, and offering a pause for celebration in the middle of Lent, we can offer our prayers like roses for all mothers, parents, carers and mentors who have tended to us and enabled us to grow.

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Further options for Lent:

Live Lent - Let Your Light Shine

You can join the Church of England daily online reflections with *Live Lent - Let Your Light Shine*. Click here to subscribe free of charge: <https://www.churchofengland.org/lent>

We are also running three group sessions on this *Live Lent - Let Your Light Shine* series – at the Wednesday Coffee, Cake and Catch up group, the afternoon bilingual Wednesday group and our Thursday Evening Space group.

A “more” plastic – free Lent

For many Christians worldwide, Lent is a time when we reflect on God’s purpose for our life, body, mind and spirit. In tune with the ever-growing awareness of how human activity is damaging God’s creation, the Church of England is challenging us to give up single-use plastics for Lent. http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Plastic_Free_Lent.pdf

SUNDAY 11 MARCH – Lent 4

10:00 Divonne, Service of the Word

16:00 Gingins, Holy Communion with anointing for healing
(Sunday Club)

SUNDAY 18 March – Lent 5

16:00 Gingins, All-Age Communion
(no Sunday Club)

Next Week

TUESDAY 13 MARCH

The morning [Bible Study](#) group in Founex is looking at St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Please contact Dorothy and Trevor if you are interested in joining this group. ([email](#))

WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH

09:30–11:00 Church Hall, Gingins, [Coffee, Cake and Catch up](#)

Continuing our Lenten series

WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH

19:30–21:30 Parish Rooms, Divonne, *Modern History of the Middle East and Current Geopolitical Strategies*

Speaker: Dr Philippe Guillaume

THURSDAY 15 MARCH

19:30 at the Fisherman’s Pub, 20:00 at La Débarcadère, Nyon - [La Côte Blokes’ Dinner](#)

MONDAY 19 MARCH

19:30 Lutheran Church of Geneva: *The Sacred Word. A Conversation about Poetry and the Spirit* ([flyer](#))

The University of Geneva and the Lutheran Church of Geneva will host a public conversation between Marie-Elsa Bragg (an Anglican priest and novelist) and Don Paterson (a poet and musician) on the topic of sacred speech, looking at how words function to inspire, transport and comfort in both public and religious life - and how they fail at that task. Free entry

SATURDAY 24 MARCH: LA COTE MONTHLY WALK - SERGY, PAYS DE GEX

LEADER: Jennifer West

Description: easy circular route through pastures, along a river, passing through a farm with colourful birds (please bring spare bread) and near a small aircraft landing site before returning to Sergy Centre for coffee.

Dress: ALL WEATHER GEAR, BATONS AND GOOD BOOTS (to traverse water).

Time and Meeting Place: 09:00 - Divonne Gare car park (carpool to Sergy)

Please email Jennifer if you would like to participate. ([email](#))

LENTEN SEMINARS

We are delighted to invite you to Lenten seminars which will stretch our thinking and understanding and deepen our faith perspective. Our focus this year is:

Geopolitics and Conflict in the Middle East:

Some Christian Reflections

Flyer

In Divonne Parish Rooms on Wednesdays from 19:30 to 21:30

Philippe Guillaume – 14 March

Julianne Funk – 21 March

KEY DATES

Sunday 22 April: AGM in Divonne at 11:30

Sunday 27 May: Gift Day in Crassier at 10:00

AGM DISCUSSION

Our church council this week have been preparing for our AGM on 22 April. Our theme this year is:

“Celebration of the life of the church –A Forum for feedback and listening”.

To this end, we would like you to give us some feedback in advance if possible so we can make the most of our AGM.

There will be little cards available at church on which to respond to the following about our church:

More of...

Less of...

Questions

These can be handed in during the offertory OR you could email Dwight at lacoteagm@hotmail.com so he can collate the answers.

Information and requests

concerning our work with asylum seekers

MENTORSHIP opportunity. Would you like to mentor an asylum seeker or refugee? The only requirement is that you speak English or French, and if possible both languages. Mentoring can be deeply satisfying, a win-win relationship for both mentor and mentee. Just give it a try! For more information (no commitment), contact Andrea Goovaerts ([email](#)).

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ACCOMMODATION. There is a need to help these people find a welcome and integrate in our local society – even though they are far from home. Please do prayerfully consider if you can help or know someone who can.

Please speak to Diantha Terry with any thoughts you have. ([email](#))

Do you have jobs that need doing?

If you would like help with odd jobs - for example, gardening, moving furniture, paint work – do get in touch with Cassie Whetham ([email](#)) who will be able to match you up with one of our refugee friends in the community.

LA COTE ANGLICAN CHURCH IS ON TWITTER!

Please let Peta Tracey know ([email](#)) if you would like info about a church event to be 'tweeted' or tweet to [@lacoteanglican](#)

Follow us on <https://mobile.twitter.com/lacoteanglican>

PARKING OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE IN GINGINS

We have been asked very clearly to park ONLY in the four places to the right of the church as you approach it. This will thus be reserved for those setting up in church and needing to drop off equipment. Please ensure that you park either behind the Auberge de la Poste, in the village itself – or down by the Post Office and playing fields at the entrance to Gingins. We apologise for any inconvenience this will cause you, but we are keen to work with the

commune and to continue enjoying good relations with the local people of Gingsins.