

La Côte Anglican Church

Weekly Bulletin

Reflection and prayer for week of 10 to 17 December from Carolyn

I have very much enjoyed preparing for the two nativity play services that we have coming up this Sunday. They blend the birth narrative of Christ with some humour and yet underlying messages of God's power breaking through the dark times into which he was born. I hope many of you will be able to join us, either in Divonne or in Gingins, to celebrate with children and young people this expression of renewed hope and light. I would like to say a special thank you to so many of you who have channelled your creativity, musicality and love for God into these plays and into the worship that frames them. Thank you too for all of you involved in the Christmas lunch in Divonne, those decorating the two churches, and looking ahead to those of you who will be helping with refreshments at the Jazz carols, the Christingle service and the Divonne carol service. I feel very thankful for the generous spirit across our community – which encourages not only us but all who will join us as visitors for these festive occasions. Please do be in touch if you can still lend a hand – I know the organisers would love your help. Above all, please keep all members of our community and each act of worship in your prayers these coming days – that the light of Christ will shine through the darkness, bringing renewed trust in Immanuel, "God-with-us."

Here is a beautiful prayer to inspire our worship.

Dear Lord,

back then, at the first Christmas:

You knew about the shepherds, working late at night.

You knew about the travellers following the light.

You knew about the crowds with their hopes and fears.

You knew about the stable and poor Mary's tears.

So right now, because of Christmas:

You know about outsiders, who feel they don't belong.

You know about the stranger who speaks another tongue.

You know about the exile who is forced to leave her home.

You know about the foreigner who feels so much alone.

You know about the poor whom nobody will know.

You know about the puzzled who feel they've far to go.

You bring them close in Jesus, each specially loved by him.

You turn things inside out and bring outsiders in. Amen

(Heard, this week at the International Women's Club of Nyon carol concert)

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER – 2nd Sunday of Advent

11:00 Divonne, Nativity and Carols – followed by the annual Christmas lunch and festivities

16:00 Gingins, Nativity Service and Carols

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER – 3rd Sunday of Advent

16:00 Gingins, Christingle Service – followed by mince pies and mulled wine

18:00 Divonne, Carols by candlelight

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GOOD NEWS! 2017 Advent Newsletter - with lots of interesting features, plenty of new faces, events and groups, together with news of what is happening during the Christmas season and on into the new year. A very big thank you to Val Geschonke and to Peta Tracey who have collated, edited and produced this super letter. Thanks to all of you who have contributed with articles. [Newsletter](#)

FINANCIAL NEWS – please read

As you see from reading our Advent newsletter, we have so much for which to give thanks to God in our church community. However, we still need to keep up a steady income to sustain and develop our church life and mission.

Following the Church Council meeting on the evening of Tuesday 5 December, we would like to keep people informed of the status of our Church's finances. After a good start to the year, we are now unfortunately forecasting to end the calendar and financial year at a projected loss of 10,000CHF, which is mainly due to less pledge income than anticipated. As a result, we would request that members prayerfully consider making an additional donation in the collection over this Christmas period, and if you are a regular pledger, checking that the pledges you told us you would make in 2017 are up to date. You can, as always, contact our pledge administrator, Mark Warren ([email](#)), should you wish to set up a new pledge at any time. We are grateful for every gift and donation. With our thanks, from La Côte Church Council.

Next week

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER

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

NB Earlier start time of 09:00.

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER

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

Sarah organising a secret Santa!

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

20:00-21:00 Temple de Nyon, Blue Christmas

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER

From 19:00 Temple de Nyon, [Jazz carols](#)

La Côte Advent and Christmas Programme

We hope that you will make time in the busy run up to Christmas to prepare both to celebrate the incarnation and to find ways of helping our church community to become a

welcoming and hopeful place during this season.

You will find [here](#) the range of our services. Do think and pray about who you can invite along. Thank you to all of you who are contributing to our worship and festivities.

HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS IN GINGINS OVER THE COMING WEEKS

Gillian Bollingbroke is doing an amazing job of coordinating our weekly refreshments in Gingins – thank you to all of you who have stepped in to help. We would especially like help with the Christingle service - mulled wine and Christmas snacks – as a way of welcoming in visitors and enjoying being together ourselves. Please do get in touch with Gillian if you can help by bringing a plate of snacks or preparing and serving mulled wine and soft punch - [email](#).

We are also looking for someone or two to prepare and serve mulled wine after our 17:00 Christmas Eve service – again an opportunity to welcome visitors and to enjoy our community together.

As many of you know, Revd Julia Chambeyron has stepped back for the time being in order to channel her energies into some new treatment. We keep her and her family in our prayers for God's healing and strengthening presence at this testing time.

A ROCHA GIFTS WITH A DIFFERENCE

For gifts with a positive impact on the environment and which provide an important income for A Rocha projects in Uganda, Kenya and Peru: shop.arocha.org

Christmas Cards for Sale

SOLIDARITY GREETING CARDS

Hand-printed Christmas cards available after church in Gingins

for donations towards support of local refugees

3 designs in packs of 6 – suggested donation – 15CHF

If you would like to place an order, please contact Eileen Wiley ([email](#)).

CELEBRATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ELSEWHERE

This Advent, there will be a weekly Taizé-style prayer service each Thursday evening at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, rue Verdaine 20, Geneva

18:30 Tea and Snacks, 19:00-19:45 Taizé Service

All are welcome! (see [link](#) for more information)

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND AND JORDAN IN 2018 – see [flyer](#)

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. **This request is NOT going away because some of our friends seeking refuge are STILL looking for somewhere to live.** This is an URGENT 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

<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 Gingins.