



AGM REPORTS

Chaplain's report: The Story of La Côte Anglican Church in 2024

I have been delighted, thankful and somewhat in awe of the list of special services and events that have taken place at La Côte Church in 2024. This list was compiled by our trusty church warden, Liz Bramley, together with plenty of photos. I have grouped them together into some key areas of church life. I hope looking back with me will give you an overview of the year and inspire your thanksgiving, prayers and reflection on the ministry and mission of La Côte.

1. WORSHIP

We are so thankful for the gifted and faithful church members who have led us in worship through their music, week by week. Our special thanks to Richard and Heidi for overseeing the musical side of our worship, which is so cherished by our community. Thank you also, to everyone involved in the song group who have enhanced our worship in festivals, such as our Easter Day, Gift Day, Confirmation and Carol service. Our Song group have also supported our community in grief, notably, in 2024, when Richard played for us, and the song group led the singing at Andy Mering's funeral. Thank you to the Ministry Team for sharing in the direction and crafting of our worship (see separate report), and to all who have taken part in our services in any way, both up front and behind the scenes. I am so thankful that the spirit of La Côte church encourages everyone to take part, as they feel able.

We continue to give thanks for the Sunday club leaders who offer a safe space for our children to grow in faith and their sense of belonging to God's people. A special thank you to Betty Talbot who has taken on oversight of this very important ministry (see separate report). In addition, we encourage our community to come together in family or All Age worship, to build up a sense of all of us belonging to God's church and to learn to value different ways of approaching God in worship.

Here are some memorable acts of worship in 2024 in chronological order.

Holy Week and Easter Day celebrations (24-31 March) – ably supported by our Ministry team and Revd Glen Ruffle, together with contributions from members of our church, especially at the Good Friday service of reflection and music.



Glen and friends lead worship ... but where to?

Ascension Day (9 May) service in the Chapel of Notre-Dame de Riantmont, Vésancy in France.



Chappelle de Riantmont, 9 May 2024

La Côte Church Gift Day (16 June) was a service of thanksgiving for the many bridges of connection and partnership that we have built up within and beyond our church community.

Animal Blessing Service, (6 October) back by popular request, with a new addition of “Houdini” the tortoise, held carefully amid the gathering of beloved canine and feline pets.



Now you see him (or is it her?) ...



Fantastic beasts and where to find them

Choral Evensong, (29 September) welcoming Holy Trinity Choir to lead our worship with Anglican Choral music

Adult baptisms – It was a privilege to welcome Betty Wellman (June) and Thelma Smith (October) into the church through baptism.

An Indigenous Peoples' group who were meeting in the Château de Bossey, came to participate in our church worship and to share their concerns for our natural world.

Confirmation, a service of joyful thanksgiving and celebration of God's grace, conducted by Honorary Assistant Bishop Alison White, supported by Archdeacon Peter Hooper and Revd Joy Van Staaldunen, our current online youth worker. We welcomed through confirmation nine youth and four adults.



Confirmed Christians

Advent Worship, involving a bright Advent Christingle celebration, a Blue Christmas service, conducted jointly with our host church in Gingins, an Advent Nativity performance, and joyful Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve and Day worship offered three services for different ages and a chance to focus on the hope of Christ's birth amid all the family gatherings and festivities.

2. COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have many ways of building up our community, especially through our weekly worship and social times after the services. In addition, some one-off events stand out.

Church Community Day (3 February) saw 56 of our church community gathered in the beautiful setting of the Chateau de Bossey, where Revd Ray Andrews, Spiritual Advisor

for the Diocese in Europe, led us in reflections on the theme of “Finding hope and courage in a strange land.”

Raclette and Musical Soirée, (23 August) with our Swiss Paroisse de la Dôle, raising funds for the upkeep of our newly gifted grand piano.

Divonne Tea Party (28 September), gathering about 40 members of our church for an enjoyable afternoon tea with a delicious spread and Pimm’s as well as hot beverages.



The cucumber sandwiches went down very well

La Côte Auction of Time and Talents (26 October,) an evening of much laughter and relaxed socialising with a range of tasty curries and crumbles and a generous community spirit offering both talents and time – and bidding for them!



Tallying the results



The Chief Auctioneer and his glamorous assistants

Festive Christmas Lunch (8 December) offering a delicious Gravlax salmon lunch, a taxing Christmas quiz and the characteristic chaos of singing and performing “A partridge in a pear tree”!

On behalf of all who enjoyed these festivities, may I express our heartfelt thanks for those who made each of these joyful events happen, helping us to enjoy fellowship and welcome in newcomers.

3. WELCOMING BETTY TALBOT ...

... as Assistant Curate at La Côte Church, (30 June). After two years of part-time theological training through the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC), Betty was ordained deacon at the Pro-Cathedral Church of Holy Trinity in Brussels. A small group of family, church and other friends had the privilege of celebrating with her. The following Sunday, 7 July, Betty was welcomed as our Assistant Curate in a special service in Gingins. Our community is richly blessed to have Betty, who in her role as deacon is devoting her time to building up our church, with special responsibility for our Sunday club. We look forward to her priesting this coming July, exact time and place yet to be confirmed.



Processing in Brussels, 30 June 2024

4. SAYING GOODBYE TO MUCH LOVED CHURCH MEMBERS

On 19 January 2024 we said goodbye to Jonny Low, much loved husband to Niki Low and father to Ted and Katherine, and a cherished member of our La Côte Church family.



For Jonny

On 12 October 2024 we said goodbye to Andy Mering, much loved husband to Hugo Loetscher, and a dear friend to many of us at La Côte.



For Andy

I would like to express my thanks to God and to our community, for the way so many of you sought to support those who were mourning, with your kindness and prayers and in our worship.

5. LOOKING AFTER THE CHURCH DURING MY MEDICAL LEAVE

I stepped back from ministry for two months from 20 February 2024, for medical leave for a hip replacement and rehabilitation. I am extremely grateful to our community for your prayers and for respecting my need to step back and fully rest and recover.

In the meantime, I was delighted to hear that the church was flourishing, thanks to all of you! May I especially offer thanks to the Council and the Ministry Team who stepped forward to steer the church through this season of Lent and Easter, in particular Liz Bramley, Betty Talbot and Anne de Tréverret. May I also add our warm thanks to visiting lay preachers and clergy, including Revd Barbara Falkiner, Revd Arni Danielsson, Revd Alan and Dr Clare Amos, Revd Glen Ruffle and, over the summer, Canon Adele Kelham.

6. NURTURING OUR YOUTH

Although we have not found the right person to lead our young people locally, during much of last year our young people joined in online youth sessions with Revd Joy Van Staalduinen, based in the Netherlands. She was able to build up a rapport with our young people, which was strengthened by her visit in October, to prepare them with a Confirmation Retreat, (25-26 October). In the summer of 2024, we developed links with Holy Trinity Church Geneva youth. Thus, the autumn online sessions and the confirmation retreat brought these two groups together with a hike in the Jura, pizza in Nyon and a preparatory day in Holy Trinity Geneva. Their confirmation was a highlight of the year for me.



Youth hike in the Jura. Well ... most of them are young

We are continuing to support our youth with fortnightly online sessions which Joy leads for the two church groups. In addition, we would like to develop some in-person gatherings and help our youth to find their place in our church as young adults. If any of you have a particular interest or experience with this age group please talk to me (Carolyn). We are blessed to have some inspiring young people with a real hunger to learn and grow in their faith. They are a real tonic and source of learning, which I hope we cherish as a community.

Overall, we are always keen to learn, and I am encouraged that La Côte Church is a safe place to have a go, make mistakes and continue to learn and grow together by God's grace. I have been encouraged during the last year to see green shoots of life and faith, which I hope and pray will continue to flourish over the coming year. At our AGM we will highlight some of these signs of new life.

There are many reasons to give thanks to God for the blessings of this last year. I would like to thank you for our shared life, ministry, prayer and fellowship. Thank you too for your faithful and generous support of the church. I am sure you will enjoy reading the individual reports, below, and seeing more pictures of our church life. On behalf of us all, may I express our deep thanks to Chris Talbot, who has compiled this report and to all of you who have written individual contributions and sent in photos.

I would also like to thank Anne de Tréverret for her dedication to our community as the Chaplain's administrative assistant. She juggles many different organisational demands and expectations in our diverse community. I am very grateful to her for her patience, discretion and faithful hard work throughout the year.

This last year Liz Bramley has been the sole Church Warden. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to her for her unstinting commitment and hard work as Church Warden and Assistant Treasurer, and her dedicated support for me as Chaplain. At our AGM, three members of our Council will stand down. John Ingham has served as our church Treasurer since the day of his retirement, three years ago! On behalf of our church may I express our sincere thanks to him for his oversight of our finances, both with regular updates and playing a key part in our fundraising.

Louise Burrows has served for six years and has been a prayerful, creative member of our Council, often inspiring us with her ideas and insights, especially with our pastoral care and Gift Day.

Phil Clifton joined three years ago and will be spending more time in the UK. We are grateful for his role as Vice Chair, steering our Council meetings with large measures of skill and kindness.

With deep appreciation,

Carolyn Cooke

In Appendix 1, there is a systematic overview of our church governance. But here follows a brief account of the work of the Church Council.

Governance: The Church Council

The La Côte Church Council meets monthly, usually online, but sometimes in person, and looks at issues that concern all aspects of our church and community life. We are a group of Clergy, elected Church members and representatives of the safeguarding team. We also welcome our Synod representatives, who provide frequent updates from the wider Diocese.

Amongst the regular items that we consider, such as continued work with our Swiss brothers and sisters and ongoing community events, this past year, we have looked at how best we can move our youth work forward, and how we can introduce a more personalized method of support in pastoral care. We provide support to Clergy wherever possible and as part of our budget overview, we organize fundraising activities when necessary.

As in 2024, in January we met in person for a Quiet Day of reflection for the year to come (see photo) and we always appreciate being able to share views openly and respectfully. If anyone is interested in joining Council, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other Council member.

Kate Shepherd



Council quiet day 25 January 2025

Worship: The Ministry Team

The Ministry Team brings together our clergy Carolyn Cooke and Betty Talbot, as well as several lay members: Louise Burrows, Heidi Hawkings, Chris Potter, and John and Peta Tracey. We meet regularly to pray, consider needs, discuss and plan for future worship services. Then, with the support of many other people, we put the plans into action, leading services, preaching sermons, offering reflections, organising music and communicating within the church and beyond.

We seek to provide a rich variety of styles and content to the worship, drawing on the beauty of the liturgy and emphasising the major themes and substance of each season in the church calendar. There is great value to this collegial approach, both in terms of sharing responsibility and bringing different approaches to our shared experience of worship. The Ministry Team also provides me a sounding board on spiritual and theological matters, as we explore ideas together.

When I was on medical leave during Lent and Easter 2024, with several locum priests officiating, Betty, the Ministry Team and Churchwarden Liz Bramley supported those priests with information and behind-the-scenes logistical coordination.

Carolyn Cooke

Morning Prayer – a great way to start the day

Each weekday morning why not start off on the right foot Zooming in with a dozen or so friends who celebrate Anglican Morning Prayer? We may start a bit bleary-eyed but always finish with a smile and a spring in our step.

As always, Carolyn is very welcoming, encouraging us to share the readings, leading prayers and even to lead the service (but absolutely no pressure). There's always a peaceful ten minutes of prayers for the world, the church, our communities, families and concerns. Prayers for healing are an important aspect with everything treated in strictest confidence. It's a great privilege – a warm, meaningful start to the day that's evermore needed in today's troubled world.

“Thank you so much to all who lead, read and pray each morning - I am truly grateful for such a meaningful and friendly way to begin the day”

Being online we have developed ecumenically and regionally to regularly welcome friends from Holy Trinity Geneva, from Chamonix and Béziers in France, as well as Derby, UK and Johannesburg, South Africa. A warm, open-hearted ambience where everyone's encouraged to pop in or out as/when they can. No stress, only a peaceful positive place to enjoy being part of 'two or three gathered together'. A good place to belong.

“You have no idea how precious it has been to me!!”

Would you like to begin your day this way? It’s only 30 minutes starting at 07h30 until 08h00 sharp, to let people get off to work. For an easier start, maybe try Saturday’s gentler 08h30 – 09h00 timing?

The link is always in the bulletin:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84315258948?pwd=WWZaMTRzZEpnNHV3ekZYRFRUYU96Zz09>

You’re most welcome – and if it’s not for you, please just know we’re praying for you in Morning Prayer.

Peta and John Tracey



Participants in Morning Prayer, 15 May 2024

Music and song

The musical worship at La Côte is led by a group of volunteer musicians. We are grateful to those who have provided musical support for services in 2024: Jeremy Burrows, Jane Djabaté, Nonalee Dong, Ray Fiander, Steve and Monika Rawcliffe, Pam Walsh, Richard and Heidi Hawkings, as well as new musicians Vicky Brohier and Genny Laverty. We are delighted that Oliva Rakotonanahary, organist of the Swiss Reformed Church, has been able to accompany us on occasion as well. We were also treated to a visit from the choir of Holy Trinity Church, Geneva, who led a service of Choral Evensong in September.

The La Côte song group sang at various services throughout the year, including on Easter Day in Crassier and the Candlelight Carol service in Gingins. Practices usually take place on Saturday mornings, a week or so before the service at which we are invited to sing. In October, Christine and Mark Warren very kindly welcomed us to their home for a morning of singing followed by a barbecue. New musicians and singers are always welcome, so please feel free to join us.

We would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks for the life of Andy Mering, fellow song group member and beloved friend. Andy's beautiful voice enhanced many a service, and his enthusiasm for musical worship was an inspiration to us all. Andy, we remember you warmly and miss you dearly.

Richard and Heidi Hawkings



La Côte song group practice and barbecue, October 2024



Carol service, 15 December 2024

Sunday Club

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6). This is one of my favourite verses from Scripture and it provides a *raison d’être* for Sunday Club.

The presence of children at church touches our heartstrings. Certain services such as Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and during the Advent/Christmas season, as well as the All-Age services are geared for the involvement of children. But at other times, the children attend Sunday Club, either on the first and third Sundays of the month at Gingins, or on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at Divonne, during term time.

In 2024, the Sunday Club team included Naomi Grobety, Kylie Jennings, Liz Martinez, Raeleah Martinez, Daphne Meadmore, Susan Nixon, Funke Staeuble, Betty Talbot and Julie Webster.

In her Sunday Club report for last year’s AGM, Naomi made an interesting observation: “In recent years (not helped by the Covid period) we have noticed a marked decrease in regularity and, despite the willingness of leaders to provide a constant welcoming and fun environment for the children, there has not been quite the same constancy with the children; the pace of family life has increased, and Sunday activities may be harder to fit in. Some weeks we may welcome just one or two children, at other times we can have five or six in a class, and on occasion, no children at all.”

The pattern of attendance described by Naomi still holds true and is the subject of considerable prayer on behalf of our children. Despite that attendance pattern, Sunday Club is lovingly offered to the children who do attend. If you would like to take part in this precious ministry, please come and talk with me.

Betty Talbot



Sunday Club in action, June 2024

Pastoral care

A huge amount of pastoral care goes on within our community. However, the needs are increasing and what we can offer remains limited and often falls on a small number of people. As a way to support pastoral care in our community, the Church Council is investigating how we might participate in the existing Stephen Ministry (an ecumenical Christian listening ministry) activities in our area.

Last year, a small group of people involved in pastoral care met online twice to support and encourage each other; we plan to continue these meetings every few months. Carolyn and I (in my capacity as pastoral care coordinator) managed to link up a number of people with volunteers who were able to support them in various ways. If you would be interested in joining the team of pastoral visitors or in providing practical help (shopping, lifts, etc.), please let me know.

Louise Burrows



Pastoral care takes place in many forms, including this

Safeguarding

Cate Bichara, Ever Gutierrez and Liz Martinez continue to take care of Safeguarding at La Côte church. There have been many positive developments. We now attend Council meetings so we are aware of topics that need action, for instance the proposed playgroup, for which we cleared the leaders. We have also held safeguarding meetings with Carolyn so that we can explain and discuss any issues that come up. We organized a Safeguarding Sunday recently for which we are very grateful for Carolyn's support and commitment. We are also very thankful to Betty who covered safeguarding in an age-appropriate way on that day's Sunday Club.

We continue to do the daily work of assisting volunteers to be trained and cleared when needed and are pleased to report that La Côte church members are becoming more proactive. To help those who find online training difficult we are planning a collective in-person training. We are very thankful to those church members who have been cleared and encourage those who have not fulfilled all the requirements to do so as soon as possible.

Our work is not only about clearance though; our aim is to make the church a safe and welcoming place. We are available to talk to you if you do not feel safe and comfortable at church or have not done so in the past. While Liz deals with the administration, Cate and Ever focus on broader issues and have qualifications and hands-on experience that can be called upon to support people who wish to raise concerns, or who know of a situation that does not seem right concerning themselves or someone they know. If serious issues arise, we act as a link between the main Safeguarding Office in London who hold regular meetings for Diocese in Europe Safeguarding Officers. This is a great support for us.

All the safeguarding officers agree that this is not the most popular job but we are all committed to making the Church a safe place for which we count on your support.

Cate Bichara, Ever Gutierrez and Liz Martinez

Prayer group

The Prayer Group is a fortnightly home gathering in Coinsins, where we spend just over an hour together, starting with coffee and chat and moving into sharing, in confidence, our concerns for prayer. Not everyone can make it in person so there is the option of joining on Zoom, which stretches our frontiers from the other side of the lake to Neuchâtel!

We then bring all our prayers – for the world, our church, those in need and each other – to God, in a short Celtic liturgy from the Northumbria Community, which gives us Scripture readings and a meditation on which we draw for inspiration.



A Prayer Group gathering, January 2024

Believing that prayer is at the heart of our community, not just on Sundays but throughout the week, we trust that these meetings provide a haven of hope in these challenging times. All are welcome to join us, either occasionally or regularly, or to send us prayer requests in confidence.

*Peta and John Tracey
peta.tracey@lacotechurch.ch*

Bible study group

La Côte Church provides a variety of groups to enable us to sustain and deepen our Christian faith. The Bible Study group is one such gathering. It is an ecumenical group of 12-13 mostly retired people who wish to explore the Bible and its relevance today. We meet on alternate Tuesdays to the Prayer group. With the support of booklets in the Life Builder series, published by Inter-Varsity Press, our discussions in 2024 covered the parables of Jesus, and evangelism. Our meetings conclude with prayer for one another, the Church and the wider world. These meetings are a source of nourishment and Christian fellowship to all involved.

Trevor Davies, on behalf of the group

W.O.W!

W.O.W (Window on Wednesday) meets in the Gingins parish room every other Wednesday between 9.30 and 11.30. We come together in confidential fellowship sharing a book and lovely things to eat and drink. Diantha and Kate jointly lead the group, which welcomes both men and women and has between four and ten attendees at each session. We deeply appreciated the enthusiastic contributions of Andy Mering to our WOW discussions. His death on 1 September 2024 caused us all great sorrow. We miss him!

During the last year, we have enjoyed reading *Twenty Questions Jesus Asked, and how they Speak to us Today* by John Pritchard and a Church of England study on the Beatitudes. In January, we started reading *Practising the Way* by John Mark Comer, which offers video resources and a companion handbook.

Our W.O.W WhatsApp group remains supportive and caring, even if all members are unable to attend in-person on Wednesday mornings. We all feel very blessed to be able to worship and learn together in this way.

Kate Shepherd and Diantha Terry





WOW members ++ making Christingles, December 2024

Eating at La Côte

A lovely aspect of the life of La Côte Church is our tradition of eating together as often as possible, with almost any pretext! During 2024, we feasted with our Swiss hosts at Gingins at Easter breakfast, at pot-luck lunches at Crassier following 5th Sunday services and after the Confirmation service, at the monthly Lunch Group in Coinsins, then at the wonderful Christmas Lunch in Divonne. Not forgetting of course the refreshments provided every Sunday after the service by willing volunteers and kindly coordinated by Kate Shepherd for Gingins and Anne de Tréverret for Divonne. This table fellowship provides precious opportunities to come to know one another more deeply and to share experiences of life and of God together.



Some of the delicious Confirmation lunch spread

Here are two more specific reports of table fellowship ...

Blokes' dinners

The La Côte Blokes' Dinner remains a regular and popular feature in the monthly calendar. Discussion topics in 2024 included Men and mental health, the role of the Church in the United Nations, and the implications of Artificial Intelligence on our lives and work. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in Nyon to enjoy good company and excellent home cooked food! All (men) welcome.



A small sample of Jon Beaulieu's superb contributions to the pleasure of Blokes' dinners

Sunday lunch group

A monthly Sunday lunch group, started with great joy in June 2022 at the end of Covid restrictions, has continued to meet at the Auberge de la Réunion in Coinsins and become very popular. The size of the group varies from 12 to 20 and is a great opportunity for outreach and fellowship. We are very well looked after by the patient staff at the Auberge and enjoy the chance to chat over a good lunch at a reasonable price. Usually taking place on the fourth Sunday of the month, there can sometimes be exceptions, so do keep an eye on the Bulletin for details, or contact us:

John and Peta Tracey
tracey.p@bluewin.ch



Lunch at Coinsins, 23 February 2025

Social Action Group

The Social Action Group makes recommendations to the Church Council about how to allocate charitable giving. The criteria we apply include:

- Support to relatively small community service organisations so that the church's modest gifts have proportionally greater impact
- Support to local institutions as well as international ones
- Support to institutions with whom we can have a direct contact

We seek to raise funds for and awareness within the church and wider community about the organisations we support. Here is a brief description of the organisations supported in 2024.

Bishop's Lent and Advent Appeals

1,000 CHF given by La Côte Anglican Church in 2024

Each year, La Côte Anglican Church contributes to two appeals launched by the Bishop in Europe for particular community service organisations. In 2024, the recipient was the Anglican Centre in Rome. Founded in 1966, just after the second Vatican Council, the Anglican Centre aims to be a bastion of hope for full visible unity of God's Church. It facilitates discussions on finding common ground in issues such as of the Eucharist and Justification by faith in Christ. It also works on joint projects with the Roman Catholic Church for education, shared mission and ministry to the poor and disadvantaged. See <https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/bishops-lent-appeal-2024-anglican-centre-rome>.

Embrace the Middle East

1,500 CHF given by La Côte Anglican Church in 2024

Emerging from a 19th-century mission organisation, Embrace the Middle East is a Christian development and humanitarian relief charity. It partners with Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised communities. Embrace works with 40 local partners in Egypt, Iraq, Israel / Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, funding temporary refuge, homes, health care, education, and action for justice and human rights. Its goal is to contribute to a culture of human flourishing in a troubled region. See <https://embraceme.org>.

Lions Clubs of Switzerland and Médico Lions Clubs de France

Donation of used eyeglasses

The Lions Clubs of Switzerland collect used eyeglasses in collaboration with Médico Lions Clubs de France, who recondition the glasses received and distribute them to patients with visual impairments in developing countries. In the spring of 2024, a collection of used eyeglasses was organized by La Côte Anglican Church in

collaboration with Holy Trinity Church in Geneva; 110 pairs were received. Thanks to everyone who kindly contributed to this collection.

See <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/recycle-eyeglasses> and <http://www.medico-lcf.org/?q=recyclage-des-lunettes>.

Médecins Sans Frontières

€510 raised by the French Association at its 2024 Christmas lunch

MSF is an international humanitarian organisation that provides medical aid and psychosocial support to those suffering from wars and disasters in dozens of countries. See <https://www.msf.fr>.

Nyon Food Bank

See the separate, specific account elsewhere in this annual report.

Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)

1,500 CHF given by La Côte Anglican Church in 2024

The PCRF provides free medical care to thousands of injured and ill children yearly who lack access to care in Palestine. Over the years, they've sent over 2,000 affected children abroad for free medical care, sent thousands of international doctors and nurses to Palestine to allow children free medical care, and provided tens of thousands of children humanitarian aid they otherwise would not get. PCRF relies on a worldwide network of volunteers, so our support is very welcome and very impactful. See <https://www.pcrf.net>.

Restos du Coeur

Collection of foodstuffs at our Harvest celebration

Since its creation by the actor Coluche in 1985, Restos du Cœur's tens of thousands of volunteers have been fighting poverty, hunger and exclusion. They offer a wide range of social services to the most deprived people in France. For example, in 2023-24, 163 million meals were served and 1.3 million people offered shelter and other services. La Côte Church's generous donation of dry goods at the Harvest celebration was given to the Gex branch.

Rêves Suisse

1,000 CHF given by La Côte Anglican Church in 2024

Founded in 2006, Association Rêves Suisse works to make the dreams come true of children and teens who are suffering illness, disability or emotionally. Located in Nyon, the association helps hundreds of children every year and helps to finance camps and sports days for specialized institutions. The type of activities requested vary wildly, such as meeting favourite celebrities, going to Legoland, spending a week at sea, adventuring with equipment adapted to each child's needs or spending a day with animals. Children and teens apply online, identifying three wishes with the aim of being able to fulfil the

top wish, but with the second and third choices as a “back-up” should the first choice not be possible. See <https://reves.ch>.

If you would like to support the work of these organisations, please speak with one of the Social Action Group members.

*Caroline Allsopp, Liz Bramley, Scott Campbell,
Carolyn Cooke, Kate Shepherd, Chris Talbot*

Nyon Food Bank (in partnership with The Lost Food Project Switzerland [TLFP] and Association Coup de Main)

Many members of La Côte Church support the work of the Nyon Food Bank every Wednesday afternoon and evening. TLFP has continued its mission to reduce food waste and support those in need by sourcing fresh food close to its expiry date from local supermarkets and other suppliers. This shows practical commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. Coup de Main is responsible for the collection, delivery and distribution of both fresh food and dry food collected from church members or purchased with donations. The initiative prevents landfill waste while ensuring aid reaches people in great need, who benefit from these services and come promptly every week. On average, 80 to 100 families are served every week.

The Food Bank serves a wide range of individuals, ensuring inclusivity regardless of religion, gender, age, disability, or ethnicity. Among those benefiting are:

Ukrainian refugees: The largest beneficiary group, including individuals of all ages seeking stability and support

Non-Ukrainian asylum seekers and refugees: Primarily young men in their 20s and 30s, who face significant challenges to integration in Switzerland

Swiss nationals: Though a smaller demographic, many elderly individuals rely on the Nyon Food Bank’s services, highlighting a hidden but pressing need for food support within local communities.

The Food Bank’s approach goes beyond food redistribution; it actively works to combat the stigma associated with receiving food aid. By framing its efforts as part of a broader waste reduction initiative, the Food Bank fosters dignity and community engagement among recipients.

The role of volunteers remains critical to TLFP’s success. Coup de Main has been one of the committed sources of volunteers and supporters. A dedicated team ensures efficiency in food collection, distribution, and logistics. Volunteers play an essential role in maintaining morale and operational effectiveness, preventing bottlenecks, and balancing available resources. Many volunteers come from La Côte Church, where

community members regularly contribute their time and effort to support the Food Bank’s mission.

The Nyon Food Bank collaborates with various agencies, strengthening networks to maximize impact. Partnerships have enhanced its ability to serve vulnerable populations while promoting environmental sustainability. The organization’s ongoing work continues to demonstrate the power of collective action in addressing food waste and food insecurity.

Ever Gutierrez

Archdeaconry Synod 2024

The Archdeaconry Synod of Switzerland met twice this year, once online in June and once in person in October at St. Andrew’s Church, Zurich. The October meeting was very special as we were invited for dinner at the church the previous evening giving us the occasion to socialize more. It was a very friendly and hospitable evening, ending with a compline service in the chapel. Additionally, in April, Christ Church Lausanne announced the Licensing of their new chaplain, Rev. Dr John Tomlinson, and we had the pleasure of meeting him at synod. There are currently two new vacancies in the Anglican Chaplaincies in Switzerland, at St John’s, Montreux and St Nic’s in Basel.



St. Andrew’s Church, Zurich

In June, we had a presentation from Bradon Muilenburg, the Anglican Refugee Support Lead, about his work in Calais, which was very moving. In October, our day, led by Archdeacon Peter Hooper, focused on 'Mission in Changing Times'. We were encouraged to look at the work of the synod and our own parishes in three dimensions, those of numbers (attendance in all church aspects), depth of discipleship and service to the world around us. We also discussed archdeaconry finances, particularly in view of a small surplus in accounts and the 'Diocesan Mission Opportunities Fund' set up to grant funds for new missional opportunities. We agreed that our work for 2025 would involve refining and defining our strategic intent as a diocese.

Your Synod Representatives, Alice Debell and Nonalee Dong



Carolyn, Alice, Mary and Ludo returning from Archdeaconry synod (in style!)

Ecumenical activities

La Côte Church and its members participate in a remarkable and encouraging range of activities with Christians from other faith traditions. Here is a selection:

Pastorale Nyonnaise is an active and engaged group of local church leaders and representatives from diverse traditions. Carolyn has attended their bi-monthly

breakfasts in Nyon. They also initiated an 'open doors' programme to welcome members of each other's churches to a service; Betty Talbot attended the one at L'Eglise Fraternelle, Nyon.

The weekly **Food Bank** in Nyon is an outworking of learning to do good and seek justice together. See the separate, specific account elsewhere in this annual report.

Journée Mondiale de la Prière (World Day of Prayer) was held in Nyon on 1 March 2024 and prepared by women of Palestine. Since our host parish of La Dôle stopped putting on this annual service a couple of years ago, we have been invited to join the Nyon churches in their annual celebration. If anyone would be interested in participating on behalf of La Côte Anglican Church, please let Carolyn know.

Swiss National Day (1 August) ecumenical service in Nyon, led by our local churches to mark Swiss National Day.

With our host parish of La Dôle – Pastor Etienne Guilloud continues to be very welcoming and open to joint services and events, such as the 'Blue Christmas' service, early morning Easter Day sunrise service, both in collaboration with Chris Potter, and the current monthly Taizé services.



Sunrise service, Easter morning 2024

We also celebrated together the **Jeûne Fédéral** (15 September) with a contemplative prayer walk, concluding with Taizé prayers in Bonmont Abbey. The international students studying ecumenism at the Château de Bossey were able to participate in this act of worship.

Ecumenical Institute at Bossey – welcoming students to our services

We have not had as close a contact in 2024 as in previous years with the Bossey students. This is due to several reasons on both sides – changes at Bossey and limited availability of drivers at La Côte due to incapacity and illness. Even so, Trevor Davies and Maria Dengeli have maintained contact with several of the students, mainly through a young Sri Lankan, Mahdi, who asked them to provide lifts to services and brought along some of the other students. Trevor and Maria accepted her invitation to an Asian Cultural evening in November. Several pastors from the churches of South India, Madagascar and Nigeria have attended our services. There are currently four students staying on till June at Bossey for their Masters degree who keep in touch.

Ron Carpenter kindly stepped forward to coordinate the lifts from Bossey to Gingins / Divonne and Chuck Wilson also offered to drive from time to time. Jacky and Vincent Coo also kindly helped out with lifts. However, more help is needed to maintain this valuable link with the students at Bossey. It has always been so enriching and enlightening to hear their stories and offer them hospitality during their time here. So if this is something that would interest you, please do speak to Carolyn, Trevor or Maria.

Ignatian Way days (in English) are offered three times per year at the Château de Bossey by members of Saint John XXIII parish and are open to all seeking a quiet day, with time for personal reflection on scripture passages and group-sharing on related questions.

Ignatian Retreats in St. Maurice, Switzerland

Nine members of La Côte Anglican Church have participated in the three-day silent retreats run by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Geneva. The retreats took place in April and November.

Daily Morning Prayer on Zoom entered its fifth year since the start of the pandemic. Participants include members of the French Protestant Church and Old Catholics, as well as of the Roman Catholic Church in the UK. See the separate, specific account elsewhere in this annual report.

Cursillo

This ecumenical three-day course in Christianity continues to be offered twice a year (May and November) by English-speaking churches in the Geneva area, with participation from La Côte. The summer picnic in Bonnie Fatio's lakeside garden was also a celebration of Revd Canon Alan Amos' 80th birthday. Many members of our church have greatly appreciated the spiritual growth and richly broadened friendships made possible these weekends.

With our French host church in Divonne, L'Eglise Protestante Unie de France we continue to value a positive and warm working relationship. Betty and Chris Talbot, Liz Martinez and John Haines attended the annual Christmas choucroute lunch held in the Divonne parish room and socialised with the congregation. They also attended the Sunday service preceding the lunch.

Carolyn Cooke, Trevor Davies, Maria Dengeli, Betty Talbot, Peta Tracey

Appendix: La Côte Church Governance, Management, Elections and Appointments (for the AGM, 2025)

The **Chaplaincy Council** is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The composition and remit of the Council is governed jointly by Swiss law, French law and the Anglican Canons, in particular the statutes of the Swiss La Côte Church Development Association, the French Association Culturelle and the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The lay membership of the Chaplaincy Council is decided by election. Normally there are two people elected as the chaplaincy wardens. In addition, there are five to six elected lay members. They normally stand for three years and may then do a second term of three years. If they are staying on Council for longer, this needs agreement at the annual general meeting.

The clergy are, ex officio, i.e., by virtue of the positions that they hold, deemed members of the Council. So too are the Chaplaincy's representatives to the Archdeaconry Synod, who are chosen by the congregation in separate elections for a three-year tenure (last elected in 2023). In addition, the Chaplaincy Council can appoint people to its membership (co-opted members).

The present Chaplaincy Council is thus made up of:

Clergy ex officio

Carolyn Cooke, Chaplain

Betty Talbot, Assistant Curate, who was ordained deacon in June 2024:

Julia Chambeyron (on extended sick leave)

Wardens

Liz Bramley – standing for re-election

The elected lay members who are standing for re-election this year

Ron Carpenter

Steve Rawcliffe

Kate Shepherd (Council Secretary)

Diantha Terry

A new member standing for election

Jessica Chapman

Co-opted member – Treasurer

John Ingham – standing down

Eric Cockshutt – taking up the role of Treasurer

Archdeaconry Representatives elected for a three-year term, 2023-26

Alice Debell

Nonalee Dong

Safeguarding Team

Three members make up the safe-guarding team: Cate Bichara, Ever Gutierrez and Liz Martinez. One of these representatives attends each council meeting.

The Chair of the Chaplaincy Council is the Chaplain, currently Carolyn Cooke. The Treasurer, Secretary and Lay Vice-Chairs are appointed each year at the first Council meeting after the congregation's annual meeting. In 2024 the Vice-Chair role has been mainly shared between Phil Clifton and Louise Burrows. Council normally meets monthly. The agenda for the Council meeting is prepared by the Standing Committee, made up of the Chaplain, Church Wardens, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

We have sub-committees who report to the Council on matters of:

Finance
Social Action
Fund-raising

We are developing a working group for

Youth and Children

The Electoral Roll Officer is currently Steve Rawcliffe who prepares our electoral roll each year. One needs to be a member of our electoral roll to vote on church decisions and policies.

The La Côte Swiss Development Association is the charitable body recognised by Swiss law. Our Church governance complies with Swiss law with the La Côte Swiss Development Association sitting within our Annual General Meeting and operating under the governance of the Church Council. In addition, Swiss authorities recognise the President of the Association, John Tracey, the Secretary, Liz Bramley and the Treasurer, John Ingham.

The Association La Côte Anglican Church was constituted in December 2013 (under the French law of 1901), due to our presence in Divonne in worship and community life. This gives us legal status in France, as a recognised **Association Culturelle**, which enables us to raise funds for other charities. Although this Association has a separate AGM, it largely operates like the Swiss association, under the governance of the La Côte Church Council.

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all who serve on our church councils and associations. Thank you for your faithful leadership and for all the hard work that goes on in front and behind the scenes for the smooth running of our church.

Carolyn Cooke