

ANNUAL REPORT
LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH
AGM 2020



Bossey Community Day February 1st, 2020

Christian Communities in Gingins and Divonne
2018 – 2019



DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Chaplains Overview

I was reminded recently of the quote attributed to Dag Hammarskjöld, (the second UN Secretary General):

“For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes”.

Our AGM report is an opportunity to look back at all that has been and say “Thank you” – not for everything that has happened necessarily – but for where we have glimpsed God’s goodness and blessing in our midst. It is also a time to look forward to all that will be and say “yes” to God, trusting in his grace and leading.

Worship on Sundays. I embark on this report with an expression of deep gratitude for all who take part in our worship. Each Sunday throughout the year members of our community have gathered to worship in Gingins, Divonne or Signy. Our services help to root us in God’s love and faith for the rest of our lives. Our La Côte Ministry Team play a key part in our weekly worship, meeting once a month to review and to plan services together with me, as well as taking part in leading and preaching.

Thank you to everyone who leads in different ways, with inspired music, liturgy, prayers, preaching, reflections, readings – along with each of you who share in setting up, technology, welcoming and offering refreshments. Thank you to all who support our children and youth, sharing with them on their journey of faith. And of course, thank you to all of you who attend our services, for the blessing of your presence wherever you are on the journey, as we seek to find our way together.

Church life through the week. Equally important are the opportunities throughout the week to gather for prayer, Bible study, learning, food, friendship and often a mix of laughter and tears. I hope you will spend time browsing this report and note how the wide variety of activities and groups reflect the diverse needs of our community.



Some people come for the familiarity, some come to worship, some to sing, some because it makes them feel closer to God, some to learn, some to make friends, and some to baptize a child or marry a partner or say a final farewell to a loved one. That is why the report has so many things to share and celebrate.

A balance between Mission and Maintenance.

As we take time to evaluate who we are and what we are doing as La Côte Church, I would like to encourage us to make sure that we are not just doing things “because we have always done it this way”. I would like us to keep in mind the balance between our maintenance and our mission. There may be ways that we need to change things, in order to create space to try new forms of worship and outreach, while maintaining the meaningful worship that we do provide.

Church Governance. Our Church Council holds a strategic overview of our community, helping to steer us with strategic priorities, managing our finances and dealing with operational needs, such as this current *Covid 19* pandemic. Thank you to all on our Council for your hard work throughout this last year, both in our meetings and behind the scenes. You have been a source of blessing and encouragement and wisdom for me, as Chaplain, as well as for our whole community. Special thanks go to Susan Passmore who has been our Church Council Secretary for four years and who is stepping down this year. We are deeply grateful to Susan for all her hard work, enabling the smooth running of our Council and more broadly of our church life. Our warm thanks also go to Lexa Nicolson who is stepping back after six years on council.

In addition to our worship and mid-week groups, our church has been channeling energy into our three cross-cutting priorities: Youth and children, visibility and outreach and pastoral care. Let us look at these briefly now.

LA CÔTE PRIORITIES

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Some changes There have been some significant changes in our youth leadership this last year, with Calen moving on, and new people arriving: first Armel Ayegnon and then Emily Reid. We are now employing our youth worker on a part-time official basis which is a further step towards integrating and valuing our youth work at the heart of our church life.

Some key discussions about youth work Two thought-provoking discussions were held with parents and youth leaders in summer 2019 to explore how the church can support young people and their parents on the journey of faith. The enlightening summary of these conversations is included in the Youth report below. Please read through the reports from Emily and our Sunday club leaders. We are very thankful for the committed team of volunteers and parents supporting our youth worker across the chaplaincy in our Sunday clubs and youth gatherings.

Looking forward

We need some new volunteers from our community to help with youth work and Sunday club. Sunday club leaders met for a review and planning session in February and one key outcome would be for more volunteers, including Dads, to help lead some of our children's sessions. I also know that Emily would love to hear from members of our church, offering to help with this crucial work.

Outreach to children and families While we are richly blessed with the children and families who currently belong to our church, we recognize there are many English-speaking families in this area.

We would love to find ways of reaching out to them. If you have ideas, please share them with Emily, Carolyn or other Sunday club leaders and parents.

VISIBILITY AND OUTREACH

Website I would first like to take this opportunity to thank Christina Geschonke for her dedicated and skilful work managing our former website for several years. We wish her all the very best as she continues her veterinary studies in Germany. In summer 2019 a small working party began to re-build our website. Our thanks go to Diantha Terry, Liz Bramley and Lexa Nicolson for their hard work on this venture. Please see Diantha's report below and we look forward to developing the site further.

Looking forward

In addition to the website, we would like to expand into other social media "outlets". Currently Peta Tracey runs a lively La Côte Church Twitter page, [@lacoteanglican](#), tweeting many of our church events around the Diocese.

Outreach

Emerging from a suggestion at our 2018 AGM to set up some sessions to help people explore the basics of the Christian faith, we have begun a "*Finding our Way*" Lent course. There is more about this elsewhere in the report. Here I would like to thank the La Côte Ministry Team for researching the best course for our community – and then setting it up for us. They also prepared the way for our fruitful Church Community Day with Dave Tomlinson, (see our Bossey Day report).

Looking forward

Following on from our Lent courses, we are hoping to set up a more regular "*Finding our Way*" group for our church members and newcomers to explore faith together over the coming year.

PASTORAL CARE

First and foremost, we acknowledge that at different times in our lives we all need care of one sort or another, due to the topsy turvy nature of life, and at other times we can be the ones who offer care to others. As a council we have begun to evaluate the care that is already happening informally and where we could develop pastoral care more fully, without it becoming too rigid or programmatic.

As things stand, we have much to celebrate in our community where many people have found a welcome and support in challenging times and friendship for their journey of faith.

We are so thankful for the numerous people in our midst who reach out to one another with support when the chips are down. However – we also acknowledge that sometimes people feel forgotten and are overlooked. We recognise that especially when individuals are bereaved or suffering with long-term ill-health, loneliness is a besetting challenge.

Looking forward

Main discussion item at the AGM: Pastoral Care at La Côte Church We hope you will join us for our AGM, whenever that may take place, to look at the question of our “pastoral care.” We will celebrate in broad brushes what we are doing, as well as thinking together how we can develop it further.

Milestones:

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Sadly, we have had to say farewell to some of our church family:

Calen Gayle, our youth worker of nearly five years left La Côte Church in March 2019. We are glad to still be in touch as he has moved down the coast to work as a youth and church minister at All Saints, Vevey.

Scott and Nancy Bolan Campbell and their girls in August 2019 who moved back to the US. We give thanks for all the support they gave especially to our youth work, supporting our leaders and often hosting our groups in their Divonne home.

We share in grief at the sudden death of **Surush**, in February 2020. Surush was a 32-year-old Iranian member of our church, who had recently been granted asylum in Switzerland. La Côte Church family took part in his funeral in Nyon which was attended by many members of the local community and was an opportunity for us to stand together in solidarity in our loss.

And we are glad to welcome new people into our congregations. Armel Ayegnon stepped in to lead our youth work on a temporary basis with valuable support from Tommy and Meghan Bresson who are working in the area for Youth Compass. In September 2019 we were pleased to welcome Emily Reid as our new part time youth worker and you can read her report further on.

For all that has been, (thanks) - we thank you loving God for being our ever-present guide and strength.

For all that will be, (yes) - in prayerful trust we say yes to your leading and grace.

Amen



Worship at La Côte in Gingins

Carolyn Coore

Looking back over the year - La Côte highlights 2019/2020

March and April

The **2019 AGM** took place in Divonne on March 31st followed by a pot-luck lunch. This year's discussion revolved around "*Enabling our church life together*".

Congratulations! Carolyn was appointed Canon by Bishop Robert, Bishop for the Diocese of Europe in Brussels.



Canon Carolyn Cooke with Bishop Robert and her father Canon Brian Lea OBE:

Lenten Seminars. Three sessions took place during Lent in Divonne. This year's theme covered "*The ethics of death and dying Christian perspectives*".



On April 14th we celebrated **Palm Sunday** in Gingins where we made our procession around the Temple, raising up our voices



We began our Easter services with an intimate **Maundy Thursday** service on April 17th in Gingins followed by our **Good Friday** service of reflection in Divonne, on April 18th



Easter Day began with the Sunrise Service in Gingins together with La Dôle parish and was followed coffee and croissants.



Easter morning. Divonne and Gingins congregations celebrated together in Crassier followed by rather breezy refreshments.



Farewell. On June 30th La Côte wished Pastor Christian Heyraud and his wife well upon his retirement.



Au revoir and Bienvenue. In September we said goodbye to Armel Ayegnon and welcomed Emily Reid.



September

September 1st was a joyous occasion for Anna and Enrique Aguiar celebrating the blessing of their wedding with their family.



Creation Time. A special service held on September 25th welcomed visitors from Ekwendeni, Malawi. La Côte supports projects in Ekwendeni with the Church of Scotland

On September 21st there were wedding bells for Caroline Allsopp and Erwin Leitner held in Gingins.



Harvest Festival. Divonne and Gingins worshiped together in Crassier on September 22nd to celebrate the special service.



What a bountiful display

Climate March. Carolyn, Sarah French and Di Vale joined the Climate March in Bern on September 28th.

October

Animal Blessing service on October 6th. A slightly noisier service in Gingins but just as enthusiastic as usual.



Welcome. On October 6th La Côte said Bienvenue to Etienne Guilloud the new pastor at Gingins.

November

All Souls. The service took place in Gingins on November 6th, remembering our loved ones, lighting candles and calling their names individually.

La Côte Quiz Night. Once again bursting at the seams with seasoned teams and brave new ones was held on November 16th in Coinsins. But: more later.

Safeguarding. A basic *Awareness Training* day was organised by the La Côte Safeguarding Team on Sunday November 17th in Gingins. But: more later.

December

La Côte Website goes live! The new website was up and running with weekly bulletins, sermons, services, and much more. www.lacotechurch.ch



December 1st, Lighting the first Advent calendar in Signy.



Christingle Service. December 8th, in Gingins.

La Côte Nativity on December 15th Gingins.

Candles by Candlelight A well-attended but intimate service on December 22nd in Divonne. Followed by festive treats and specialties from our Lao community.

Crib service. An afternoon service for children and **Holy Communion** evening service on December 24th in Gingins.

Christmas morning. A family communion service was held in Divonne.

Plus: Two special services in the Temple de Nyon

“Blue Christmas” Hope in the Darkness, on December 15th.

Jazz Carols.

This was a vibrant and uplifting combination of music, song and theatre. But: more to tell later.



Reflective meditation. For the first three weeks of Advent half hour Lectio Divina sessions were held both in Divonne and the Temple de Nyon – offering a quiet way of marking Advent in the midst of the busyness,



February

2020

La Côte Annual Community Day took place on February 1st at the Château de Bossey, with guest speaker Revd. Dave Tomlinson. This year's theme *“Keeping Faith in Changing Times”*. But: more of this later.



Holy Joes: That evening in Divonne, we set up a café-style evening in the parish rooms in Divonne, with an opportunity for questions and answers with Dave Tomlinson and one another as we shared bread and soup and a glass of wine or beer.

Congratulations!

Trevor Davies, council member and one of La Côte's founding fathers, celebrated his 80th birthday on January 10th. We wish him many happy returns



New Faces at La Côte

Council



Richard Hawkings

Richard joined the La Côte Church Council in spring 2019, having previously served in a similar role at Holy Trinity Church in Geneva. He is a regular

member of both the Divonne and Gingins congregations and contributes to the musical life of the church by playing for services and co-leading the Divonne song group, as well as occasional worship leading and reflections. He brings a musical perspective to the council and hopes to help represent the views of the Divonne congregation in particular.



Louise Burrows

I joined the council because I wanted to serve the church and to better understand how La Côte works. I am part of the ministry team and see this as a helpful point of

liaison. I have some prior experience in this type of role and hope that I will be able to make a helpful contribution in due course.

La Côte Youth Worker

Emily Reid

Since moving to Switzerland from Weston-Super-Mare in Somerset in February of 1997, waking up in the car and seeing mountains and snow for the first time at the ripe old age of 4 and a half, I have been involved more or less continuously in the life of various churches.



Starting as a participant as a child, and as a youth; to helping out with the children's clubs then "graduating" to helping out the pre-teens and teens

In 2016, I started getting more deeply involved in the youth and children's ministry at All Saints in Vevey and held the interim youth minister position from January 2019-August 2020. At the end of that posting, I decided that I didn't want to leave youth work or ministry, as I felt that was my calling; despite graduating as a nurse in February of last year.

God heard my prayer and I was put in touch with Carolyn and informed that La Côte was looking to fill a position in their Youth Ministry.

I was immediately interested in the posting. The team that interviewed me showed their passion for transforming young lives and bringing up the next generation of Christians. I was also very excited at the prospect of working with a female chaplain, as I am considering taking that path.

I like to describe myself as a Swiss army penknife (youth workers tend to have a penchant for bizarre metaphors), not because I'm sharp or carry around a screwdriver, but because I'm lucky enough to be "multifunctional". During weekdays I can usually be found in hospitals or clinics around the Canton de Vaud, working as a nurse, caring for the bodies of people in need. On Tuesdays and weekends, I can be found in the Nyon area meeting up with teens, meeting with Carolyn, or running our various Saturday and Sunday activities. Between services on Sundays I make the most of that time and go to the gym.



La Côte Ministry Team Report

In 2019, the Chaplain, Revd Carolyn Cooke, formed the La Côte Ministry Team. Led by Carolyn, its members are Louise Burrows, Helen Harding, Heidi Hawkings, Chris Potter, Betty Talbot and Peta Tracey.

The Ministry Team serves La Côte in various ways, including the planning of events during the liturgical year, leading Sunday services and preaching. Some of us serve at both Gingins and Divonne, and some are involved in the children's ministry and in the provision of musical support.

Like so many members of the La Côte congregation, the members of the ministry team lead busy lives but nevertheless, we try to meet monthly. We take time to review the services since we last met and look forward to the services to come. This happens at the detailed level of reviewing rotas and assigning tasks, and at a broader level of considering overall themes for the various church seasons.

During Lent 2019, the Ministry Team set up a Lent tree. It was made of branches arranged in the form of a cross, and every week, a Lenten symbol was added to the tree, starting with a pot of ashes placed at its foot on Ash Wednesday. At the Easter service, the musical members of the Ministry Team organised volunteers, both adults and young folk who play instruments, to lead the congregation in lively and joyful musical worship.

The Ministry Team also got together to plan for the annual community day at Bossey. Dave Tomlinson, a well-known Anglican priest, author and broadcaster in the UK, was invited

Additional activities last year included spending time to identify an exploration course of Christianity that would suit La Côte church. The **Emmaus course** was selected from a short list of potential options, and the first stage of the Emmaus journey began in Lent this year. as the guest speaker. Following the day event at Bossey, the Ministry Team arranged "Holy Joes comes to Divonne" the same evening.

For more details about the Bossey day and "Holy Joes comes to Divonne" events, please read Peta Tracey's report.



Lenten Tree Gingins

Betty Talbot on behalf of the Ministry Team

Contact:

carolyn.cooke@lacotechurch.ch

Safeguarding Report

**“Safeguarding is for everyone,
and is everyone’s responsibility”**

Safeguarding is about the quality of our relationship with one another and the steps we take to protect our children and the vulnerable. We are pleased that there is a growing awareness about safeguarding in our Chaplaincy.

We were delighted to welcome Liz Martinez to the La Côte Safeguarding Team in September.

In 2019 the La Côte Safeguarding Team has continued to work positively to bring awareness about Safeguarding to this congregation. We believe that the way forward for Safeguarding is **prevention** through awareness. Training is an excellent way of informing and creating awareness about abuse which is a subject that is more and more mediatized. There are excellent courses available online. In the last year we organized get togethers to go through the new basic awareness training course. These were held in the parish room at Gingins meeting before the Sunday service. They provided an excellent way to share the training together and promoted excellent discussion. Our initiative to hold meetings open to all has been supported by the training team at the Diocesan Office in London. We would like to continue to facilitate more reunions of this kind in the coming year and encourage more of you to come along to these meetings. They are not only for role holders. We are working with children and the immigrant community here and we can all live next door to someone in distress.

In June 2019 Catherine Bichara and Christine Warren attended the first ever Swiss safeguarding officers meeting organized by the chaplaincy of Zurich and held in Bern. It was a very good opportunity to talk through our common problems. Another meeting is planned for October 2020 in Zurich.

We also contributed to the Synod meeting on the 25 January 2020 by submitting questions for the new Diocesan Safeguarding advisor, Grace Fagan, when she met with Swiss Safeguarding officers.

Safeguarding administration is based on a policy set out by the Church of England. In 2019 the Diocesan Office in London revised the Safeguarding policy of 2017. Christine Warren was invited to join a European panel to review the policy before it went live online. As a web generated tool, it is updated frequently and is an important reference tool for chaplains, the PCC and safeguarding officers. Following the release of this policy, we were informed of a “migration” of responsibility for clearance checks from London back to each Chaplaincy as from 30th November 2019. This work was previously controlled by the Diocesan Safeguarding team in London. This will mean a reorganization of our work at La Côte. There will also be further Diocesan led training courses or refresher courses for volunteers working with children or the vulnerable to organize. We are awaiting further details and dates.

We will be seeking some extra help to get our new responsibilities up and running over the next year. Please contact us if you would like to know more. Volunteers who are contacted by us for clearance checks or training can be assured of our good will, our support and guidance. We would like to thank the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in London for all their help and support in 2019.

We would like to encourage us all to focus on what we can do together rather than let what we cannot do overshadow our journey together.

Christine Warren, Catherine Bichara and

Liz Martinez

safeguarding@lacotechurch.

Ecumenical News



Contacts with other churches of different denominations are an important part of the life of La Côte Anglican Church. Some of these take the form of shared public services or events and then there are various meetings in which our Chaplain and Lay Reader participate:

At the Abbaye de Bonmont - a service for the Jeûne Fédéral (3rd Sunday in September) in French, German & English, prepared by the local Swiss Reformed, Roman Catholic churches & La Côte Anglican Church. Carolyn is involved in the preparation and the service.

Pastorale Nyonnaise Carolyn attends a bi-monthly early morning breakfast in Nyon with a group of local church leaders to share news, plan and pray together.

GROG, Le Groupe Œcuménique Gessien. GROG provides French-language Ecumenical contacts in the Pays de Gex. Betty Talbot participated in a 30-week course in 'Growth, Prayer and Reflective Living' that was run by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre Glasgow but taking place at John XXIII. And in 2020, she is one of several facilitators of a 6-week Lenten activity in Ignatian spirituality, also at John XXIII.

The English-speaking Geneva church leaders Carolyn attends a gathering over a monthly lunch at different churches.

Joint Easter sunrise service with La Dôle parish at Gingins. Carolyn organised this with Pastor Christian Heyraud.

Participation in World Day of Prayer service with La Dôle parish. This usually takes place at Signy Chapel, using the liturgy prepared by a different country each year. Machteld Kelsey & Peta Tracey once again represented LCAC on 6th March this year and would welcome others to share in this important contact with our host parish.

Cursillo - an ecumenical three-day course, offered twice a year by English-speaking churches in the Geneva area, on living a Christian life and encouraging lay leadership. Many members of La Côte have enjoyed and benefited from this weekend. Chris Talbot is its Assistant Lay Director and others from our church participate in the preparation and team.

Welcoming Bossey students - once again we had the pleasure of welcoming some of the students from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey to our church community. This past year we have had been delighted to get to know: Pastor Joshua Hamid, from the Pentecostal Church of Sierra Leone; Revd Boaz Stephen Soundararajan, from the Church of S. India; Revd Daniel Laksham, from the Church of Ceylon, Sri Lanka; Manda Andrian, from the Javanese Christian Church; Sr. Chrisanthony Ndikani from the RC Church of Nigeria; and Revd Bassey Obio, from the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. Peta Tracey took on the coordination of transport to/from Bossey, but Margaret Owen has kindly continued to do the lion's share, with a few other volunteer drivers. It is always interesting to hear about the students' background and challenges they face in their ministries back home and they in turn enjoy worshipping with us and being invited to our homes for a meal.



Peta Tracy, Margaret Owen and Trevor Davies meeting students from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey

Peta Tracy



La Côte Priorities

Outreach and Communication

Lenten Seminars 2019

The 2019 Lenten Seminars series was entitled “*The ethics of death and dying: Christian perspectives*”. Three expert and engaging speakers opened up interrelated themes and facilitated rich discussion among the participants.

At the first seminar, on 20 March, **Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer**, Study Secretary for Lutheran Theology and Practice, at the Lutheran World Federation, Geneva posed the question *What is a good death?* Chad drew us into the topic by examining vital sub-questions: What is death? How do we understand dying in ethical terms? What is the range of Christian interpretations of death and dying? What does it mean to die well? How do we express love in our dying and in preparing for a ‘good’ death? How can we plan to die well? Chad’s summary dealt with the notion of not merely waiting to die but faithfully planning to die well. On 3 April, **Rev. Canon Professor James Woodward Ph.D.**, Principal, Sarum College, Salisbury, UK, led the discussion framed as *Whose life is it anyway? Assisted suicide and assisted dying*. Drawing careful distinctions between euthanasia, assisted suicide and assisted dying, James opened up the intense medical, ethical, theological and political debates around those issues. Among many considerations, James raised these: What does the ‘sanctity’ of human life mean? How do we exercise compassion and maintain human dignity in dealing with the death of loved ones? How can ‘autonomy’ be applied to end-of-life questions?

How do we balance the wishes and needs of individuals with those of family and friends? How can legislation be crafted to cover these complex situations. In the final seminar, on 10 April, La Côte congregation member, **Dr Nigel Rollins**, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, WHO, and former Chair, WHO Research Ethics Committee, Geneva, made a rich and moving presentation on *Palliative care and preparing for death: A Christian ethical perspective*. After defining the breadth of palliative care, Nigel examined the range of our fears about death and the process of dying, focussing on the impacts of pain and mental health implications, with illustrations from the experience of cancer and dementia. He closed by opening up medical ethical and Christian ethical perspectives on all these issues, including the witness of Scripture. Nigel’s presentation and the discussions it provoked were a deep and rich conclusion to a worthwhile series.

All three facilitators drew upon their own experience of grief and loss at the death or potential death of loved ones, to illustrate the emotional and ethical complexities of the issues they raised. Each seminar was attended by between 30 and 50 people, from both La Côte campuses and with many visitors and friends who are not members of our church. Peta Tracey prepared a very thoughtfully compiled book table at each seminar; people purchased several of those books to take away. While we did not leave with ‘all the answers’, many spoke of finding encouragement and practical comfort in listening and responding to three knowledgeable and compassionate facilitators. Their presentations and background papers are available on the church’s website.

Chris Talbot

La Côte Annual Community Day

"Keeping Faith in Changing Times"

February 1st, 2020 at the Château de Bossey, with guest speaker Revd Dave Tomlinson

Every 'Bossey Day' is different, but there's a core framework that holds fast: we come together as a church family, in the beautiful surroundings of the Château de Bossey, to worship, reflect and explore faith, enjoy a good lunch and the chance to spend time with each other. Some years we have a guest speaker and other years we have drawn on the skills and talents within our own community. This year there were 71 adults and 3 children present. The children had a separate programme with Emily, our youth worker, and joined us for worship at the beginning and end of the day, with amazing cardboard sculptures to display!

A treat was in store for us this year, as we had Dave Tomlinson as guest speaker, who came over from the UK with his wife, Pat, for a week. Dave is an Anglican priest in London and, having retired as a vicar, is now Chaplain to St. Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace and a well-known author and broadcaster. Described as a 'liberal evangelist', Dave's passion is to make faith humane and accessible to the non-religious. Dave is a great speaker, entertaining and full of good stories from his experience that turn out to be parables. By these, he encourages and inspires people, whether they have strong faith, little faith or none at all, to discover that we all have a capacity to develop a sense of meaning in life. Some people have developed this 'spiritual intelligence' more than others and it doesn't necessarily have anything to do with being religious.



Bossey Chapel

Two of Dave's books: "*How to be a bad Christian ... and a better human being*" and "*Black Sheep & Prodigals*" reflect in more detail his talk and (in his own words) 'highlight a reality that is emerging, which is that the world is not as black and white as people have thought that it is, and truth is not black and white'. For many of us listening, it was encouraging to hear things we had been thinking for a long time. That Christianity - following Christ - is a way of life rather than a set of beliefs. And can we, at La Côte, live up to his description of the Church as 'a living, breathing demonstration of the *beloved community* (Martin Luther King's vision of the Kingdom of God); to be a place of unconditional acceptance, a place of equal opportunity, a place where diversity is celebrated, where anyone and everyone can be at home in the love of God'? Hopefully, the Bossey Day was a microcosm of this and inspires us to grow towards this vision for our church.

We would welcome feedback to the La Côte Ministry Team on the Bossey Day. Please send to Peta Tracey tracey.p@bluewin.ch



Discussion over lunch

Holy Joes Comes to Divonne – February 1st. (evening)

For 10 years Dave and his wife Pat stepped out of mainstream religion to create a space in a south London pub, called 'Holy Joes' for 'disaffected pilgrims', many of whom would never dream of going near a church but who hunger for some sort of faith that they can believe in. The purpose was to discuss, debate, argue about and explore whatever it was that people were concerned about. There were no correct answers at the end of the evening - it was a genuinely open space, the only requirement being that they all listened to and respected the views of other people. It provided a much-needed space for authentic conversations, where the riches of time-honoured wisdom from many traditions, with insights from the present world, could be brought together.

After the Bossey Day, in the evening, with 20 people present, we recreated this at Divonne parish rooms, with something as close to a pub atmosphere as we could get! We found it convivial and stimulating, with a ready willingness to voice our doubts, questions and fears. Well worth repeating!



Holy Joes in Divonne Parish Rooms

Peta Tracey & Helen Harding

Jazz Carols in the Temple de Nyon



The Jazz Carols successfully combined dramatic reading and carols set to jazz music.

This took place on Saturday 14th December at the Temple de Nyon.

The Jazz Carols Dramatic Reading was entitled “*The Retirement Party*” and was written by Ted Talbot. It told the story of a barman, Jerry, who was celebrating his retirement and reminiscing about the time 30 years back when the inn where he was employed turned away a couple because there was no room for them. The couple, she about to give birth, were eventually housed in a garage to spend the night, and her baby was born there. Bikers, passing by, celebrated the birth and gave gifts.

The cast was made up of Ted Talbot, Ed Kelley, George Mills, Pam Walsh, James Nicholson, Emily Read, Carolyn Cook and Trevor Davies,



Jamming those carols

The musical arrangement was compiled by Calen Gayle. The band was made up of David Cooke on bass, Calen Gayle on piano and flute, Sam Jakubec on Drums and a new member of the band, Ewan Dayot on flute and sax. Amazing vocals from Julia Lacey, Lesley-Ann Reynolds and Daphne Gayle raising the roof and spirits of all present.

On arrival the audience were greeted with warm glühwein and nibbles. Thank you to Alison Mills who took some great photos of this magical event



Carolyn and Trevor

George Mills and David Cooke

Social Outreach

Quiz Night

“Extension Please” was a strange name for a quiz team – especially a winning team – but that was the team that won the La Côte annual quiz in the Salle Alinghi in Coinsins on 16 November 2019. The six-person powerhouse of trivial knowledge romped home with an astonishingly high mark of 81 out of 100, beating the Bricoleurs with 79 points into second place.



Fifteen teams competed in the quiz which raised over CHF2957 for the Nourishing Minds charity in Malawi. The charity, which provides free breakfasts of porridge to schoolchildren from poor families, is run by Han and Jane Broere of Divonne.

La Côte church has supported Malawi’s schoolchildren through its quiz for the past four years.

The next La Côte quiz night will be held in November 2020.



David Bramley

In Brief

Website

We are pleased to inform you, that La Côte has a new website - lacoteanglicanchurch.ch

All information about our services, rota's, church members, past sermons and bulletins are available online in a new format.

Visibility and outreach - We understand that our site is not only for our current community but also for the wider community around us, to find out more about us. Our hope and aim is that this new website will aid this.

During the current COIV-19 situation, we realise that the website should be used, to help keep all of us up to date with our on-line services and current notices. We are currently working hard to ensure all this information is readily available on this information platform. In the meantime, we are also using our email links to inform everyone, of our virtual group meetings as well as our virtual services.

Currently, we are working really hard with our web designer to adapt to our changing situation and ensure that we can upload all new virtual services and bulletins.

Diantha Terry

Pastoral Care

In 2018, the church agreed on three priorities for the council to focus upon in the coming years; the third of these was pastoral care. In response, the council has reviewed the ways and extent to which pastoral care is already taking place in the chaplaincy and reflected on what we would ideally like to see happen.



We start from a position of recognizing that at different points in our lives we are all in need of being cared for, and that at other times we will have the opportunity to care for others – we are travelling this road together. At the AGM we will explain our thinking so far and ask for feedback on our draft strategy, after which we will fine tune and start to implement.

Louise Burrows

Creation Care Network

Caring for God's Creation



Each year in September and October, the Christian family unites in a worldwide

celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as stewards of God's creation. La Côte launched a Creation Care Network in 2018.

This Creation Time, La Côte had three special services: on September 8th exploring Creation Care themes. On September 15th, the focus of our Communion Service in Gingins was "Bread from Heaven." The following Sunday, September 22nd, was our Harvest Celebration.

On September 28th some of us participated in the 'Climate March' in Bern.

During Creation Time the Sunday club looked at caring for God's creation.



60,000 people marched in the Swiss capital, Bern



YOUTHWORK

Introduction by Carolyn

During the interim months of last summer, when Armel was supporting us and we were looking for someone more permanent, two facilitated discussions took place with parents of young people and with youth leaders.

We asked three key questions:

- What are the challenges and potentials we see in and around our youth?
- What are the challenges facing adults in relation to our young people?
- How does our Church youth work fit in?

Here is the summary of these discussions and the suggested goals for our youth work going forward. Although this applies mainly to our youth, these outcomes may also be relevant for our children.

- Our youth work needs to aim at youth becoming **"God-connected"** rather than just **"God-smart"** (i.e. knowing *about* God).
- Need **critical mass** of youth to attract more youth.
- **Gingins and Divonne**. Bringing the youth together more.
- **Branding** of groups – thinking about the names of each group – are they appropriate – what the youth want?
- **Evening gatherings – format that works well** – games / food / discussion – consistency of place and time good. Music good. Occasional outings good.

Frequency – and finding the best evening – overall it still seemed that Friday evenings are best for SAS.

- **Good communication** with parents and youth is essential – via WhatsApp groups and emails.
- **Separation of 10-14s and 14s-18s** – very important.
- **Consulting older youths** on issues they want to talk about.
- Ensuring children and youth can **participate in worship** – not just punters.
- **Valuing youth and children** in our community so they feel welcome.
- **Amplifying their voices**
- Making it **relevant** through current affairs.
- Having a **community of friends**
- **A safe place**, no judgements, avoiding internal politics (such as cliques).
- **Intergenerational** setting and activities are valuable, especially for children far from their own extended families.

Overarching Goals for this coming year:

- How to solve problems through faith.
- Bring faith of Christ to life.
- How to have a relationship with peers and adults that is healthy and God-centred.
- Able to give a reason for their faith.
- Respect our youth.
- Create a safe place where they can ask the big questions and we can ask them open-ended questions.
- Create a community where they go because of others.

Youth Activities 2019-2020 Emily Read

Youth Ministry is extremely important in building the future of the Church, and the future of the youth that are entrusted to us.

They are bombarded on all sides with information, influences, temptations and expectations that can skew their vision and decision-making processes.

Youth ministry and the church offers them an alternative point of view, and a safe space to be, to learn and to not only ask “why” but also the opportunity have to discuss and answer that question for themselves.

I have had conversations with youth and parents needing to talk through decisions, actions and concerns. I hope that in these times I am able to steer them in the right direction, Jesus.

I am passionate about youth ministry and hope that that passion will shine through and help our youth of today and tomorrow reflect the love and life of Christ. It is a joy and a privilege to spend time with, teach and learn from our youth.

I want to thank everyone that takes the time to get to know them, listen to them, and love them.

If you are a parent with young people that could be interested in joining any of our youth ministry groups or if, as an adult, you think that helping us out is something you would want to do, please get in touch with me or chat with me after a service.

SATURDAY GROUPS

SAS (10-14's)



SAS is our Saturday afternoon opportunity for our young people to gather together, have fun

(our current favourite game is Jungle Speed, to be played at your own risk), eat some snacks and attempt to chat about various subjects, mainly what it means to have good

relationships with people around us. We've asked ourselves the questions: *How can I be a good friend?* », « *What's important in relationships?* », « *What does it mean to be a good person?* ».

These subjects have helped me get to know our little group. We currently have a core membership of 3-4 youth who meet at La Fraternelle Offices in Nyon and are seeing great potential for growth.

It is truly encouraging to see young people be interested in spending time together and learning more about life.

I often find myself in peals of laughter with them and relish their insightful, and often challenging, questions.

At the moment, the team consists of myself, Ted Talbot and Johan Crocoll as junior leader, with some parents helping us stay safe by staying with us.

Sherbert (14+)



Sherbert is our Saturday evening activity for our slightly older young people to meet, have dinner, hang out together and have some discussion time on a topic chosen together or a topic brought up at a previous meeting. It is a space where our young people can grow in faith, question without fear of judgement and grow in relationships.

We are sharing our time between chatting together at the La Fraternelle and meeting with other youth groups of the area at **Compass Nights** (worship and teaching) and at other activities such as ice-skating, bowling, or ski events.

Our core group of about 5 members has grown in trust and maturity as we spend time discovering our place in this world as Christians, questioning right and wrong, and finding the narrow way in a world where a lot of things surrounding them are leading them down the wide path.

I am currently searching for a second adult to assist me in leading our fortnightly Sherbert evenings so if you are interested, please do get in touch.

Shortly before Christmas, we had a gingerbread-house building event for our SAS & Sherbert members. We had a lot of fun, and many of us went home with a sugar rush and more or less well-constructed (and decorated) houses (some of which had already collapsed by the end of the evening).

I like to hold this in mind when thinking about our Saturday ministry. We all have different houses, in different states and aesthetics, some more brightly decorated than others, but we can all be proud of what we have made, and we help each other in the making.

Our Saturday programs are the cornerstone of getting to know each other and helping our young people flourish. I have seen growth in both attendance and faith and pray that this continues. I have been very encouraged this year and want to thank Ted, Tommy, Meghan and Johan for helping me in this transitional period.

SUNDAY GROUPS

ChatFaith

ChatFaith is our Sunday morning group in Divonne for 11+ where we gather to be creative, laugh and meet one another and talk about the Bible and various stories.

It is a delight to see and hear so much enthusiasm from our youth for Sundays.

We have been running through a set of questions that the youth have asked in recent times, such as *"What's the difference between denominations"*, *"What are the different holidays Christians celebrate"* and *"Is Lent the Christian Ramadan"*. These questions, as you may imagine, bring more questions in the answering and have created some very interesting conversations in the side rooms in Divonne.

We have a core group of 4 who regularly attend ChatFaith and their desire to learn more is truly inspiring.

When we meet, it is important for us to feel like part of the wider church community, so we stay in the main building for our welcome and the first hymn; we also join in with the celebration of the Eucharist.

Sunday Club

Sunday Club is our Sunday afternoon group in Gingins for our 11-14's. We meet in one of the rooms near the football field close to the church. Our group currently has between 4-5 members on Sunday afternoons. When we meet, I come with a pre-prepared lesson but give the option for them to ask questions or bring up something that they have experienced that they want to discuss, that we then think *"how does this relate to Jesus"*? This helps them relate their life to the Bible and the life of Jesus.



Bake sale to raise funds for the Romanian Trip

We read the Word and pray together every time we meet so that we can start, end and leave with the presence of God.

We also join in with our church community for the first hymn and the Eucharist, and our Youth enjoy this system as it makes them, as one of our youth said, "feel part of it all".

In this next year, we will be walking the road to Emmaus together with the Youth Emmaus program as well as continuing to ask the tough questions and finding ways to link our lives and Jesus'. We are planning activities together as groups, together

Project Compassion 2019

During the Easter holidays 2019, three of La Côte Church youth: Michael, Lily and myself went to Project Compassion 2019 in Romania. It was an interesting, helping, connecting trip (especially that this time I forgot my passport! so the trip going there was interesting).

During the week, we helped homeless people to build water pumps, working alongside different churches.

We would like to say an enormous thanks for all the help coming from the La Côte congregation and external help for €870 per person, with all the bake sales, fundraising, ... coming for the congregation and from outside the church. We raised over €3,310, this helped us to pay 100% for the three of us (€2,610) and with the excess, we gave half as a donation to the youth program for La Côte and the other half as a donation for the tools used during the week in Romania (to Youth Compass Europe,, the organisation that organised the week).

If you are between 14-19 years old and you're interested to take your Easter Holidays for helping people, do get in touch with our youth worker Emily Reid

youthworker@lacotechurch.ch

Registrations are open as we are intending to return back to Romania this year.!

SAS Camp Rolle

As each year, the SAS Camp was in Rolle at "Camping Aux Vernes", near the Lac Léman on the last weekend of June 2019 (from Friday evening until Sunday lunch time).

Sadly, at the last minute, we had to cancel Friday evening because of a scheduled big thunderstorm. We started on Saturday morning with stunning sunshine and high temperatures with some of us climbing at the climbing centre in Ecublens. For many of us this activity was the highlight of that weekend.

It is always with a lot of joy that I see our La Côte Church youth connecting with each other and building friendships during the weekend and their energy during the weekend.

But none of this would have been possible without Ted Talbot for making the food and reserving the camping place, Jon Beaulieu for his lifeguard swimming skills, Armel Ayegnon for leading the weekend, Carolyn Cooke for her backup support, Martine Teuscher for staying with the girls Saturday night and Meghan and Tommy Bresson for the fishing and helping the leading on Sunday morning session and also to Cate Bichara (my boss/mum) for her Safeguarding support.

Johan Crocoll (Youth Worker Assistant)



Chilling out



Scaling the wall



Divonne Sunday Club (7 to 10-year-olds)

Since April 2019, there have been between 2 to 6 children attending the sessions for this age group, which are led by Louise Burrows, Liz Martinez and Heidi Hawkings. Besides the Roots materials, which follow the lectionary readings, we have begun to introduce the children to a succession of stories from the Old Testament. This is in order to help the children to have a better understanding of the Biblical narrative and structure. In each session, time is also allotted for worship and prayer, as well as a craft or game activity related to the day's lesson. In recent months, the age range of children attending has been more varied, and we have adapted lessons accordingly. This is due to the fact that there is not currently a group available for the children aged 5-6 and younger. Perhaps this is a sign that a new, younger age group is again forming in our community, and possibly an opportunity for new teachers to come forward. Additionally, we plan to ensure that all children attending are registered, which would also enable us to keep all parents informed of Sunday Club activities.

Louise Burrows, Heidi Hawkings &

Liz Martinez

Gingins Sunday Club

Last Spring saw us finishing our focus on Mark's Gospel. In the Autumn, we began with a back to Sunday Club party and then spent the first month looking at caring for God's creation. We planted some bulbs for the spring. After this we focussed on the Lord's Prayer taking a line each week to explore. We had a Saints Day party on All Souls day where children were invited to come as their favourite saint and share the story. Meanwhile we began preparing for the nativity service. This year Gingins and Divonne children's groups worked together to produce the play. We performed an adaptation

of the Foxes Tale by Nick Butterworth which included several songs. The children did brilliantly, as always, giving up their time to come to extra rehearsals and learn readings and songs. After Christmas things have been a little quieter and we have been following the Roots programme to keep some continuity with what happens in church. We had a special session on the nature of love for Valentine's Day.

In January we had a meeting with volunteers and interested parties involved in children's work across both Divonne and Gingins. It was very useful and enlightening and I, for one, hope for closer collaboration in the future.

Sunday Club continues to grow in numbers across the age groups with a core group that come regularly. The older ones are slightly harder to predict numbers but can still have a large group on some sessions. We continue to have a fantastic core of volunteers who make it all happen. Naomi Grobety runs the 3 to 6-year olds, Alice Debell and Tania Ahlstrom and Jane Robinson take the 6 to 10-year olds and Tania does all the communication and emailing parents. As always, we are supported by the whole church community especially Carolyn, parents, Emily, the church warden's and anyone who makes tea and coffee for after the service.

Jane Robinson



Joint Nativity play in Gingins

La Côte Chaplaincy Report

The Chaplaincy Council held 10 meetings in the period between the 2019 and 2020 AGMs. At the 2019 AGM two new Council Members were elected, namely Louise Burrows and Richard Hawkings. Dwight Moe was re-elected as a Church Warden and also as Lay Vice-Chairman. Austin Ball and Liz Bramley were re-elected as Church Wardens. At this year's AGM Susan Werkhoven will be stepping down as Church Secretary and Council Member. The Council are looking to elect a new Church Secretary. Lexa Nicholson is also stepping down as a Council member.

Finances: Once again Gift Day netted a healthy figure of CHF 21,239 but slightly below 2018. The Council continues to engage the services of Fiduciaire Heller SA in Nyon to oversee La Côte's book-keeping. The Council agreed that credit should go to Mark Warren who has been inspirational in raising pledges.

Ministry Team: A ministry team is in place with the aim of keeping the wider worship fresh and creative and to promote reflection About how we worship. The ministry team consists of, Louise Burrows, Helen Harding, Heidi Hawkings, Chris Potter, Betty Talbot and Peta Tracey.

Priorities:

The Council has continued to develop its strategies around Outreach and Visibility, Youth and Pastoral Care.

Outreach and Visibility: In 2019 we had a series of three Lenten seminars in Divonne on the theme of "*The ethics of death and dying: Christian perspectives*". This year's Bossey Day with guest speaker Revd. Dave Tomlinson was interesting and well attended and received. The day continued with a discussion evening in Divonne called Holy Joes which was also a well-attended and positive evening. Unfortunately, there was no Expat Expo in Geneva in 2019, and no 2020 event is planned, so the Council is exploring other avenues for outreach/publicity.



Website: The new La Côte website went live in December. One aspect being that sermons can be accessed on-line, and weekly bulletins posted each week. A youth Face Book page is under construction.

Youth: In September the council appointed Emily Reid as the new Youth Worker. Armel Ayegnon who had fulfilled the post of youth worker on a part-time basis in connection with his work at Holy Trinity left us last August to pursue projects elsewhere. Emily is now employed directly by La Côte on a permanent part time contract.

Pastoral Care: The Council has been developing a Pastoral Care Strategy to cover all aspects of pastoral care being carried out at La Côte. The Council's intention is to bring the topic of pastoral care as a discussion point at the 2020 AGM.

Adult Christian Education: Bossey day was the launching point for the Emmaus Course Initiative designed to help disciples live out their faith. Starting from the 'Road to Emmaus' reading (Luke 24:13-33), the course sees faith as a journey, walking alongside people, a course also suitable for enquirers and new Christians.

Susan Passmore – Church Secretary

Swiss Archdeaconry Synod Report 2019

La Côte Church is one of 20 chaplaincies in the Anglican Archdeaconry of Switzerland which is one of the seven archdeaconries of the Anglican Diocese in Europe. The Swiss archdeaconry synod meets two times a year, with the most recent meetings being hosted by St John's Anglican Church in Montreux (June 2019) and St Ursula's Church in Berne (January 2020). Switzerland has two new Anglican clergy – the Revd Helen Marshall in Berne and the Revd Paul Ormrod in Montreux.

Issues discussed during the past year included the following:

Archdeacon of Switzerland

Switzerland's archdeacon is the Revd Canon Adèle Kelham. However, Adèle's retirement in a few years will coincide with a reorganization of the Anglican archdeaconries in Europe in order both to make economies and to realign the archdeaconries with current needs.

Setting God's People Free

A new Church of England initiative called "Setting God's People Free" (see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/SGPF>) focuses on discovering what helps us live out our faith confidently in everyday life. The SGPF flyer announces that over 300 Church of England parishes and worshipping communities will be piloting activities to enable and support discipleship and lay leadership. The Diocese in Europe asked to be involved and proposed that the "Lake churches" – i.e. the Anglican churches of Geneva, La Côte, Lausanne, Vevey and Montreux – should become jointly involved in the SGPF program which aims to produce a "culture change" in the Christian community. The Lake Geneva churches in Switzerland will form a pilot group to implement the scheme along with selected churches in the UK.



Ecological issues

There was a reporting session at which chaplaincies outlined their efforts to become eco-friendly churches. A range of activities were described, with the commonest effort being to eliminate the use of plastic items at church events. La Côte Church has stopped using plastics for refreshments and receptions, and church members are well aware of international concern about the over-use of plastics. Of course, recycling is actively encouraged by Swiss communes and it is relatively easy to comply, which may not be the case in other countries.

Safeguarding

At the January 2020 meeting of the archdeaconry synod Grace Fagan, diocesan safeguarding advisor, drew attention to the "frighteningly low" numbers of complaints in the diocese – 19 cases are currently being dealt with although 100 or so would be a more realistic number. The book "The burden of betrayal" was recommended as it looks not only at finding the perpetrator but also at caring for victims and families.

Ms. Fagan's slides have been supplied to chaplaincies.

How the diocese assists chaplaincies

As the diocese tries to explain what it does for the chaplaincies, it has come up with the following list:

- **Diocese** – the diocese provides a badge, a culture and the glue to hold chaplaincies together.

- **Ministry** – there are 21 ordinands in training; a plan for curates; the Ministry Experience Scheme (for would-be chaplains in the diocese); approximately 30 enquirers for ministry; 98 licensed readers, mostly trained in the diocese; 33 readers in training; and 6 residential ministry courses a year.
- **Safeguarding** – 27 core groups in 12 months; two police investigations; 431 safeguarding checks; over 500 people trained for level 2.
- **Communications** – diocesan website, 7499 visits since April 2019, 50% new visitors, up 8% compared with previous year; 50 stories from chaplaincies posted since October, the story on the Intesa (Treaty) between the Republic of Italy and the Church of England (giving full legal recognition to the C of E) attracted 5000 views; Bishop's Christmas message from Ypres; Exploring Faith in Europe blog; programme for training people in social media and how to use it effectively.
- **Other** – legal advice, appointments and pension administration, archdeacons, bishops.

Future role of the C of E chaplaincies in continental Europe

The diocese has received considerable media exposure over Brexit. Representatives to the archdeaconry synod felt that, through the diocese, the chaplaincies in Europe can feed back European concerns to the Church of England. After Brexit, the Diocese in Europe will be the chief means for the Church of England to communicate with the people of Europe and the European Union institutions. The church has particular concern about distressed UK citizens, especially in Spain.

The synod proposed that, in their annual meetings, Swiss chaplaincies should consider the wider role of the diocese as the major nongovernmental body representing Anglican and especially British Anglican – interests in continental Europe. It was asked what each chaplaincy could do in this regard.

David Bramley



A Gathering of Women Clergy, Brussels, in June 2019 led by Revd Canon Carolyn Cooke, Advisor for Women's Ministry in the Diocese in Europe

La Côte Anglican Church Association (France)

In 2019 the Association did not hold its traditional Summer Garden Party and Christmas lunch. As a result, no funds were raised to support charitable institutions as in the past.

Les Restos du Cœur, however, did receive our support through foodstuffs collected on Harvest Festival Sunday by members of the congregation.

For the record, I would nevertheless like to remind you that, since 2014, when the Association was founded, we have donated altogether €15,102 to nine NGOs and charities: Stand Proud, STEJ Togo, Médecins sans Frontières, Au delà des Frontières, Make à Wish, ALIAS, Opération Espoir, Action Contre la Faim, Les Restos du Cœur (Département de l'Ain) and Éclat. This amount represents 91% of the Association's total receipts, the balance of 8% representing costs (mainly Christmas lunch expenses) and an allocation of 1% to the association's reserves.

Three Lent Seminar talks were given last year in the Divonne Temple parish rooms on the topic of *Death*. On 20 March the Rev Dr Chad Rimmer of the Lutheran World Federation addressed the question: *What is a good death?* On 3 April the Rev Canon Dr James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College, Salisbury spoke on *Euthanasia and assisted suicide*, and on 10 April Dr Nigel Rollins of the WHO talked about *Palliative care and preparation for the end of life*.

Although we were unable to realise our planned projects in 2019, other than the Lenten Seminars, we shall endeavour to organise some new events for the current year. One possibility is a Thé Dansant in June. We shall also be looking into the possibility of reviving our traditional Christmas lunch

Regarding your Association's finances, I have to report that, due to the absence of any fundraising activities, there were no movements in the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019.

Our balance sheet as at 31 December 2017 shows reserves of €159.89, represented by the balance of cash in our account with Crédit Agricole in Divonne.

We need to reinject life into our French Association. We set it up in 2014, one of the purposes being to ensure the Anglican La Côte community in the Pays de Gex has some form of official representation in the eyes of the French Authorities. This has been achieved, even though, for a number of reasons, we were not able to take it one step further and be officially recognised also as a church worshipping association under the French law of 1905.

But another purpose was to inject into the community worshipping at Divonne a sense of active fellowship beyond the sphere of our Sunday services and tie that in with charitable giving. At last year's AGM, I invited members to submit their thoughts on how the Association might reverse the decline in events to raise funds for donations to charitable organisations. Sadly, we did not receive any feedback. I suggest there is a need to discuss where we go from here and how we might encourage members of the congregation to help with the organisation of further fundraising events. We do not have time to discuss this now but perhaps a brainstorming session, either in Divonne or Gingins, could be arranged in April.

Susan Werkhoven (President)

Mentoring Report

The mentoring of asylum seekers under the auspices of the Association 'Coup de Main' (see 2019 Annual Report) continued during 2019, with an



increasingly team approach, allowing mentors and other Coup de Main members to network and share sources of information in order to help migrants in their integration and search for jobs, internships and apprenticeships.

The assistance has revolved round a variety of practical areas of support: assistance in developing language skills, finding courses, employment search, completing job applications and CVs, help with finding legal assistance/legal aid, providing transport to official meetings, providing lodging or help with finding accommodation.

Early in 2019 a Jobs Search Workshop was organised for the asylum seekers and refugees, run by Vivienne Talbot in collaboration with Chris Talbot and Vincent Coo, plus Coup de Main team members, aimed at providing practical one-to-one assistance with the creation of CVs/application letters (lettres de motivation), improving interview and presentation skills and the search for jobs.

The Friendship Meals held at and organized by Westlake church and very much supported by La Côte Anglican church, have proved to be an excellent opportunity for friendships to be set up and blossom between the migrant and local church community and for mentors and mentees to make contact, develop relationships, and share ideas.

Social events included an outing of La Côte to the Fête de Vignerons in Vevey and a pizza and pétanque party hosted by Eileen and Ricard Wiley in Genolier. Other outings and meal invitations have been organized by members of the congregation including providing regular transport to La Côte church services.

Andrea Govaerts

Social Action at La Côte



Our November 2019 quiz night raised CHF 2957 which was awarded to a Swiss based NGO, Nourishing Minds

<https://nourishingmindsorg.weebly.com/>

This organization works in the Ekwendeni area of northern Malawi to provide a meal for school children during the school day. Nourishing Minds is an additional intervention to compliment a project in the same communities that we supported for the past three years that empowered them to further their food security in a sustainable manner. Our previous fundraising efforts helped to provide seeds and fertilizer to highly vulnerable families, and money to purchase chickens which were raised and sold by youth entrepreneurs.

Our support to Nourishing Minds continues to empower these communities to be self-sustainable and to ensure young school children can benefit from the food being grown, cooked and served by local youth entrepreneurs. Both initiatives were created and managed by Han and Jane Broere, members of the Church of Scotland. Results of this new intervention that we can be proud to be a part of include increased enrolment, decreased absenteeism, and a noticeable increase in passing rates. It also provides a livelihood for local youth. People of the Ekwendeni communities have visited our Region in the past few years and members of La Côte and the Church of Scotland have had the opportunity to engage with them to learn more about our impact.

Jon Beaulieu





Charitable Giving

Each year La Côte Church donates a sum of CHF.5,000 directly from the Church Budget for charitable donations. Additional donations are raised separately during the year. Charities supported by our Church in 2019 are as follows:

25.03.19 CHF 500,-
to Mercy Ships Lausanne in memory of Dorothy Davies

05.11.12. CHF 500,-
to Bishop's Advent appeal

05.11.19. CHF 1600,- to www.ciaokids.org

05.11.19. CHF 1400,- to www.uspg.org.uk

20.11.19. CHF 2957,-
to Nourishing Minds charity

20.01.20. CHF 500,-
to Médecins sans Frontières, Geneva for relief work in the Philippines after the volcano in January.

Liz Bramley

La Côte Groups and Activities Update

Divonne Song Group

Since April 2019, the Divonne song group has sung on several occasions, including for the Candlelight Carol service, as well as together with the Gingins song group at a joint service in Crassier. About 15 in number, we sing a range of music, from modern songs to more traditional pieces sung in four-part harmony. Rehearsals take place periodically on Sundays after the morning service.

For more in-depth practices, Mark and Christine Warren have kindly hosted us in their home, including for a longer practice held in August to focus on new music, followed by a barbecue lunch in their lovely garden. We also enjoyed Sarah French's warm hospitality for a special practice before the Candlelight Carol service.

New voices are always welcome, so please let us know if you would like to join us.



Richard and Heidi Hawkings

Gingins Song Group

The Gingins Song Group led by Margaret & Harold Corrigan was formed in 2007. The idea came from Paul Holley, the Chaplain of La Côte at the time, following a Carol Singing Evening in December 2006 at the home of Margaret and Harold in Luins. Paul asked Harold if he would be willing to set up a Song Group to add another dimension to the singing in Gingins. Harold found the idea was interesting and said it was certainly worth a try.

We are now entering our 14th year!

The aim of the group is to lead the congregation once a month and also at important festivals. We have approximately 24 members and on average we are 12 to 15 who attend regularly. We are always almost at full strength for the Christmas Eve service in a packed Church.

Practices are normally on the Wednesday evening preceding the monthly Sunday service. We meet at Margaret and Harold's house for a practice which is always followed by drinks and light refreshments. This is a special time for developing camaraderie and friendship around our round table discussions!

In recent years we have performed at Ted's Drop In. Two memorable events: Abba Evening

and Carol Singing – great fun and very successful

Two other memorable dates in Church and in September 2019, were firstly, John & Peta Tracey's daughter Ana and her new husband Enrique's Wedding Blessing Service; and secondly, at Caroline and Erwin's wedding ceremony.

We have often joined forces with the Divonne Song Group and greatly appreciated and enjoyed being directed by Richard Hawkings.

The Gingsins Song Group is proud to be a part of the fellowship enjoyed by the congregations of our two churches and would be happy to welcome all newcomers – especially male voices!

Margaret Corrigan

Prayer Group

We meet every second Tuesday from 09h15 to 10h30 chez Peta & John in Coinsins

"A haven and essential part of the church and my life".

- A quiet place where we bring to God the cares and needs of our parish community, our concerns about health, unemployment or stress in our families, neighborhoods and in the world.
- A happy place where we enjoy a cuppa, a chat, a period of peaceful prayer and meditation.
- A warm place where we give thanks for answers to prayer, for the gifts that we have received and enjoy.
- A good place to be doing God's work.

Deo gratias.

Please do send us your prayer needs at any time – they will be treated in complete confidence and gentle care.

Peta & John Tracey

tracey.p@bluewin.ch

Thursday Space

Thursday Space continues to meet in the parish rooms next to the Temple in Nyon on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. There are typically between 6 and 12 of us who meet around 19.00 to enjoy some fellowship over a light meal, followed by just over an hour of study. We wrap up with evening prayer. We finished reading the **Book of Acts** at the end of 2019 (to the relief of some!), and we are now looking at seven topics drawn from the Emmaus Nurture course material, which the enforced break has turned into a Lent and Easter study course!

Chris Potter

Tuesday Bible Study report for 2019

This past year the group continued its study of the Book of Daniel. It was helped to continue and function after the loss of Dorothy with the support of Carolyn and all members. This was also a year of change as some regular members, for a variety of reasons, left the group. We were joined by others.

We completed the study of Daniel and in the autumn began a study of St Matthews gospel with guidance from Carolyn and another study book looking at the relationship of Judaism to our faith and how Jesus looks at humanity and its implications for us today, we have only looked at the first three chapters and have all been challenged and excited by a different viewpoint and approach. Even the genealogies have brought new understandings to us.

We continue to meet every two weeks led by Carolyn and are very open to new members. We are also conscious of the fact that the time of the meeting can cause problems and are open to suggestions if you would like to join us. Do contact Carolyn or myself if you are interested in participating.

Trevor Davies

Blokes Night

The Blokes' Group meets in Nyon on the third Thursday of every month. There are typically between 12 and 18 people who meet for a beer, some



home-cooked food and a good discussion about a current contemporary topic.

Recent discussion topics have included Men's mental health, Alternative lifestyles, Child development and nature, Managing doubt, Fatherhood and an evening of whisky and opera.

All (men) are welcome. The environment is relaxed, confidential and usually fun. Contact David Cooke for more information.

David Cooke

Coffee, Cake and Catch-Up

At CCC we have a new name since September 2019...

CCC Fridays! (Coffee Cake & Catch up Fridays).

We are a very friendly group of ladies (though we do not exclude men or even the odd dog!) who meet fortnightly on a Friday morning from 9.30 - 11.30 am in the church parish room in Gingsins.

The aim of the group (apart from a good catch up over coffee ☕ & cake 🍰 or similar) is to be a place of encouragement, sharing and edifying in our Christian walks and lives. It is also a time to pray for each other and the people on our hearts.

We choose a topic or theme that can last from a term to a year. This year we have been studying the 'I am' sayings of Jesus by Andrea

Skevington. We have also had some weeks of discussion on the 'big questions of life' including visits from the Reverend David Tomlinson and Bonnie Fatio to discuss ageing and suffering amongst other topics. We have used some of John Pritchard's books for reference for example 'How to Explain your faith.'

We are about to embark on the preparation for the Emmaus Course over Lent and continuing after Easter with a view to possibly running the course proper during our sessions starting in September 2020.

We are currently 20 on our mailing list but a regular 10 or so attendees. We love newcomers and we love a party! For the last couple of years, we have had a weekend mountain retreat called a 'Prosecco & Prayer Weekend'. This has been an excuse to party and socialize along with spending some time in beautiful mountain scenery and some quiet reflection. Christmas 2019 we had our first 'Carols and Cabernet' or was it 'Carols and Cabernet!?' evening.



We are really looking forward to journeying together on into the 2020s! For further information on the group please email.

Alice Debell

debellaalice@gmail.com

Drop-in report 2019

What more appropriate place for a musical drop-in than a chapel!

2019 saw MDI make its third move – host Ted had taken up residence in a converted chapel in the center of Duillier village. The objective of the drop-ins has not changed however! It is not just to provide a relaxed atmosphere for listening to live music amongst friends, but to act as a vehicle for introducing newcomers to the area and La Côte church.

Popularity is increasing among the villagers too which is exciting. I am told the Folk evening held on the terrace was particularly popular with the neighbors!

The programme during the year was as varied as ever, with the return of favorite artists such as the Divas, the Prangins Jazz ensemble, the Barber Shop Boys, Usually about 30 people squeeze into the living room whether it be opera, classic, folk or swing!

So far over the – is it nearly 15? years of MDI there has always been at least one newcomer. May it continue in 2020

Ted Talbot



Chapel Duillier