

La Côte Anglican Church

www.lacotechurch.ch

Newsletter July, 2010

Inside this issue

- A fond farewell to Paul
- A schedule for the interregnum
- An introduction and welcome to our new Chaplain

FAREWELL TO PAUL ...



Paul's farewell service at Gingins on 27 July was a gift – of praise and thanksgiving for his seven years with us at La Côte. He was the first priest we could call our own and, as John said in thanking him, was a 'gentle pioneer' in leading us to where we are today.

Paul has been skilled at putting together beautiful liturgies and producing cohesive and creative services, from inception to production, and so this final 'jamboree' – as he named it - was no exception, with carefully chosen favourite hymns, appropriate readings, inspired prayers and the story of the "rainbow that nearly wasn't". This involved the whole congregation waving balloons of different colours, showing how different we all are but how God needs each one of us to do his work. If we look at each other through God's eyes and see the rainbow, we see the beauty and wholeness of what we can achieve together.

Yet another colourful way in which Paul has always encouraged us to work together – this time to continue to flourish in the next chapter of our La Côte story. In Paul's 'final thoughts', he spoke of the tremendous spirit which shines through our community and thanked those who had helped and supported him during his time here. John then presented Paul with a gift from the

congregation, in the form of an envelope containing the balance remaining after the presentation of an iPad at the party, and feel sure this will be useful for their new home.

We were delighted to have a full church, with friends from Holy Trinity Geneva and Christ Church Lausanne present. Our musicians combined efforts, with the Song Group, Keith and Christian on organ and trumpet, to lift our spirits. It has been a privilege to see Paul and Denise, Joanne and Simon all grow and flourish, as they have each stepped out in faith to take on new challenges. We wish them the very best for their move and this next exciting new phase in their lives.



Paul's Last Service in Divonne

This was a time of celebration tinged with sadness as we said a final goodbye to Paul. The theme of the service was 'Saying Thank You' and we began by all saying thank you to each other and then some of the children presented Paul and Denise with thank you gifts of wine, chocolates and flowers. We then watched a power-point presentation of the Divonne congregation's story so far with Paul and Julia sharing some memories, anecdotes and thoughts about how much they had enjoyed working together.



Over delicious refreshments we presented Paul with a card and a Smartbox voucher for he and Denise to spend a night away in a lovely hotel.



We then took some group photos as everyone enjoyed the sunshine and wished Paul and Denise all good things for the future.



Paul's Farewell Party

Paul's farewell party was held on the evening of Friday June 25th in the Salle communale of Gingins. Despite the start of the holiday period – and the World Cup – some 80 people got together to thank Paul for leading the La Côte chaplaincy for the past seven years and to wish him well for the future.

Members of both the Gingins and Divonne congregations provided a sumptuous potluck meal, and the focus of the evening was on enjoyment and entertainment rather than speeches. In fact, with all the noise it would have been impossible to have speeches anyway.

There was a DJ who provided music from the 1980s (when Paul was in his late teens and early twenties and had time to listen to the radio) and from most other recent decades as well. There was of course dancing – still seemingly one of Paul's favourite activities. There were musical interludes from the song group (with Harold Corrigan on keyboard) who delivered their own bright and sparkling versions of some well-worn favourites. And there were interludes of humour from the indefatigable, irrepressible and interminable duo of Ted Talbot and John Tracey. Their much-appreciated presentation of church members' limericks (with the first line ending "Paul Holley") revealed a stronger inclination to poetic licence than to poetry.

It was a beautiful summer evening, and those who stepped outside the Salle communale were able to see the snow-covered bulk of Mont Blanc a hundred kilometres away changing colour in the setting sun. Those who stepped outside and walked a little further were able to watch that evening's World Cup soccer match on an open-air screen set up by the Gingins football club.

The Friday evening party was also an opportunity to present Paul with a gift from the Gingins congregation – a 64GB iPad to complement Paul's ever-growing collection of electronic gadgetry. We hope the gift will also contribute to Paul's future work in heading up the Anglican Health Network (see www.anglicanhealth.org).

Special thanks go to Molly Lufkin and her helpers who decorated the tables so festively for the party, to Sharon Senogles who made sure we had plenty to drink, and to Christine Bühler who organized the evening and ensured that we had a rich selection of food to keep us going through the evening.

The Adventure (otherwise know as the interregnum)

So far so good...Thanks to all who are ensuring the smooth running of services in Gingins and Divonne. I am very grateful to the worship leaders and visiting clergy who are offering La Côte their time and energy so generously. It is my aim that this period will be a positive and varied experience for both congregations and it's all looking good as I write this. Please do contact me with any questions or queries.

Here's a run-down of the services over the coming months:

Gingins

25 July	Holy Communion	(Revd Adèle Kelham)
1 August	Holy Communion	(Revd Maree Wilson)
8 August	Evening Prayer	(Liz and David Bramley)
15 August	Holy Communion	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
22 August	Taizé service	(Peta and John Tracey)
29 August	Holy Communion	(Revd Adèle Kelham)
5 September	Holy Communion	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
12 September	Evening Prayer	(Steve and Monika Rawcliffe, David Bramley)
19 September	Holy Communion	(Revd Adèle Kelham)
26 September	Family Communion	(Revd Canon Robert Crossley)
5 October	Holy Communion	(Revd Adèle Kelham)
10 October	Evening Prayer	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
17 October	Evening Prayer	(Ted Talbot and Claudine Haenni Dale)
24 October	Holy Communion	(Revd Adèle Kelham)
31 October	Holy Communion	(Archdeacon Peter Potter)

Divonne

25 July	Holy Communion + baptisms	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
8 August	Holy Communion	(Revd Maree Wilson)
22 August	Morning Worship	(Claudine Haenni Dale)
29 August	Holy Communion	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
12 September	Morning Worship	(Revd Julia Chambeyron, David Bramley)
26 September	Family Communion	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
10 October	Morning Worship	(Dorothy and Trevor Davies)
17 October	Joint service with ERF	
24 October	Holy Communion	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)
31 October	Holy Communion	(Revd Julia Chambeyron)

Julia

WELCOME



to Carolyn!

Text of announcement made at Gingins, 18 July 2010:

Peta: We are delighted to now be able to let you know the outcome of the chaplain selection panel!

As you may remember, the selection panel had four candidates to interview, two of whom were male and two female - a 50/50 balance! The result was that we chose the **Revd Carolyn Cooke** as the best person to lead us here at La Côte. We are sure that she is the right match for us here – she is a lovely, warm, engaging person, who will fit in very well to our community. She speaks excellent French and spent part of her childhood growing up in Europe, as the daughter of an Anglican chaplain. At the interviews we were impressed by her answers to our questions and some quite tough ones from the Bishop about her theology and the Gospel she will be sharing with us here. Carolyn and her husband, David, have two children aged 9 and 8, who will be going to a local school in Nyon.

Austin: Peta and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making sure that La Cote negotiated the obstacle course of chaplain selection in such a timely and successful way. It was a real privilege for us to represent you all, but also a formidable responsibility, which we could not have carried out effectively without your hard work, moral support and prayers.

We are delighted to have been given special permission by the Bishop to informally share with you our unreserved excitement about Carolyn at this stage of the process. As you can tell from what Peta said, we both believe she will be an excellent chaplain for us. However, I have to remind you that the process is not over until the formal announcement of appointment is made in both dioceses. All we can officially say at present is contained in the following text, which is also the basis of the informal statement being made today in Carolyn's parish.

'The Reverend Carolyn Cooke, Team Vicar of the Clifton Team Ministry in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham has been appointed Chaplain of The Anglican Church of La Côte, Switzerland in the Diocese of Europe, subject to formalities. The licensing date is to be announced, but is likely to be early November 2010.' A formal offer will be made by the Bishop of Europe once all the relevant documentation is in place. The announcement will then go to press in both dioceses.'

Thanks again to all of you for your support and particularly for your patience and understanding over the last month.

Julia: Carolyn's visit was in that week just before Paul's leaving party and final services, so for me there was a strong sense of closing one era and planning for another one. I felt rather apprehensive and nervous and, although both Peta and Austin had assured me I would really like Carolyn, I knew that much hung on our having that elusive connection which would mean a good working relationship. I needn't have worried...as Carolyn stepped out of John's car that afternoon, I knew all would be well. That was before either of us had said anything!

We spent the next few hours talking very easily about a whole range of things to do with our faith, our lives as priests, and of course this wonderful La Côte church community. We only had time to touch the surface of a lot of important areas and so I'm really looking forward to exploring more together when Carolyn begins her ministry here.

Carolyn is a priest with many gifts. She is lively and, as Peta said, very engaging, ready to listen, think and wonder with others about how we respond to God's calling here at La Côte. All of us who met her were struck by her extraordinary way with people and that is a very important gift in our context. Since I met Carolyn it has been very hard indeed to keep the confidentiality rule because in her we have found a real treasure and my natural inclination was to tell everyone about it! I'm very excited and hopeful about the future and, although things will feel very different for us, I am confident there will be fruitful and inspiring times ahead.

More about
and her



Carolyn
family ...

Carolyn is currently working as a team vicar in a large post-war housing estate on the outskirts of Nottingham. Prior to that she served her curacy in an inner-city parish in Nottingham for four years. Carolyn first moved to Nottingham in 1984 to study French and Spanish at Nottingham university, and has been based in this city on and off ever since. Following her degree and a year of voluntary church-based community work Carolyn went into teaching French at secondary school level. She met David at university, and they were married in 1992. The first three years of their married life was spent working with The Leprosy Mission in Nigeria. They have two children, Demi (9) and Declan (8) who are lively and mischievous – keeping their parents constantly on their toes. Their black Labrador Lucy is also a much-loved member of the family – not to mention the guinea pigs and chickens.

Carolyn spent part of her childhood growing up in Europe, based in Barcelona where her father was Anglican chaplain to the English speaking community. Since then she has also lived and worked in Paraguay and northern France. She is looking forward to being once again in an international setting, as well as getting back into speaking French. In terms of her ministry, Carolyn will be seeking to listen and learn from the church community what it has meant to be the Body of Christ in this Swiss/ French context. She is looking forward to discerning together how God is at work among the La Cote community and His leading for the future.

Work/ life balance is helped by regular dog walks with Lucy, and lots of play with the children. She also loves swimming, tennis, cycling and curling up in front of a good (not too scary) dvd, supping a bottle of wine with David.

David grew up in a vicarage. He has spent his working life in both the private and voluntary sectors including 3 years in Nigeria managing a leprosy control programme. His early training was in engineering, later studying Psychology at Nottingham where he met Carolyn. For the past 11 years, David has worked for one of the Prince of Wales' charities, Business in the Community,

advising companies on their corporate responsibility in the environment and their local communities.

Never short of a hobby, David has a passion for jazz music (both listening and playing), riding his motorcycle, flying power kites and mountain biking. As Carolyn takes up her new post, David will be supporting the family and is looking forward to improving his French along with the children and the dog.

Gracious and loving God,

During this time of transition, we thank you for all that has been, for all that is, and for all that will come. We pray for Paul in his new post, and for Carolyn as she prepares to move here with the family.

Bless us all during the coming months, especially all who visit and minister to us in Gingins and Divonne. Bless the sick, the worried, the unhappy. Help us to look after each other, to look forward to the future and to trust in your wisdom, guidance and love. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.