

October 2004



LA COTE ANGLICAN CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

As I was planning the Beta course introductory party, I was struck by a newspaper article that proclaimed the death of intimacy. The Beta course is founded on the basis that we are created to be persons in relationship – with each other and with God. Over the coming weeks the Beta group will discover more of what this means. I hope they will share their insights with the rest of us, because according to this article relationships are increasingly exposed to the eroding effect of contemporary life. The argument goes that in order to fulfil the opportunities that swarm around us we have less and less time for each other. Our relationships are in decline; within the community, between partners and even between parents and their children.

In a way this is familiar territory and people have many answers as to why it should be. Some blame the media and the adolescent society it has created. Others blame liberalism and its tendency towards permissiveness. The marketisation of almost every part of life is also a prime candidate, as we forsake the communal spirit for consumption of service and product in the name of profit. For countless generations people have sought freedom. But even freedom has exacted an extraordinary price in its promise of ultimate fulfilment. Freedom for what? To be alone and surrounded by things we have bought?

Not that corporate or communal life is a bed of roses. In fact, the downsides of community life have been what people have been trying to escape from for years. The power of the group exerts its pressures in order to retain cohesion. Cohesion requires a degree of conformity. Conformity is that which is desired by the majority. The minority can often be oppressed by it. Even democratic community can exert the same bondage on those who do not fit. This business of relationships and intimacy is a complex affair.

Ultimately we all have to make trade-offs. We choose between personal fulfilment and our relationships. The article and the material for the Beta course argue that we should attribute much greater value to relationships than we might otherwise do. Good relationships can be the key to health and wholeness, exceeding anything that can be offered through professional services. We would do well to cultivate them with greater commitment. Sadly, relationships can also become sour and oppressive. They can break up, and sometimes they need to end. But this should not deter us from pursuing them. If the Christian faith teaches us anything, it is the power of God's grace that overcomes failed relationships, that redeems fractured relationships and that enriches fragile relationships.

We are pulled in so many directions. There is strength in pulling together – as parent and child, as husband and wife, as friends and neighbours, and of course as a church community. Proclaiming the death of intimacy may yet be an exaggeration, but we should pay heed to the warnings. There is much to be said for our love of one another.

Paul Holley

Extraordinary General Meeting - 21st November after the service.

This is the next big step for La Côte. We take on the governance structures of the Church of England. The EGM calls the members of the La Côte Anglican Church Development Association to change its constitution to that which establishes church representation rules as the new basis of membership and officer appointment. In the coming weeks, therefore, we need to form an electoral roll by accepting applications from members of the church. The EGM will adopt that roll, elect 2 church wardens and a church council. We shall also adopt a child protection policy in line with the Church of England's requirements and elect a child protection officer to monitor it.

Nominations for wardens, council and child protection officer can be made on a form posted on the church notice board. Those who make nominations need themselves to be on the electoral roll at the meeting. So sign up on the attached form, and then talk with others about the best likely candidates.

Do please return completed electoral roll applications to Paul as soon as you can. You can read the conditions of the roll on the form. The need for baptism is an absolute. Interpret the word 'habitually' loosely. We are not counting! It would be a great encouragement for all people who attend and support our church to be on the electoral roll.

Advent Party date

Book it in the diary now. Advent Party at Paul and Denise's – Saturday 27th November. Get out your recipe books and lay down those bottles of wine!

Children's service

After the success of the September service, Paul and Ted will present another in the series of Children's services. But, be prepared. It might involve a trip through time!

Confirmation

Two people have expressed interest in being confirmed some time next year. Would anyone else like the opportunity to join them? It would be good to get an adult preparation group going before Christmas. Have a word with Paul.

Music Survey

Please do take some time to fill in the attached questionnaire. We want to develop our musical range and skills, but need to know what people like, and who might have some talent out there to help us. At the very least, you can let us know what hymns you want to sing!

Greetings from Astrid!

This is an edited extract of a recent email. Astrid left us at the end of July to return home to Norway.

The ride north was hot, sweaty, noisy and smelly... with fumes and noise coming both from the back seat of my car (guess...) and through the windows... The sun was vicious both through Germany and as I arrived in Trondheim - surprise! (The autumn rain has taken over by now.) However, my car behaved impeccably, the cats did not go entirely mad and made it through the customs without any hassle at all. I quite enjoyed the process of driving "home" by going from one country to the next and gradually approaching the final destination. Driving through Denmark on smaller and less busy roads (a contrast to the motorway through Germany) and taking the ferries from Puttgarten to Rødby, then from Helsingborg to Helsingör, was a true pleasure. Then on the fourth day I finally arrived in Trondheim, driving through my home village Melhus (where I grew up) on the way. - And to those that made it to the "packing party": I have not found one single broken item! (All of the boxes have eventually been opened...) Thanks so much again!

So here I am, in "the Planet Road no. 35" in Trondheim, sat in my bedroom/office, in front of my old computer which is not yet connected to the net (and due to its advanced age it probably never will be again...), at a newly acquired, second-hand (student price...), soulful desk from a nearby Salvation Army shop (the one I had in Switzerland was too big to get through the door!), and with a cat on my lap - Pia, the one that went missing (another story...). Ashley, the other cat, has laid claim to the sofa since his beloved chair didn't make it here... A 35m² apartment is actually plenty and very cosy... I have everything I need. From the kitchen I have a magnificent view of the southern end of Trondheim and a small mountain that resembles the Jura and La Dôle with a "globe" on top. Weather permitting, I can gaze at the sunset from my kitchen table. I can go for lovely walks and I have access to a lush - though quite "sauvage" - garden with wild roses and black and red currant bushes. I had a feast picking them a couple of weeks ago! The university is only 15 min. away by bike and my Mum is about 20 min. away by bike - which means very close and quick by car. Speaking of my Mum: she is doing ok at the moment. We certainly enjoy each other's company and not to mention the "permanent" nature of my stay. It is a true relief and it feels good.

Despite the challenges, being a student is fun, interesting, stimulating and energising. We are a large group of approximately 200 students, but broken into six "partnerships" which again are broken into small groups of 4-5 who work closely together throughout the course. There are so many nice people, all very interesting and with mixed backgrounds. The majority is between 25-30, but I'm not the oldest... They are from various parts of Norway, so it's a delight to hear all the dialects again. The group is spiced up by a handful of non-Norwegian students from England, Italy, the Ivory Coast - and Sweden.... I have just survived my first week of teaching English and French in 10th grade. It's a good experience and I have enjoyed the lessons, but I still wish to stick to my plan of becoming a speech therapist... (If I didn't admire teachers before, I certainly do now!)

Another week has gone by and I am both gaining and losing confidence as a teacher. There are always new challenges and the lessons, however well prepared, are so unpredictable. But my advisors (who are trained and experienced teachers) keep encouraging me and assure me that I am doing fine. During my lessons they sit at the back taking notes and then give me extensive feedback, which is extremely useful. I asked "my" class to write a log about our lessons and among other things, they liked the fact that I insist on speaking English. On my part, I am so pleased that the teaching gives me an arena to practise my English - and French! My new (student) e-mail address is: bjorvik@stud.ntnu.no. I currently (during my practice period) check my e-mails about twice a week. I have actually ordered a new computer and hope to receive it in a week's time and then be connected from home. At least by now I have a fixed telephone: +47 73 57 17 27 - just in case!

The other day I came across some photos taken at the barbecue that we had at Gingins, outside the parish hall in July. This caused a tearful moment... Just this morning a friend and former colleague from WWF called me. Hearing her voice also made me crack up, so there is some "latent sorrow" even if I feel happy here. I can't spend too much time thinking about life - and PEOPLE - back in Switzerland! With the work load I doubt that I can go away on holiday this year, but perhaps next summer....?

Thinking of you especially today, which is Sunday... Hoping you are all well and would love to hear your news if you should have a spare moment - a spare moment that can be spent writing a few lines to Trondheim...

With love and best wishes,

Astrid

And from Joanne

Joanne arrived in Umtata, South Africa at the beginning of September for her gap year working at Bethany Children's Home

We are happy here in our flat. It is a small semi-detached bungalow really. We have one main room with our kitchen, dining table, two couches, TV two beds and wardrobe etc. We do have a hot shower. Hoorah! We are settling in nicely learning to cook, clean and hand-wash clothes for ourselves.

The compound seems nice. Some people do live here privately – other volunteers and staff. There are also a couple of adult learning centres. To get to Bethany we walk through Ikewzi Lokusa, a school for disabled children. The compound is well secured with a guard who does the rounds every so often. We have met other volunteers, mainly from the school but also one who works at a clinic in a shanty town on the other side of Umtata – he is virtually acting as a doctor at the clinic since there are no qualified doctors there. I am here with a Swiss, German and Austrian so I still feel connected to Europe.

Bethany is....mmm..... not sure where to start! We arrived by overnight coach early on Sunday morning. We were given a chance to sleep and unpack. Then in the afternoon we went to 'meet some of the children' Hmm. Well we actually worked from 2-7pm! Working on our first day is typical of Sister Mary-Paul. We haven't really stopped working. We started with an easy group. The 'Tweenies' are those who are learning to walk and we have got to know them quite well – their routine, feeding nappy changes etc. We play with them mostly. There are 9 of them and we are just starting to learn their names such as Enam and Tepi.

That's in the dayroom – next door is the baby room which is really a special care area. Most of the babies are very sick and need lots of attention. I think they want us to wait a while before we work in there. There are 2 other small playrooms housing 25 children under 4yrs old. There are 7 older children up to 6yrs who go to an SOS school.

I am not really suffering culture shock, watching people, the town etc, not yet anyway. Work at Bethany is what is tough. The dormitory, where everyone except the older children & the babies sleep, is one long room with sections made by 4ft high wooden fences. About 30 children sleep here with often 3 or 4 children to a bed. It is not pleasant. They have 4 *sinks* to bath everyone. Clothes are shared from one group wardrobe. It is cramped and most are wearing nappies which are no more than woollen cloths held on by clips.

The first time we did bath time was a real eye-opener! Undressing children, pooey nappies and all! They all clamber and cry around you, screaming for attention but of course there are too many so you can't give it to them. It is difficult for the staff - it is just about getting everyone sorted as quickly as possible. The clothes are worn and grubby and only those who go to school have shoes. The rest walk barefoot everywhere. It really makes you think of Oliver Twist and 'please sir can I have some more...' The nappies have holes in and are stained. The same towels & face cloths are used on everyone. It is often just a production line with "next" shouted everywhere.

They have plans to build new dormitories to make more space – I do hope it happens soon. It really is shocking to see how the children live. When they are in their groups with a 'Mamma' they are normally left to their own devices because with everything else a Mamma has to do there is not enough time & energy to entertain them properly. The children are crying out for attention. Hands grab you as you walk past. Hands get everywhere – inside all pockets so you can't carry anything with you.

Basically the children get no love and we're here to give it, but it is difficult when so many want so much. It's overwhelming since as soon as you leave one they cry and have a tantrum. Everyone says it takes a bit of getting used to. Jill is a Red Cross worker who is here for 2 yrs. She is here to help Sister improve things. She is great and is helping us to settle in and says we are experimenting for the first 2 weeks to see where we fit in best. I'm dreading going into the bigger group because there are just too many to give attention to. I think we will just have to take smaller groups out and do activities that way.

Sister Mary Paul is incredible! She is a nice lady who is very old and frail and yet she works 5.30am till 7pm every day. She does loads, driving and all, and has nothing but work on her mind. She expects the same from everyone else

The area is quite interesting. There are rolling hills around us with pockets of small houses on. It all looks brown and dusty because there hasn't been much rain yet. This comes in the summer with huge storms in the afternoons that clear the air. There are a few small mountains in the distance that you can occasionally see snow on. When it's clear you can really see the stars! It's great! And this morning we saw the sunrise on our way to work at 5am.

There are plenty of weird and wonderful birds around. We have also discovered plenty of cockroaches! Apparently we don't have to worry about spiders here, they do bite but nothing too harmful. They do get snakes but Sebastian, having been here 1 year has not seen any.

Basically in my short time here I am happy. I like the African culture which is so much more prominent here than in J'bourg. It is almost a comforting culture & very friendly. We are yet to learn any Xhosa but are determined to do so. I know 'no' as I have to keep saying it to the children.

I know the conditions here are bad, but you've got to think where the children would be if they didn't come here. I do miss everyone and I have stuck all my photos up around my bed. It is really nice to look at them. At the same time I am not yearning to come home. I am positive about what we are doing and I am sure we will enjoy it.

Joanne

Willibrord Day 2004

Saturday 20th November is the date for this year's "Willibrord Day", the annual workshop organized by our Swiss Branch of the Society of St Willibrord. That is the body which fosters the relationship of full communion already existing between Anglican and Old Catholics (Christkatholische Kirche).

We meet in the parish hall at Allschwil (Schönenbuchstr. 8) from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs. The theme is "How to raise the profile of our two churches."

2006 sees the 75th anniversary of the Bonn Agreement which brought about the full communion of our churches. The morning session will be devoted to considering how we in Switzerland can celebrate this important ecumenical event in ways that will attract the attention of the media towards our churches.

In addition we are also planning to set up a charitable project (possibly in some area of social concern in Switzerland) in which both our churches can co-operate. This will foster our relations with each other and also hopefully draw the attention of the media. Any suggestions for such a project can be addressed to the chairman of the Swiss Willibrord Society, Pfarrer K.H. Neuhoff, Brückenstrasse 49, 4632 Trimbach.

After midday prayers and lunch (we are invited to share in the Allschwiler ecumenical soup kitchen!) we hope that some speakers from different denominations in Switzerland will address the

topical issue of eucharistic hospitality. The Swiss press has recently been reporting extensively on the matter of sharing in communion with other denominations, both for individuals and in respect of joint celebrations of the sacrament. Why do views differ between the churches? What is the position in our own church? What about "mixed marriages"? It proves to be an interesting and maybe controversial discussion!

This invitation goes to everybody in our churches, Anglican, Old Catholic and beyond. It is not just for paid-up members of the Willibrord Society (though of course we would be delighted if you considered joining!). If you are interested in coming, just let me know on jknewsome@anglican.ch, so that we have a rough idea of numbers.

Every blessing,

John K. Newsome (Chaplain in Zurich)

GENERAL SYNOD LAITY REPORT, JULY 2004

At the July General Synod it seemed that the things that might have happened didn't and the things that shouldn't have happened did. In Clergy Discipline, nicknamed "the Heresy Trial debate", Synod rejected any new draft on the subject whatsoever, thus keeping the status quo. The laity were mostly in favour and so, just, were the Bishops, but it was defeated by the clergy. The status quo is not satisfactory, but presumably clergy members were uneasy that the process as suggested might lead to a witchhunt amongst those who support gay clergy or women bishops, etc.

The Marriage Law debate was about whether a couple should be allowed to get married in any parish church of their choice or whether they had to show a "demonstrable connection" (rather widely interpreted). At this point, we were asked for "a steer". It was a virtual dead heat: only one vote dividing the Bishops and the Clergy and only three the Laity. As a member said: "We have been asked for a steer, but which way is the boat going?". The issue will come up again in a year's time, when the new Synod will have to take the helm.

A Private Member's Motion proposed that all clergy should be paid the same and that the extra costs for Bishops and others made up by a grant, but this too was turned down by a majority in all the Houses. At least the press cannot now say that the Bishops were the turkeys unwilling to vote for Christmas.

The Synod also did quite a lot of work on itself: cutting future numbers by roughly 100, though our Diocese is not affected; introducing electronic voting in 2005; and considering ways of reducing speech limits and the number of amendments. Other points of interest to us are to do with the electoral roll: 2007 will be the next update; the lower age limit has been reduced to 16; and in deciding the number of Deanery representatives, dioceses may also have regard to the number of churches as well as the numbers on the roll. These changes will come into effect next year.

The main debates were on the important work of the Mission Agencies, on Trade Justice and on Drug Abuse, in both of which there were many moving first-hand accounts; and an illuminating one (for me) on Rethinking Sentencing and the principle of "restorative justice". There are short Reports on all of these debates available from Church House Bookshop.

Lastly, there was the debate on The Churches and the Future of Europe. The report which formed the basis for this debate, The Church of England and Europe (GS 1548), is short, very informative and to be recommended to all. We were initially afraid that the ecumenical theme would be hijacked by political issues, but two amendments to this effect were defeated. Bishop Geoffrey spoke about our growing diocese and the need for representation on the European Institutions, a point of great importance. Your representatives had got together in advance, since we thought there were so

many members wanting to speak that our only chance was if one of us spoke for all. The one turned out to be me. I was called, but with a speech limit that had just been reduced. You may imagine that the task of saying anything useful, adequate and necessary on behalf of the joint clergy and laity of Europe in 3 minutes was daunting. Our basic message was that the Church did not use our local expertise enough, keep us properly informed or visibly support us enough, and that Ecumenical Agreements were in vain unless the ordinary clergy and laity of the churches in mainland Europe were helped and encouraged to implement them. Both these Europe speeches will appear on our Diocesan Website (click on it at www.cofe.anglican.org.uk). Two other of our Diocesan members also managed to get called to speak during this Synod: Jonathan Fraiss in the Mission Debate and Marion Jaegers regarding money for mission in Europe, which had, depressingly, been left out as usual from the Commissioners' report..

And what happened that should not have? There was an aggressive and initially rather frightening demonstration during the service in York Minster, diffused by the Archbishop of Canterbury going alone to talk quietly to the 12 angry young men - an act which took some courage. It is of course impossible and undesirable to prevent people attending divine service, but - since a glass door of the Minster was broken and a verger slightly hurt - we imagine that there will at least be a police presence outside the Minster next time. It is sad that such a thing should be needed.

Finally, this was the last Synod for Howie Sasser, our Archdeacon of Gibraltar. Marion and I would like to say how much we have appreciated Howie's contribution to representing the Diocese in Europe, his unflinching dedication to that task - the only time I can remember his not attending a debate was when he was ill - and his friendship. We shall miss him very much.

Full details of the July Synod should appear on the Church of England Website (see above). Meanwhile, please contact any of your representatives if you want to ask anything further.

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OCTOBER SERVICES AT LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH

3 Oct	4pm	Social Care Group Lay-led service
10 Oct	4pm	Children's Communion
17 Oct	4pm	Evening Prayer with Baptism of Johan Crocoll
24 Oct	4pm	Holy Communion
31 Oct	4pm	All Saints Creative Communion

Sunday Club Programme

THEME

Oct-03	God's Big Story - A loving Father
Oct-10	CHILDREN'S SERVICE
Oct-17	God's Big Story - With God for always
Oct-24	What does Jesus do - Jesus stops a storm
Oct-31	What does Jesus do - Jesus feeds people
Nov-07	What does Jesus do - Jesus heals a man
Nov-14	CHILDREN'S SERVICE
Nov-21	What does Jesus do - Jesus helps a soldier
Nov-28	Christmas People - Mary
Dec-05	Christmas People - Joseph
Dec-12	Christmas people - Shepherds & Kings
Dec-19	CHRISTMAS PLAY
Dec-26	No Sunday Club

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES:

8-10 Oct. Joint HTC/La Côte Parish Retreat at Crêt-de-Bérard