



January/February 2005

LA COTE ANGLICAN CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Chaplain

I was rather taken aback while watching a TV interview with Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland who was High Commissioner for Human Rights at the UN until 2002. She was asked whether she was optimistic about the state of the world and its future. She said no. She was rather pessimistic. You don't expect to hear senior figures express pessimism. I was mildly shocked by her honesty. She went on to say that she was confident that much could be done to improve the state of things, but doubtful that world leaders would actually achieve what was necessary.

As you look into the New Year, I wonder how you feel? I confess to being a rather naïve serial optimist. Perhaps that is why I was so struck by Mary Robinson's words. I feel there is much to look forward to in my personal life and in my work here. Buoyed up by the large numbers of Christmas worshippers at the Nativity service and on Christmas Eve, I see another year of growth ahead, further fulfilling what we set out to do together in La Côte. But I know that under the surface and all around us there are people facing crushing circumstances. As I write, we are seeing the fatality figures for the earthquake destruction around South-East Asia go through the roof. What a terrible disaster – enough to dent anyone's optimism of a better life for all. And in people's personal lives, I know of sadness and stresses that seem beyond hope.

I find the Epiphany story of the wise men instructive at this point. Captivated by signs and wonders, the Magi make their way across mountain and desert to bring gifts to the Christ-Child. He was to be the world's true hope, the Messiah for all. What excitement they must have felt as they travelled. But as they arrived in Jerusalem, they found their enthusiasm dented. The strange circumstances of the birth; the reaction of Herod; the warning in a dream. They soon realised that there was to be no simple route to glory for the child. Danger would haunt Jesus all the way. They left by the back road and hurried away from the debacle. I believe they went away with mixed feelings. Jesus was no less the hope for the world, but faced with the realities of the situation, they must have now been anxious. I hope they felt the trip had been worthwhile.

We talk quite unashamedly at Christmas of peace on earth and goodwill toward all. But as we face the New Year, how do we balance this optimism against the reality as we find it? I would say that it

comes down to whether we decide to take the trip. We have to resolve to take the journey into hope and make our contribution to hope's fulfilment even when we recognise the obstacles to success. This is true faith: to trust in hope amidst all that contradicts it; to go on despite the discouraging prognosis. Even our Archbishop was prone to a dose of realism in his Christmas sermon: "The likelihood of a reduction by half of people living in abject poverty by the year 2015 is not noticeably greater than it was four years ago...Some developed nations appear deeply indifferent to the goals agreed."

I have no doubt that Mary Robinson is hopeful even though she is in a position now to admit doubts. Presumably she feels the need to shake people up sometimes with a reality check. However, nothing is achieved in the vacuum of hopelessness and pessimism. I am confident despite the obstacles to human rights as she sees them, she will journey into the future ever more determined to bring about improvements.

I hope you feel optimistic about the future of our life as a community of faith here in La Côte. And I hope you are willing to journey together to fulfil those hopes. But our ministry is to do more than gather people for worship and pay the bills. We have members facing tough times, and we have a calling to a world that is not in good health. I cannot muster the same optimism that all will be well on those two fronts. Will you journey with us in these ministries? Despite the challenges? The journey is there for us all to take. But it won't be an easy ride.

A hopeful and happy New Year to you all.

Paul Holley

La Côte Community Day at Bossey

This will be on **Saturday 22 January** in the beautiful chateau at Bossey Ecumenical Institute near Céligny from 9.30am to 3.30pm. We gather for a special time of worship, fellowship and learning together. Our former Archdeacon, Peter Hawker, will present some thoughts under the title 'Seeking God Together'. The afternoon session will be an open question and answer session – a chance to put chaplain and archdeacon to the test with your theological quandaries! Paul and James will be running an activity for the youngsters (including teenagers). They will be making sweets to sell in Nyon for the tsunami disaster appeal. There will also be a crèche for the 0 – 4's. The cost will be CHF20 for adults which include morning coffee and lunch and is free for children. This is a great annual event for La Côte. Do come and join us.

DON'T MISS IT !! Ring Paul now...

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TSUNAMI APPEAL

by Christine Carey

Dear La Cote Congregation,

It is now almost three weeks since the Tsunami destroyed the lives of so many in the countries bordering the Indian Ocean, and with each passing day more stories emerge and the scale of the destruction becomes all too clear. Our help is truly needed.

Paul has received an appeal from our Bishop which I would like to share with you:

On the eve of a New Year, a year of special significance to us all as we mark our 25th anniversary as the Diocese in Europe, we have all been numbed and horrified by the terrible Tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean.

Our hearts have reached out in prayer for the many thousands who have died, been bereaved or injured, and who have been made homeless. Many will already have responded to the appeals to enable relief to be brought quickly to the stricken coastal regions of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Southern India, the Maldives and many small and impoverished island communities. As we reach out in faith and in love inevitably we ask the question 'why?', asking how the goodness of God can allow these things to happen. It is right to ask such questions and there are no easy answers to them. We need to hold fast to that central mystery of our faith that the God who is love, and who in love created the world with its freedom, shared the chaos and the darkness, emptying himself in total identification with us, knowing from the inside all that overwhelms us. It is in the Easter faith that in Christ the love of God has triumphed that St John was able to write at the beginning of his Gospel, the Gospel we read on Christmas Day, that the light which is the Word made flesh 'shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overwhelmed it,' words which may resonate with those many verses in the psalms which speak so powerfully in these days about the waters and great floods which overwhelm us, and which Christians have long seen as words which speak of our Lord's own suffering and death. It is in the power of his life-giving Spirit that we hold close to the mercy of God all who have suffered in this disaster and all who bring relief. As Christians we have a special concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ to support them in their need, and to enable them to bring help and assistance to others. I have known for many years the Bishop of Colombo in Sri Lanka, Bishop Duleep de Chickera, with whom I have been in touch to assure him of my prayers and support at this most testing and difficult of times. The Bishop Duleep has told me of the challenge he and our fellow Christians in Sri Lanka face. They need resources, not only now when the needs are urgent, but as they face the long work of enabling people destitute and dispossessed to rebuild their lives. I am therefore asking all in the Diocese to respond to Bishop Duleep's appeal.

May the love and peace of Christ be with you all in this new year, and let us show that in our care and compassion as we see and know the face of Christ in those who have suffered so terribly. Bishop David joins me in this appeal.

+ *Geoffrey Rowell and the Suffragan* + *David Hamid*.

<http://www.europe.anglican.org>

On behalf of our church community in La Cote - we are asking those who would like to help to send contributions to Philippe Chambeyron (Church Treasurer) or placed in an envelope in the collection plate. Please mark envelope "Tsunami Appeal". Alternatively donations can be sent by bank transfer (details below). Bulletin de Versements are also available at church. We hope to send the donations by the end of February!

La Cote Bank Details for Tsunami Donations:

Bank Account Name: La Côte Anglican Church Development Association

Bank Account No. : 228-550497.40H, UBS Nyon

On behalf of La Cote Social Care & Outreach Group

Christine Carey

tel: + 41 (0)22 361 7528 mobile: + 41 (0)79 776 4778 email: christine.carey@iprolink.ch

And on the same subject, from Frère Roger of Taizé

Frère Roger: prayer for Asia

Interviewed on television, Brother Roger said, "The calamity that has occurred in several Asian countries has touched our hearts very deeply. These countries are so dear to us. In our Taizé Community, we have brothers from India and from Indonesia. Some of our brothers have shared in the life of the very poor in Asia for more than thirty years. It is good to remind ourselves these days that God does not will either calamities or wars. He never provokes fear or anxiety. God can only love and he shares the sorrow of those passing through incomprehensible trial. He enables us to lighten the burdens of others. We ask God to console the peoples of Asia, in their immense distress. In communion with them, we say:

God who loves us, pour out your compassion on all those in Asia who are experiencing deep distress. When we are disconcerted by human suffering, enable us, through our lives, to be humble witnesses of peace."

News from Taizé by email is available in English, French, German, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. Subscription free.

New subscribers: To receive News from Taizé regularly, go to <http://www.taize.fr/taizenews.php>

January and February Services at La Côte Anglican Church

Sunday 2 January (Epiphany)	Service of Reflection
Sunday 9 January (Baptism of Christ)	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 January (Epiphany 2)	Evening Prayer
Sunday 23 January (Epiphany 3)	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 January (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)	Iona service with Revd Ian Manson, minister of the Scots Kirk in Geneva
6 Feb (Sunday before Lent)	Lay-led service
9 Feb – 8 p.m. (Ash Wednesday)	Holy Communion with ashes
13 Feb (Lent 1)	Holy Communion
20 Feb (Lent 2)	Evening Prayer
27 Feb (Lent 3)	Holy Communion

All of the Sunday services will be held in the Parish Church at Gingins at 4pm

Children's Services – Due to the disruptions of holidays and skiing weekends, we have decided to focus on Sunday Club over these winter months. The next children's service will be during March.

Week of prayer for Christian Unity



Let's sing, pray and come together before God!!

Join us to celebrate the week of prayer for Christian Unity with a grand finale on Friday 21st January.

Choirs from a variety of our churches will be leading us in song and prayer for Christian Unity, followed by nibbles and delightful conversation (depending on who you're speaking to, of course).

The service will start at 19.45 prompt at John XXIII, 35 ch. Dr. Adolphe-Pasteur, Petit-Saconnex, Geneva. See you there!!



Dates for your diary

- 22 Jan Bossey Day
- 29 Jan Archdeaconry synod at Basel
- 25 Feb Congregational Meeting
- 7 March Chaplaincy Council Meeting
- 10 April AGM
- 2 May Chaplaincy Council Meeting
- 10 June Congregational Meeting
- early September Garden Party
- 5 September Chaplaincy Council Meeting
- 7 October Congregational Meeting
- 5 December Chaplaincy Council Meeting

Congregational Meetings generally start with a pot-luck supper at 7pm followed by the meeting from 8pm at the Parish Room in Gingins.

The following article appears in the latest Church of England official newsletter and refers to a project our chaplain Paul helped to set up in his previous parish of Sacred Trinity, Salford:

Mission Takes Shape

It is the fastest-selling Church report in decades. And it's not about the gender of Bishops, sexuality, membership numbers or finance.

'Mission Shaped Church', exploring 'fresh expressions of church in a changing context' has sold around 15,000 copies in 11 months and its impact is already being seen in dioceses throughout the country.

“People who previously saw themselves on the margins or doing things insignificant in the mainstream of the Church now feel they are in the centre of the Church’s mission,” said Revd Dr Steven Croft, Archbishops’ Missioner. “There’s an explosion of interest in exploring new ways of being church.”

The report, from a team led by the Rt Revd Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone, identified a range of ‘fresh expressions’ of church and proposed a ‘mixed economy church’ to suit the present era. One size no longer fits all, it argued, illustrating a range of new models from ‘alternative worship communities’ to cell churches, from traditional church plants to midweek congregations.

In response, the Archbishop of Canterbury initiated a new agency, Fresh Expressions, to support and cultivate emerging expressions of church life. According to Steven Croft, team leader at the new agency, the very fact that the Church has officially endorsed alternative notions of Christian community is proving hugely influential.

In the wake of publication, several café-style churches have been set up while the number of network-focussed churches, which work with a stipendiary clergy person, has doubled to more than 20.

Once a month the Rev Philip Roderick hosts Contemplative Fire, a service for up to 80 people in a 12th century monastic chapel in a Buckinghamshire hamlet. Part of a regular sequence of local gatherings for ‘stillness and storytelling, the playful as well as the profound’, services come from an ‘open Catholic tradition’, explained Philip, featuring procession, incense, movement, body prayer and visual icons. They “celebrate the sacrament of the present moment in the beauty of nature, liturgy and teaching”, he said.

“It is an attempt to blend ancient and modern, a deep journey to meet Jesus, the one who transforms our consciousness.”

Aiming at ‘people who can’t do traditional God language’ and are put off by modern church structures, Contemplative Fire is winning unlikely converts. Philip said: “It is amazing how many people who are not Christians are delighted that the Church of England is hosting traditions which honour the contemplative and mystical.”

Another fresh expression comes with Sanctus 1, a community of some 50 people, aged between 18 and 40, who meet in the heart of the city of Manchester. Led by Ben Edson, of the Church Army, this is a church based around weekly cell groups which host discussion, film, music, all framed in an act of worship.

“Our approach is more interactive, more adult education than you find in traditional church,” said Ben. “We’re on an experimental journey exploring faith, worship, spirituality, friendship and lifestyle.”

Once a month Sanctus meets for worship either at Sacred Trinity Church, Salford, or in Manchester Cathedral. “We are more dechurched than non-churched,” said Ben. “People returning after having been bored, hurt, or generally fallen out with church, now finding a new way to be in Christian community.”

More information: www.freshexpressions.org.uk

Note from Paul: You might like to know that Sacred Trinity was one of my former parishes in Salford, and that I helped to set Ben up in the church and supported some of his events. This is

relevant to us here because we are trying to think imaginatively about our future development. La Côte Anglican Church has always thought of itself as in some sense at the margins, and a little different from the mainstream. I shall register at Fresh Expressions. Perhaps our experience will be of help to people in a similar context – and I am sure we have a lot to learn from others too. We already are a mission-shaped church without even knowing it! I have a copy of the report if anyone wants to borrow it.

Paul

The Escalade Report

By Paul Desrosiers

I guess when Ted signed me up to run in the Escalade I thought I knew what I might be letting myself in for. A run of just over 7 km through the old town of Geneva: pretty simple really. Having only been in the country three days the thought of participating in such an event sounded just the ticket as far as immersing myself into the Gingins community was concerned. At that moment my only concern was that my fitness was up to scratch. As time went by, I came to realise that the prospect of teaming together a group of willing youngsters to run with me wasn't just a bit of fun. It was more an opportunity for us as a community to express our interest and concern for the welfare of a certain Bethany Home in South Africa in dire need of assistance from somewhere. Within a short time, I found my willing youngsters. Through the course of the following month I found myself immersed in the whole project. Leaflets were made up informing the community of our intentions and our goals. I made up sponsorship forms and quickly dispensed them among my runners. I'd only been here a few weeks, yet I was undertaking tasks I'd never even imagined I could do (if you knew how computer illiterate I am, you'd have a pretty good idea). The final task facing us before the race was producing the costumes. Ted had enrolled our youngsters as Simpsons characters. With all their school work and other commitments I took the responsibility of providing the costumes. With limited resources and time ticking towards December 4th my artistic advisor (Denise Holley) and I decided that painting the characters on to white T-shirts would suffice. All that was left was to paint 'Simpsons running for Bethany' on the rear side of the T-shirt. I have to say that without Denise it may not have been possible and I'm truly grateful to her.

So to the day of the race. All the T-shirts were completed and the sponsorships made. The support we received from everyone was the key to this whole success story. Without it, all would have been in vain. My race was due to start at 17.45 with the kids running in 'La Marmite' at 18.30. Somehow, immersed in my psychological preparation that morning, I thought my race was due to start at 15.30. And even when certain people at Holy Trinity seemed overly impressed to hear that I was running in the 15.30 "Elite" category race, it did not click that I was over two hours early. (This race is by invitation only with the requirement that the course be completed in under 25 minutes). Upon receiving my registration number I finally understood, and I watched with a sense of relief as the "Elite" practically sprinted the distance.

This left me with a couple of hours to soak up the atmosphere of what felt like a truly vibrant city that day. I met up with my good friends Paul, Denise and Simon Holley and we wandered around until our rendezvous with my willing youngsters: Leila, Jessica, Christina and Christopher. Before I knew it, race time was upon me. I hurried to the start line where I and hundreds of other young men waited with anticipation. Everyone around me seemed to have friends next to them and they were all wearing tight lycra. It was intimidating to say the least. Those few moments before starting were filled with a mixture of nerves and excited anticipation. It was probably the longest minute of my life but it was followed by probably the quickest 31 minutes and 56 seconds of my life. When the start gun blew, all thoughts of lycra and friendships dispersed, for the race had begun and it was

each man for himself, and I was to be as feared as any other. The race was exhilarating and I finished ready to drop dead but at the same time buzzing from the excitement. Before I could get from the finish back to the start 'La Marmite' had begun so I missed the opportunity to see my 'Simpsons' start. But I was there to see them pass for the first lap and the second and I can only express how proud I was of those kids that day.

As I collapsed into my bed that night, the achievements of the day were overtaken by tiredness – assisted by a couple of glasses of red ! Next day, however, the glow of achievement returned, SFr 1272 raised for Bethany home, and a building of team spirit among the young people of Gingins. Thank you everyone for your generous support and encouragement and brilliantly well done 'the Simpsons'.

From the hand of our very own Christina Geshonke: On Saturday 4 December 2004 some young people from the Gingins community participated in the sponsored Escalade race. Our aim was to collect money for Bethany orphanage in South Africa. We met in Geneva to prepare for the race which started at 6:30, dressed as characters from the Simpsons, wearing T-shirts designed and painted by Denise Holley and Paul Desrosiers. There was a buzz of excitement in the air. Several hundred people ran through the old town of Geneva, some with very elaborate costumes. There were big TV screens and stands where one could buy drinks or souvenirs and also stages where youngsters were performing. We raised over 1000 francs for the Bethany home and each participant received a bowl and a plate. Our race was just for fun, but there were also others in which serious runners could compete. *Christina.*

On the lighter side

By popular request, here are the words of the ditty written and sung by John Tracey and Ted Talbot at the EGM in November:

The chaplain cometh

Twass on a Monday morning that God first got our call
We said 'we need a Chaplain'
though our congregation's small
He said 'first do your homework and then present your case'
So a feasibility study was the next thing to take place

Oh it makes work for the working group to do pom pom pom

So twass on the Tuesday morning that Robert Crossley came to stay
he said 'I think the case looks good
but can you make it pay' ?
We contacted the ICS but they'd run out of doe
So Philippe drew up a budget and played the casino !

Oh it all makes work for the finance group to do pom pom pom

Twass on the Wednesday morning the selection committee met
To draw up a list of attributes that really must be met
Well a female angel Gabrielle would not have made the grade
So we put an ad in the Church Times,
then went away and prayed

Oh it all makes work for the Gingins laity Pom Pom Pom

Twass on the Thursday morning that they off to London flew
For a knees up with the Bishop and candidates to interview
A certain Revd Holley said he liked skiing, beer and snow
so they said 'that's good enough for us
so come and have a go' !

Oh it all makes work for the clergy man to do

Twass on the Friday morning we inducted chaplain Holley,
Most said 'so nice to meet you' but some said 'what a folly'
He soon got in the swing of things with talks on sex and money
But when he talked of voting Council,
then we no longer found it funny

Oh it all makes work for the electoral

So from Saturday till Sunday noon we studied forms and all
But at the EGM on Sunday we all voted YES for Paul

* * * * *

SAS Calendar- Spring 2005

Jan 7 - Sweet Factory	chez Ted
Jan 21 - Activ8	Ferney Voltaire
Feb 4 - Laser Tag	Geneva
Feb 25 - Luge & Limerick	St. Cergue
Mar 4 - 6 - Ski Weekend	Villars
Mar 11 - Hollywood night	chez Ted
Apr 1 - April fools evening	chez Ted
Apr 15 - Night at the Theatre	Geneva

For more information about SAS activities (for 10 to 14 year olds) please contact Ted Talbot on tel: 022-361.04.01 or e-mail: tedtal@vtx.ch

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Martha Clark has asked us to pass on her very best wishes for the New Year to the La Côte community.

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From the Newsletter Team

Please send your contributions, ideas, suggestions, comments and/or criticisms to Susan Brown (e-mail: suebrown@freesurf.ch; tel: 021 807 31 39) or Val Geschonke (e-mail: Valerie.Geschonke@deckpoint.ch). Volunteers to help to produce the newsletter will also be welcome!

Deadline for March Newsletter: 23 February

Do you have anything you would like to share with others – perhaps a favourite prayer or a book which has meant a lot to you? We would love to hear from you if this is the case. To start the ball rolling, here are a few humorous stories, contributed by Barbara Lannutti – thank you, Barbara:

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When his mother asked him what was wrong he replied, “Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be a fireman”.

The teacher was exploring the children’s notion of God and asked, “Who is God?”. After a moment’s thought, one six-year old replied, “I think God is the man who saved the queen.”

The Good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, “The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into salt.” “What happened to the flea?” the boy wanted to know.

A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!