



May 2005

LA CÔTE ANGLICAN CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Chaplain

We bade a solemn farewell to Pope John Paul II and then welcomed Pope Benedict XVI; all in the space of a couple of weeks. It is hard to conceive of a religious leader with 1 billion people to direct. An election amongst a small collection of elderly cardinals seals the fate of them all. And what can we expect of this sprightly 78 year old? Clear and simple teaching, universal and unchanging. Ratzinger's reputation goes ahead of him. Continuity is assured.

In the meantime, the arguments are rehearsed back and forwards. Should the Church change with the times, or stick with its eternal truths? I don't know how you respond to this debate. Perhaps your instincts warn you away from church leadership that bends with the spirit of the age. Or maybe you cannot conceive of a universal ethic that does not depend on the context. Is our faith fixed for all time? Or adaptable as the world evolves?

To help answer this we have to take one particular factor into account. To ignore it would be to place our head in the proverbial sand. We have to consider the character and influence of power.

The two main streams of popular Christianity express power in different ways. The Catholic tradition favours a centralised and priestly form of power: The Church is the vehicle for God's influence on Earth. It's Pope and priests are those divinely inspired to express God's way. Whilst lay folk have been embraced much further than ever before into the process of theological reflection, there remains the frank reality that choice is the prerogative of the centre, that all paths of enquiry lead to Rome and the conclusive mind of the Church emerges from the Vatican.

The Evangelical tradition, on the other hand, places authority in a plain reading of scripture. This locates power in every individual; to read and to interpret for themselves. The approach presupposes that God has put all things necessary for wisdom and salvation within a collection of writings, and that people are equipped to interpret what they read. Evangelicals place a high premium on the inspired character of the bible, and hold fast to the revelation of God available to the individual in his or her reading of scripture.

Both of these power constructions have their limitations. Quite apart from maxims about the corruption of power, the idea that either the bible or the Church can accurately apply themselves to every minutiae of daily experience is evidently unworkable. Circumstances and contexts change, and answers from of old do not always take that into account.

People in Europe have recognised the subtleties of power in their religion, and many of them have rejected it. They now make their own minds up about truth. They trust their own instincts and learning. They do not want a centralised church or a 1600 year old collection of Christian and Jewish writings to limit their expressions of wisdom or transcendence.

The flaw in this way of thinking is that we are not gods in our own right. We contain something of the Divine image within us, but we are ever subject to our human mortality and fragility. We need guidance from the immortal and infinite God from whom all knowledge and wisdom flows.

So here is the dilemma: If we are but poor reflections of the divine image, hard of hearing and of sight, to what or whom should we cede power to hear and see better?

There is an obvious answer, but it does not seem to be very popular these days: to pool our interpretations of scripture and tradition and to discuss until consensus arises. It is a communal view where authority and power are placed in the process rather than in an arbiter. When someone claims to have a fresh insight, then we ask them to add this to the pool, whereupon we sift and weigh and decide the merits of the new idea.

Yes, it seems a rather uncertain and weary process. To leave uncertainty floating until there is deliberated resolution is uncomfortable. How can people live if not guided? What will they do mid-debate, when the argument could go either way?

Here I feel is where our gospel of grace can make all the difference. If we listen to our tradition aright, we believe that Jesus came to reassure us that God was not trying to trip us up with religious laws. Through Jesus, God identified with uncomprehending humanity. At Pentecost the followers of Jesus recognised afresh the presence and dynamism of God's Spirit. This did not give them all the answers, but it did take them on a journey into truth, a journey we are all still on. The journey would involve many pitfalls and failures, but they were not to worry. God's grace was sufficient for them to proceed despite imperfection.

In the popular clamour for absolute freedom amongst some people and rigid morality hailed by others, we have to do the unpopular thing and admit we are still on a learning curve. We have to work together to seek the common good and find truth shared between us. Not total independence, nor unquestioning dependence. We seek interdependence, valuing ourselves in the context of others. Only then will we discover the divine image increasing amongst us; only then will the truth emerge.

A restful and inspiring Pentecost and Ascension to you all.

Paul Holley

Neighbourhood Groups

The dates are all now booked. Invitations are on their way out. For your diaries:

Crans/Founex chez Val Geschonke 11th May

Nyon/Gland chez Gail Farrell 17th May

France chez Alison & George Mills 18th May

Rolle/St. Prex chez Susan Brown 25th May

Coinsins/Gingins chez John & Peta Tracey 3rd June

As outlined in the last newsletter we shall gather to talk about the future direction of the Chaplaincy, and in particular the proposal to establish a morning service in Divonne. All the neighbourhood group meetings will seek to build a greater sense of fellowship together, and will offer fine fare to refresh the body as well as prayer to invigorate the soul...

Diocesan silver jubilee Pilgrimage

The Diocese in Europe celebrates the 25th Anniversary of its founding this year. All around the continent chaplaincies are making pilgrimages to celebrate. In our own archdeaconry there are a number of opportunities, the details of which can be found in a leaflet in the church entrance, or on the archdeaconry website: www.anglican.ch

The 5 chaplaincies around Lac Léman are making a pilgrimage that will connect each church and will cover the length of the lake. Bookings for any of these stages can be made at the Holy Trinity Church Office by 27th May: *tel/fax 022 731 5155, geneva-htc@anglican.ch*

Stage 1

St John's Montreux to

All Saints Vevey

Saturday 4th June 2005

Start 10h00 Arrive 12h00



Where: St. John's, ave. de Chillon 92, Montreux-Territet (opposite Territet Railway Station)

When: 10.00 am sharp for Prayers and Commissioning leaving at 10.15.

Cost: CHF 3.20 for bus/train

Walkers: Easy (max 1hr) walk along lakeside to Clarens; in Clarens take bus or train to Vevey then walk to All Saints Church

Gentle/Non Walkers: We will take bus or train to Vevey then walk to All Saints - prayers and lunch Provided.

Stage 2

All Saints Vevey to Christ Church Lausanne

Depart 14h00

Arrive 18h30

Walkers (hardy types):

approx 13km (3 ¼ hrs average) easy/moderate difficulty through town, fields and vines to Cully. Then 17h40 CGN boat from Cully to Lausanne-Ouchy (arr. 18h10). Walk to Christ Church 1.5 km uphill

Walkers (gentle): easy walk (2km) to Nestlé building; 15h10 Train to Chexbres; easy 5km walk (pushchairs OK) downhill to Cully; then 17h40 CGN boat from Cully with hardy types. Walk to Christ Church. At Lausanne, short service and meal provided by Christ Church.



Stage 3a

Christ Church Lausanne to Rolle

Sunday 5th June 2005

Start 09h45 Arrive 12h22

Where: Christ Church, rue de l'Eglise Anglaise,

When: 09h45 Prayers and Depart

Cost: CGN boat (adults) – CHF 20 Lausanne-Rolle

All: Walk to Ouchy (1.5km downhill) catch CGN boat (débarcadère CGN dep. 11h10) to Rolle arr. 12h22. Walkers picnic on boat (own food, snacks can be purchased)

Stage 3b

Rolle (CGN débarcadère) to La Côte (Gingins)

Sunday 5th June 2005

Start 12h22 Arrive 16h00 or 17h00

Where: Rolle CGN débarcadère

When: 12h22 sharp – walkers ready for immediate departure (having eaten lunch); gentle option - in good time to buy tickets for 12h22 departure

Cost: approx CHF 25 CGN boat Rolle-Yvoire-Nyon; NStCM train Nyon –Trelex CHF 3.20 (adult)

Walkers: a 16km walk through vineyards and fields, climbing 150m then undulating, moderate difficulty, keeping a steady pace to arrive on time; arr. Gingins by 17h00 for end of worship

Gentle: continue on (or join) boat to Yvoire (France), sightseeing and lunch (buy/provide own); 13h45 CGN boat to Nyon arr. 14h03; sightseeing & walk to NStCM station for 15h15 departure.

Gentle 2km walk Trelex-Gingins to arrive 16h00 service. Refreshments provided by La Côte Church

Stage 4

La Côte (Gingins) to Holy Trinity Geneva

Sunday 5th June 2005

Depart 17h30 Arrive 18h30

Where: La Côte Anglican Church, Gingins

When: from 17h15 onwards

Cost: CHF 8 train Nyon-Geneva (adult)

All: transport provided by private cars (LaC & Holy Trinity) to Nyon mainline Station to connect with trains to Geneva (Cornavin); departures Nyon CFF 17h33, 17h50 & 18h09, arrive 15 minutes later; walk to Holy Trinity (200m) 18h30 Simple Communion Service followed by meal provided by Holy Trinity



Blessed to be a Blessing!

The Diocesan Pastoral Conference 12-16 September 2005

“Blessed to be a Blessing: The privilege and sacrifice of ordained ministry in the Diocese in Europe.”

This is the theme of the first pastoral conference in the 25-year history of the Diocese in Europe. All the diocesan clergy, from Madeira to Moscow, Tangier to Trondheim, will meet at the Cardinal Schulte House near Cologne to share their experiences and to learn together. Their work will be supported by keynote speakers including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Canon Professor Grace Davie and the Revd Dr John Muddiman.

This time together will offer clergy an opportunity to worship and work together, reflecting more deeply on their ministry, to build a common vision for God’s mission in the Diocese. Your Chaplaincy’s annual contribution for Continuing Ministerial Education is already supporting your clergy in attending this conference. We now ask your prayers for the work of planning the conference and your support for the diocesan clergy as they prepare to attend.

Bishops Geoffrey and David

Bethany Home news

As Denise prepares to visit Joanne in South Africa at the end of May, she takes with her a total of CHF1600 raised from sales and raffles to help refit a poorly equipped kitchen. Added to this will be money raised by a sponsored walk on Saturday 21st May. If you would like to take part in this, contact Carol Kelly tel: 022 369 2518 or email caroljuliadavid@hotmail.com

Denise will be working with the children on an Art project during June.

Joanne’s latest newsletter will be out next week.

Contact Denise if you would like a copy.



Confirmation Service

On Sunday 22nd May we welcome Bishop Frank Sargeant who will be taking a confirmation service. We have 2 candidates who are looking forward to being confirmed, and it will be a real pleasure to share that occasion with them. Bishop Frank has been to Gingins before during the last Holy Trinity interregnum. Mike was under his watchful eye as a curate in Chester diocese. And Paul had the pleasure of having Frank and his wife Sally come to live in his Salford parish in their retirement.

May/June Services at La Côte Anglican Church

1 st May	Children’s Service
8 th May	Ascension Holy Communion
15 th May	Pentecost lay led service
22 nd May	Confirmation Service with Bishop Frank Sargeant
29 th May	Creative Communion
5 th June	Lay led service
12 th June	Holy Communion
19 th June	Evening Prayer
26 th June	Children’s service of ‘holy picnic’

All Sunday services are held at 4pm