

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2021-2022

La Côte Anglican Church



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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT 2021-2022

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving... (Psalm 50 v14)

What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness (mercy) and to walk humbly with your God?

This time last year at our AGM – we met online and one of our discussions was around returning to in-person worship. We were aiming to move from a room called fear to a room called hope, (Pete Rollins). Much of this last year has continued a back-and-forth movement from fear to hope.

OUR STORIES As an overview of life at La Côte Church, I would first like to acknowledge our own personal stories with the challenges of complex family relationships, ill health, too much or too little work, bereavement, loss, transition, and loneliness.

THE BIG STORIES Stepping back, we view the wider stories that encircle us and shape our lives, namely the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the backdrop of global warming and damage to biodiversity, and just when we thought we were emerging from the Covid room of fear, we found ourselves stepping into a room of shock and horror at the evils of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

GOD'S STORY Yet, over and above all these stories, there is a greater narrative that holds everything together – God's over-arching loving presence always with us, at work in the big picture but also intimately close in the fray of each day. This is where our church overlaps with individual and wider stories of our times, helping to anchor us in the redemptive story of God. Last summer we had the privilege of hearing from members of our church family, as they shared snippets of their everyday faith in a series of video-stories called: "Windows on the World". They talked about finding God with them, in the challenges and joys of each day. This creative endeavour, reminds us of the significance of our church and community, supporting each of us in our faith journeys through the week.

THANKSGIVING In the words of Psalm 50 I invite us to "**offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving**" for 2021 at La Côte. I see God's story of creative love threaded through the many stories last year, embodied in our lives, our worship, and our service.

On a personal note, I am so thankful for the additional support from Anne de Tréverret. She is a tremendous help in organising our worship rota and with our communications in general. I am also delighted to welcome our new part-time youth and children's worker, Connie Siedler, who arrived in February. We look forward to her working with our dedicated volunteer Sunday club leaders and volunteers to pave a way forward for this crucial work. She would very much like to hear from you if you think you can help to support her.

Each report signals God at work for good, through the gifts, contributions, and presence of our community, even in times of discouragement and uncertainty. I am deeply grateful to our **Council** who have steered us through a further year of Covid (p.6); **for our ministry team** working faithfully with me to lead our worship each week (p.9). Here we also give thanks for the wealth of generous musicians in our church who lead us in song and music each Sunday, (p.11) In our **social action** report, I am encouraged by the various ways we have supported initiatives and communities suffering from the pandemic (p.19). There is

also a new social action focus to explore how we can engage with local projects and involve our children and youth more actively. Our **safeguarding team** have done a sterling job ensuring that we can offer a safe welcome to everyone, including vulnerable adults and children. Our special thanks go to Christine Warren – who will be stepping back – after many years of tireless commitment to our safeguarding practices. We have various regular **small groups** where we can build trusting friendships and support one another and welcome others into the groups. Like everything, these groups have been hit by Covid, but have continued to meet, sometimes in hybrid form for fellowship and faith. In addition, we have been enriched by extra learning opportunities such as our **Lenten seminars** enlarged our horizons around the question of truth telling (p.20), and more recently a series of five online sessions entitled Living in Love and Faith, which explore gender, identity, and sexuality. Once again may I express our thanks to all involved in facilitating our learning and to all who attend these seminars and sessions.

CHURCH WARDENS Our Church needs Church Wardens, who are our legal officers in relationship with the Bishop and the Diocese, and seek to support the Chaplain in her leadership. At this AGM, Dwight will step back from his role as warden. I take this opportunity to thank him on our behalf, especially for his extraordinary gift as Vice-chair steering us through many a council meeting discussion and our AGMs. I am also deeply thankful to Liz Bramley and to Austin Ball, who have both agreed to stand as church wardens for another year. Our warm thanks go to Liz and Austin for all that they do both operationally and strategically for the benefit of our church. Council is keen for a new Church Warden to step forward during this coming year, ready to take on the role in 2023.

I am increasingly aware of the importance of community in our chaplaincy life, especially for many who are far from their homelands and extended family networks. Our community, like most groups, has taken some knocks from Covid, but it has not been destroyed. Thank you to all the technologically gifted members of our community whose skill and determination have enabled us to stay in touch with each other in worship, learning and general fellowship. Thank you to many involved in pastoral care – looking out for one another in the ebb and flow of our lives. The Council would like to formalise the network of care to ensure that no one slips through the net of support. In addition, we are now pulling together to see how we can play our part in responding to the war in Ukraine.

When we gather at the AGM we will be also looking together at the trial of our worship patterns – to discern a way forward that will strengthen our community and our mission. May I draw your attention to the **Pastoral Principles** which we have been seeking to put into practice when discussing race, identity, sexuality and gender. These pastoral principles can shape the way we talk and listen to each other and find ways to live together for the glory of our loving God. They remind me of the Micah challenge that heads up this report:

What does the Lord require of you O mortal, to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

My prayer is that Micah's prophetic challenge will inform the life of our community and the way we respond to need within our circles and beyond.

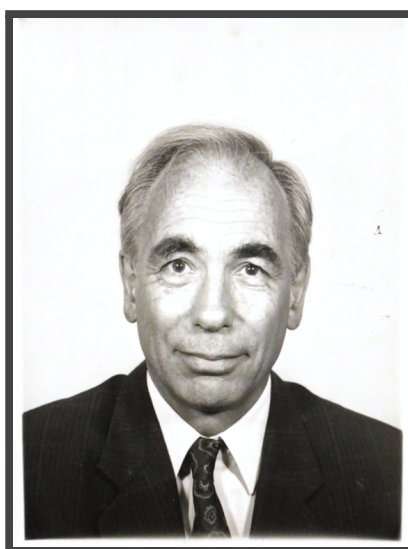
COMINGS AND GOINGS

This last year we were delighted to welcome back Scott and Nancy who returned with two daughters from the US to live in this area again. We also welcomed Maelys June Phillips into the church through baptism with a joyful service in Gingins in October 2021.

Sadly, we have lost two members of our church, who worshipped mainly in Divonne.

Geoff Hewitt died in October 2021. His funeral was held in the Temple de Divonne. Here is a lovely photo of him, a few years ago, enjoying Welsh fellowship with our assistant chaplain Julia.

John Wilson died in early March 2022, beloved husband of Françoise. We said goodbye to him in the Temple de Divonne on 10 March 2022.



Both funeral services bear witness to the loving care of our community – with many who rallied round to support the families in their grief and to help with the funerals. We especially hold Françoise in our prayers in these early days of loss. We give thanks for her courageous, devoted love for John over

many years of illness and I am sure that our church family will continue to support her as she grieves.

We are also praying for our assistant chaplain, Julia and her husband Philippe Chambeyron who have had an extremely difficult year due to ill health. While Philippe was recovering from a stroke he had suffered in early 2021, he was set back by Guillain-Barre Syndrome in October 2021. The journey to recovery is slow and tortuous, but he has recently shown

small signs of progress. Meanwhile Julia has been focussing on caring for the home and managing her own ill-health. They continue to be daily in our prayers and thoughts and Julia is thankful for the practical love and care shown by many in our community.



Carolyn Cooke



COUNCIL REPORT 2021-2022

The La Côte Church council is the leadership body of the chaplaincy, working together with the chaplain to carry forward the worship, pastoral life and mission of the church. The current members of the council are: Carolyn Cooke (chaplain), Julia Chambeyron (assistant chaplain), Austin Ball, Liz Bramley and Dwight Moe (churchwardens), John Ingham (treasurer), Trevor Davies and David Bramley (synod representatives), Phil Clifton, Louise Burrows, Richard Hawkings, Ed Kelley, Jean Mayer, Diantha Terry, and Nonalee Dong (secretary). Jon Beaulieu stepped down and Phil Clifton joined the council in spring 2021. Geoff Senogles (treasurer), and Jon Beaulieu stepped down in spring 2021 and were replaced by John Ingham and Phil Clifton.

In August 2021 Geoff Senogles stepped down from his role as church treasurer. Council is extremely grateful for the years of dedicated work Geoff has done overseeing our finances and sharing the story of our church through the financial statements month by month. We were very pleased to welcome John Ingham in September 2021, as our new church treasurer. In July our youth worker Emily Reid, left to pursue theological studies in the UK, which left a significant gap in our youth work for seven months.

Highlights of this past year include welcoming Anne de Tréverret as the paid part-time administrative assistant to the Chaplain. Anne's role is to assist Carolyn with the weekly organization of the worship services and general communication within the Church. We hope that her help will allow Carolyn to focus on her many commitments in our Church and the wider community.

The council was involved in restructuring the stipend for Carolyn when the Cooke family purchased a house and moved from Nyon to St. Cergue. This restructuring is in line with a normal Swiss employee's salary and reflects the fact that Carolyn is employed by La Côte Anglican Church Association which is registered in the Swiss "Régistre de Commerce". One salary with fewer expenses makes budgeting and accounting more straightforward.

Over this last year, with the continued impact of covid, council remains sincerely grateful for the generosity of all our members in supporting the church financially over this last year, through pledges, the Gift week in May and other donations. This sustained generosity has allowed us to keep going with confidence, as our expenditure is dominated by fixed operating costs that have not been much reduced by the pandemic. The theme of our Gift week in May was 'Windows on the World'. Each day members of the congregation shared a short video message about their careers, backgrounds, and faith journey. These stories were well received and helped to connect the community with one another. The generosity of the congregation became evident during gift week when donations reached the amount of CHF20'000. Council would also like to express our gratitude to Mark Warren who works faithfully behind the scenes encouraging people to pledge, which enables the church to keep going with confidence, even in uncertain times.

With the ever-changing covid 19 regulations, a subcommittee was formed to manage the hygiene protocols at in-person Church services. This committee consists of Diantha, Ed and Carolyn. As covid infections decreased in April 2021, we had hoped to move from zoom services to in-person worship. Unfortunately, most of the Lenten in-person services had to be cancelled, however, by May La Côte had resumed in-person services in the afternoon and continued Zoom services in the mornings on Sundays. As vaccination rates increased, in-person services could eclipse the on-line services, despite the Omicron variant. We continue to rely on Diantha and Ed to keep us up to date on the regulations in Vaud and France.

As in-person services could become more regular, the evolution of live-streamed services also took place to cater to those still wishing to be at home or are unable to get to Church. Despite the initial glitches in the live-streamed services, with the help of a team of volunteers, live-streaming seems to be developing but is still a "work in progress". This small team would welcome any of you with technological know-how to step forward and help us include in our worship those who are shielding at home. Council is extremely grateful for the dedicated support our church receives from technical wizards in our community who have enabled us to worship and meet online and to connect more easily online. We have approved the transition of much of our online work to Google docs – which should make for smoother communication and teamwork. This is also a "work in progress."

Changing the weekly worship schedule was one of the challenges faced by council this past year. It was decided to trial a main act of worship at 10.00 each Sunday across the

chaplaincy, providing for families and Sunday Club. These services rotate between Divonne, Crassier and Gingins, depending on the availability of the church centres. The afternoon services take place twice a month at 16.00 in Gingins with a flexible format: Taizé service, Evening Prayer or Holy Communion.

As the worship pattern returns to in-person format, we look towards rebuilding our programmes for youth and families with our new youth leader Connie Siedler. Connie started working on a 50% contract at the end of February for La Côte. As our youth and children are one of our main church priorities, we trust that members of our community will step forward to support her in this programme.

With so many families isolated due to covid restrictions and many of our daily interactions taking place on zoom, the role of the Safeguarding and Pastoral care teams have become even more important. Council is extremely grateful to Christine Warren, for her leadership on the Safeguarding team. As she steps back, we are pleased to welcome Ever Gutierrez as a new team member. Council has revisited the way pastoral care happens across the chaplaincy. Out of these discussions Louise Burrows is drafting a new pastoral care strategy that will formalise the breadth of care already taking place, to ensure that people are not missed out, and to strengthen the care we can offer.

This year the Church of England also presented two documents designed to help us move towards being more inclusive and aware of our evolving society. *Breathing Life* is a document presented by the Anglican Diocese in Europe to recognize racial discrimination in our community and move towards racial justice. It was inspired by the death of George Floyd in the U.S.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is a resource programme provided by the Church of England, to which the Diocese in Europe belongs. It is an initiative to help churches understand how questions of gender and sexual identity come into play with Christianity. At the time of writing Betty and Chris Talbot are facilitating the LLF course with a group of twenty, mainly from our congregation. One hopes that when the subject matter is treated with compassion and sensitivity our Church community will come to a better understanding of our faith in an ever-changing society.

La Côte Council has also spent time discussing our visibility and outreach. This has been done in conjunction with a social action subgroup who focus on how we can give financial support to projects but also engage with social needs in a practical way locally. In addition, the council is keen to encourage an outward focus and welcome to our wider community through events such as Jazz Carols, La Côte Blokes' discussion groups, Ecumenical gatherings, and joint worship with our Francophone congregations.

During this last year Council has had the privilege of recommending both Louise Burrows and Betty Talbot for ordination. They are currently moving through the rigorous Church of England selection process and have both been successful at Stage One. We keep them in our prayers as they prepare for Stage Two of the interviews.



The council's aim is to foster the smooth and transparent running of the Church's financial, spiritual and community life. Through this, our community aims to be a beacon of light and support in an increasingly unstable and unpredictable world.

Nonalee Dong

LA CÔTE MINISTRY TEAM 2021-2022

The La Côte Ministry Team went with the flow in 2021 as various Covid strains appeared, and as Swiss and French authorities managed their responses with a mixed bag of restrictions.

Whenever we were not allowed to meet face to face, we organized church services via Zoom. For example, although we could not gather for the traditional Maundy Thursday service which includes the ritual of foot washing, we met instead on Zoom and were led into a guided meditation on the gospel passage about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. On Good Friday, we followed the Stations of the Cross virtually. Using a combination of words and images, we reflected and prayed our way along the path that Jesus took on his way to the cross.

Zoom does have its silver lining as it allowed us to attend services when the priest is in Dorset! Alan Amos and his wife Clare led us through several thoughtful, participatory services during summer when Carolyn was on annual leave.

And when Covid restrictions were eased and we could meet face to face, people gathered with much joy at being able to worship together in person once again. While musically talented members of La Côte Church led us in song during the Zoom services, we sang at home with our individual laptops, tablets and smart phones on mute. As one congregation member declared, "It just didn't feel the same as joining our voices together into one joyful noise."

And the joy of being together encouraged the ministry team to be imaginative in crafting church services that follow the liturgical season, but which also recognize the importance of contemporary events. For example, 2021 was the year of COP26 when world leaders met together to discuss how to prevent catastrophic climate change. La Côte Church marked this moment with a 'mystery play' that involved the participation of several children and adults who have a dramatic flair. The play was a reminder of the origins of our planetary home and of God's calling us to do our bit to preserve it. And during the Advent season,

Christingles was DIY with enthusiastic children and indulgent adults, and the Carol service was well attended by families and visitors.

But while many of us prefer to meet in person despite having to wear masks, disinfect our hands and show Covid passes, some church members, understandably, remain at home while there is still a risk of catching Covid. In order to bring church to them, tech-savvy people helped the the “streaming” of the home could watch happening. And could chat together at home could chat

Throughout 2021, the the La Côte Ministry in church services in leading and services, preparing leading the singing, shining as best we grateful to Carolyn for encouragement of us people in ministry.



Ministry Team organize services where those at the service live as it was while those at church after the service, those via Zoom.

collegial members of Team have participated various ways, such as preaching during the prayers of intercession, and keeping the light could. We are very her openness and to participate as lay

Betty Talbot

on behalf of the Carolyn Cooke, Julia Chambeyron, Chris Potter, Louise Burrows, Heidi Hawkings, Peta and John Tracey

ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES 2022

Contacts with other churches of different denominations are an important part of the life of La Côte Anglican Church. Here are the main occasions in which we have participated this past year:

Daily Morning Prayer on Zoom is now into its second year and participants include members of the French Protestant Church and Old Catholics – please see separate report!

Pastorale Nyonnaise - Carolyn has attended early morning meetings on Zoom and in person with a group of local church leaders in Nyon to share news, plan and pray together. We participated in ecumenical services for the **Swiss National Day** (1 Aug.), the **Jeûne Fédérale** (19 Sept.) at the Abbaye de Bonmont and the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (16 Jan. 2022) in Nyon.

With our host parish of La Dôle, Pastor Etienne Guilloud has been very welcoming and open to joint services, such as the early morning Easter Day sunrise service and the current

monthly Taizé services. We continue to take an active part in the preparation and celebration of the **World Day of Prayer**, which this year was prepared by the women of England, Northern Ireland & Wales and so gave us plenty of scope in decorating the chapel at Signy and providing our national specialities for refreshments! It was very moving to hear Sharon Senogles say the Lord's Prayer in Welsh.

Welcoming Bossey students – This year we have been happy to return to meeting with and welcoming students to our church services and our homes from the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. They arrive in Sept. for a semester of studies in ecumenism and some then stay on for a Master's in June. We have had the pleasure and privilege of getting to know students from India, Nigeria and Tanzania this past year and we are grateful to members of our congregation who volunteer to drive them to and from the services and invite them to their homes.

Cursillo - an ecumenical three-day 'short course in Christianity', in normal times offered twice a year by English-speaking churches in the Geneva area, has held two successful online events. Many members of La Côte have enjoyed and participated in these. Chris Talbot has recently retired as Assistant Lay Director and Betty Talbot continues to edit the newsletter 'El Arco Iris'.

Community Bible Study (Geneva) - Betty Talbot is the teaching leader of this group, whose current members are drawn from Crossroads Church in Ferney and Thoiry and further afield including the UK and Australia as the group meets via Zoom.



La Côte Church continues to value a positive and warm working relationship with our French host church in Divonne, L'Eglise Protestante Unie de France. We are glad to finally be using the well-equipped and spacious parish rooms again for meetings and refreshments as well as for Sunday club. We appreciate the regular contact with Matthew Kahane and Pastor Daniel Oh as we share the buildings. In addition, John Haines offers a wonderful bridge between our two worshipping communities, as a member of both; he recently represented our church at the joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which took place at Crossroads in Ferney Voltaire. During 2021 the signage outside Divonne church was refurbished with a fresh and updated clear notice of worship for both our communities.

Peta Tracey

MUSIC AT LA CÔTE CHURCH 2022

Although the first part of 2021 saw us continuing to worship online with music pre-recorded by our musicians, the relaxing of public health restrictions enabled us to return to in-person services in September. Being able to worship and sing together again (even though masked) has made a great difference for which we give thanks. We are most grateful for musical contributions from: Jeremy and Louise Burrows; Harold and Margaret Corrigan;

Alice Debell; Jane and Louis Djabaté; Nonalee Dong; Ray Fiander; Etienne Guilloud; Annabel Nicholson; Steve and Monika Rawcliffe; Alex Sleeman; Jordan Staeuble; John and Peta Tracey; Pam Walsh; and Richard and Heidi Hawkings.

It has also been possible once again for a song group to lead us in song on several occasions: for the Creation Time service featuring the Mystery Play by Christine Warren; at the Harvest service; and for the Candlelight Carols service – all of them in the Crassier church. As a first step in singing together again, Mark and Christine Warren very kindly hosted a few of us for a practice (masked, of course!) in their home, followed by a barbecue lunch in their lovely garden. In a new development, for the



Christingle service Nonalee Dong invited the children of our community to form a choir which she expertly directed. It was delightful to have them leading us in song on that occasion, and we look forward to hearing them sing again soon.

New musicians and singers are always welcome, so please feel free to join in with this ministry of making a joyful noise!

Heidi and Richard Hawkings



MORNING PRAYER – A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY

Each morning, Monday – Saturday, why not start off on the right foot Zooming in with 12–15 others who join Carolyn celebrating Anglican Morning Prayer? We may start a bit bleary-eyed but always finish with a smile and a spring in our step.

Carolyn is, as always, very welcoming, encouraging us to share the readings, leading prayers and even leading the service (but absolutely no pressure). There's always a peaceful 10 minutes of prayers for the world, the church, our communities, families and concerns. Prayers for healing are an important aspect with everything treated in strictest confidence.



It's a great privilege - a warm, meaningful start to the day that's evermore needed in today's troubled world.

"Thank you so much to all who lead, read and pray each morning - I am truly grateful for such a meaningful and friendly way to begin the day"



As you can see most of us actually managed to get together in person. Being online though, we have developed ecumenically and regionally to regularly welcome friends from Holy Trinity Geneva, 'Old Catholic' Church Zürich, Protestant Church Chamonix, Hospital Chaplaincy in Derby, Anglican Church Johannesburg and Mike in Kuala Lumpur ! A warm, open-hearted ambience where everyone's encouraged to pop in or out as/when they can.

No stress, only a peaceful positive place to enjoy being part of 'two three gathered together'. A good place to belong.

"You have no idea how precious it has been to me!!"

Would you like to begin your day this way? It's only 30mins starting 07h30 until 08h00 sharp, to let people get off to work. For an easier start – maybe try Saturday's gentler 08h30/09h00 timing?



or
at



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85122087785>

You're most welcome – and if it's not for you, please just know we're praying for you in Morning Prayer.

Louise Burrows, Peta & John Tracey

SAFEGUARDING AT LA CÔTE CHURCH 2021-2022

Bishop Robert Innes is active in supporting all Safeguarding officers in their commitment to enable our churches to be a safe, secure and welcoming place for all vulnerable groups and us all.

As a team at la Côte we have continued working towards this goal.

Rejoicing in services together once again as the pandemic restrictions were eased our responsibilities rekindled. Supporting the rebirth of Sunday Club we were encouraged by the willingness and response of new Sunday Club volunteers to commit to the Safeguarding process. Our grateful thanks to all.

Safeguarding is not all about administrative process

We are there when someone suspects or has observed abuse or is a victim. We are there if someone feels uncomfortable about a relationship or situation themselves and we can discreetly flag up for help. Our team does not judge.

We have appreciated working together with Carolyn, our Chaplain, the Council, volunteers and all parishioners in embracing the concept of a Safer Church.

As Christine steps back from the role we welcome Ever Gutierrez to the La Côte Safeguarding team. Thank you Ever for committing to joining the team.



God's Blessings

Cate Bichara, Christine Warren, Liz Martinez, Ever Gutierrez

THE SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND 2021-22

The Anglican Diocese in Europe has seven archdeacons. The number is the same as last year but, in a reorganization that is still in progress, one archdeacon has been appointed to take care of both the French and Swiss archdeacons. The new archdeacon – the Venerable Dr Peter Hooper has begun his job but is not yet living in the archdeaconry. The post-Brexit limits on the appointment of Europeans to jobs in the United Kingdom are now reflected in post-Brexit limits on the appointment of British nationals to jobs on the continent. For an Anglican chaplain to be hired in Switzerland, for instance, the candidate must be employed in a full-time job, paid at the local rate of a Swiss pastor and must speak the local language. We are hoping that Dr Hooper, who has worked in France in the past, will be able to come and live in his archdeaconry before too long. He will certainly have his work cut out – there are 82 Anglican congregations in France and another 20 in Switzerland.

The first Swiss archdeaconry meeting in 2021 was a Saturday Zoom meeting in late February which was mentioned in the La Côte annual report last year. This was a business meeting to approve financial documents and to receive reports, including one from the Revd Canon Carolyn Cooke on the Vision for the Church of England in the 2020s.

That was followed in June by a further Zoom meeting at which Canon Cooke reported on the C of E's Setting God's People Free initiative for which Swiss chaplaincies have taken

part in a pilot programme. Chaplaincy representatives at the meeting also heard that the Diocese in Europe has set up a working group on “clergy bullying” and clergy well-being. Apparently this is more of a problem than one would imagine, and the working group is looking to improve the situation in two main areas: 1) prevention and education; and 2) effective and fair procedures when complaints and allegations of bullying are made. The June archdeaconry meeting also held an initial discussion on *Living in Love and Faith*, a C of E report with the subheading *Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage*. A more substantive discussion was held over until the next meeting of the archdeaconry synod – in person – on 18 September at St Ursula’s Church in Berne.

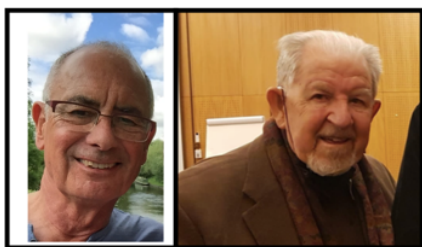
The September meeting of the archdeaconry synod marked the last such meeting chaired by Adèle Kelham who was due to retire from her (non stipendiary) role as Archdeacon of Switzerland at the end of the year. Chaplaincy representatives learned that, with France and Switzerland being combined in a future archdeaconry, an Area Dean – Revd Canon Carolyn Cooke – has been selected to represent the new Archdeacon in Switzerland as of the end of 2022.

The main topic of discussion at the September meeting was the report on *Living in Love and Faith*. The LLF is in fact seen as a programme which is aimed at helping people in the church to learn together how the Christian understanding of God relates to questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It specifically aims to make the environment as safe as possible for people with profoundly different views and to express those views and listen to one another. Synod members were shown excerpts of a film provided by the C of E, recording the experiences of people who were particularly affected by LGBTQ+ discrimination. Synod members then divided into groups to discuss their own encounters with this situation. It was noted that six reactions can affect our attitude, namely: prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy and power. Lester Carissimi, a churchwarden of St Edward’s Episcopal Church in Lugano, who is the representative for the Swiss Archdeaconry in the Diocesan LLF Working Group, concluded the session with the words “Let the Holy Spirit guide us to the truth.”

There was a further meeting of the Swiss archdeaconry synod on 29 January 2022, at which Revd Carolyn Cooke of La Côte and Revd Paul Brice of Zurich chaired sessions on the past, present and future of the Anglican chaplaincies in Switzerland. Small group discussions which involved people from different chaplaincies and different language areas addressed three main topics, namely:

- **Past:** What are we missing and what are we not missing in the life of our chaplaincies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- **Present:** What are we doing today that we want to keep?
- **Future:** What do we want to do in the coming months and years? What do we need in order to make this happen?

The January 2022 meeting also learned that a lay theological education course had been developed for lay people, and also potentially for training community worship leaders, pastoral assistants or others working in authorized lay ministries. The course has four modules titled Knowing God, Growing in Christ, Building Community, and Living Beyond Ourselves. Each module will have five units and it is intended that each unit will take about two weeks for individuals or groups to complete. Chaplaincies were asked by the course developer Dr Clare Amos if they would be willing to pilot the first module in May–July 2022.



David Bramley and Trevor Davies

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2021-22

There have been a lot of changes in the Sunday school set up over the year. In the summer Emily Reid, our youth leader, left to pursue studies in London. Several Sunday school teachers either moved away or were busy with other church activities. This left Naomi Grobety and Liz Martinez as the two remaining teachers. It was decided that resources should be pooled and, rather than having two separate Sunday clubs in Divonne and Gingins, Sunday club now takes place most weeks at 10.00 am in whichever church is holding a service. There is also just one class, rather than two or even three classes with different age groups.

Combining the ages could have been difficult, however as families with younger children have moved away and some of the older children have moved on, the children who attend the classes now are between the ages of around 8 to 11. Occasionally some youth attend. Older children can be accommodated easily as they are usually happy to contribute to discussions and help the younger ones. Those who find the class too juvenile attend church with their parents. If any very young children came it would be difficult to include them. If this were to happen, we would need to think about asking the helper to prepare some activities for them.

Between 2 and 10 children have attended each week. There was only one week, when Omnicron was at its peak, when no children arrived. The children are all very engaged, well behaved, and a pleasure to teach. Families tend to come to the church that they went to prior to the "joint" Sunday school. In general, "Divonne children" attend Divonne classes and "Gingins children" attend Gingins classes. When the children from different churches get together, as they sometimes do at Crassier, it is great to see them interacting and getting to know each other. A couple of new families have joined us, and it is hoped that as the COVID-19 situation improves more new families will find us.

We now have a rota of helpers as parents and church members have been very good at coming forward. This means that there is always another adult in the room, which we need to have for safeguarding reasons. In Divonne, having the whole room for the class has been very good as previously ages 7 to 11 were in quite a crowded room whilst the youth used the main room. In Crassier, having the room right next to the sanctuary is a bit awkward as we are worried about making too much noise and disturbing the service.

Johan has been doing an excellent job of sending emails out to the parents and letting them know what is going on. Ed Kelley kindly gave a class when Naomi and Liz were not available. Ideally, we should have at least one other Sunday school teacher available on Sundays.

At the moment, all of the children seem to go to school in Vaud, with some at the International Schools. If more French children come, we need to make sure the classes coincide with the variety of different term holidays. We also need to consider different rules regarding COVID in the two countries as France tends to be stricter and we need to make sure children and teachers comply with the regulations.

In 2020, when families were not travelling due to the pandemic, we had a very successful and well attended camp which was a joy to help with. There was a summer camp in 2021, however, not many families were around, and the camp was cancelled a few times due to lack of attendees. Some children also took their first communion, which was organized by Carolyn and Heidi.

Liz and Naomi are both enjoying the Sunday school classes. They look forward to more teachers coming forward and more families coming to the church.

Liz Martinez and Naomi Grobety



PASTORAL CARE 2021-2022

Pastoral care during this last year has been continuing similarly as it was in March 2020 when we were abruptly locked down during the first wave of the pandemic. In 2021, we also experienced periods of needing to stay at home for isolation purposes and/or due to continued work from home regulations.

As in the previous year, a few of our community met on-line to review and discuss the various needs of our community, and to put in place volunteers to help, where help was needed. In addition, pastoral care was also taking place in many of our groups, both through meeting online and then when allowed, by meeting in person.

As a council we have been carefully considering our Pastoral Care strategy at La Côte. The current tools we have in place include Carolyn and her personal outreach, our groups, and outreach into the wider community through social events.

Moving forward we would like to progress with the development of a dedicated pastoral care team. This involves the identification of pastoral care team members and pastoral care coordinators. We would implement training of this team with possibly a small number of members who would also be able to perform home communion. It is important to also

remember that pastoral care can often practical level also (perhaps providing shopping etc).

If this is something of interest to you or do let us know.



involve help on a simply the odd lift, helping with

you feel you could offer, please

This year, we have 2 members of our community who have been trained as Stephen Ministers and a further person currently in training.

Moving forward into the next stage of life, living in a pandemic and coping in the current state of our world, can be challenging. We recognise that every one of us, at any point in our lives can feel vulnerable and need some help along the way. Should you or anyone near you, ever need support, we encourage you to please reach out.

We are blessed to be together in a community so full of care for each other, so we encourage us all to move forward together in God's love for one another.

Diantha Terry

THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE 2021-2022

The Social Action Committee was composed of Liz Bramley, Kate Shepherd, Jon Beaulieu, and Carolyn Cooke. Due to the continuation of restrictions of COVID-19 we only had one fund raising activity (Jazz Carols). The money raised at the Carols supported Nourishing Minds, a school feeding programme in partnership with the Church of Scotland <https://www.nourishingminds.org/>. And we dispersed the ChF 5,000 regular budget money allocated to the fund. With the elimination of COVID restrictions, we do hope to develop a revised strategy including a more local focus with volunteering opportunities and conduct a few more extra fundraising activities in 2022.

The focus of the 2021 charitable giving was again COVID-19 support at the local and international levels. We made two exceptions to this focus due to extenuating circumstances. One was supporting a mental health and trauma related response in Haiti (joint European and Haitian) to the deadliest earthquake and deadliest natural disaster of 2021. The other was to support a girl's education and health programme in rural Afghanistan following the Taliban take over. <http://www.nai-gala.org/>

Another project abroad we supported was to help cover some of the extra COVID related costs of operating the Autism Compassion Africa school in Ghana. <https://www.autismcompassionafrica.org/about-us/> It is the only school outside the Capital Accra providing education and therapy to autistic children. All the charities provided us with

appreciation and feedback about how the money was utilized. The charities supported by our church in 2021 were:

CHF200,- to Église Évangélique de Réveil le cèdre

CHF 600,- to Rêves Suisse (<http://reves-suisse.ch>)

CHF 600,- to Autism Compassion Africa
(<https://www.autismcompassionafrica.org/about-us/>)

CHF 1'000,- to Hill Organisation India Covid relief (<http://hillcharity.org/>)

CHF 500,- to Haitian mental health and trauma relief project (D.Bouvier)

CHF 500,- to Bishop's Advent Appeal

CHF 1'600,- to Association Nai Qala, Afghanistan for Girls education
(<http://www.nai-qala.org/>)

CHF 495 to Nourishing Minds, Malawi raised at Jazz Carols (partner with Church of Scotland) <https://www.nourishingminds.org/>

Jon Beaulieu



LENTEN SEMINARS 2021-2022

Two Lenten Seminars had been planned for Lent 2020. When the COVID lockdown came, reluctantly we postponed them for a year. But on 17 and 24 March 2021, La Côte Anglican Church hosted two seminars by Zoom, dealing with the theme of Distortion of Truth and Manipulation of Fear.

On 17 March, Chris Talbot presented and led a discussion on that theme from the perspective of political power. Drawing upon examples from political movements around the world, Chris spoke of 'alternative facts', 'fake news', the corrosion of language, the management of terror and the manipulation of fear of the 'other'. He offered potential responses to these challenges for us all as active citizens and some specifically Christian responses. The breakout groups and closing plenary deepened those discussions about options and responses.

A week later, Dr Nigel Rollins opened the same theme of Distortion of Truth and Manipulation of Fear, focussing on the pursuit of commercial profit, specifically in areas

related to human health. Examining strong and detailed examples from the marketing of tobacco, soft drinks and breastmilk substitutes, Nigel explored ways in which certain corporations and industry networks have sought to manipulate and capture scientific research, civil society advocacy to secure commercially desirable which people may respond through engagement and individual action.



and governmental policy development outcomes. He suggested ways in democratic initiatives, citizens'

Each seminar was attended by approximately 50 people, both La Côte congregants and friends and others invited. There were participants from several other Anglican churches in Switzerland as well as other countries in Europe.

Each time, the discussion was rich, and people seemed to find the two seminars both challenging and encouraging. PowerPoint presentations of both seminars are available on the church's website.

Chris Talbot

PRAYER GROUP 2021-2022

The Prayer Group has continued to meet every other Tuesday morning over the past year and has evolved into hybrid meetings - in person, with the option of attending on Zoom. This works quite well and enables everyone to attend, with an average of eight meeting in person and four online. We are grateful that Carolyn joins us whenever possible.

We gather in the belief - and with the experience - that prayer does make a difference. In uncertain times it keeps us rooted and grounded in God's love and promise of hope. We give thanks for the many blessings and answers to prayer, and we continue to pray for situations and people in need brought to us by members of our church family, who entrust them to us in confidence. We usually use as a framework the Northumbria Community Morning Prayer service, with its simple Celtic liturgy, readings & short meditation. We take a few minutes to discuss these and notice the link and theme that inspire our prayers. Here is one of the meditations that has struck a chord in recent times ...

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.*

*Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following Your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please You
does in fact please You.
And I hope that I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road
although I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, will I trust You always,
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death,
I will not fear, for You are ever with me,
and will never leave me
to face my perils alone.*

(Thomas Merton)

Everyone is most welcome to join us, either as a one-off or more frequently, or to send us prayer requests.

Peta & John Tracey



LA CÔTE BLOKES 2021-2022

The Blokes met for dinner six times during 2021. We met in the Prieuré in Nyon and enjoyed home-prepared food produced by one or other of the participants.



Discussion topics included: Antivaxxers, Ethical Investments, Making Sense through Film, The Future of Covid, Men and Identity and A Philosophy of Walking.

We occasionally had to limit the number of participants due to Covid regulations. However, the dinners remained a popular event and we look

forward to resuming this month. We meet on the third Thursday of the month. All (men) are welcome.

David Cooke



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 2021-2022

The Bible study continued to meet bi-weekly during the past year thanks to Zoom technology. It alternates with the Prayer group on Tuesday mornings. After enjoying new insights on the Old Testament during the previous year we moved to re-examining the gospels and used different approaches and methods. We followed the study guide designed by Paula Gooder, based on “The Joy of the Gospel” by Pope Francis. This involved reading and re-reading of New Testament texts and sharing what the texts meant in their context as well as to us today. We found these exercises both refreshing and challenging. We are currently enjoying material prepared by Claire Amos for a Lenten study in 2020, entitled “Opening the Scriptures” which is full of rich materials to stretch our thinking and learning. There is a regular core number of 6 to 8 members, and we share in a

supportive and trusting way. We also often take turns to lead a session, which helps us grow in different ways. Why not join us? You would be most welcome.

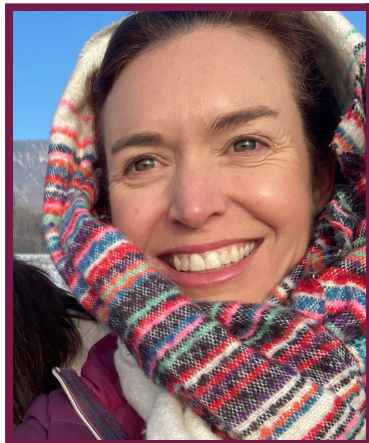
Trevor Davies and Carolyn Cooke

COFFEE, CAKE AND CHAT 2021-2022

Our CCC group has continued to operate through fluctuating times of lockdown and easing of Covid restrictions. Until September 2021 most of our meetings took place on zoom. To facilitate increased support for one another in difficult times we held meetings weekly instead of fortnightly alternating between one week being purely a catch up and one week having a reflection and prayer time.

Our material from January to September 2021 was 'An Altar in the World' by Barbara Brown Taylor- a book about finding altars everywhere we go. Since September we have been studying 'The Joy of the Gospels' by Paula Gooder, based on the book by Pope Francis. We are planning new material for after Easter.

We continue to be a very dynamic, socially - engaged bunch of women. This is fabulous but also has its downside that often (especially recently) numbers have dwindled due to other commitments, particularly work, travel and family engagements, with Covid not helping. However we remain 18 on our mailing list and hope to be able to reinforce engagement with the group. We have a very active WhatsApp group that has been a big help to all of us this past year.



Our group also partakes in some sub ventures, notably our annual mountain weekend retreat (Prosecco and Prayer weekend), our CCC Caribous group which joins the ESCA 'steps for cancer' challenge, and other charitable work notably with members of our group being integral to the 'Nourishing Minds' charity. Some ladies have grouped together to help with tea and coffee after services. We love any excuse for a celebration and enjoy a special surprise gift exchange at Christmas.

We heartily welcome newcomers, the only prerequisite being willing to have the occasional good laugh together!

On behalf of all our group, *Alice Debell*



La Côte
Anglican Church
2021











