

La Côte Anglican Church Development Association AGM

Sunday 23rd March 2025, 14h in Divonne

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence** : Jennifer Beighton, Richard Beighton, Louise Burrows, Alice Debell, Bev Espasandin, Valerie Slessor, Austin Ball, Chris Potter, Richard Hawkings, Heidi Hawkings, Hilary Fiander, Ray Fiander, Liz Martinez, Lorraine Pichard, Sabine Shabetai, Arline Simon, Robert Simon, Marianne Simon, Christine Warren, Mark Warren, Eric Williamson, John Tracey, Jennifer Armstrong, Georges Mills.

In attendance were 38 people of which 33 are on the Electoral Roll, therefore there was quorum.

2. The **minutes from the last AGM 19.05.24** were approved unanimously.
3. **Matters arising**: none
4. **2024 annual activities report**: On behalf of Council, Carolyn thanked to Chris Talbot and all those who sent in summaries for the 2024 activities report. Carolyn also thanked Council, Liz Bramley and the Ministry Team for supporting her and steering the Church during the last year.

Peta Tracey: Huge thanks to Carolyn for all her work during the past 15 years. The work that we see Carolyn do in our community is the tip of the iceberg and she is hugely appreciated by the people outside of the church who come into contact with her through weddings, baptisms and funerals. Also, note that in 2026, we will be celebrating 40 years of La Cote church.

Phil Clifton: Many thanks to David Cooke for all his work too.

Carolyn listed what Council felt thankful for and asked for further contributions from the attendees: such as, new faces in the community, fun(d)raising activities, Confirmation, community building, Betty's Ordination, the ongoing prayer ministry of small groups, Coup de Main, Bossey students & activities with other churches.

Carolyn moved onto summarising difficulties & where our challenges lie: the losses of Johnny Low & Andy Mering, working with children & younger families, the balance of youth worship & activities, the division of labour on our rotas, the management of our funds so our community events are more about fun rather than raising money, Ministry for seniors, how to continue to engage with the Bossey students.

Carolyn then outlined the new shoots of life ahead of us: The lay training of Niki Low & Chris Talbot in order to be able to lead worship, Chris Potter training to be a Reader, youth-led worship, Lenten lunches, the work of the Safeguarding team who are encouraging a safeguarding presence across our worship & activities, the Pastoral Care team moving forward with Stephen Ministry, new energy & members of the Social Action Group, the new La Cote Playgroup and a willingness, as a Church, to take risks, try new things and be willing to make mistakes.

Alison Ball outlined the plans for the new playgroup which is launching 24/04/25. Thanks to everyone who has donated toys. Thanks to John Ingham for help on the admin side to set up the playgroup and to Liz Martinez and the Safeguarding team for helping on the clearance procedures. Thanks also to Council for all their support. The playgroup team will comprise of Alison Ball, Alison Campbell, Jean Harvey with Andrea Goovaerts & Jenny West for refreshments. During term time, the group will be looking for a back-up team to ensure that there are enough volunteers to continue to run the group when there are people away (there needs to be at least two people). There would be no date commitments but they would need to be willing to undergo safeguarding checks. Alison will report back at the 2026 AGM on their progress.

On behalf of all the community, Carolyn also thanked Anne de Treverret for all her hard work in our community and we wish her well for her retirement this summer.

5. Financial Statement & Auditors Report (John Ingham as Treasurer)

We finished 2024 with a small surplus of almost 3,000chf which is very positive. He highlighted that collections are down but pledging is up and reminded us of the importance of pledging in order to be able to budget better.

If people would like to pledge, please contact him or Mark Warren, who manages our pledges. Thanks to Mark Warren for all his work on the Finance sub-group.

In 2024, 27,000chf was raised through fundraising activities (the auction, gift day and the sale of calendars). Thanks to Diantha & Phil in their help organizing the auction. Thanks also to Jean & Manfred Mayer for their initiative in creating & producing the 2025 calendars.

Any further fundraising ideas for 2025 will be greatly appreciated!

2024 expenses came in just under budget. We budget approximately 200,000chf per year for expenses which is 16,666chf per month. We are entirely self-financing through collections, pledges and fundraising activities.

In terms of our financial reserves, there is 134,000chf in the bank and 132,000chf in reserves (including 20,000chf put aside for a future youth worker).

John is stepping back as Treasurer and thanked Liz Bramley for all the work she does behind the scenes, including the banking & correspondence. The new Treasurer will be Eric Cockshutt, a pair of very capable hands!

There were no questions.

On behalf of all the community, Carolyn thanked John, who is stepping down as Treasurer, for all his hard work, not only managing our money with competence and care, but also leading the fundraising activities and looking after the garden in Divonne.

6. Appointment of Auditor 2025-2026

Robert Pashley was reappointed as the Auditor for 2025-2026.

Proposed by Eric Cockshutt, seconded by Niki Low.

7. Elections of Officers for 2025-2026

Wardens:

Liz Bramley will be standing for one last year as Warden.

Proposed by Trevor Davies, seconded by Ron Carpenter.

Diantha Terry will be standing as the second Warden.
Proposed by Caroline Allsopp-Leitner, seconded by Peta Tracey.

Liz & Diantha were then sworn in as Church Wardens.

Question (Trevor Davies): Does Divonne have a separate Church Warden?
Answer: The Church Wardens cover all three churches however, it would be ideal if the next Warden is from the Divonne community (when elected in 2026), in order to maintain a good relationship with the French church.

Council members:

Phil Clifton & Louise Burrows are standing down from Council. Carolyn thanked Louise for her six years of service on Council and for her thoughtful insight. Carolyn thanked Phil for steering our meetings with his wise and stable presence. Carolyn also thanked Council, the Archdeaconry Reps (Nonalee & Alice) and the Safeguarding team, a member of which attends every meeting. Ever will be stepping back from his Safeguarding role but we give thanks to him, Cate & Liz M for all their efforts.

Jessica Chapman is standing as Council member.
Proposed by Jeremy Burrows, seconded by David Bramley.

8. **Electoral Roll** (Steve Rawcliffe as Electoral Roll Officer)

Every six years we have to start the electoral roll from scratch and we have done so this year. However the numbers are at almost exactly the same level as in previous years. There is approximately 90% overlap. There are 96 members, of which:
35 members from France
59 members from Switzerland
1 member from the UK
1 member from New Zealand

Question (Alison Ball): Can people join at any time during the year?

Answer: Yes. However if you would like to stand for office, you need to have been on the electoral roll for at least six months.

Question (Trevor Davies): What effect do our numbers have on our Diocesan giving)?

Answer: Our numbers are taken from both electoral roll number and our attendances and if we had more people we could send another representative to Synod, but we would have to have considerably more people for that to happen.

9. **Main item for discussion: A Caring Community**

Carolyn outlined what Pastoral Care (PC) means to us at La Cote. As care givers, we offer guidance, comfort & some practical help to care receivers but those givers could become care receivers overnight so it is important to reflect that we all need to care for each other but it is vital to have those to refer to when the situation is more complicated.

In our community, PC is given by Carolyn Cooke (as lead Clergy) and Louise Burrows (as PC lead)

Thanks to all in the community who help “unofficially”. It is necessary to consider the following points:

- Care must be spread out amongst the community
- We must stay tuned to our changing community needs
- Life is messy and so PC can also be messy and not straightforward
- We must manage expectations in the light of our resources
- With that in mind, Council has decided to become a **Stephen Ministry**.

Jeremy Burrows gave an introduction to Stephen Ministry (these notes were circulated to the attendees).

There were no questions.

The attendees split into small groups to consider the following questions:

- What do we do well?
- Most importantly, what could we do better?
- How can Stephen Ministry help in this?

The small groups gave their notes to the Council Secretary (Kate Shepherd) who will compile them and distribute them to a Council sub-group (Carolyn Cooke, Kate Shepherd, Ever Gutierrez, Louise Burrows & Chris Talbot) to consider recommendations to Council.

10. There was no AOB

11. Carolyn closed the AGM with prayer