



Dear La Côte Church community,

I'm Johan Crocoll, 17 years old (almost 18, in two months), helper in Youth Ministry, the moderator for some of the Zoom services for the church and professionally an IT apprentice, working in a small computer shop near Nyon. There are two apprentices (my colleague and me) and two bosses.

This lockdown experience was interesting and strange - to have a sudden break in all my activities, but a very good opportunity to step back and catch up with friends.

We started to work part-time (only 3 days per week) from March until beginning of May (when the "non-essential" shops could reopen under certain conditions). Every day during this lockdown I wondered what it was going to be like in the office. Not surprisingly, the number of requests was extremely high and during my days-off either I was doing school-work on my computer or speaking to (old) friends on the phone (or sleeping).

At work, we were only taking phone calls from customers who had issues with their computers. The biggest challenge was to stay calm when they brought their computers into our office, trying to make them understand that we couldn't offer 100% of our services - or go over to their houses.

School online started on the Wednesday following the lockdown. It was a new challenge for me, trying to follow online courses from my bedroom. I had to order a second big screen, as one wasn't enough to follow the teacher's screen-sharing and take notes.

We were lucky to have all our lessons at the same place on Discord (sort of an alternative to Zoom but aimed more at geeky nerds/gamers) and at the same time as my usual school timetable. I was surprised at the fact we were helping and supporting each other for the homework and the projects that we needed to hand back at the end of the school year.

Very soon after a few weeks of lockdown, Carolyn needed someone for managing the morning services on Zoom and to be available by email if the congregation had some technical issues. This was a very good opportunity to get to know the community better and it was very uplifting to be in contact with them. I want to say also a big thanks to Louise Burrows for being there as a backup if I couldn't attend the Zoom meetings.

After my online courses on Wednesday, I help Emily with the SAS youths (10-14 years old) for a Zoom meeting. At each meeting I've been impressed to see how far and deep the youth can go in their questions and answers. One of the questions we asked them is: What you would like to have in your world? The answers we heard from the youth were: "Justice, peace, climate change, zero conflicts ...". We (Emily and I) were expecting more answers like: "Having unlimited sweets, unlimited ice-cream, a giant biscuit house ..." - what a 10-year-old would usually answer to this kind of question!

It was a challenge to consider the Safeguarding instructions and the difficulties from the congregation to connect to Zoom for Sunday mornings and with the youths.

During the whole of lockdown, with Vevey Anglican Church, All Saints, (where Calen Gayle is working currently as the youth worker) we did the Youth Alpha course. The content of the Alpha courses is mainly on big questions of Faith, our relationship with God and the Holy Spirit. At the end of this course, we had a weekend away in Leysin to meet for the first time in person. It has been one of my favourite weekends since the start of COVID.

Towards the end of lockdown, I wasn't very comfortable with shops opening (where I'm working included) and customers coming in physically with their problems. I was on the Swiss national TV (RTS) in the news expressing my fears about coming out of lockdown.

A few weeks later, I started to be in touch with James Burrows (Louise's son) and we began sharing ideas on how to create a better infrastructure for the pre-recorded services and also some input for the new website. We've started to get on very well as friends.

At the beginning of June, the professional schools started back with part-time (one week out of two) physical presence during the whole month. This was a very good opportunity to see my (very good) school friends again and have a good final contact with the teachers. We also had the chance (with the obvious two meters distance at that time) to drink a beer after school in a bar at the Flon in Lausanne.

Also I started to get involved in the food distribution in Nyon from June until end of July, to help other people in need, which was a very fruitful experience,.

The third phase was the summer holidays - two weeks off since December seems quite long but very good for stepping back for a few days.

At the start of my holidays, we had an interesting meeting with the Etat de Vaud big school directors about how youths were feeling during lockdown, the kind of relationships they had with their friends and teachers and the productivity of their work at home. They are currently during a survey with those questions on the youths in public schools. I felt quite inspired after that first meeting as to how we could go further in the discussion and what could be put in place in the future.

Then, with my music school friends, we biked round the whole Lac Léman in two days: 101km the first day (Nyon, down to Geneva and going towards Villeneuve near Montreux) and 78km (from Villeneuve to Nyon) the second day.

My mum/boss (Cate Bichara who's also one of the Safeguarding officers for La Côte) was always updated of where I was via WhatsApp - she didn't believe me biking 180km with friends!

On the last three days of my holidays, I did my first live radio show (called Last Call) on a small French radio channel called [7radio](#) (the photo on the right was in the studio during the show). I will be aiming to do some more in September (if everything goes well). The Traceys invited James and me for a BBQ and swim at their place and I saw my friends who are doing their apprenticeship in IT at the EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédéral de Lausanne) to catch up with them.



Chris (Cate’s future husband) has been coming over to spend some time at his second home in Switzerland. He is extremely nice, thoughtful with us and he has become a grandfather!

If I had to conclude in one sentence: my Everyday Faith experience has been very inspiring, a very good opportunity to step back, catch up with friends and think of new projects to start.

PS: The radio and TV are available on my personal website, johancrocoll.ch (they are in French)

