



L'Arche Belfast News & Views

April 2008



Quote

~ An optimist is the human personification of spring! ~

Susan J Bissonnette

Dates for your Diaries

Tues. 8th Visitors Evening with Anne O Sullivan and Donie Hurley in Megan and Scott's house 7.45 to 9pm. Please try to come if you can. Details from the office (028 90 221 337)

N.B.

Friday May 2nd (evening) to Saturday May 3rd (evening)

Community Gathering in Corrymeela for all Community and Board members. Hopefully many of you will already have this date marked in your diaries.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



We celebrate you, and the gifts you bring into our world - we give thanks that you are part of our lives

- 2nd Noah Shively-Blinn
- 3rd Helen Bryson
- 5th Jillian Gould
- 6th Sharon Ryan
- 7th Anne O Sullivan (60th)
- 10th Kristy Takel
- 15th Karin Maillard
- 28th Joanne Robinson

Welcomes & Farewells



From the 7th to the 9th Anne O Sullivan and Donie Hurley will be with us for their annual accompaniment visit and the following week Michel Bacq from L'Arche in Brussels will be coming to work with Maria to prepare a retreat for a few days. The Shively Blinn family will be going on holidays for the second half of the month and at the end of April Maureen will be off on maternity leave. How quickly time passes!!!

Update:

We were touched during Holy Week by the welcome we received from the members of the Churches Together in West Bangor - Thank You All.

Our target of £7,000 for the Noah's World fund this year doesn't seem so impossible any more. During the month of March we received gifts and donations exceeding £2,400. Thank you to all of you who are supporting our commitment to working together with others to create a world where everybody belongs. (nwf@larchebelfast.org.uk)

We invite you to come and see our allotment in the next few weeks. We now have a wonderful garden shed with a table, chairs, a kettle and a beautiful view over Strangford Lough. If you can lend a hand with the planting and the painting - all the better!!! (Contact Scott on 07849647641)

The Dream: Together in community we dream of "a world where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities or disabilities can find a place and reveal their gifts" - Jean Vanier.

It is Spring – the season of emergence and new life and because I am busily packing for our community holidays tomorrow I offer this reflection instead of a musing this month.

CALLED TO BECOME (Edwina Gateley)

You are called to become
A perfect creation.
No one is called to become
Who you are called to be.
It does not matter
How short or tall
Or thick-set or slow
You may be.
It does not matter
Whether you sparkle with life
Or are silent as a still pool,
Whether you sing your song aloud
Or weep alone in darkness.
It does not matter
Whether you feel loved and admired
Or unloved and alone
For you are called to become
A perfect creation.
No one's shadow
Should cloud your becoming,
No one's light
Should dispel your spark.
For the Lord delights in you,
Jealousy looks upon you
And encourages with gentle joy
Every movement of the Spirit
Within you.
Unique and loved you stand,
Beautiful or stunted in your growth
But never without hope and life.
For you are called to become
A perfect creation.
This becoming may be
Gentle or harsh,
Subtle or violent,
But it never ceases,
Never pauses or hesitates,
Only is –
Creative force –
Calling you
Calling you to become
A perfect creation.

Together we Pray

*Loving God
You call us into being
and give us our mission,
Thank You
for the gift of one another,
Thank You for our journey
together in L'Arche.
Help us to grow
in our response to you,
Listening to your voice within us,
Seeing You around us,
Delighting in our gifts,
Forgiving one another
for our failings,
Welcoming tomorrow
in Faith, Hope and Love.
Amen*

We give thanks:

- For gentle Holy and Easter weeks and the presence in our lives of many friends old and new.
- For the gifts, grants and donations that we received this month that give us the confidence to believe that our work to create a soft space in the world is also part of God's dream for us.

We ask:

- For blessings on Anne O Sullivan as she celebrates her 60th birthday.
- That Baby Lucy Pierce grows in size and in strength and that her little life showers blessings on her parents and on all who meet her.
- For a full recovery for our friend Lynda Gould and for Noah's friend Finn.

Connection Points

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