

Living Roots



*'from the smallest flower
to the tallest tree...'*



The holiday season is a time to reflect what defines L'Arche. Our real priorities can slip can slide out of focus while we are busy going to the shops, putting up lights and counting down the days until Christmas. But Christmas can also be a very lonely time for many. At L'Arche, we find the holiday season to be the perfect time to refocus on why we are here in the first place—friendship.

What's New?

- We have kicked off many new projects in the past few months, from 'Root Soup,' our social enterprise focused on providing organic soups for the community to the 'Loom,' a prayer room in North Belfast. And we continue to welcome new friends at the Alotment, where people with learning disabilities develop their gardening skills and feel the calming power of nature.

Now, we are starting weekly art days in the Ark to formally commit to our belief that art can provide tranquility, connection and self-expression for all. If you have art materials you do not need or would like to make donations, we would love to accept them! We are looking for:

- ✓ paint, paintbrushes, drawing materials
- ✓ clay, Play-doh, yarn, glue
- ✓ paper, canvases

December 2010

- The Ember will soon be welcoming Matthew to the community in the new year! Matthew has been a friend of the community for years, and he has now chosen to move in with his friends. It's a big move for Matthew, so if you see him, let him know of your support!
- This Advent season, each member of the community will make one special person feel extra special through our Christkindl gift-exchange. Throughout the month, we will be surprising our special person with small, creative gifts that show we care and brighten their day.
- 14th December, we will all gather at the Loom to decorate, have dinner and create a home in our new space for prayer and reflection. If you are interested in joining us for prayer some day, let us know!
- Root Soup is making its first soup this week. In January, two of our core members will be working in the Root Soup kitchen. Our social enterprise is becoming a reality.
- Watch out for Maria's Christmas Newsletter, coming soon to an inbox near you.

Merry Christmas to you all! And have a Happy New Year!



Keep in touch with us! In future newsletters, we'd like to honour the births, marriages, and deaths that continue to shape our lives at L'Arche.

I can be reached at: editor@larchebelfast.org.uk.

Hope to hear from you!

Cheers!