



HAPPY NEW YEAR



From all your friends at L'Arche Belfast!

Quote

One kind word can warm three winter months.
~Japanese Proverb~



Dates for your Diaries

We don't have a single date for your diaries this month. I guess that we were so preoccupied with the Advent & Christmas festivities that we forgot that January was coming up! Maybe that's not a bad thing in a community committed to living more softly and slowly. You are welcome to call anytime and we look forward to seeing you at some community gathering or other sometime in February.

Birthdays & Anniversaries Jan 2008



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

- 6th Beth Shively
- 9th Gregor Frírdích
- 16th Nadja Kutscher
- 10th Gwen's L'Arche Anniversary
- 19th Isabelle Triumpheller
- 26th Blanka Hrdova
- 31st Lucie Corjon

Welcomes & Farewells



We welcome Lynda McKay onto our team this month. As Murray slowly eases his way out of his role after 5 years of faithful friendship and extraordinary service Lynda will take up the Admin. & Finance baton. More about Murray later.

James will be leaving us at the end of the month. We will be sad to see him go but his good friend Thomas in particular will probably be bereft.

Update:

By now most of you will know that we have a new website: www.larchebelfast.org.uk. Our email address has changed also and from now on you can now contact us at info@larchebelfast.org.uk. We had a wonderful A.G.M. and friends came from far and wide. Sometimes we are awe struck by how many friends we have.

The target for the Noah's World Fund is £7,000 this year. Thanks to all of you who contributed at Christmas time. We will keep you posted as to how it is spent.

Finally, the big news is that James and Fayth got engaged in December. We are delighted for them both and wish them every blessing and joy together in whatever the future holds. There are visa issues to be sorted so we are keeping our fingers crossed that all will be well.



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, Founder of L'Arche

Post Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in sky is gone,
When the Kings and the Princes are Home
When the Shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins...

- ...To find the lost
- ...To heal the broken
- ...To feed the hungry
- ...To release the prisoner
- ...To rebuild the nation
- ...To bring peace among people
- ...To make music in the heart.

Anon.



Q. What will make our hearts sing in 2008?

A. Good health, enough food, friends who love us just the way we are - (warts and all), simple desires and the faith to know that when we have done our best God will do the rest.

L'Arche was founded over 40 years ago as a response to the request from Raphael Simi to Jean Vanier

"Will you be my friend?"

We wish you good friends this year - friends who will know exactly what you need and love you even when you are not able to love yourself

And...

May you be a good friend to others and may any stranger who comes into your life this year be welcomed as a friend in waiting.

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 wonderful Advent and Christmas celebrations and a great community holiday in Galway.
- That we are all healthy and happy and together as a New Year begins.

We ask:

- That we live this year one moment at a time knowing that every moment has exactly enough to meet our needs and that we will always have enough and be enough.
- That we live in a spirit of friendship, joy and abundance so that there is always enough to share and to spread around.
- That we are good friends to one another and to others.

Connection Points

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