

L'Arche Adelaide E-News

April 2025



The place of art in L'AAAd

Art has always played an important role in the lives of our community membership. Every year we have gatherings that give opportunity for artistic expression through art or craft. Every annual community weekend has afforded an opportunity for activities such as painting candles, creating images from clay, designing mobiles and contributing to large murals on biblical themes. In 2024, under Rob Tanner's supervision, a "Jonah and the Whale" mural was created by members which is now on temporary display at Adelaide West Uniting Church, Brooklyn Park.

Recently we have been privileged to receive a donation of \$15,000 from a very supportive donor to be used to employ a suitably artistic person to assist with an art project whereby L'Arche members, and possibly others, will be invited to create and contribute their artwork to an art exhibition. The project will serve to further foster the artistic abilities of members and develop social connections with kindred community groups and individuals in our corner of Adelaide. Thank God for creative expression!



Cam with David Bailey (left) from Shout for Joy & Adelaide West UC, in front of our "Jonah" mural, on display at Adelaide West church.

Farewell Rev Andrea

At our last shared worship and brunch with St Francis Anglican on March 30 we bid farewell to Rev Andrea. Cam offered a fine tribute, and Mark presented a gift, one of his excellent paintings, along with a thank-you card signed by community members. We've deeply valued Andrea's support over the last 6-7 years which has included, with the help of the St Francis church, a much-valued home at 9 Dinwoodie Ave for Mark, Laura and Jenni. Rev Andrea commences at St Jude's Anglican, Brighton after Easter. Peace to you, Andrea, and your family.



Rev Andrea with her farewell gift

National Listening & Speaking Group

Both Mark Tanner and Cam Bradshaw will be participating in L'Arche's next National Listening and Speaking Group (NLSG) from 24 - 27 June in Melbourne. The NLSG representatives from Australian L'Arche communities meet to contribute to planning and direction for L'Arche Australia. There will also be an online Core Member's Retreat on 17 May. Thanks to Shelley for ensuring L'Arche Adelaide members participate in both these events.

Coobowie Community weekend 2025

Following a great weekend away last year we'll be having another Coobowie community weekend this year from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 October. We look forward to joining again with Eleanor Parkes and other members of the Coobowie community for a great weekend of fun activities and fellowship. Save the date, put it in your diary asap! 😊



2024 Coobowie Weekend Gang!

New Board member

At the beginning of this year we welcomed Norelle Pearce onto our Board. Norelle comes to us with a commitment to L'Arche which goes back to our very first L'Arche Adelaide meeting in 2013. Through personal experience with her daughter Kelly she brings to us extensive understanding of disability, and experience in the disability sector. Welcome aboard Norelle!

Prayer Points

All-embracing God, we offer prayers for our wider L'Arche community:

- For the leadership exercised by National Leader, Claire Lawler, & National Chairperson, Philomena Barrington.
- For L'Arche National as it seeks to find someone to fill the role of Media & Comms
- For L'Arche communities located in places of war & unrest, such as Ukraine and Bethlehem.

And we pray for our community:

- our core members who live and build mutual friendships in the Dinwoodie house
- for Dinwoodie house staff in their care of core members
- for our ongoing friendship with St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church, and guidance for them as they discern a suitable priest to replace Rev Andrea.

..... O Lord, hear our prayer. **Amen**

This newsletter is for the members & supporters of L'Arche Adelaide

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Contributions are welcome

Weekly Prayer

L'Arche Australia's
online time of quiet reflection and
prayer is held on the **first** and **third**
Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM
SA time

The Zoom link is the same every month:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643471339>

Passcode: prayer

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to assist in our ongoing ministry. Thank you!

For further information, contact our Honorary Treasurer, Mel Zerner:

Mobile: 0418 852 353; Email: melzerner@outlook.com

Direct deposits to: L'Arche Adelaide Inc. BSB: 105010 Account No: 136892540



EASTER MESSAGE 2025

LIFE OVER DEATH

The Easter story offers a message of tragedy and triumph. – Jesus travels to Jerusalem to face his persecutors. He is arrested on bogus charges and sentenced to death. He hangs on a cross, and with his last breath he utters the words, “It is finished.”

In the death of their long-for Messiah the hopes of many are cruelly crushed. The persecutors have won. There is a profound sense of grief and injustice to this crucifying storyline.

However, on Sunday morning Mary Magdalene ventures to Jesus’ tomb only to discover that the stone is rolled to one side. Despair at the thought of a stolen body is overcome by an encounter with a supposed stranger who calls out to her, “Mary.”

Mary rushes to the hiding disciples and excitedly announces, “I have seen the Lord!”

And we join with people across the ages and cry, “Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

The Easter story tells us that life brings us sorrow and grief, and that needs to be embraced as an inevitable part of the human story. However, that is not the end of the story, because through and beyond death there is restored life, and lasting hope.

We all experience sorrow and grief, the loss of hope. There’s a life-threatening medical prognosis, the death of a loved one, cherished hopes and dreams are snatched from our grasp ... and we cry, “Why?”

However, as real as that grief may be Easter tells us that that grief is not the final storyline in our lives. There’s another, ongoing chapter, and it’s filled with hope.

As surely as spring follows winter, as green shoots follow a bushfire, and as laughter may follow tears, there is new and lasting life – thanks be to God.

Peace to you, and those you love, this Easter.

Trevor Whitney

Interim Chair, L’Arche Adelaide Board