



L'ARCHE EDINBURGH COMING OF AGE APPEAL



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

For more news, or to help, please call 0131 553 3478 or email jane.salmonson@larche.org.uk

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As we started to plan our “Coming of Age”, the 21st birthday of L’Arche in Edinburgh, we wanted first to invite Patrons to give us their public endorsement and their leadership. We are thrilled that the first three people we approached, all said yes.

The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew McLellan invited Jean Vanier, the founder of L’Arche, to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May 2000, when he was Moderator, and he has been a good friend to us ever since. Andrew tells us: “L’Arche communities can be the happiest communities in the world; yet they are made up of some of those who have known the deepest pain and sadness. Walking some steps of the way with the people of L’Arche is a very great privilege for us all. It helps us walk in the way of God.”

His Eminence Cardinal Keith Patrick O’Brien said yes to the family and friends of the late Monsignor David Gemmell, Administrator at St. Mary’s RC Cathedral, Edinburgh, and to parishioners, when they asked him to agree to an appeal for L’Arche in Father David’s memory. With his support, £160,000 has been raised, half each for L’Arche in Edinburgh and Kenya. Without his support, none of this would have been possible. The Cardinal writes: “I am sure the name of L’Arche is familiar to very many people by now. For many who are less able, it simply means ‘home’. Please join me in supporting this Appeal for another L’Arche home.”

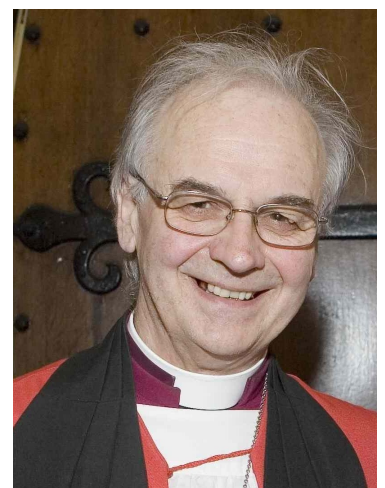
The Rt. Rev. Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church, also has longstanding links with L’Arche. Congregations in the diocese raised enough money in 2007 to complete the adaptations to L’Arche Uganda’s new house in Kampala. The first ever L’Arche community in the UK was established in Kent, in 1974, with the support of Michael Ramsey, the then Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Brian will remain as our Patron, in a personal capacity, after he retires later this year. He comments: “L’Arche has been in Edinburgh for 20 years. As it reaches its 21st birthday, I hope that people in and around Edinburgh will help it to grow and continue to develop its work for people with learning disabilities. Help is needed and deserved, for the charity and the people it serves.”



The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew McLellan



His Eminence Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien



The Rt. Rev. Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh