

Friends: News from



Letters from the Lodge

Sam

The past year has certainly not been without its challenges, but the feeling throughout the countless Zoom meetings, cold campfire evenings and virtual 'tea parties' has been one of growth. Lakshmi and I, new residents this year, have felt the famous Lyn's House welcome in full force! Not only have the whole community embraced us fully in our online activities, but we have joined Patrick in the intentional community in the Lodge, and the three of us have shared daily prayer, house meals, trips to the seaside and more. Lyn's House has also been joined by new volunteers and core friends, while existing friendships have been strengthened. One delightful aspect of meeting online has been the ability to reconnect with past residents and long-time friends of Lyn's House who are scattered around the globe. Thus our tea parties and prayer meetings have given us the opportunity to catch up with people in New York, Vienna, Nairobi and more! It has been inspiring to see the joy on people's faces when reconnecting with one another.

Particular highlights of our online meetings have included a 'Lyn's House has got Talent' evening, in which we were blown away by hidden talents such as Carole's chicken impression, David and Debbie's moose song and Alex's scientific models. Our Lodge contribution was a *Sound of Music*-inspired puppet show, for which Patrick supplied a fantastic range of voices. We also hosted a karaoke evening, with renditions of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *You Are My Sunshine* and others, and a guest appearance from a real live goat – thank you Ozymandias!



The Talent Show

As much fun as we have had coming up with new ways to be together as a community, the easing of restrictions has been incredibly welcome to all of us, and we have celebrated in true Lyn's House fashion! In-person midweek meals resumed for the last five weeks of

the Easter term, and the Lodge was once again full of the smells of delicious cooking and the sound of unrestrained laughter that warms the heart. At these evenings we have enjoyed picking flowers from the beautiful Margaret Beaufort Institute garden, making our own pizzas and trifles, doing jigsaws and colouring, and praying together. Lakshmi, Patrick and I have felt incredibly privileged to be able to open our home up again and host the community here in this way.

Our larger gatherings have been outdoors, and limited to thirty people at a time, but we have played dice with the weather and enjoyed some fantastic times. In June we held two garden tea parties on consecutive weekends, at which we celebrated coming together as a community again. It was an utter joy to see people in 3D again – or for the first time in some cases! It was also particularly lovely to see Philip and Renate with their daughter Josephine, as well as one of the new residents for next year. More recently, we have held a pair of barbecues to mark the end of another year in the life of Lyn's House. Food and drink were in abundance, stories were exchanged and new faces introduced. Singing songs, praying together and telling our story using the scroll of hands was a wonderful way to thank God for all that he has blessed us with over the last year.



A cake to celebrate the end of lockdown

Patrick and I will be moving out of the Lodge in August, but we are hoping to hold one more event before we leave to say farewell to the incredible community of which we have been blessed to be a part. We have already appointed one new resident for next year, who we are very excited to have joining us. This year has reminded us all of the importance and power of community in all areas of life, and Lyn's House has been a shining example of this. Whether online or in person, it has been a blessing to be supported by one another. I am sure that next year will be similarly blessed.

What Lyn's House is to Me

Sarah

Lyn's House has been a blessing to me; I meet with Lakshmi who is full of Joy & a Joy to me, with Sam who loves sharing holidays & jokes & with Patrick who enjoys having company with whoever is around him & being blessed. I'm blessed to be able to meet friends either on Zoom or actually meet in person for the first time since at the picnic summer last year & for old friends to meet & for God who blesses us & keeps us strong in our fun times & also in our quiet times too.



*The
Barbecue*

Loving Belonging

A Thank you to Lyn's House by Lakshmi

Loving belonging; this is how I would choose to sum up Lyn's House, what it has given me, and what it has taught me.

There is such a joy, warmth, love, welcome and acceptance that courses and pumps through Lyn's that it's impossible not to be touched and nourished by it. I've felt so incredibly loved, accepted and cherished that it's given me the grounding to feel well in myself, and therefore love others better too. Lyn's House, through example, has also taught me (and I've a lot more to learn!) how it is I can create that sense of loving belonging for others too.

And this is of course deeply biblical. It is through feeling God's overwhelming love that we are then moved to love others with that same unconditional love. The Lyn's House community channels God's overwhelming love so very well, helps others share, receive, and acknowledge that powerful love, resulting in a natural overflowing and sharing of that love. What a beautiful community!

Adding to this, it is through this sharing of unconditional love that a space in which we can be true to ourselves and God's desire for us can come to fruition. Lyn's House has definitely provided that space for me, helping me life myself out more fully and let the Spirit work through me more freely.

Thank you for reflecting God's love so well, reminding me of how loved I am, and helping me love others better.

Lyn's House: A Kaleidoscope

Debbie Ford

Have you ever looked through a kaleidoscope? When I



think of Lyn's House this past year, that's the image that comes to mind (probably because of all our Zoom meetings!) – a kaleidoscope of all our different faces: full of life and colour, in different and changing relationships, colours, shapes and patterns.



It's been a tough year, hasn't it? Whoever would have thought the pandemic would have lasted so long or it'd be so difficult to meet face to face in person? We've missed a lot: there have been tears as well as lots of joy.

But God's Spirit has kept on bubbling up in new and inspiring ways: picnics, gazebos, fire pits, barbecues, Monday night prayer times, Zoom activities and games, talent shows, a logo, LH t-shirts, a website, new faces, friends, babies, music and dances.... We're still here! And we've grown deeper together as we've needed and had to rely on one another more through all the year has held.

What a lot we have to be grateful for! Particularly to Patrick, Lakshmi and Sam (in the Lodge) – together with our incredibly faithful volunteers, who've worked so hard in keeping everything going so well. Thank you everyone and thank you God!

I wonder what the coming year is going to bring as we celebrate and seek to grow in God’s love together?



A Prayer at the end of the year:

Living God, we thank you for your calling us into your love and for Lyn’s House.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us this past year – with all its challenges – and for the deepening love, joy and fellowship we’ve shared together.

Thank you for the gift of laughter and fun; for friendship and friends with whom to share our hopes, fears and tears.

Help us to live and grow deeper in our love for one another and for you.

Open our eyes to the beauty and gift in one another and help us to be generous and forgiving when we hurt or disappoint each other.

Be with us as we seek to be the fulness of all you long for us to be and help us always to be welcoming of strangers. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



Have a really good rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you all again soon!



A Circle of Friends...

Carole Irwin

I wanted to share with you a song I learned while I was a member of the P’Arche community in Liverpool. It’s by an Australian musician called John Coleman, who’s also a member of P’Arche where he lives. The song is called ‘Come to the Circle.’

I’m sharing it because I think it says something about the kind of friendship we try to share at Lyn’s House: where everyone is welcome, we’re really *glad* that each person is here, and we know that it wouldn’t be the same without them.



Debbie demonstrating our Lyn’s House welcome, and modelling our new T-shirts!

John makes his music available online, so there’s a weblink to the song at the end of this article.*

You might like to listen, and as you read the words, perhaps put your name in place of the “Rosie” whose name John uses. “Rosie” stands for each of us. However

long or short a time you've been part of Lyn's House - or however long ago! - or if you support or pray for us from a distance. The simple fact that you're reading our newsletter means that in your own way, you're part of us. It's *so* good you're here...



Come to the Circle, by John Coleman

*Come to the circle,
my sisters, my brothers.
Come to the circle
for we are all friends.
We gather together,
for we are one body;
we give thanks for the circle,
and thanks for our friends.*

*Welcome to the circle, *Rosie*,
it's so good you are here,
to break and share your journey with us,
Rosie, you're welcome here.*

*Come to the circle,
my sisters, my brothers.
Come to the circle
for we are all friends.
We gather together,
for we are one body;
we give thanks for the circle,
and thanks for our friends.*



A post-lockdown hug!

* URL for the song:
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/come-to-the-circle>

Before you go...

And so we come to the end of another year at Lyn's House! If you would like to find out more about what we do, please visit our facebook page and website using the links at the bottom of the page, or get in touch via email. We are always interested to meet new people and welcome them into our community.

It was lovely to get a message recently from Dan Smith, a former Lyn's House resident. He and his wife Lena are in Germany and are well, along with their daughter Esther. He is also making jewellery, and has an online shop at www.dansdesigns.com as well as a page on etsy.com.

If you are a friend, resident or volunteer who has moved on to other things, please do drop us a line – we always like to hear from familiar faces! Even though we are saying goodbye to Patrick and Sam, we very much hope that they will stay in touch as they begin the next stage of their journeys. As someone once sang, *Friendship never ends...*



Admiring the fruits of the garden