Epistle of Children and Young People's Programme at Joint Meeting of London Area Meetings

To all Friends everywhere,

On Saturday 3rd February 2024, nine children and young people aged 1 to 17 years old and two Children and Young People's Workers gathered at Friends House, London alongside the Joint Meeting of London Area Meetings to explore the theme of Community.

We began our day by joining the main meeting in an all-age worship in the Benjamin Lay Room, in which Friends wrote down or drew something to represent the theme "what I love about Community" on paper 'bricks'. The bricks were then laid onto two large 'houses' which represented our London Quaker community.

After all age-worship, we went to the Elizabeth Fry Room and took all the bricks and decorated the houses with them and other arts and crafts materials (pictured below). For this part of the day, we were joined by Julia Stacey, our new Children and Youth Development Worker for London. It was very exciting to meet her, and we look forward to working with her in the future.

After a short break, we gathered again in the Elizabeth Fry Suite to take more of a deep dive into what community means.

With the younger children, we explored community through building houses and towers using wooden blocks and worked together to play a cooperative board game. We made new friends and strengthened our existing friendships through play and reading stories together.

With the older children, we explored what the London Quaker community looks like for children and young people through a series of topics:

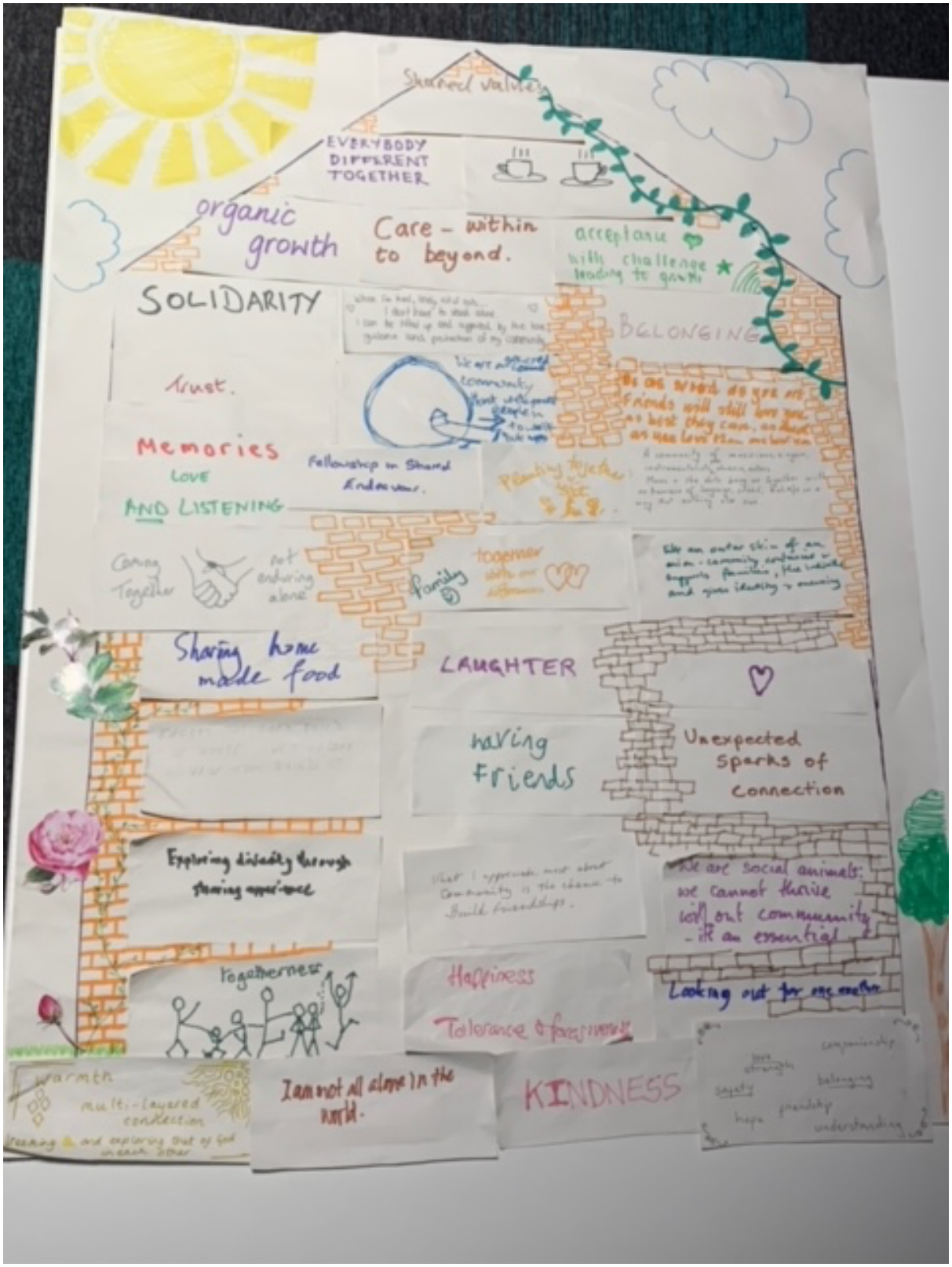
- What do we already have?
- What are our future aspirations? What is 'the dream'?
- How do we get there? How do we make this happen?
- How will **we** do it? What are some steps we can take now?

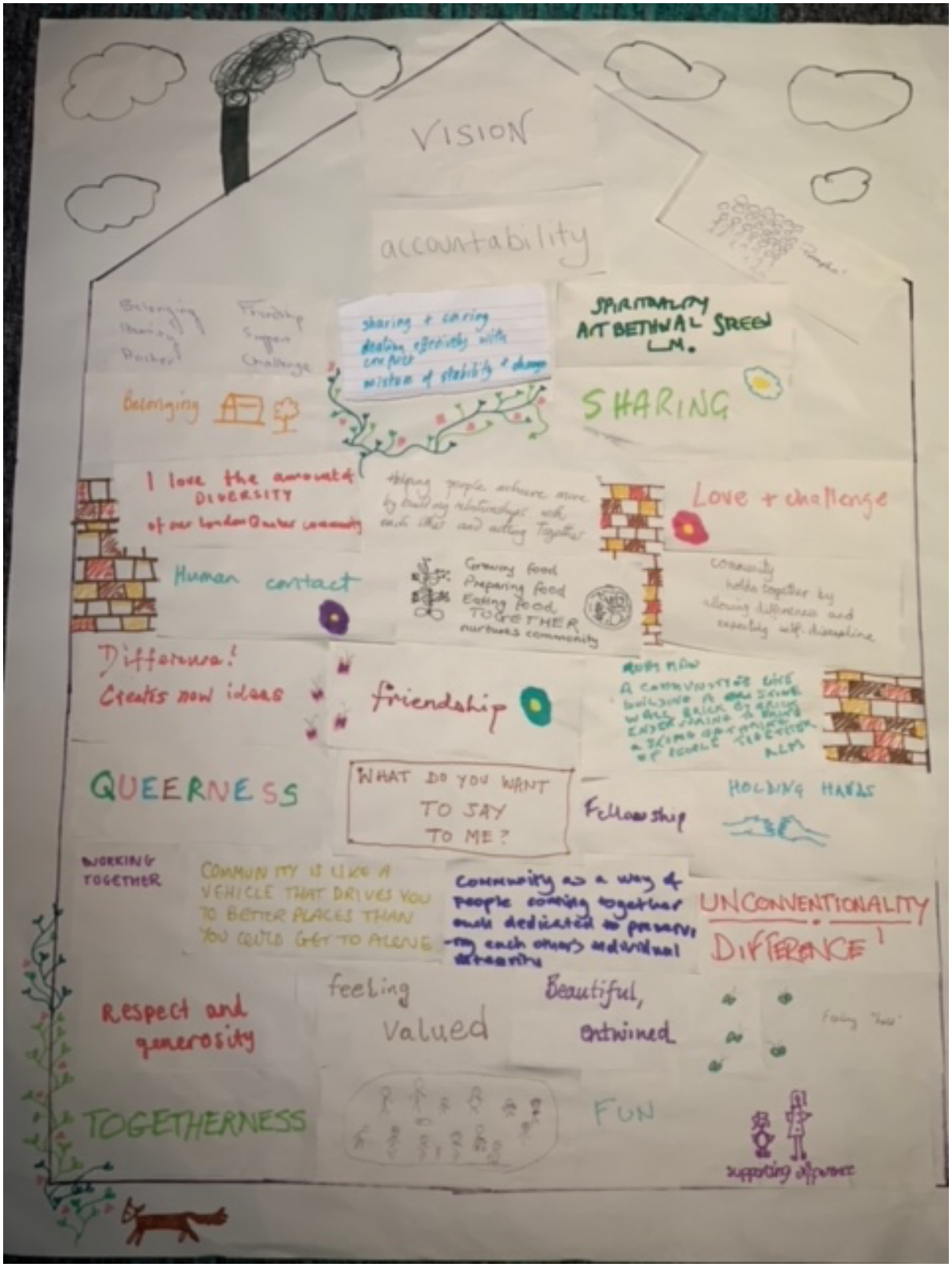
Our responses were written up and presented to the rest of the meeting at the end of the day, alongside a presentation of what the younger children did.

We had a wonderful time playing, discussing, and worshipping together, and we are really looking forward to the next opportunity for this to happen.

Signed in and on behalf of the children and young people,

Issy Craig-Wood and Kit King
Children and Young People's Workers


Shared values
EVERYBODY DIFFERENT TOGETHER
organic growth
Care - within to beyond.
acceptance with challenge leading to growth
SOLIDARITY
BELONGING
Trust.
Memories
LOVE
AND LISTENING
Fellowship in Shared Endeavour.
Coming Together
not enduring alone
family
together with our differences
Sharing home made food
LAUGHTER
having friends
Unexpected sparks of connection
Exploring disability through sharing experience
We are social animals: we cannot thrive without community - it an essential
togetherness
Happiness
Tolerance & forgiveness
Looking out for one another
warmth
multi-layered connection
I am not all alone in the world.
KINDNESS
companionship
belonging
friendship
understanding


VISION
accountability
SPIRITUALITY
SHARING
Belonging
I love the amount of DIVERSITY of our London Quaker community
Love + challenge
Human contact
Growing food
Preparing food
Eating food
TOGETHER
nurtures community
Differences!
Creates new ideas
friendship
QUEERNESS
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME?
Fellowship
HOLDING HANDS
WORKING TOGETHER
COMMUNITY IS LIKE A VEHICLE THAT DRIVES YOU TO BETTER PLACES THAN YOU COULD GET TO ALONE
Community as a way of people coming together and dedicated to preserving each other's individual diversity
UNCONVENTIONALITY
DIFFERENCE
Respect and generosity
feeling
Valued
Beautiful,
Entwined
TOGETHERNESS
FUN
supporting difference