

Coming to the end of 2017 means we have an opportunity to reflect, refocus and proceed into 2018 with God's help.

**Reflection** helps us to see where we've come from. We began the year with some uncertainties –

- How can we ensure the quality of our service to people with learning disabilities is continually improving?
- When would CQC (our regulator) suddenly walk in unannounced to inspect our service?
- Would there be enough new recruits to replace the staff who for various reasons are moving on?

Looking back we can praise God that these matters have turned out positively; our service was inspected in August and we were awarded 'Good' in all five areas. We are thrilled that our regulator recognises the improvements our great team have made and this recognition is a credit to all of them. God has blessed us with great staff and we're so grateful.

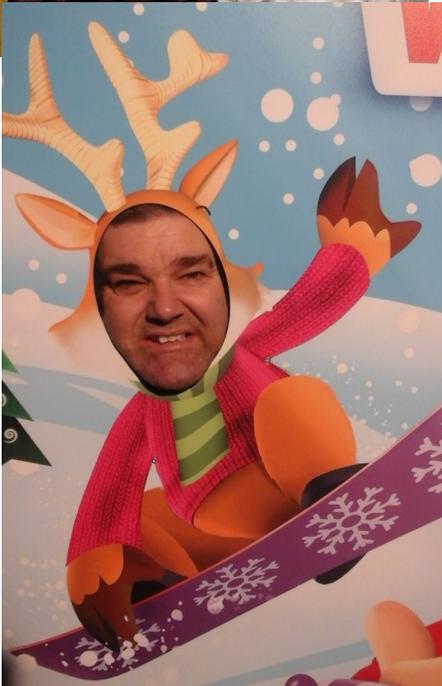
In common with the whole care industry, we have experienced some challenging weeks with staff shortages. Our conscientious staff have worked overtime to ensure the number of shifts we need to cover by Agency staff has been kept to a minimum. New recruits have been found and God continues to answer this prayer. Please continue to pray with us for others to join us in this great work.

**Refocus** – reminds us of why we're here. Our mission is to share Jesus with the residents and encourage them to follow Him in every aspect of their lives. We want them to enjoy the contentment that knowing Jesus brings as well as learning, working and being fulfilled in life. Please pray with us that He will be the centre of everything at The Lodge Trust.

**Proceeding into 2018** is exciting. We don't know what the future holds but we know **Someone** who will be ahead of us. Please pray that we will keep in step with His Spirit and follow where He leads. These are days of change. CQC has recently stated that they will not register new care homes in 'campus style development' and yet that is what many Christian families seek because our ethos is distinctive. Pray that our trustees will know God's wisdom as we go forward for God's glory.

*...the one who is in you is powerful. He is more powerful than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4b, the Bible)*

# Happy Christmas



Thank you so much to all of you for continued support over the last year. We have had some really exciting times and some really hard ones and we are so glad that you are with us in our journey praying for us and supporting us wherever you can. We really appreciate it and greatly look forward to journeying with you in to 2018 and seeing what the future holds. From all the staff and residents at The Lodge Trust.