

incuterspace

## *A Charity Christmas Card Story...*

incuterspace is happy to support a charity close to our heart so when challenged to provide artwork for a Christmas card for Saint Michael's Hospice, we were happy to oblige...

## *PAT Dogs...*



Ann and Cathy Burrell had previously asked us to produce art canvases of their dogs and horses, including their huge and beautiful Leonberger dogs.

Ann's dogs are registered PAT dogs (Pets As Therapy) and she has devoted much of her time to visiting Saint Michael's Hospice with them.

Ann's challenge... could we get the PAT Dogs together and produce a Christmas card for this year?

## *Merry Christmas*



Eventually we managed to capture Puzzle, Domino, Scrabble & Quiz all together in a beautiful pose.

It would have been too much to ask for them to wear Santa hats, so we added them later!

You can read more on the next page about Ann, her wonderful PAT Dogs and her dedication to Saint Michaels' Hospice...



Devoted, Ann and Isabelle

## Saint Michael's Olympic champions

**LONG-STANDING** volunteer Ann Burrell and her canine companions are familiar faces at Saint Michael's.

For eight years now, Ann has dedicated three or four days each week to sharing with dog therapy patients the love and loyalty her giant Labrador dogs give to her.

And it is this devotion that has led to Saint Michael's nominating her to carry the Olympic torch on its UK tour as part of the build up to London 2012.

"I'm very flattered," she said, "but it's for the dogs more than me! I sit, and chat - to everyone but the dogs are the ones who make the difference."

"It's such an incredible place, we're just happy to be able to help." Downie, five, Isabelle, three, Quill, 10 months, and Paolo, 11 months, are registered PM dogs (Pets As Therapy) and are such fixtures in day therapy that it was the patients and nurses who named them.

Day therapy allows people living at home with terminal illness to spend some time in a relaxing and social environment that provides a holistic package of care. Talking to Ann and stroking the dogs are a perfect complementary therapy for some, especially those who owned dogs but are no longer able to do so.

"It introduces you with its love and laughter and if we are selected, representing Saint Michael's as Olympic torchbearers will be a wonderful bonus," she added.

Ann and the dogs take part in many fundraising activities for Saint Michael's including events like the Engage Mutual Midnight Walk and stem collection, and this year feature on Hospice Christmas cards.

Ann will discover in December 2011 what her role has been selected by the London 2012 Torch Relay Team.

### Good luck, Ann!

For more information on volunteering at Saint Michael's, contact Miriam Leady on 02402 695 470 or email [mlady@stmicnick.hospice.org](mailto:mlady@stmicnick.hospice.org)



Get your paws on one! Ann's pack appear on selected Saint Michael's Christmas cards this year.