



- Barnes Close Conference Centre
- Personal Retreats
- Romania Concern
- Footprints (in former Yugoslavia)
- Un-Afr-Aid (United Africa Aid)
- Village India Aid
- Afghanistan

**Newslink
November
2015**

The migrant crisis in Europe shows no sign of abating. Its effects are being felt in almost every country. This Newslink focusses on one area where CfR has direct involvement, some of you will be involved in other areas. Recently I went to the first public meeting of 'Bromsgrove Welcomes Refugees' and it was heartening to see so many people from across the community prepared to do all that they can to make refugees welcome. One of the most moving moments was an Eritrean Refugee who arrived in the UK through the Calais camp three years ago spoke. We must help our brothers and sisters to feel welcome in the UK. *Ian Ring, Community Co-Ordinator*



Opatovac Refugee Camp Croatia

The work volunteers, organisations, churches and government bodies in Croatia have been doing side by side for more than a month with refugees from Syria and The East has been very unpredictable and huge for our small part of the country called Slavonia. I am aware of contribution and concern of many other groups and individuals from Europe and other countries so that we and countries on the route of refugees would be able to give food, water, clothes and some shelter

for the river of people passing through. The work has been very emotional and stressful with high adrenalin in everyone because of awareness that so many things had to be done quickly, and it was still pretty insufficient. Our work is pretty hard, the traveling of refugees so inhuman, because we were not ready for such long constant and big flow of people who are so committed to find help and a better life far away from war zone. We do not want to be ready because we are faced with the unknown and with things that could make us uncomfortable. Countries can not agree about a coordinated way of transporting refugees through the borders, or the numbers of refugees they want to let through or in the country. I do not judge anyone. I just say that I identify with refugees. I am a Croat who lived through the war for a short period of time but I have seen impact of it for such a long time. That is why I committed my life to making influence for a peaceful solution and peace processes and reconciliation, because without that so many people have to leave war zone, they have to care for families, they have to realise that war is insane and only those ready to kill can support it. So without peace processes in the East for such a long time we should not be surprised why our brothers and sisters from the East have come to our doors with their need for security and education, jobs and life in peace. I think we should all focus, pray and work for restoration of countries where refugees come from so they can gladly go back when they can feel safe, and in the meanwhile we can show them love and respect and share what we have, it is not much but they do not ask for much, just for what is possible. I am thankful for the opportunity to help in any way because I believe Jesus would do the same.

Nena Arvaj
CfR's principal contact in Croatia

Pictures from internet, not from Nena



CfR European Migrant Crisis Appeal

CfR responded to a request through Nena from the Youth Peace Group Danube, Vukovar to fund transport and coordination of volunteers. This appeal has raised over £2500 so far and more is needed. Donations may be sent to CfR marked 'Croatia Appeal'. Cheques should be made out to 'Community for Reconciliation'. Thank you to all who have given so far

Open Christmas @ Barnes Close Thursday 17 December 7.30-9.30 pm

Ian and the team invite you to a wonderful evening of carols, stories, humour, games, prayer and light refreshments round the fire & Christmas Tree. This is a truly special way to end the CfR year and begin the Christmas Season.

Book your place by email or phone



**Need a break?
Why not try our Private Retreats**

£55 per 24 hours
Includes room and meals
£22 per day includes lunch
Available mid-week most of year
at Barnes Close



What's On at Barnes Close

Community Evening at Barnes Close-
Monday 9th Nov with Trustee Meeting
Monday 7th Dec with Membership, Programme & Marketing Group Meeting
6.00pm for 6.30pm Meal

Reflection Days

Thursday 12th Nov, 10th Dec, 14th Jan-
Cost: £15 per day (includes lunch)

Silent Retreat

Tue 24th to Thu 26th November
Cost £140 waged (£120 unwaged)

Christmas Dinners

Still Available: 1st, 2nd, 9th, 11th, 14th Dec
for groups of 8 or more. £16 per person

Open Christmas

Thursday 17th December
Traditional Christmas Evening at Barnes Close

Palestinian Film Evening

Mon 21st December 7pm
Palestinian Film Evening with Buffet

Holocaust Memorial Day

Sunday 24th January 6pm
Reflection, Meditation, Prayer, Buffet

News From Barnes Close

We continue to be blessed with short-term volunteers through workaway, most of whom come for between 4 and 8 weeks and from Italy, France, Germany or Spain .

Thanks to a very generous donation we are planning to redecorate the entrance, dining room, common room and Webb room early in 2016.

Donations & Grants

We are very grateful to all who have made donations in 2015 to enable our work to continue.

	Received spent balance		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>31/09</u>
CfR Un-Afr-Aid	124	4560	-413
CfR Village India Aid	409	0	1959
CfR Romania Concern	437	1536	2211
CfR Footprints	12177	6473	13848
<i>* Footprints group raises its own funds.</i>			
CfR Afghanistan	31	0	1395
CfR Barnes Close Bursary	408	250	4123
CfR Barnes Close	7796	7500	296
<i>For improvements, Upgrades & CfR events</i>			
CfR Overseas Yth Bursary	0	0	2932

Please consider CfR when making your will, much of our work has been funded through past legacies

Bring Your Church Leadership Team to Barnes Close

Whether it is for a day retreat, planning session or an evening meal and conversation Barnes Close is the ideal venue for your leadership team to spend quality time together. Email or phone Ian to discuss your requirements

Pause for Thought

When God created the universe all was in harmony and at peace. At the end of time all will be in harmony and in peace. The logical conclusion is that God's will for humankind is to be in harmony and at peace. As Christians we regularly pray 'Thy will be done on earth'. Our task is to make that prayer a reality by doing our best to live in harmony & at peace

Contacting the Community for Reconciliation:

🌐: www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk



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Barnes Close Office hours: Monday - Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm