



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

**Newslink**  
**February**  
**2016**

As we enter Lent our thoughts naturally turn towards Jesus and the cross. It is a much loved and familiar story as it demonstrates the depth of God's love for his ultimate creation, humankind. Jesus told us we would have to take up our cross if we want to follow him. This is a much misunderstood saying for it does not refer any tragedy, suffering or hardship that comes our way. Just like Jesus gave up his life so our cross is the sacrifices we have to make in order to follow him. That may be an attitude to money or possessions, it may be a wrong relationship or lifestyle. Lent is a time to re-view our walk with God, use it well. *Ian Ring, Community Co-Ordinator*



### News From Barnes Close



January has seen major transformation at Barnes Close thanks to the first year of a five year grant from a trust for improvements at Barnes Close.

New lights have replaced the fluorescent tubes in the entrance, common, room, dining room and Webb room and the same four rooms have been completely re-decorated. In addition we have decluttered by removing or re-siting some furniture, pictures, ornaments and leaflet racks. The work will be completed with new curtains, an upgraded, more robust pa system and doors to turn some shelves into cupboards. The effect is wonderful. You must come and see it soon.

The Prayer Room will be redecorated shortly and made suitable for prayer and small or one to one meetings.

Thanks to Robert, Alex and new volunteer Keith some storm damaged trees have been removed and cut into logs for the fire. There is always much to do outside, maybe you could come and help us.

### Personnel

Jo Plant has finished her time as bookkeeper and treasurer and we are extremely grateful for all that she has done and delighted she is going to continue as a Trustee. We welcome Rebecca Scott as Treasurer and Dawn Dewson as bookkeeper and Keith Claringbull as another occasional volunteer in the grounds.



**Garth Hewitt in Concert**  
**Beacon Church Centre,**  
**Whetty Lane, Rubery**  
**Saturday 16th April**  
**7.30pm**

Amos Trust founder, singer-songwriter Garth Hewitt, will be on tour in Spring and Autumn 2016 with his Strange Weapons tour, singing songs and telling stories from Amos' partner projects around the world including Palestine Nicaragua and India.

Drawing on his extensive catalogue of songs old and new Garth sings songs of struggle and hope, regrets and homecomings. This is sure to be a fantastic and informative evening that is not to be missed

CfR has teamed up with Churches Together in B45 to host this evening.

**Advance Tickets £6**  
(£2 if under 16)  
**Door Tickets £7.50**  
(£3 if under 16)  
Book with Ian



**Open Easter @ Barnes Close**  
**Monday 28 March 7.30-9.30 pm**

Ian and the team invite you to a wonderful evening of songs, stories, humour, games, prayer and light refreshments round the fire, truly special way to end the Easter experience.

**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**

6.00pm for 6.30pm Meal

Monday 29th Feb & Barnes Close Committee

Monday 14th March & Trustees Meeting

Monday 11th April & External Relations

**Reflection Days**

Thursday 10th Mar, 14th Apr, 12th May

Cost: £15 per day (includes lunch)

**Peace Kids Lite**

Tues 16th & Wed 17th February

Fun sleepover for 7 to 11 year olds

Cost £20

**Lent Quiet Retreat**

Tue 1st to Thu 3rd March

Cost £150 waged (£125 unwaged)

**Easter at Barnes Close**

Thu 24th to Tues 29th March

Spend Easter with friends, old and new

Cost £250 waged (£210 unwaged)

**Easter Monday, 28th March**

10am St Kenelm's Walk

7.30pm Open Easter

**Please contact Ian for booking forms**

**Donations & Grants**

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

	<b>Received spent balance</b>		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>31/11</u>
CfR Un-Afr-Aid	159	4560	-383
CfR Village India Aid	465	0	2015
CfR Romania Concern	514	1685	2139
CfR Footprints	13452	11675	9920
<i>* Footprints group raises its own funds.</i>			
CfR Afghanistan	71	0	1405
CfR Barnes Close Bursary	494	375	4084
CfR Barnes Close	9775	9850	-75
<i>For improvements, Upgrades &amp; 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*

**Family Celebrations**

Barnes Close is the ideal venue for a small family celebration. We can cater for special birthdays eg 80th's, wedding receptions and anniversaries. There are also 13 bedrooms for guests who wish to stay over. Funeral Teas are possible at Barnes Close.

**Contact Ian to discuss your requirements**

**Pause for Thought**

Half the world's wealth is owned by 1% of the world's population. In the UK 45% of our wealth is owned by 10% of the population whilst the poorest 50% of the population share 8.7% of our wealth. Trussell Trust foodbanks gave out over 1 million 3 day emergency food packs last year. Jesus says love you neighbours as you love yourselves.

**News From Projects**

We hope to welcome a group from Croatia as part of their Touch of Hope course in April. Work in the Croatian migrants camps continues with most migrants being processed fairly quickly and moved on to Slovenia and onwards west.

The situation in Burundi is tense and we should pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

**Contacting the Community for Reconciliation:**

🌐: [www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk](http://www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk)

✉: [cfrenquiry@aol.com](mailto:cfrenquiry@aol.com)

☎: **01562 710231 (answerphone available)**

✉ **CfR, Barnes Close, Chadwich, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0RA**

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