



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

Newslink
February
2014

We are already well in to 2014 and Christmas seems a distant memory. The new year carried on where the old left off with storms and floods in Britain, bloodshed in Syria, violence in many places and increasing numbers relying on charity such as food banks. The divide between rich and poor seems to be getting ever bigger, confirmed by the report that the 85 wealthiest people in the world have the same total wealth as the poorest 50% of the world's population. As Christians we can not accept this situation we must work to change it..

Ian Ring, Community Co-Ordinator



Reflection Days

Setting time aside to be with God and reflect is of immense benefit to us all so alongside the regular Reflection Days at Barnes Close we offer churches, home groups or the like to come and have their own day or evening reflection. Ian is always willing to come and lead reflection days or evenings in your church or group setting.

CfR Footprints Update

Over twenty years after the war there are still serious tensions between Croats and Serbs in the Vukovar area which demonstrate the vital need for our Touch of Hope project. The Project Management Group is looking at the practicalities of running Unit 2 as well as Unit 1 and extending the work into Bosnia. For this more finance is urgently needed.



Clive is planning to attend a conference to mark the centenary of WW1, PEACE EVENT SARAJEVO 2014 and run a workshop there.

News From Barnes Close

The office has been transformed with new carpet tiles, chairs, desks, filing cabinets and photocopier all sourced second hand at excellent prices.



We plan to re-carpet the Webb Room in February but sadly no volunteer decorators have been forthcoming. Work continues in the grounds which should look much better this Spring.

Provisional bookings for 2014 are a marked increase on those for 2013 this time last year.

We had 11 volunteers last year, part of a now steady stream of short-term volunteers either through Workaway or direct email contact. Since I have been here we have welcomed over one hundred volunteers from sixteen countries.

Easter at Barnes Close

This is one of the highlights of CfR's programme. It offers the opportunity to spend a relaxing Easter with friends, old and new as we reflect upon the events of the first Easter. Some of this shared with local churches in Rubery. Why not join us this Easter.

EASTER WALK is on Monday 21st April. Ten miles over the Clent hills. Bring lunch and waterproofs

OPEN EASTER is Monday 21st April from 7.30pm to 9.30pm with the usual mix of music, stories, humour entertainment and food.

STOP PRESS

Youth Houseparty excellent. Looking forward to other CfR events. Please pray for them

Friday at Barnes Close - 12noon to 2pm

Conversation, Lunch, Pray

This idea has not attracted people and therefore has been temporarily dropped from the Barnes Close programme



**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

Reflection Days - The Presence of God

Thursday 13th February, 13th March,
10th April
Cost: £15 per day (includes lunch)

Healing Retreat

Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th March
An opportunity to explore & experience the
Healing Ministry
Cost: £140 (waged) £120 (unwaged)

Volunteering Experience

Monday 14th to Thursday 17th April
Come and help at Barnes Close
Cost£30

Easter at Barnes Close

Thursday 17th to Tuesday 22nd April
Enjoy our Easter Houseparty
Cost: £240 (waged) £200 (unwaged)

Easter Walk

Monday 21st April 10am to 4pm

Open Easter

Monday 21st April 7.30pm
Stories, Songs, Refreshments

Please contact Ian for booking forms

Donations & Grants

We are very grateful to all who made donations to
our work in 2013 to enable our work to continue.

Received	spent	balance
<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>30/09/13</u>

The end of year figures are not yet available

We have a reserve Peace & Justice Fund which,
at the rate we are currently using it for VIA &
UnAfrAid, will be exhausted by 2018.

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

World War 1 Centenary 2014

Our Community Coordinator, Ian, is the Director
of Rubery Drama Group's next production 'The
Accrington Pals' at the Beacon Church Centre,
Rubery. The play opens on Wednesday 30th
April with a charity performance and runs until
Saturday 3rd May. Set in the early years of WW1
it tells the story of the largest Kitchener Battalion
from the viewpoint of the women left behind.
Tickets can be ordered from Ian

On Sunday 3rd August at 6pm CfR will host a
Reconciliation Service at St Chad's Rubery. We
hope you will join us for this.

Peace & Reconciliation Issues

Highlights from other organisations and places

As the commemorations of World War One start
we need to ensure that any local events are not
simply a glorification of war but tell the story of
the suffering, pain and immense loss of life. It is
a story not only of armed forces but of families
left behind, conscientious objectors, egotistical
leaders, false hopes and the role of the church.

Pause for Reflection

The story of Noah regards persistent rainfall and
the consequent floods as a punishment from
God. Elsewhere, in the Old and New Testaments,
rain and water generally are scene as a sign of
God's blessing upon the earth. We are fed up
with the rain but we must reflect on what it might
mean. Is it a sign from God?

Contacting the Community for Reconciliation:

: www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk



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