



Barnes Close, Chadwich, Bromsgrove, B61 0RA

From the Community Co-ordinator : Ian Ring

April 2017

Easter Letter

www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk

Dear Friends

Easter, the central point of our faith, will soon be here. On the cross Jesus reconciled the human race to God and by his resurrection God confirmed that nothing, not even death, can destroy the Lordship of Jesus. His kingdom, his reign, never ends. That immense outpouring of God's love two thousand years ago still has effect today, and always will do.

All people, the entire human race, are created in the image of God and have, as it were, a divine spark within them, Jesus' death and resurrection was for the whole human race and his desire is that the whole human race lives in peace and harmony under his kingship. At the moment we seem to be working to undermine this rather than promote it.

Science Fiction like Star Trek ® portrays a world where the whole human race, and some alien races, are united against a common foe, and this is believed to be a good thing. The reality at the moment is that the human race is breaking into ever smaller and smaller groupings, each demanding the right to govern themselves as they think best rather than sharing in ever bigger international groupings governing as is best for the larger grouping. This disintegration of the world into ever smaller states will inevitably lead to more and more wars as each national grouping pushes its own agenda and demands its own rights whatever the cost. The ultimate disintegration would be independent city, town and village states which would make life extremely difficult and uncomfortable but of course it won't go that far will it. The great strength of organisations like the European Union and the African Union is that they give a controlled environment for countries to discuss their grievances and sort out their differences in a political forum. Inevitably this leads both to more convoluted decision making and to a more stable world.

The United Kingdom, or some people within it, may be economically better off when we leave the EU. The same may be true of Scotland leaving the UK. But in each case the smaller, more independent nation, has less automatic help, if any, when things go wrong and loses their voice at the heart of a bigger organisation which has a greater opportunity to influence the world for good than the smaller grouping.

As an organisation committed to praying and working for peace and reconciliation between and within individuals, communities, nations and with God we should be promoting organisations that aim to bring people to a forum for resolving disagreements and difficulties without resulting to armed conflict. We should be speaking up for the poor, the oppressed, the marginalised and the outcasts both in our nation and across the world.

And we should be campaigning for the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction, a significant reduction in spending on arms and defence and promoting organisations like 'Movement for Abolition of War', 'CND' and 'Stop the War Coalition'. We should be using our resources, limited as they are, to promote peace and reconciliation both by our support of partner organisations and the use we make of Barnes Close.

As we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus, his Lordship and our response to his call on our lives this Easter it is the perfect opportunity to recommit ourselves to the work of reconciliation, recognising that it may be costly.

Ian

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Membership

Membership renewal forms are enclosed. It is very important that you respond, not just because CfR needs your support but the Data Protection Act requires us to get your positive affirmation in order for us to keep you on the mailing list and keep you informed of our work. **If you do not return this form you may hear nothing more from CfR.** Please return whether you wish to support us financially or not. Your prayers are very important to us.

CfR Programme at Barnes Close:

Reflection Days 10am to 4pm Cost £15 per day 2nd Thursday of the month
An opportunity to open the Bible, to be still and let God speak
11th May, 8th June, 13th July

Thursday 13th to Tuesday 18th April Easter at Barnes Close
An opportunity to reflect on the Easter Story, walk, rest and relax with friends old and new. Cost £250 (waged) £210 (unwaged) Family rates available

Monday 17th April
2.30pm A gentle afternoon walk and afternoon tea
6.00pm Dinner (£10)
7.30pm Open Easter

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd June Members & Friends Week
Walking with CfR, walking with each other, walking with God..
Cost £200 (waged), £170 (unwaged) Family rates available.

CfR Funding

Sustaining our work requires regular, consistent and generous funding and we thank you for your support in this regard.

Working for Reconciliation with God and with each other

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