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Community Co-ordinator: Ian Ring

## The Future of the Community for Reconciliation (CfR)

Over the last few years, the Trustees and other members of CfR have been engaged in a review of the organization. Much thought, prayer and discussion has been focused around how we might take CfR forward to serve its members, partners and many beneficiaries in a changing world. We have changed the way the International Projects are managed - each project now has an Ambassador who is in close contact with 'their' project developing relationships and offering appropriate support. Our Council of Management (Trustees) has members with a particular interest and work in areas of peace and reconciliation in this country. So we are moving forward with the original vision of John Johansen-Berg.

However, the CfR base at Barnes Close has been running at an increasing loss over the last few years, despite very generous grants, legacies and donations. The staff have cut costs to a minimum while offering an excellent service to guests, but there is increasingly less demand for accommodation such as Barnes Close can offer.

With great regret the Council of Management have decided to put Barnes Close on the market and to offer our loyal and hardworking staff a redundancy package.

From the end of July we will be taking few residential bookings. If this affects you, you will be contacted directly. Most day bookings, including the Reflection Days, will continue.

**If you were thinking of booking Barnes Close over the Summer or beyond, please contact Ian - it should still be possible. We would particularly like to encourage individuals and groups for retreats or other gatherings. You may wish to discuss with Ian other flexible options such as bringing your own picnic lunch, with hot and cold drinks being available to you.**

Ian will continue as Community Coordinator, to liaise with the CfR membership, maintain the house in good order (with volunteers), offer day time hospitality to guests and oversee arrangements for the sale.

The sale is unlikely to be quick so there are many uncertainties regarding the future. The Trustees' concern is for the care of all the staff and it is in order to be able to offer them a fair and reasonable redundancy package that we are making this difficult decision now.

I would like to emphasize that we are not winding up the charity but are working towards its evolution into an organization that will continue to serve the needs of its beneficiaries in the future.

If you have any questions, for either myself or Ian, please e-mail us and we will do our best to answer.

*Jan*

Jan Scott  
Chair of Trustees

March 2018

**Working for Reconciliation with God and with each other**

CfR, Barnes Close, Chadwich, Bromsgrove, B61 0RA  
Co Reg No 2041873                      Reg Charity No 295113