



- CfR Programme
- CfR Personal Retreats
- CfR Romania
- CfR Footprints (*in former Yugoslavia*)
- CfR East Africa

Newslink
February
2019

From The Community Coordinator:

Brexit! We have to negotiate our way out of the EU and it is not proving easy. Why? All we hear are loud voices making contradictory demands. Have they forgotten that negotiation means you don't automatically get everything you want? What is needed now is an end to rhetoric and a real reconciliation between those with opposing views. *Ian Ring*



News from CfR

As I drove down the hill from church yesterday, the view across Swansea Bay was stunning. The air was so clear, revealing shades of blue, silver and grey as the sea met the sky. A glimpse of peace and beauty with barely a ripple on the water. However the Mumbles lighthouse on the headland was a sign of dangers hidden underwater. The theme of the service had been *New Beginnings*, based on the Book of Ruth, with reflections from members of one of the Housegroups which had recently been studying that book. Three different perspectives – and followed by discussion, so several more perspectives. The vulnerability of the characters was revealed.

I drove east on the M4 to Port Talbot – an unlikely location for a work of art which has attracted thousands of people since December. The Banksy mural on the corner of a garage in a narrow back street shows the vulnerability of a child, the steelworks in the background and the surrounding community.

Our friends in Nairobi, were saddened by the recent terrorist attack on the hotel complex in the city. Pelagie tells me that folk are looking to each other for support. As we, in the UK, are in the middle of a time of change and uncertainty, we pray that we will look to each other for support and the healing of divisions.

We have been aware for some time how vulnerable Community for Reconciliation is – both the organization and its members. Increasing age and illness are affecting a number of members and friends and the organization is suffering from insufficient funds and personnel with energy and expertise. We would welcome your prayers for a swift sale of Barnes Close, a fresh vision for CfR and a smooth transition to the next chapter – and, as always, your financial support for the continuation of our external projects.

Best wishes

Jan

Jan Scott
Chair of Trustees

CfR Programme at Barnes Close

Reflection Days 10am to 4pm Cost: £15 per day

Thursday 14th February

Thursday 14th March

Thursday 11th April

Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st March Lent Retreat

An oasis of peace and tranquillity reflecting on Scripture.

Cost £160 (*waged*) £130 (*unwaged*)

Thursday 18th to Tuesday 23rd April Easter at Barnes Close

Follow the Easter story with friends old and new in the beautiful surroundings of Barnes Close and with churches in Rubery.

Cost £250 (*waged*) £200 (*unwaged*)



International Projects Update

CfR Romania – *from Andy Vail*

In October, in partnership with the Fellowship of Churches of Christ, I had the privilege of visiting the Királyhágómellék (King's Pass) Reformed Church District in Transylvania, Romania. I met and took greetings to Bishop István and Janos Antal (who visited us in 2017), and was introduced to projects which they seek to provide, largely through their social mission wing Diakonia, including Home Care (daily support for elderly folk), Lampas Foundation (focussing on Domestic Violence and People Trafficking), BeanBagBee Sheltered Workshop and their Gypsy Mission (outreach to Gypsy families, particularly children). We are exploring a range of possible partnership opportunities following the visit including exchanges of ministers and young people. There is already a group of young people from Northfield Baptist Church interested in helping at a youth camp in Romania in the summer.

CfR East Africa – *from Jan Scott*

As we experience freezing temperatures and the threat of snow, East Africa is experiencing extremely high temperatures. However the work of PHARP, Maji Mazuri and ICRP goes on: ICRP in Burundi working at a grass roots level to provide families with the means of producing their own food so that they don't have to resort to violence in order to eat; PHARP in Kenya and Rwanda offering reconciliation programmes to local communities in conflict; and Maji Mazuri offering education and training in the slums of Nairobi to help lift young people out of poverty and violence. Let us continue to support this important work both financially and in our prayers.

CfR Work in the UK

CfR Barnes Close – *from Ian Ring*

With Lisa, Sarah and Mike and with fewer guests Barnes Close feels different. However with the intermittent help of International Volunteers and also local volunteers we still welcome guests. Naturally we tend to accept bookings from individuals and smaller groups, preferably day or 24 or 48 hours. This keeps the building used and provides some income. In addition we continue to run our Reflection Days and there is a Lent Retreat and Easter at Barnes Close planned. The latter two will be the last so you might want to consider coming to one or the other. At some point Reflection Days may move to a local church or other venue but meanwhile they are likely to be at Barnes Close until July at least. Spring is coming and we need some very specific help to redo the hanging baskets, flower boxes and patio flowerbeds in order to keep the place looking cared for and love. Can you help? You will get free meals and if you need to stay overnight free accommodation as well.

Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers – *from Ian Ring*

We have hosted a day at Barnes Close and it is my hope that we can do more whilst we have Barnes Close. A number of our Trustees and Members/Friends are involved in work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers whilst CfR has signed up to Birmingham City of Sanctuary.

News from Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary

Refugees and asylum seekers who have fled to the UK want to rebuild their lives in peace. But, although they have reached safety, many of them can't begin their new lives – working, studying, contributing to their community – because they can't speak the language. There are a few simple changes that the government could make that would give refugees and asylum seekers the access to English language teaching they want and need. Go to <https://cityofsanctuary.org/2016/10/10/talk-to-your-mp-materials-to-support-you-to-promote-letrefugeeslearn/> for details.

Contacting the Community for Reconciliation:

📧: www.cfrbarnesclose.co.uk

✉ cfrpeace@gmail.com

☎ 01562 710231 (answerphone available)

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

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