



Spring Snapshot

Our impact | January–March 2023



602 People engaged with RCF's mission

295 Emerging leaders equipped through core programmes & workshops

20 Programmes, workshops, & events run in first three months of the year

14 Organisations who've partnered with us to equip tomorrow's leaders

7 Volunteers who have generously given their time to make this possible

Sarah's message

A springtime note from RCF's Founding Director, Canon Sarah Snyder

It has been a truly exciting and international start to the year, witnessing new programmes, participants, and curricula!

Beginning in Egypt – Cairo and Alexandria – we hosted American seminarians from Odyssey Network for an encounter programme with Jewish and Muslim contemporaries from the UK. We were welcomed by Al Azhar University, the Anglican church, and the Orthodox community of Anafora in the Egyptian desert.

Straight afterwards, in partnership with the Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership (CCMUP) and the House of the Egyptian Family (Beit el A'ela Al Mesrya), we ran a faith-based mediation training to establish an Egyptian high level conflict resolution team.

We then participated in the first international PeaceTech conference in San Francisco, bringing together thought leaders from across big tech and peacebuilding organisations to develop a roadmap for countering online polarisation and create new peace tools to support constructive dialogue across difference on social media platforms. This built on our recent PeaceTech conference at Rose Castle, and is sparking innovative ways to engage our participants and programmes in this emerging and vital field.

We have also been busy here in the UK, supporting training of emerging diplomatic leaders in Oxford for Oxford's Network of Peace Studies, facilitating Habits workshops and Scriptural Reasoning at the University of Cambridge, and working with our partners in Toxteth, Liverpool and Cumbria.

I hope you will enjoy reading some of the highlights of these and other activities during January, February and March this year.

As always, none of this would be possible without the dedicated expertise and energy of our RCF team, partners, trustees, volunteers, alumni, colleagues and those who pray for our work at Rose Castle. We are enormously grateful to them all for their passion and commitment. It is a joy and a privilege to be working together with you all.





Participants in the Odyssey Fellows Encounter Programme gather outside for a facilitated discussion at Anafora, Egipt



Egypt

Helping to prepare the emerging generation of frontline reconcilers & mediators

Faith Informed Conflict Mediation Training

With the Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership (CCMUP)

Fourteen Egyptian Anglican, Coptic Orthodox, and Muslim sheiks, lawyers, priests and media representatives joined RCF's team in partnership with CCMUP and House of the Family for an immersive, faith-informed conflict mediation 'train the trainer' programme. The programme was extremely powerful - and those it equipped now find themselves working on the frontlines of Egypt's deepest societal divides. During our time together, there was laughter, joy, and fiery wrestles. This was a valuable test of the Habits of a Reconciler in an Arabic and Islamic context; the programme was also a key milestone in the development of RCF's syllabus for a faith-informed conflict mediation training programmes, which has now been written, tried and tested and received feedback.

Odyssey Fellows Encounter Programme

With Odyssey Impact

This programme equipped another group of fourteen - this time, those in formal training to be faith leaders; Jewish, Christian and Muslim. The group previously joined us at Rose Castle in August for a first Encounter programme, which laid the bedrock for engagement in local communities, which they have been working on joining us for their second immersive encounter experience in Egypt. The programme is a partnership with Odyssey Impact, and the participants come from the United Kingdom and USA.



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I've learned more about being human-
about being truly human and the deep
importance of having relationships with
people who are different to you.

Emerging Leader, Odyssey Fellows
Encounter Programme





Emerging leaders take part in dialogue during an Encounter programme at Rose Castle, Cumbria



United Kingdom

Training more emerging leaders to transform hostility, conflict, and division

Benefact Trust Transformational Grant Award

Thanks to a Benefact Trust grant of £200,000 over three years, more of the UK's young people, aged between 15 and 35, will be trained to transform hostility, conflict, and division by building relationships and working together across society's deepest divides. The grant will support RCF's work to convene young people at residential spaces where they encounter 'others' across divides, and are then supported both in their personal growth and in practical action during the years that follow.

Values-based training for emerging diplomatic leaders With Oxford Network of Peace Studies (OxPeace)

Twenty-four post-grad students, academics, and practitioners from a variety of organisations (e.g. US military, Singapore Civil Service, UK & European NGOs) joined a workshop organised by Rev Dr Liz Carmichael, and Tim Midgely. RCF's team contributed to the design and delivery, running a key session on the 12 Habits of a Reconciler, during which the group of emerging diplomatic leaders discussed their value systems, the influence of their faith, and their vulnerabilities.

Building partnerships in Cambridge and York

One of RCF's core UK hubs, in the first quarter of 2023 we continued to equip Cambridge leaders to become Scriptural Reasoning practitioners. For the first time, we convened Deans and Chaplains of Colleges of Cambridge University to share The Rose Way, assess needs around interfaith engagement and navigating difference, and explore possibilities for future partnership. We also trained a group of 80 at St Michael-le-Belfry church, York.



Above: alumni of RCF's 2018 Emerging Peacemakers Forum, which took place in Cambridge, gather for a meal hosted by His Eminence Judge Mohamed Abelsalam. The group is currently planning the next iteration of the Forum, which will take place in partnership with the Muslim Council of Elders and World Council of Churches in July 2023.



Left: delegates at the OxPeace training for peacebuilding students, academics, and practitioners speak with RCF staff during values-based training.



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We are privileged to support Rose Castle Foundation's innovative project, which is so crucial in today's society where conflict is happening all over the world. Faith is an extremely important part of many people's lives, and it's vital that all types of faiths are respected and differences are accepted and embraced.

Andrew Bass, Grants Officer, Benefact Trust



members in the church

THOSE WHO DISTORT GODS WORD

ARROGANT

People who will not LISTEN

X

Loud, Angry, Aggressive

K

K

G

2
People who don't listen

Politicians

L

DIFFICULT

S

Was I My People can be distant and different

PROGRESSIVES

H

R

X

X

Those who talk much

OPEN



Bermuda

A new chapter equipping the church communities of one island territory with the Habits of a Reconciler



Opening new possibilities for reconciliation

As the Bishop of Bermuda puts it: "at a recent visit of a small team from Rose Castle Foundation to Bermuda, new conversation and possibilities have opened up for us.

"The vision for the Foundation sparked a huge amount of interest and imagination as to who and where would benefit from the training that is offered – in interfaith dialogue, across divisions within the political life of the Island, in handling not only historical issues around race – slavery, colonial legacies and segregation, but present-day issues about prison rehabilitation, the education of our children in public schools to name a few.

"The team were passionate, servant hearted, humbly sharing tools and experiences rather than being didactic and formulaic. The discussions have brought renewed hope for the possibility of transformation. As a Christian organization, we have been encouraged to read the familiar stories of Jesus and his interactions with individuals and communities with fresh eyes. But the principles remain the same for those who do not have a shared faith."

'Train the trainer' programme for Habits facilitators

30 small-group facilitators running the Difference course, representing each of the island's parishes, were trained in the 12 Habits of a Reconciler. The course has now been running for several weeks and the benefits are already being felt.

Meeting faith & government leaders

The team visited the governor at Government House, where we shared coffee and tea for over an hour, mapping out the full range of social, racial, political, governmental, health, & educational issues facing Bermuda.

At a meeting with the Emir, Catholic Bishop, and Anglican bishop, we learned that the trio have been modelling a Human Fraternity-inspired mission of inter-faith engagement in Bermuda - and discussed ways of sustaining and growing that vital work.



Training was offered to a group of small-group facilitators in the habits of being a reconciler. Already it has changed the way people perceive ‘the other’ and has given courage to people not to avoid difficult discussion. I would commend the approach and experience of the Rose Castle Foundation in giving a relational tool that can assist in building peace from the family to international diplomacy.

Rev Nick Dill, Bishop of Bermuda





USA

Pace quickens on work to equip churches, communities, & peace innovators

Sharing the 12 Habits of a Reconciler through churches

Eighteen people joined a training at Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, for a retreat workshop exploring the 12 Habits of a Reconciler, facilitated by RCF volunteers Lakshmi and Demarius. The Habit that emerged from the group was gratitude: gratitude for space to reconnect with themselves, and to better engage with others. Elsewhere, a 'stillness retreat' with Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York, explored the need for reconciliation with ourselves and God as the bedrock of our reconciling ministry with others. We continued to meet with and build relationships with ministers and clergy at a wide range of different churches from multiple denominations in the USA.

First meeting of the board of RCF (USA)

The board of RCF (USA) held its first official meeting, complete with dinner, whiteboards and notepads. RCF (USA) is a public charity actively working to fundraise and 'friendraise' for RCF in the USA. We are so grateful for this group, who so passionately believe in the mission and ministry of reconciliation, and are proactive, well organised, and generous in enabling it.

Joining the world's first 'PeaceTech' conference

Sarah was invited to the world's first PeaceTech conference, a sensational gathering of tech experts and peacebuilders such as the UN, cracking the problem of how to bridge divides, and piloting it at scale, with an enormous ecosystem of startups connected to this growing field. RCF's is well positioned as an innovator, practitioner, and thought leader to connect with this emergent work around facilitating deep to deep disagreement at scale - moving from fight (disagree) to listen to share (identify shared values/themes) to act (collaborate).

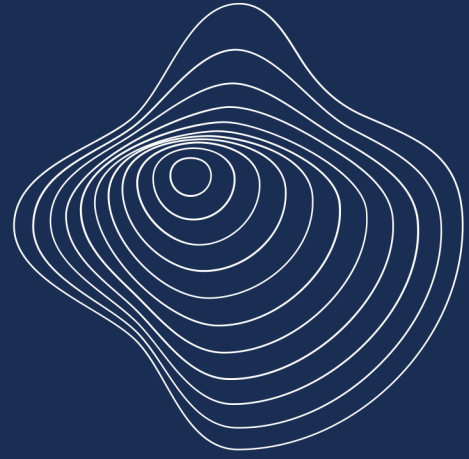


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The best workshop I've been on since college. A peaceful, joyful space – exactly what is needed.

Participant, Indianapolis





Reconciler Hub

Continued growth for this state-of-the-art digital space to host & empower the next generation of faith-formed reconcilers

332 engaged Hub members

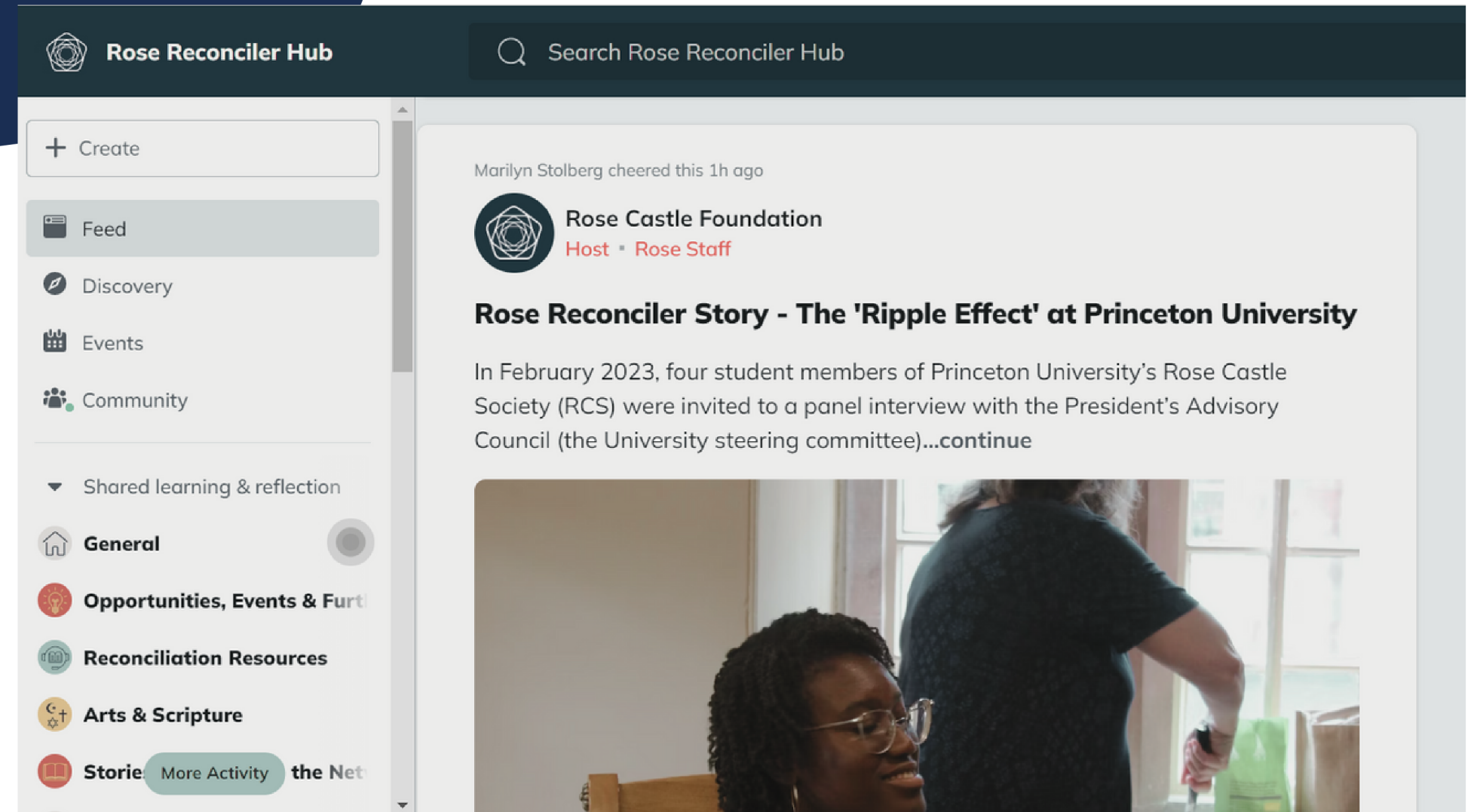
The Hub continued its extraordinary growth this quarter, with more people in RCF's alumni network and connected to peace and reconciliation in other ways joining and engaging with content. Events are well underway with monthly Scriptural Reasoning and Dialogue with Difference inviting people from Egypt, Pakistan, the USA, UK, France, Norway and Finland. 332 members have engaged with content and 36 attended events from 6 countries.

First open-access 'practical reconciliation skills' workshop

In March 14 people joined us for the first open-access workshop on 'practical reconciliation skills', exploring how to open spaces to get people engaged in and talking about peace and reconciliation in the first place. Alum Youssef Aroog supported the practical bridge building session, sharing from his success setting up a Youth engagement peace organization following his programme with RCF. Participants included alumni, peacebuilding professionals, and curious, interested learners from five different countries. This series features RCF learning and tools, and anyone is welcome to join. The next session will take place in June.

Farewell to Lakshmi – for now!

We were saddened to say farewell to the wonderful Lakshmi Piette, driving force of the Hub over the past year, who moves on to Indianapolis to follow a calling to Theological training. Lakshmi continues to share the Rose Way with those around her and remains voluntarily engaged in helping to sustain activity on the Hub, flanked by a wider group of dedicated volunteers!



A screenshot of the 'feed' view of the Reconciler Hub



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What's next?

Recruitment is open for programmes this summer – and closing soon!

- India Summer School, Haridwar, 22-May – 19 June
- Emerging Peacemakers Forum, Geneva, 6-14 July
- Emerging Peacemakers Programme, Lake District, 14-31 July
- Journey of Hope, UK, September 2023-May 2024

www.rosecastlefoundation.org/opportunities-to-grow-and-lead-across-divides

We are also seeking three volunteers to support with our programmes at Rose Castle and in the Lake District, from 19 June – 4 August.

www.rosecastlefoundation.org/summer-volunteers

Can you support the Rose Castle Foundation?

Equip tomorrow's leaders to navigate chaos, conflict, and change.

Thank you - because with your support, we can equip tomorrow's leaders with the skills, tools, and habits to transform conflict. You enable faith-based emerging leaders to rolemodel reconciliation, reconcile communities, and build relationships across societal divides.

We welcome all donations, large and small.

Go to: www.rosecastlefoundation.org/donate

