



Summer Snapshot

Our impact | April-June 2023



1236 People engaged with RCF's mission

429 Emerging leaders equipped through core programmes & workshops

32 Programmes, workshops & events run in first six months of the year

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

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

Sarah's message

Reflections from our Founding Director, *Canon Sarah Snyder*

Momentum continues through a dynamic season of research, partnership building and programmes, with a special welcome for both peacebuilders and peace books to Rose Castle!

We've been enjoying such an extended window of sunshine that it's hard to believe we are only just transitioning from spring into summer. The recent arrival of rain has been very welcome, reminding us of our need – and the land's need – for nourishment and refreshment.

The past few months have continued to see spaces that offer a similar source of nourishment and refreshment for our growing network of reconcilers. From women tackling the challenge of storytelling in the globalised Israel-Palestine conflict, to cross-denominational dialogues exploring the potentials of Christian Biblical Reasoning in contexts of social division, we are reminded of the need for intentional spaces that welcome diversity of voice and experience.

It's a wonderful time of year to be at Rose Castle with the gardens offering an environment of abundance in which to connect and restore our vision for a peace-led future. We welcomed a number of our key UK partners who remain a source of encouragement and expertise as we all seek, together, to offer the best possible support for those on the journey towards reconciliation.

We've been grateful for the opportunity to connect with partners internationally as well, from across the Middle East to the USA, all bringing unique energy and focus to our work, supporting the onward trajectories and resource development needs for our programmes and alumni.

This is all woven together in the experience of our programmes, where participants engage directly with frontline content and take their learnings back to their home contexts. This learning is shared through further touchpoints, including on our digital hub, where our growing network of reconcilers are engaging in Scriptural Reasoning sessions, elephant in the room dialogues, reconciliation trainings, and sharing experiences from the frontlines. We invite you to join us on the hub, and hope you enjoy reading this update of what we have been up to!

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.





Partner Gathering at Rose Castle – sharing learning and insights



Cumbria

Connecting our Cumbrian roots with our international network through partnerships and programmes

Partner Gathering at Rose Castle

With key partners from across Cumbria and the UK

Rose Castle welcomed a diverse group of partners from Cumbria and across the UK to connect around current content development areas including the 12 Habits of a Reconciler and Scriptural Reasoning. Engaging input from diverse faith, ethnic, and cultural perspectives remains an important part of any new initiative for us, drawing on the expertise of our network as we seek to support our reconcilers. There was a shared agreement that these times of coming together as partners are a vital source of encouragement and strength - capacities are always stretched when working on the frontlines but taking time to share our learnings and align our efforts remains a priority if we are to keep peacebuilders at the heart of all we do.

Carlisle connects with Nigeria

With Strengthening Resilience and Countering Extremism

Religious leaders from Nigeria brought their contextual insights to a capacity building training at Rose Castle. Mapping exercises supported a strategy for engaging new agents in reconciliation efforts, especially focused on the extreme margins. The opportunity to connect with the context of Carlisle built friendships across national lines, sharing the challenge of being religious leaders who are holding pastorally sensitive spaces while embracing the opportunity to embed peacebuilding visions and practices within their communities and across their networks.

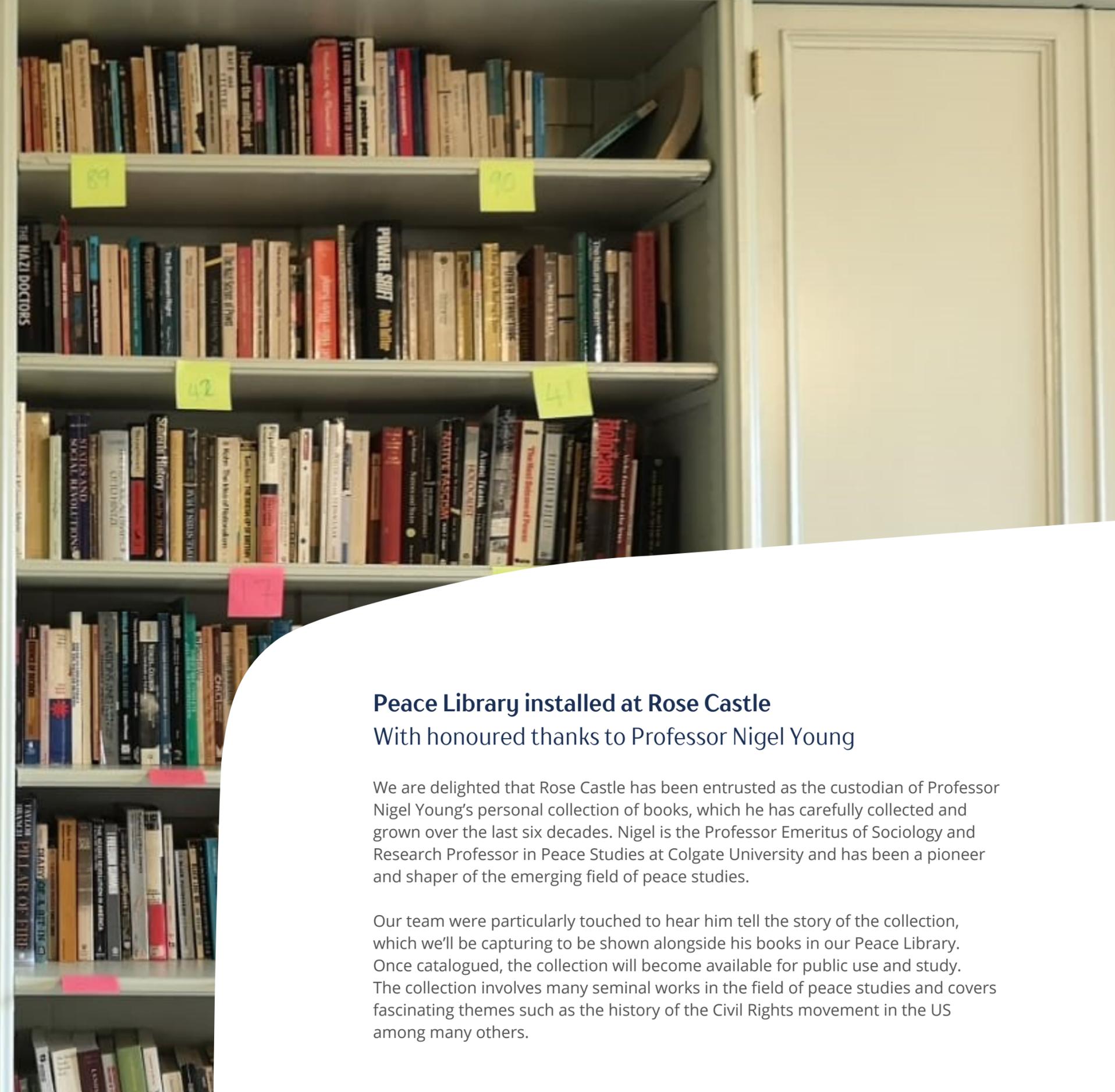


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There is a definite need for us to come together as different faiths and partners to discuss our respective challenges and opportunities in order to stay fresh and current in our work. I feel the space away from our home contexts is really necessary if we are to be genuinely open to new perspectives.

Saba Ahmed, L8, Liverpool
Rose Castle Partner Gathering





Peace Library installed at Rose Castle With honoured thanks to Professor Nigel Young

We are delighted that Rose Castle has been entrusted as the custodian of Professor Nigel Young's personal collection of books, which he has carefully collected and grown over the last six decades. Nigel is the Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Research Professor in Peace Studies at Colgate University and has been a pioneer and shaper of the emerging field of peace studies.

Our team were particularly touched to hear him tell the story of the collection, which we'll be capturing to be shown alongside his books in our Peace Library. Once catalogued, the collection will become available for public use and study. The collection involves many seminal works in the field of peace studies and covers fascinating themes such as the history of the Civil Rights movement in the US among many others.

Team Building at Rose Castle with our Young Peacemakers With National Cathedral School, Washington DC

The castle grounds have been buzzing with activity since the arrival of the National Cathedral School who have come all the way from Washington DC. The students have been reflecting on their identity as reconciling agents and developing skills to build relationships across lines of difference and division. Restorative spaces have offered time for naming the challenges they carry as young leaders growing up in a divided world, and dynamic workshops invite creativity as they grow in confidence in their faith-fomed identity as peacebuilders.





United Kingdom

Supporting community leaders through resilience building and scriptural-based practice

Women of Faith and Peacebuilding

With London School of Economics (LSE) Faith Centre

We had the privilege to partner with LSE Faith Centre to gather a group of 19 senior peacebuilders - inspirational women from Israel-Palestine and across the UK - to connect around the globalised Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The workshop explored the role of storytelling in conflict and provided an opportunity to learn from diverse perspectives, drawing on the rich wisdom and experiences in the room to reframe shared challenges and visions.

Scriptural Reasoning with Senior Faith Leaders

With Senior Faith Leaders Programme (SFLP)

Senior leaders brought the depths and differences of their scriptural traditions into dialogue through the practice of Scriptural Reasoning at the third module of the Senior Faith in Leadership Programme at Windsor Castle. The programme facilitates meaningful encounters between faith leaders, accessing the resources that each faith tradition provides for effective leadership. Scriptural Reasoning - the third pillar of the Rose Way - remains central to SFLP, and RCF continues to enjoy a close partnership with their team, with whom we have a long history of shared practice.

Christian Wisdom of Reconciliation Research Project

With Durham University, Centre for Catholic Studies

We are delighted to have commenced our 'Christian Wisdom of Reconciliation' research project with the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) at Durham University, made possible with a generous grant from the McDonald Agape Foundation. In this first collaboration with CCS, RCF team members were invited to share their thought leadership on faith-formed reconciliation in service of the global initiative launched by Pope Francis on 'synodality', a Catholic concept exploring how we live together wisely across difference. Senior representatives from seven major Christian denominations were present at this gathering, and expressed great interest both in RCF's work and in the Christian Wisdom of Reconciliation project, which aims to develop resources for fostering intra-Christian dialogue in settings of social division.



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Empathy is a matter of the heart not the head. The three Scriptures tonight have inspired me to open up my heart to the world.

Alexandra, NYC

12 Habits of a Reconciler workshop





USA

Equipping universities, faith communities and practitioners through the 12 Habits of a Reconciler

Forgiveness conference at Harvard University

"To err is human, to forgive, divine"; but what is forgiveness? When can it rightly be sought or offered? Can it be corporate as well as an individual? What role should forgiveness play in law, public policy, or even public health? How can we become more forgiving?

This was the framing of the Templeton-hosted conference at Harvard University that welcomed interdisciplinary perspectives on forgiveness. We contributed to the discussion through the lens of cultivating a habit of forgiveness, and it was a good opportunity to share some of our most recent publications, including our 12 Habits of a Reconciler!



Churches across USA engage with 12 Habits of a Reconciler

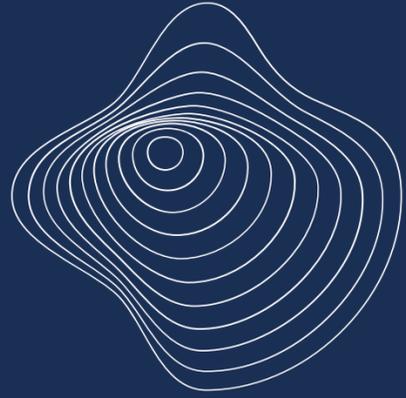
No trip to the USA is complete without sharing more of our habits with faith communities who are actively engaged with the frontlines of societal divisions. It has been great to work with the Church of the Heavenly Rest, among others, who are championing the cultivation of the habits into their everyday lives and ministry, welcoming a vision of reconciliation both within and beyond their church family.

Preparing to welcome our Emerging Peacemakers!

A moment of shared hospitality for our youth in New York offered space for them to gather ahead of their big trip to the UK later this summer. These 'Prepare' gatherings ahead of the encounter phase of our programmes enable foundations to start strong, building confidence across cohorts as they move towards engaging with difference. We have an incredibly exciting line up of interactive trainings and immersive experiences that we can't wait to share with this next group, who will be coming together as young Muslims, Christians and Jews from the USA and UK.



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Reconciler Hub

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

374 engaged Hub members

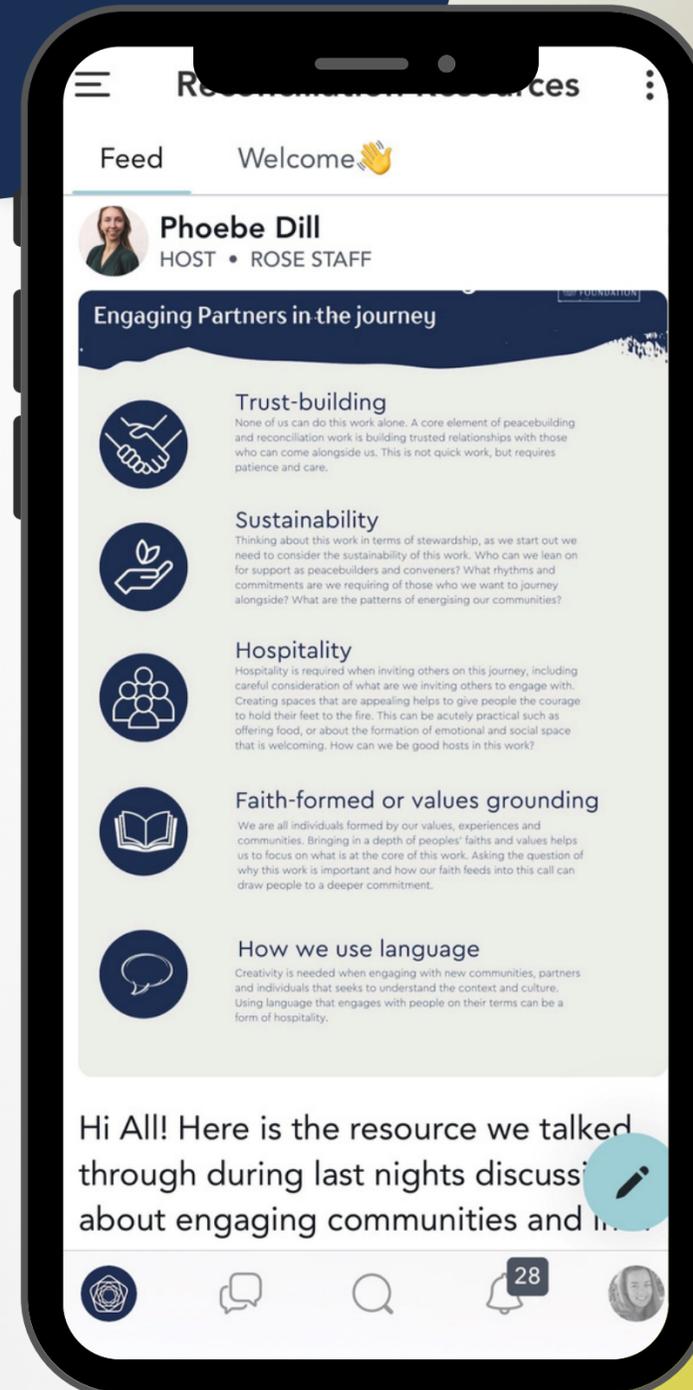
The Reconciler Hub is an essential tool for continuing to engage, upskill and mobilise our network for ongoing reconciling activity within their home contexts. With a growing resource library, regular virtual workshop opportunities and discussion forums, it is a fabulously designed and interactive space for our alumni and partners to develop and collaborate.

Scriptural Reasoning on the Hub

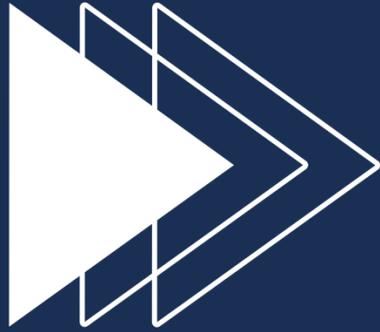
We run monthly Scriptural Reasoning sessions virtually on the hub, which is open for all members to sign up to. Our recent sessions have brought together participants from across the Abrahamic faiths and beyond, inviting diverse perspectives from different continents and contexts. Focused on thematic texts from each of the Abrahamic traditions, hub members practice the habit of curiosity as they ask questions of one another's scriptures and faith. Participants continue to find it a rich environment for deepening in their own faith while growing in understanding of different scriptural traditions. Friendships and collaborations are strengthened, even in this virtual setting, with the opportunity for discussions to continue through dedicated forum spaces on the hub.

Dialogue with Difference on the Hub

Dialogue with Difference is a monthly dialogue group where hub members openly share, discuss and explore topical issues related to the Habit of the Month. Our most recent habit has been Humility, with hub resources and sessions exploring how to cultivate humility in our everyday lives, through our peacebuilding practices, and in reconciliation processes.



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Looking Ahead...

Upcoming Summer Programmes
and the arrival of our Abrahamic
summer interns!

A summer full of programmes!

We really look forward to welcoming our next cohorts for the:

- Emerging Peacemakers Forum, Geneva, 6-14 July
- Emerging Peacemakers Programme, Lake District, 14-31 July
- Ukrainian Pastors Retreat, Rose Castle, 7-10 August
- Journey of Hope Module 1, Cumbria, 13-15 September
- PeaceTech Gathering, Cambridge, 26-27 September

A warm welcome to our summer interns!

We are so grateful to have recently welcomed three summer interns who are supporting us in delivering our emerging peacemakers programmes this summer. Their Abrahamic depths will add a richness and dynamism to our work, and they are also learning from one another as they collaborate with different perspectives through their internship (not to mention also sharing everyday life as interfaith housemates in our community cottage at Rose Castle!)

Welcome Avi, Anika and Halima!



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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-formed emerging leaders to role model reconciliation, reconcile communities, and build relationships across societal divides.

We welcome all donations, large and small.

Go to: www.rosecastlefoundation.org/donate

