



Flame Trust

- education
- supporting disadvantaged people and the voiceless
- local and worldwide community involvement
- mentoring and social development in a variety of cultures and situations
- tours and events bringing insight and challenge to audiences in the UK and overseas

News & Prayer Update June 2021

Dear Prayer Partner

From time to time, we are all reminded of experiences that we encountered as children. In the recent reviews of the life of the Duke of Edinburgh, there were several clips taken from the Fifties when we were watching black and white TV that consisted of a huge box, normally in the corner of a room.

My memories of my early years TV experience are numerous, but I do recall that on the occasions when transmission failed, there was inevitably a notice that read 'Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible'.



Remember those days? Perhaps not unlike the season that we find ourselves in at the present time?

As we hopefully start to anticipate the easing of Covid restrictions, I thought it time to send out a News/Prayer letter to keep the Flame family up to date with all that has been happening over these past weeks and months, and to alert you to plans that are being made for the future. I am so grateful to those of you who have kept in touch and maintained your prayer and financial support in what has been a very challenging season.

Flame is still 'afloat' and if anything, re-energised as we look forward to fulfilling our call to mission, anticipating the days that lie ahead. To extend the nautical analogy, we are trimming our sails and setting course for new horizons!

We did change gear in terms of our operations. Both Jackie and Calin are temporarily furloughed, which means that

'yours truly' has been trying to cover, with some assistance in the accounts and bookings departments. Apologies therefore if some of the responses from Flame have been slower than usual but, coupled with a very temperamental printer and technological limitations of the user(!), we have managed. Stewart Hills, a trusted and good friend of Flame has come to the rescue on several occasions and I am most grateful to him for his assistance.

As the BBC often said, 'normal service will be resumed as soon as possible', but we are taking measures to keep our overheads to a minimum and yet still ensure good governance and administration. As intimated in a previous newsletter, we are transferring our office base and using 'home administration' as a temporary measure, but the telephone line and P.O. Box address will still operate as normal.

Yet, most wonderfully, our ministry and various mission involvements have continued without too much disruption, although we have had to adapt and devise new means of communication and support. I have been very active in recording messages, bulletins and other liaisons.

Chaplaincy Support

Our Chaplaincy work, under the direction of Gerry Denston has also flourished. I asked Gerry for an update, and he writes:

'Over the last year, we have maintained contact with Invictus School chaplains, and they in turn have kept in touch with their schools throughout. Flame Trust commissioned a video from Searchlight Theatre Company and Saltmine for our use in the Christmas assemblies, concluding with a message from Dave.'

In recent months, chaplains have been called on at various levels and a few months ago were involved in providing comfort and support in the aftermath of a terrible car crash that resulted in the death of the young driver and three teenage passengers.

In March this year, we have been asked if we can help find a suitable building to house alternative education provision for Key Stage 3 pupils and to date, two church possibilities are being explored. We are also hopeful that a school in Pedmore, near Stourbridge, will have chaplains in situ before the end of term and this would

mean we are supporting 6 schools being covered at lunchtime for all or part of the week.

Please pray that normal chaplaincy service will be resumed before the end of the Summer term'.

Q3 Academy

It seems incredible to realise that my journey with the Q3 Academy project began 16 years ago, and subsequently, my journey with Q3 Langley, another brand new school, commenced 5 years ago.

I am reminded of this because this is the term when we say goodbye to those Year 7s who have quickly become our Year 11s! My sadness is that my personal contact with this cohort of students has inevitably been challenged by the Covid pandemic as we have not been allowed to visit the school, and my input has been via Zoom. But it has been a real privilege to enhance their understanding of all that is good, right and true, and I shall endeavour to do just that in a Leaving Address in a few weeks time as they move on for the next part of their life/career development.

My fervent prayer is that they will

remember those vital elements of Christian values as they stand up and are counted in their future lives.

As Chair of Langley, I intend to continue, particularly as we are about to commission a brand new development on site that has provided us with a beautiful theatre and dining complex, plus extra teaching and learning facilities. Again, I have watched this develop and am entertaining ideas as to how we can maximise these new facilities for the enhancement of our work in the immediate community.

The Playground Project

You will be aware of the Playground project that we launched two years ago, to provide a new outdoor facility in a children's' home in Northern Romania that serves the needs of those with physical and learning disabilities.

Delayed because of Covid, it nevertheless came back on track at the end of last year, and is now fully constructed and in use, providing a wonderful

Visit www.flametrust.org

for the latest news, event information and details on how to make a donation online



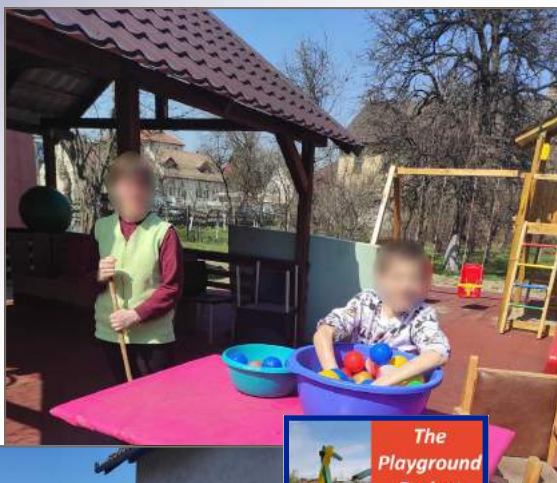
facility. Many of you know Calin, my Practical Assistant in Flame, and he has driven this project through with great enthusiasm, particularly as it is situated only a stone's throw from where he spent his first 19 years in an orphanage in challenging conditions.

Through the generosity of the Flame family, the project was completed within budget and was also featured on Romanian TV and in the local press. Calin

was like a dog with five tails! You can catch up with the media coverage via the You Tube Link: https://youtu.be/43E8-qo_nac

Several of you have responded to this news when it was released, with 'So what about Number 2'? Well, we shall see what happens as Calin visits the home in the next few months and assesses what has been achieved, together with other needs in eastern Europe and further afield.

Watch this space!



**Time Out Staycation:
Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton
October 11th – 15th 2021**

Everything is shaping up well for our delayed Time Out Holiday Conference in Paignton in October.

Bookings are now trickling in, particularly as everything looks a little more certain, and I am engaging with David Coffey and others as I put the programme together.

I am wanting to use the theme 'Re-Imagining the Future'. The last 18 months have been unprecedented and yet, with all of the pressure and disillusionment, there are elements to take forward into the future, particularly in terms of what we have learned about ourselves, our relationships with each other and our relationship with God. Alongside all of the need to chill out and enjoy each



Time Out Staycation

*With Dave Pope
Guest Speaker Rev David Coffey
Musical Director Ian Watson
and Special Guests*



others' company, I would like this theme to shine through, so that we are infused with hope and excitement about the future.

The hotel staff are delighted that we are returning to the Redcliffe. It is a most hospitable facility, and I think it is worth saying that it is likely to be the last of its kind. I shall share plans for the future and for opportunity for us to be together in the years that lie ahead (D.V.) so do plan to come and make a reservation if you have not already done so. *(The Booking Form is attached to this newsletter on the final page - please fill in, cut out and send to us if you wish to book).*

I am sure that full observance of Covid protocols will be in place, but I am hopeful that we shall be able to enjoy a full experience of worship, teaching and fellowship.

Sad News

Of course, many of you will remember where my ministry journey began....way back in the Seventies when I left university and joined the Movement for World Evangelisation. I was privileged to work with and learn from some brilliant people who taught me so much about mission and evangelism.

Sadly, in recent months and

years, some of these people have passed away. John Blanchard, a wonderful orator, writer and evangelist was promoted to Glory just a few weeks ago, and Peter Anderson, the person who introduced me to Eastern Europe, was also called home earlier in the year.

Peter Jackson, an amazingly gifted evangelist and pianist left us quite a while ago yet I continue to hold great memories of all that we shared in ministry together, and am grateful for all that these men taught me about servanthood and commitment to the cause of mission.

Personal Jottings

Thank you for your prayerful concerns about my health challenges which are actually easier to cope with than some of the experiences of close friends. As I said to someone just yesterday, these wobbles come with the territory! I have been diagnosed with Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation, and this is being monitored very closely by an excellent cardiologist in my local hospital. He has also commissioned some other tests and I currently am awaiting results. I will keep you updated, although I never want my

'maturity' to become the main focus of your prayers as all of us have to accept that we cannot do what we did 40 years ago, even though we might try to convince ourselves that we can! I'm sure you get the drift. Just would appreciate your prayers for being realistic and listening to my body when it suggests changing gear from time to time.

I must close. Thank you to those of you who have enquired about our finances. God has seen us through, but I have really valued your generosity and practical support in these strange times. The furlough scheme has helped, but that is shortly coming to a conclusion and, moving forward, I do need to re-commission Jackie and Calin. We also need to fund our ongoing ministry opportunity, so thank you for your consideration in the practicalities of Flame. You will find a form enclosed with this update.

One last request. As you know, we normally organise a Spring Break in the early part of each

year. It did not happen this year for obvious reasons, but next year (Spring 2022) gives us new possibilities. I have had several requests about returning to the Dutch Bulb Fields with the possibility of a visit to Bruges and the 10 yearly event...The Floriade.

There has also been interest in Malta and of course, Madeira is a firm Flame favourite.

I would appreciate hearing from you if any of these is something you would want to consider if it came to pass. Contact us via the usual route:
office@flametrust.org

Do visit the website when you can. We do try to keep it updated... www.flametrust.org

Thank you again for being part of the Flame family and for your prayers, gifts and commitment.

Sincerely

Dave



BOOKING FORM - TIME OUT 20th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Monday 11th to Friday 15th October 2021

(please see inside front of brochure for rates)

NEW BOOKING

I/We intend to come to TIME OUT 20th Anniversary Family Conference in Paignton, Devon and enclose a deposit of *£50 per person. (If paid by 1 May, you will receive a £15 discount per person on final invoice). Please make cheques payable to Flame Trust.

Full name(s):..... Title:.....

Address:.....

Post code:..... Tel. No.:..... Email:.....

Preferred room: Single Double
 Twin Sea view (only available in double/twin rooms. Limited availability).

Special requirements: (eg diet, mobility, room near to friends/family) **PLEASE ALSO SEE BELOW ****

I/We also wish to book the following additional dates:

Signed:..... Date:.....

PREVIOUSLY BOOKED

Please also complete your name and address details above

I/We wish to transfer my/our booking to the new dates above

**** Please note: if you are transferring and have made special requests on your previous booking, please reconfirm your requests as these will not have been automatically transferred**

I/We wish to cancel my/our booking. Please refund the amount already paid

Please detach and return to: TIME OUT, Flame Trust Ltd, PO Box 15, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1YQ

Tel: 0121 557 6312 - Clare clare@flametrust.org • Tel: 01384 232786 - Jackie office@flametrust.org

(Please note: the Flame Trust office operates on a part time basis. If you have a query, please leave a message on the answerphone and we will respond as soon as possible).

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* Deposit non-refundable: you are strongly recommended to take out holiday insurance

**Final
payment
is due by
20 August
2021**

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Registered charity no: 1134374

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