Fresh Expressions in Rome

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Footsteps, Rome, is a "Fresh Expression of Church", a term that came to prominence following the Mission-Shaped Church report of 2004 [1] as a way of describing gathered communities of worshippers that meet outside or on the boundaries of what we might consider conventional church.

Footsteps is just such a group here in Rome. Whilst there is a good choice of established churches in the city centre there was no opportunity for worship in English in the sub-

urbs and beyond (from where it can take one to two hours to reach the centre). It is also notable that many who express an interest in learning more about the Christian faith or coming together to worship are either not interested in or disillusioned with "denominational" church. I have been leading this fresh expression of church for the past nine years. We meet in homes, as families and individuals, for informal interdenominational worship in English — to serve and reach out to our neighbours.

The English-speaking community is large here in Italy's capital city, which hosts three UN agency headquarters as well as many international companies. Hospitality, friendship and fellowship are the basis of our ministry. As a cosmopolitan group, understanding and celebrating other ways and cultures are hugely important. So we have much in common with the Anglican Centre (ACR).

I am now an ordinand in the Church of England's diocese in Europe and have come to value even more the ministry of the ACR during my training and formation. I have been helped to understand the Anglican identity better whilst pursuing Christian unity with our ecumenical friends. Leading Footsteps has been a delight but also a challenge and the staff at the ACR (amongst others) have provided the support and encouragement of those much more mature in the faith than myself. I have had the opportunity to get to grips with Anglican liturgy and ritual from around the world, but more than this the ACR is a place of refreshment where Christians listen to each other's stories and are welcomed and affirmed. A place that models Jesus command; "Love one another as I have loved you......by this everyone will know....."^[2]

[1] Mission-shaped church, church planting and fresh expressions of church in a changing context. 2004. London: Church House Publishing. [2] John 13: 34-35

Financing the Anglican Centre in Rome Income and expenditure in 2009

WHERE MONEY CAME FROM		WHERE MONEY WENT	
	£		£
England - net	98,500	Staff and related costs	115,000
Wales	1,000		
Scotland	800	Office costs, hospitality and library	33,000
USA	53,000		
Australia	4,000	Governance and professional fees	11,000
Hong Kong	1,800		
New Zealand	350	Leasing and maintaining premises	27,000
Japan	1,000`	generously made available by the Doria Pamphilj family	y
Other provinces	1,250		
Anglican Investment Agency	10,000		
Anglican Consultative Council	5,000		
	176,700		
Other (including £7000 investment income)	10,000		
Total income	<u> 186,700</u>	Total expenditure	186,000