

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, we are taking some time to reflect on our Israel/ CMS journey so far. You may well be wondering whether our plans for Israel are still on track! We are very pleased to tell you that they are at the moment, but in such unpredictable times we are also learning to be flexible and more



dependent on the Lord as we take a day at a time. From Kevin's police days, driving on blue lights, there is a saying as you approach traffic lights, 'prepared to stop, planning to go.' That certainly feels very relevant for us. We are open to timescales changing as the days and weeks unfold, but we still plan with excited anticipation for moving in April 2021 and the new chapter that lies ahead.

Despite Covid19 disrupting the lives of many, we finish in the parish in Southbourne on the 31st December 2020. Over the last few months, Kevin has been busy with a belated Annual Church Meeting (normally held in April), and continuing to train and support lay ministers and those who feel called to leadership roles. There is a strong serving team at St Katharine's (Anglo-Catholic in tradition), and a few lay readers and people willing to take a leadership role in mission and worship at St Nicholas (middle of the road). He has one foot in the Southbourne camp and one now in Jaffa as we prepare to move.

Jen will also leave work at the end of the year. As you can imagine it has been incredibly busy all year with frequently changing guidelines, staff shortages, and extra flu clinics as take up has been higher than usual so far. She has had several new staff join the practice who have needed training, and so she has worked extra days to do so. The nursing team has grown into a strong, supportive, knowledgeable team and although it is good to leave when they are in a good place, Jen will be sad not to move forward with them. Jen has found it a great opportunity to share her faith with staff and tell them about our journey. We are very excited about Israel although aware that we will need to learn about a new culture, use a new language and get used to a new routine of working together. We will start our training with CMS on the 5th January 2021. The end of this chapter is definitely in sight for us both now as we prepare to hand over to others.

Originally we were offered accommodation in Oxford until we leave for Israel, but after several conversations and prayer it was agreed that we will stay in the Vicarage in Southbourne and rent it from the Diocese. The training is full time so this will really help us as much of our training will now be on zoom due to Covid, so we will probably only need to be in Oxford for 3 days a week. It will mean we don't have to move twice, once to Oxford and then 3 months later to Israel. The first move would have been straight after the New

Year and probably quite costly so we are thankful for that. It also means that we will have the opportunity to have family come and visit here before we leave which will be an added blessing.

Speaking of accommodation, we have sold our house in Nether Stowey after 5 happy years. It has been a wonderful bolt hole providing time to relax and get away from the parish as well as enabling us to worship and make friends at St. George's Wembdon when we have been down. We were slightly anxious that it was not selling, but God's perfect timing meant that we were able to enjoy it for a few more weekends this year. He also provided us with a cash buyer, and no chain, which was a real answer to prayer, and the further blessing was that it was to one of Jen's colleagues who also bought quite a lot of the contents, so our move meant we didn't need a removal company, just several trips over a few weekends with full cars! There is enough to keep us busy at home, but we miss popping down for an overnight stay or enjoying our favourite trips to Exmoor. It has allowed us to tithe some much needed funds from the sale into our mission fund, which will help us to review and plan the budget in the beginning of January with CMS.

This week, we have received our training programme from CMS. It looks really interesting with some great modules, including Mission and Evangelism, Practical Mission, Intercultural Mission, Communications and Integral Mission. There is plenty to do both in preparation for training and once we start, and Jen is really looking forward to studying something other than nursing although it will be a huge change.

Once we have completed our CMS training at the end of March, the plan is still to move to Israel in April. As you will see from the photos in the link below, there is no progress on our housing, so temporary accommodation is being sorted for us. Building work has been delayed due to Covid so we are in the process of conversations about what needs to be sold, taken or put into storage.

Part of our training is to continue with our Hebrew lessons online. We are both really enjoying these, even though we are at different levels as Kevin has been studying for a couple of years now, building on his Hebrew he learnt in the Synagogue. We are starting to have conversations around the house. Kevin has made several contacts in Israel through his long standing Hebrew teachers, and watches an online service each week, managing to keep up with the whole sermon. We are forming a great friendship with our teacher who lives about 4 mins walk from St Peter's in Jaffa. Kevin has had some opportunities to share his faith with her through the lessons, so we pray that seeds will grow and once we live near her we will have the opportunity to share more.

Due to Covid, we have only been able to visit one church in person where we had a wonderful welcome and we have linked up with one of their house groups, so we are blessed to be partnering with them in prayer. We are also partnering with a church near Littlehampton and one church locally in Bournemouth so we are thankful for the Lord's provision. In Israel, we are hoping to form a partnership with Mission to Seafarers, an organisation that works with Sailors and employees in the ports of Jaffa and Ashdod,

sharing the gospel with them. This would mean that we hope to have enough funds for the first year. The Diocese of Jerusalem and the local community are looking forward to the church re opening and there is likely to be a small congregation ready to worship with us when we arrive made up of expats and the diplomatic community. Hopefully they will also be willing to climb ladders and paint walls with us! We trust that as people see the work taking place and grasp the vision that they will come on board financially as well.

Now that our time here in parish ministry and the nursing world is coming to an end for the moment, there is much to pray for. We are sure it is a common feeling before such a huge change to be nervous and to feel inadequate. There are plenty of helpful sayings, 'before a testimony, there is a test', 'when God calls, he equips', both are true. We remind ourselves that for God to have the glory, it's no good if we know everything and we are super equipped otherwise we won't need to lean on Him and it will be the Cable project and not God's project... and that is certainly what we are called to play a part in... Gods project for St Peters Jaffa (still a bit scary tho!). When Kevin was inducted as Priest here at St Katharine's with St Nicholas, Bishop Jonathan preached from Joshua 1:9, 'Be bold and very courageous.' We have been reminded of this verse frequently and it has been a central part of our prayers as the Lord has revealed His will for our lives. As we step out with boldness and courage from the Lord, we have included our links at the bottom of this newsletter so you have easy access to see progress or to send to others.

We have 2 of the 6 children joining us for Christmas, which will be lovely. We pray you will all get some rest and family time and a time to remember the wonderful gift of Jesus at a time of such uncertainty in the world.

As we journey through Advent, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and in time celebrating the second coming of the King. Many of the world are waiting with anticipation for the Covid vaccine, if only they searched for a cure to sin with such eagerness. May we all play our part in sharing the good news of Jesus- even more lifesaving than a Covid vaccine!

We are asking people to pray with us, giving thanks:

- For good health so far this year.
- For the sale of the house enabling us to put some of our own funds into the mission.
- For plans remaining on track so far to leave for Israel in April.
- For staying in the vicarage making training more straight forward.

And for:

- Both of us as we finish our current jobs and start training.
- The parish as they move into interregnum.
- Progress with our Hebrew lessons and a good relationship with Eynav, our teacher.
- For churches and individuals to partner with us prayerfully, financially and practically.
- For building work to be completed on time for our arrival.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers. We would love to hear from you, please let us know your news, so we can pray for you as well.

Blessings Kevin and Jen Cable.