



Jennifer and Kevin Cable

Link Letter no. 8 | March 2024

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Location: Israel/Palestine



What we do: Working to re-open the historic Anglican church in Jaffa and strengthen the presence of Christ in the Middle East.

Dear Friends,

Greetings once again from Jaffa and our warmest thanks for all your prayers during the very difficult months since 7 October last year.

After the initial attack and 48 hours in our bomb shelter, we were called to Jerusalem, partly for our own safety and partly to minister to displaced people from the south of Israel. While there, Kevin helped on the ministry team at Christ Church Jerusalem, provided pastoral care to staff and visitors, and continued to lead Christchurch Jaffa remotely. He was also able to support our congregation in Jaffa online and face to face when possible. Jen was involved with the day to day running of the guesthouse and supervising the volunteers' training and schedules. It was a real privilege to serve during this time and to experience the Lord's protection and provision for us and those around us. You may have seen from our videos that we were honoured to show the love of Jesus through our hands and feet as we prepared meals, cleaned rooms and played with the children. Many of these people arrived with just a small suitcase and no belongings as they had fled from their homes in a hurry. Thanks to peoples' donations, we were able to offer clothes, toys, counselling services and a concert for them to enjoy. Thankfully these people have now either returned home or found more permanent accommodation elsewhere.



Jen creating space for play with a girl who was traumatised.

After five months, we are able to resume our in-person ministry in Jaffa. It is good to be back working among our neighbours, friends, community and congregation. Our services continued on Zoom from Jerusalem, so we are pleased to be able to meet again for worship in Jaffa and thank the Lord for bringing us back together. However, some of our congregation are still finding it hard to get back into Israel due to visa difficulties. With very few tourists now, aside from a few brave travellers, our numbers have been a little low although they seem to be climbing again. The ongoing war is making people more reflective and is raising lots of questions about spirituality and faith, so we thank God that we are seeing different people, from a variety of backgrounds and beliefs. These people often leave after the sermon and the prayers, at the point we begin Holy Communion, but we are encouraged that they stay to hear the Scripture explained and to pray with us after. We are looking forward to our first Confirmation service on 17 March when two of our congregation are being confirmed, both of whom are relatively new to the Anglican Church.

It has been good to settle back into our community, even returning to shops that we use, where we have enjoyed talking with the shopkeepers and catching up on the local news of the last five months. We are renewing friendships and relationships, especially with those we know who have returned from army service and have been away from home for months.

Support Jennifer and Kevin Cable:
churchmissionsociety.org/cable

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



Little Lambs has restarted, and we have had a few new members. It is excellent practice for our Hebrew, which we are really enjoying, as well as a chance to help new ex-pats integrate into Israeli life. Some of our new mums are English, and so it is nice to share stories of life in the UK and talk about the challenges of how very different life is here. Our neighbour had a baby while

we were in Jerusalem, and she hopes to join us in the future once the baby is a little older and more settled.

As we journey through Lent this year, our own trial is that of renewing our visas. This is particularly complicated this year, and we have an additional number of bureaucratic hurdles to overcome. Please pray with us that this will be granted according to God's will so that we may continue to work with him here. Until we receive the new visas, we are unable to leave the country, so this is making planning our trip back to the UK to see friends, family and supporters very difficult.

As we are now in Lent, we are busy planning and preparing for Holy Week. Last year we ended up having to use different locations for our services all across Jaffa, so we are thankful that most of our services can take place in the Lutheran Church due to more availability there this year. Our relationship with the Lutheran Church has really blossomed, and we are exploring a united service on Sunday evenings that Fr Kevin and Pastor Eyvind will lead together. The focus of the service will be on teaching and discipleship. It will also bring our two congregations together, and give them the opportunity to get to know each other better.

We send our love and thanks for your faithful support and prayers and messages, which are especially important to us during this difficult time. Please join us in giving thanks and praying for:

- ▶ safety and protection
- ▶ the opportunity to serve displaced people and show the love of Jesus
- ▶ the congregation and Little Lambs meeting together again
- ▶ visa applications to be granted
- ▶ the Confirmation service on 17 March
- ▶ renewed health and adequate rest.

Finally, we have some news to share. As we move into 2024, **we want to thank you wholeheartedly** for supporting us– your prayers and gifts are incredibly important in helping us to serve in Jaffa. With a heavy heart we need to share that at the moment, due to increased living costs both for us and our supporters, **there is a significant shortfall in our funding**, which puts our work at risk. And so, we come to you for further help. If you are not currently giving, would you be able to start a regular gift? And if you are giving, would you consider increasing your gift? If you can help us close our funding gap, please go to churchmissionsociety.org/cable, call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form if you have received this letter through the post. (For our supporting churches, if you are able to give a further gift please contact churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org.) We understand this might not be possible – **please know that we greatly value your support**, and thank you for letting us share our challenge with you.

Blessings, Fr Kevin and Jen

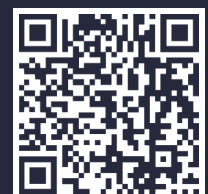


Photos from top to bottom: Jen and Kevin; A concert of psalms in Hebrew in Jaffa; baking activity for the children in Jerusalem; Little Lambs set up to restart in Jaffa.



Can you help?

Right now Jen and Kevin are facing a shortfall in funding, which puts their work at risk. Will you support them today? Go to churchmissionsociety.org/cable, call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form. **Thank you!**



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