

In Nazareth, we met with the clergy and indigenous Christians, and heard about the challenges that church schools and Arab communities are facing in Israel. We prayed at St Gabriel's Church of the Annunciation and the Basilica of the Annunciation. We are greatly encouraged by the ecumenical life that exists amongst the churches in Galilee and give thanks to the leadership of the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem for their ecumenical witness.

Throughout our journey together, we heard repeatedly that many indigenous Christians of the Holy Land feel abandoned by the global Church's response to the war and the challenges they face. This must change. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must be united in saying there can be no Gospel justification for denying people their God-given human dignity and the rights that flow from this.

As we approach Advent, when we remember and celebrate the birth of the Messiah and anticipate his second coming, we invite Christians across the Anglican Communion to recall the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18: 1-8). Please join together in prayer against these injustices, appealing both to God to intervene and enact justice, and to soften the hearts of the oppressor. We must always pray and never lose heart. Through our prayerful persistence, justice will prevail.

We call on you to advocate with your political representatives for a just and lasting peace that recognises the human dignity of all people, and upholds international humanitarian law. We ask for your help in pressing for the immediate release of Layan Nasir.

Finally, we renew our appeal of 24 October 2023, and ask that you support financially, if you are able to do so, the Church's ongoing ministries in Gaza, Israel and Palestine and across the whole Diocese of Jerusalem. Alongside healthcare programmes and hospitals, the Diocese also provides education and training, youth and women's ministries and ecumenical and interfaith engagement, all of which builds the resilience of the local indigenous Christian community at a time of great crisis and emergency.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the living stones of the Holy Land and for the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem in the very lands in which our Lord Jesus Christ was born and ministered in his earthly life – before offering up his life on our behalf and then rising again victorious from the grave, overcoming death and giving hope for a new life.

May God bless you and your loved ones this Advent, and may the peace of Christmas bring peace to all the peoples of the Holy Land.



The Most Reverend Justin Welby
The Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

Notes: International Partners receiving donations for this appeal include: Jerusalem Middle East Church Association and Friends of the Holy Land in the UK; EMS in Germany; the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in the USA; Canadian Companions in Canada and the Anglican Board of Mission in Australia.