



Invitation to join the
LIVING STONES OF THE HOLY LAND TRUST
for the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
in Jerusalem and including the
Michael Prior Memorial Seminar
Friday 19th – Tuesday 30th January 2018



Join us to:

- *worship with many denominations (e.g. Armenians, Syrian & Ethiopian Orthodox – as well as Lutherans, Anglicans and Roman Catholics)*
- *encounter Christians living in Jerusalem and the West Bank*
- *visit community projects, institutions and enterprises in Palestine and Israel*
- *show support and solidarity with all the people of the Middle East*
- *engage in dialogue on the theological implications of justice and peace*

Living Stones Trust is very pleased to have been able to arrange a group visit to join in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Jerusalem, which takes place at the end of January.

Despite the ongoing difficulties which the Christian and other communities are experiencing in Jerusalem and throughout the area, our presence during this week is greatly appreciated and eagerly welcomed.

Arrangements in Jerusalem: We are booked into the Knights Palace Hotel near new Gate. The cost is expected to be £1100 shared/ £1400 single. The price includes transport and a driver and interpreter and also a light lunch most days, and all tips. (The price will be less for a larger group and if the dollar rate improves.)

NB: This does not include donations for any speakers or projects visited.

Flight: We recommend the EasyJet flight from Luton, which costs around £200 return. It is also possible to book an extra bag if you would like to bring clothes, books or other materials for projects and link organisations

Activities: Apart from joining in the schedule of services, most of which take place at 5pm in various different denominational churches around Jerusalem, we intend to go out to the West Bank and Negev to visit projects and congregations. There will also be opportunities to meet local people in the evenings

If you have links with particular projects or personnel, please let us know so that we can include a visit if feasible, or invite representatives to talk to us one evening.

Itinerary: At present it is not possible to give a fixed itinerary, but we intend to visit Taybeh, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jericho, Hebron and Nablus in the West Bank; Beersheva, the Negev and Jaffa in Israel; and to finish with one or two nights in Sebastiya, in the northern West Bank.

There will also be free days on Thursday and Friday so that individuals may join local activities such as the 3pm Way of the Cross walk along the Via Dolorosa – and we also have suggestions for various museums, etc.

Taybeh: Visit the Byzantine church ruins and worship with the Roman Catholic ('Latin') parish in this Christian town. Lunch of soup and salads in the Old Town at Peter's Place, which also has a small museum. Palestine's world-renowned Taybeh brewery.

Beersheva & Laqiya: the camel market, British WW1 cemetery, Laqiya carpet weaving project, and Bedouin villages under threat of destruction.

Bethlehem with either visits to rehabilitation and education institutions or continuing to Hebron to walk through the Old City and see the conditions under which people are living, and speak with some of the Ecumenical Accompaniers and other peace observers about their work, call in at the Russian Orthodox church at Mamre, and the Tent of Nations.

Ramallah, de facto administrative centre for the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, has a long history of peace and justice work because of the presence of Quakers there since 1869 – we hope to join them for Meeting for Worship at the Quaker Meeting House, before driving to Nablus: Biblical Shechem, Roman Flavia Neapolis. A mixed population including Samaritans, and the site of Jacob's Well – which has a new Greek Orthodox basilica protecting it; visit the Christian suburb of Rafidia.

Jericho, via the desert monasteries of Wadi Qelt and Mar Saba, and back towards Beit Sahour (Shepherds Fields) and Bethlehem Church of the Nativity.

Abu Ghosh: possibility to attend Mass in the Crusader Church, or to worship with our own churches in Jerusalem.

Sebastiya in Samaria: significant historical sites dating back to prehistory are being revealed as excavations progress, and new guesthouses built to accommodate guests. This will be a quiet pause before returning home.

Would you like to join us? If you would like to know more, and for booking instructions, please contact Jo Simister: pilgrimages@livingstones.org.uk .