

DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK – JANUARY 2020

Jo Simister, previously Vice-Chair (Outreach) for the charity Living Stones of the Holy Land Trust writes:

I am very pleased to have been able to arrange a group visit to join in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Jerusalem 2020.

This will be the seventh such group I have taken, and I know what a life-changing experience it can be! As a resident of Jerusalem for 10 years, working first with Quaker Peace and Service, then Save the Children, and various Palestinian universities, and networking international non-governmental organisation working in the humanitarian field throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the wider Middle East, I look forward to sharing my knowledge of this special place and its wonderful people.

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

We are planning a 12-day pilgrimage from Thursday 23rd January to Tuesday 4th February, 2020. However, we are aware that some prospective pilgrims may only be able to take a week away during term time, so it will be possible to join us for the core 8 days of the Week of Prayer itself, Saturday 25th January to Sunday 2nd February.

Itinerary overview: The 12 days will begin in the Galilee at the Convent of the Beatitudes near Tiberias, from where we shall visit Nazareth and sites around the Sea of Galilee and other places associated with Jesus' ministry.

We shall then move south to Taybeh (biblical Ephraim) in the West Bank, where any 8-day pilgrims will join us.

We shall join the various different denominational churches around Jerusalem for special services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity each evening and visit communities and projects around the West Bank during the day. The theme for 2020 is "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2) with resources prepared by the Christians of Malta.

Our day-time visits will include Sebastiya, Birkin, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jericho, Bethany and Nablus in the West Bank.

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

On the final Sunday we shall attend the liturgy at the Crusader church in Abu Ghosh before dropping the 8-day pilgrims at the airport.

The 12-day group will return to Jerusalem for the closing service of the Week of Prayer, and then move to Bethlehem from where we shall explore the southern West Bank, including Battir, Hebron and the Tent of Nations.

On the final morning we shall visit Jaffa before going to the airport.

I hope you are enthused by this itinerary! Please email me if you have any queries.



Invitation to join
Jo Simister (Leader) and Revd Adam Dickens
(Chaplain at Derby University and the Cathedral)
for the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
in Jerusalem, 2020
Thursday 23rd January – Tuesday 4th February 2020



Come and:

- ☆ *worship with many denominations (e.g. Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Syrian & Ethiopian Orthodox – as well as Lutherans, Anglicans and Roman Catholics)*
- ☆ *encounter Christians living in Galilee, 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*

12 nights based in Galilee, Taybeh, Jerusalem and Bethlehem: £1700 pp in twin room (£450 single supplement);

8 nights based in Taybeh and Jerusalem: £1250 pp in twin room (£300 single suppl.)

This includes: transport and a driver and interpreter and also a light lunch most days, and all tips. It does not include personal spending, donations for any speakers or projects visited, or flights.

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

Would you like to join us? If you would like to know more, and for booking instructions, please contact Jo Simister: jo.simister@derby.anglican.org.