



**JANUARY 2018**

## Churches react to Donald Trump's proclamation on Jerusalem



Churches have issued statements relating to Donald Trump's Presidential proclamation on 6 December 2017 recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocating the US embassy to Israel to Jerusalem:

### **Pope Francis Appeal of the Holy Father.**

My thoughts now go to Jerusalem. In this regard, I cannot ignore my deep concern about the situation that has arisen in recent days and, at the same time, address a heartfelt appeal to ensure that everyone is committed to respecting the status quo of the city, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Jerusalem is a unique city, sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, who venerate the Holy Places of their respective religions, and the city has a special vocation to peace.

I earnestly pray to the Lord that this identity be preserved and strengthened for the benefit of the Holy Land, the Middle East and the whole world and that wisdom and prudence prevail, to avoid adding new elements of tension in a world already convulsed and marked by many cruel conflicts.

### **Quakers in Britain**

The Quakers in Britain have condemned US recognition of Jerusalem.

'East Jerusalem is recognised internationally as occupied Palestinian territory, with over fifteen UN Security Council Resolutions affirming this since the occupation of Palestine began in 1967.

We join with others around the world, including Pope Francis and the British government, in voicing our deep concern at President Trump's announcement. We find his actions to be morally indefensible because they are deliberately provocative and against international law', commented Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain.

'Our desire would be to see actions which reduce the likelihood of violence and enhance chances for a just peace with dignity and security for all. We believe President Trump's decision instead gives legitimacy to the widespread human rights abuses committed by the Israeli government in the course of its 50-year occupation of Palestine, including the illegal acquisition of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

**Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild**  
**Vice Chairman - John Keast OBE**  
**CTC Missioner - David H Smith**  
**Treasurer - Paul Durkin**  
Charity No 1053899  
[www.churchestogetherincornwall](http://www.churchestogetherincornwall)

'We call on President Trump to reconsider his destabilising actions. We urge the British government to accept its historic and current responsibility towards peace in the Middle East and to take immediate steps to recognise the state of Palestine in the same way as it recognises the state of Israel.

'We thank those working for a just peace in extremely difficult circumstances and attempting to relieve tensions internationally. We stand with those calling for the status of Jerusalem to be determined only as part of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis.'

### **World Methodist Council (WMC)**

'At this time of social, political, and religious sensitivity around the status of Jerusalem, we express dismay at the announcement of President Trump to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, dismissing decades of established American policy and international consensus. Such a move undermines peace-building efforts in the region between the two states', stated the WMC.

'*The Resolution on Israel and Palestine* adopted by the World Methodist Council in 2011 states that member churches should "Work and pray for a just and sustainable peace in Israel in Palestine." It also references a 2010 report of the Methodist Church in Britain which states: "...it sits uncomfortably with many Methodists to imagine a God who singles out individuals or groups in order to promote possession", for it seems to conjure up "a notion of favouritism, with an image of God dispossessing some peoples in order to grant land for his chosen ones."

'The World Methodist Council joins its voice with The World Council of Churches and other Christian World Communions in urgently calling on the United States Administration to rise boldly to the task of being peace-makers in the global arena. This can only be achieved by supporting and encouraging the negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.'

### **World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)**

The WCRC 'received the statement by President Trump... with great dismay and concern for the peace process that all have been longing for and striving to be fulfilled.

'The WCRC General Council, meeting this summer in Leipzig, Germany, affirmed that, "with respect to the situation of injustice and suffering that exists in Palestine, and the cry of the Palestinian Christian community, the integrity of Christian faith and praxis is at stake" and committed the WCRC "to seek to strengthen initiatives for dialogues, civil peace services, mediation, conflict prevention and transformation."

'This move by the Trump Administration goes against long-established international consensus, codified in actions by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. It reverses decades of US policy. It makes a negotiated peace agreement even more difficult, increases the risk of violence in the area and escalates the threat against Christians there.

'The way to peace and justice is paved with dialogue, not with provocative declarations. We call on our member churches to speak against any move that brings violence to the Middle East and hinders dialogue.'

The WCRC said it was 'in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Jerusalem, the Middle East and around the world, we call on the Trump Administration to reconsider its announcement to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel'.

## NEWS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Friends,

Hope you are well this winter season. We have set aside two dates for future gatherings to pray together - as a reminder, these are simply opportunities for prayer and friendship, across the denominations and church networks in Cornwall. Bishop Chris will be joining us at both of these gatherings and we would love to have you help us extend this invitation as widely and personally as possible to church leaders.

Our first two gatherings in 2018 are confirmed for:

**Wednesday, 10 January**  
**Truro Methodist Church**  
**9:30 AM - Teas and Coffees**  
**10 AM - Prayer**  
**(one hour)**

**Wednesday, 18 April**  
**All Saints Highertown, Truro**  
**3:30 PM - Teas and Coffees**  
**4 PM - Prayer**  
**(one hour)**

We hope to see you there -

Matt Noble  
 Truro and St. Austell Baptist Churches

Sarah Yardley  
 Creation Fest

“Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.”— Martin Luther

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WADEBRIDGE



**Saturday 13th January 10.00 - 12.00**

Sell those unwanted presents to raise money for Christian Aid, at Cornerstone Methodist Church, Wadebridge.

Contributions can be brought on the day of the Sale or to any of the churches the previous Sunday.

What one person cannot use may be another's delight - and it raises money to help others in need. This is a popular annual event.

- **Sunday 21st January 10.30am** Wadebridge Town Hall. Annual Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All welcome.

For each of these, the contact is: Janet Hereward :  
 01208 814190 / [jhereward@gmail.com](mailto:jhereward@gmail.com)

## ADVENT PRAYER

For many, Advent is a blur of business, the greatest challenges, pre-ordering the turkey, buying the right presents and making it to various parties in one piece.

But in the Middle East and North Africa, Advent has a different favour.

The season often sees a spike in persecution, with a wave of arrests and attacks. Hidden believers feel their isolation more keenly than ever, unable to meet with others to celebrate the birth of the One they have come to love and follow.

But Advent speaks powerfully to this. However hedonistic it may have become in so many parts of the world, it is a time of waiting.

It's a time of watching for the light that breaks out in the darkness.

It's a time of hope, when we remember faithful Anna and Simeon finally seeing the fulfilment of all they had prayed and dreamed of and longed for.

It's a time to count the cost.

Jesus's young parents experienced rejection when looking for a place to stay in Joseph's home town. They placed their new son in a feeding trough to sleep.

As refugees, they fed the violence of an oppressive regime to seek sanctuary in Egypt.

It's also a time to catch your breath in wonder – when Emmanuel, the God who confounds expectations and aligns Himself with those who suffer, came to live with us.

We hear it in Mary's astonished song, as she celebrates how God lifts those of low status, who are overlooked by the rest of the world.

Wherever we are this Advent, let's choose to stop.

Let's make time to wait, watch and pray with our family in the Middle East and North Africa for the breaking of the dawn.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018



**IN TRURO CATHEDRAL - CHAPEL OF UNITY**  
**From 12 noon to 12.30pm each day**  
**18 January to 25 January**

<b>Thu 18</b>	<b>Reverend Doreen Sparey-Delacassa</b>
<b>Fri 19</b>	<b>Rev Pat Whittaker - John Keast OBE</b>
<b>Sat 20</b>	<b>Reverend Elizabeth Foot</b>
<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>Cathedral Services</b>
<b>Mon 22</b>	<b>Reverend Roger Greene - Sarah Yardley</b>
<b>Tue 23</b>	<b>Lesley Chandler - Deacon Andrew Shute</b>
<b>Wed 24</b>	<b>Major Graham Lumm – Reverend Matt Noble</b>
<b>Thu 25</b>	<b>Reverend Steve Wild</b>

The themes of the daily material raise some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean. Abuses of human rights are found across the region and we are challenged to consider our manner of welcoming of the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs, continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence. The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in the body of Christ. Reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

Question is - Can you spare some time to come and join us in prayer and meditation?



## Churches' Tent at the Royal Cornwall Show

We are actively seeking to recruit a volunteer

### Site Manager



Duties will include:

- Setting up basic plumbing and electrics within our previously erected solid walled and floored marquee. (PAT testing will be completed by contractors).
- Negotiating with the simple sound system and coaxing recalcitrant water boilers into life.
- Troubleshooting practical challenges.
- Coordinating a small team of volunteers to erect screens and arrange tables and chairs.

We are looking for a person who:

- Has a passion to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by engaging in practical tasks.
- Is self-motivated and able to organise their tasks.
- Has a fantastic sense of humour and enjoys working as part of the team.
- Is available from Tuesday through to Saturday of the Royal Cornwall Show week and ideally also able to attend a several meetings in Bodmin throughout the year.

We will provide full-training through a mentorship led by the current site manager during the 2018 Royal Cornwall show. You will also receive our undying gratitude and copious cups of tea and coffee. We even pay for your ticket into the show ground-what's not to like?!

Interested? Want to find out more?

Please contact:-

**Roger Greene on 01726 885029, via email at [revrogergreene@aol.com](mailto:revrogergreene@aol.com) or through our Facebook Page: Churches Together Tent at Royal Cornwall Show.**



**POPE FRANCIS** has defended his decision not to name the Rohingya people publicly while on his recent visit to Myanmar. He said that to do so "would have thrown a door in the face" of his hosts, but insisted he had been more strident in private.

Speaking to journalists on his flight home after his visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh, he said that he was satisfied with the meetings that he had had with officials, including the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. He also shared a stage with the country's *de facto* leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

When he flew to Bangladesh later in his visit, Pope Francis did meet Rohingya refugees who have fled to the country. At an inter-religious gathering, he blessed 16 refugees, including a girl who had lost her entire family in the violence conducted by the military in Rakhine state.

He then referred to the Rohingya people by name for the first time, and said: "In the name of all those who persecute you, who have persecuted you, and those who have hurt you, above all in the indifference of the world, I ask you for forgiveness. Forgiveness."



## Christmas Quotes

"A hug is a great gift at Christmas - one size fits all"  
Jesus is the reason for the Season.....

"The birth of Jesus is the sunrise in the Bible." ~ [Henry van Dyke](#)

'Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.' ~ [Calvin Coolidge](#)

'Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.' ~ [Hamilton Wright Mabee](#)

'The whole concept of God taking human shape had never made much sense to me. That was because, I realised one wonderful day, it was so simple. For people with bodies, important things like love have to be embodied. That's all. God had to be embodied, or else people with bodies would never in a trillion years understand about love.' ~ Jane Vonnegut Yarmolinsky

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide-open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years..."

Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart." ~ George Matthew Adams

"The Son of God became the Son of man so that the sons of men might become the sons of God." ~ Terry Fullam

## I Am the New Year

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it out with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have -- these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

**I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new." ~**

Anon