

## JUST REPORT DECEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### WITNESS

- Severe weather conditions mean that tents in Gaza collapsed. Wall collapsed [killing 30 year old Alaa Marwan Jaha](#).



- [Live: Israel dropped 153 tonnes of bombs on Gaza on Sunday](#)
- Since the ceasefire on October 11, at least 414 Palestinians have been killed and 1,145 wounded, while 680 bodies have been recovered, the Palestinian health ministry said on Monday. The official total death toll has risen to 71,266, with 171,222 people injured.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> December, [Israel formally banned](#) major international aid organisations from entering Gaza from 1<sup>st</sup> January.
- Hunger Strikers. Update [here](#). Qessar Zuhrah and Amu Gibb have paused. Four remain on strike - Heba Muraisi, Day 54. Heba Muraisi is on day 58 of her hunger and is demanding to be moved back to HMP Bronzefield from New Hall prison, Wakefield, miles from her family. She is losing the ability to speak. Her visitors have been subject to arbitrary strip searches and removal of headscarves. Teuta Hoxha is on Day 53, Kamran Ahmed on Day 52, Lewie Chiaramello on Day 36 (every other day because of diabetes). Protestors have [spray painted Labour HQ](#) Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, and activists protested at New Hall prison and [at Kings Cross station](#). See Actions below.

### LEARN

We focused on Christians in Palestine, providing background for an urgent campaign to persuade UK Churches, to stand up for the rights of Palestinians and the safeguarding of Christian presence in the Holy Land.

**Why Christians?** We are not singling them out for special protection, but coming from an officially Christian nation, we think that this is a campaign that is both just and winnable, because:

1. Religious institutions claim morality as fundamental to their belief systems. The Christian church is one of the only major institutions in the UK where a call for ethical conduct is likely to land<sup>1</sup> –

---

<sup>1</sup> other faiths included of course, and don't let us stop members pressuring Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and Bahais as well..

2. The silence of the global Christian church as a whole has actively enabled the genocide, enabling Netanyahu [to engage in the lie](#) that Israel is the only defender of Christian faith in the Middle East and that Israel (sic) is the only country in the Middle East where Christians are thriving. He has been repeating this canard since 2018, and [again this Christmas](#). It is difficult to find any online record of official protests by the UK Anglican Church against the ongoing savage persecution, and destruction of holy sites (see [here](#) for a powerful statement). Mild complaints have come from the Pope. Amazingly and as far as I can tell, the most effective protest has been from Mike Huckabee, vociferous American Christian Zionist and politician - read this interesting [Times of Israel post](#). Netanyahu himself has [thanked the Christian church](#) for its “unwavering support for Israel”.
3. Sabeel Kairos has issued [another global call](#) to Christians to oppose the genocide and the narratives of Christian Zionism. [Church at the Crossroads](#) (a US organisation) has also called for action, This should be a wakeup call for every church in the land and provides the evidence and the arguments.
4. The Church of England Synod has never debated or acknowledged the genocide, in July 2025 deferring a mild motion on the topic from Carlisle. The upcoming Synod in February offers another chance, which should be taken up, but there is so far no mention of it in the [outline of business](#). The call from the [House of Bishops in May 2025](#) failed to mention genocide or to demand that clergy take up this cause as a matter of extreme urgency. They do not mention the plight of Christians nor the destruction of holy sites.
5. Christian presence and Christian history is now at extreme risk of disappearing from the Holy Land. We sing “Oh Little Town of Bethlehem” but what we seem to want is not real people, real Christians, real places, but, as Reverend Munther Isaac states, [a sanitised, Disneyfied comfortable fantasy](#). How many sermons on Holy Innocents Day (last Sunday) mentioned the massacres of children in Palestine (or elsewhere)? One brave cleric according to Pat, did so. You may think that mentioning this in sermon is too controversial – but we rely on our priests to take a stance, surely. See [here](#)
6. You do not have to be religious or Christian to support this call, since (whatever we may feel about it) the Anglican faith is the Established Church of England and Wales (and important in Scotland). This means that all UK citizens have a right and arguably a duty, to lobby the church to stand up for what is right and moral.

What can we actually do? In our discussions several helpful suggestions came up:

1. look at your church library. What books are there on Palestine? Buy or donate, tell your minister and church warden what you are donating and why, and offer to lead a study group. Suggestions (by Palestinian Christians) include: Christ in the Rubble , Crossing Over; Complicit, by the Anglican journalist Peter Osborne.
2. Undertake an ethical audit of your church business practices. Emma discovered that her church was using Easyfundraising, but it had no checks on businesses that operate within the occupied territories (e.g. booking.com, Airbandb). See Annex 1 for links to understand better the situation of Palestinian Christians. See Annex 2 for a draft letter to your bishop and relevant addresses.
3. wear your keffiyeh to church. Engage with people in discussion, bring up informally if you can (2 people asked me what it was on Sunday).
4. If you aren't a churchgoer, you can go along to a coffee morning and say you want to find out about church action for Palestine.

## ACT

- Write to your local bishop asking them to insist that the [Carlisle Diocesan synod motion](#) on genocide in Palestine be debated at the [General Synod](#) 9-13<sup>th</sup> February in London. . See Annex 2 for draft letter and contact details.
- One year since the abduction and torture of Dr Abu Saffiya. Write to your MP to demand they take action. Details [here](#)
- Palestine Hunger Strikers Action – focus on Heba Muraisi (day 58). Contact HMP Bronzefield today and demand they accept the transfer request. [01784 425690](tel:01784425690): Main number [01932 232300](tel:01932232300): Alternative phone number. Email the following, copy to your MP; [charlotte.wilson@sodexogov.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.wilson@sodexogov.co.uk); [bf.correspondence@sodexogov.co.uk](mailto:bf.correspondence@sodexogov.co.uk); [bfsafercustody@sodexogov.co.uk](mailto:bfsafercustody@sodexogov.co.uk); [socialvisits.bronzefield@sodexojusticeservices.com](mailto:socialvisits.bronzefield@sodexojusticeservices.com); [HMPPSPublicEnquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:HMPPSPublicEnquiries@justice.gov.uk)
- Urgent Appeal – Winter Relief for Gaza\*. As freezing temperatures and heavy rain continue, thousands of families in Gaza are surviving in tents and damaged homes with no proper warmth. Children, the elderly, and the sick are at greatest risk. Every cold night worsens an already devastating humanitarian crisis. The Palestinian Forum in Britain PFB is launching an urgent \*Winter Relief appeal for Gaza\* to provide warm clothing, heating essentials, and

basic food supplies to the most vulnerable families. 📌 Please donate via [GoFundMe](#): Every contribution—no matter the size—means warmth, dignity, and protection for a family facing winter with nothing.

- To further the campaign against misrepresentation in the media, [join PSC](#) (Palestine Solidarity Campaign) and register for their [AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> February](#), where Jonathan has succeeded in putting down a motion for discussion: *Make media reform a strategic priority in PSC's Annual Plans*. See [Annual Report p34, motion no 7](#). We need speakers from the floor to support this and turn the tide. More next week.

## SHARE

Don't imagine Russia and China will help Palestine in any way. Russia has a long history of support for Israel and Zionism, for its own reasons. Watch [Vanessa Beeley](#) in conversation about Russia and China's attitudes and actions in Palestine. Depressing but necessary viewing.

## Small wins

- Campaign against Antisemitism loses case against Reginald Hunter – and is slammed by judge. Bob Vylan's chant not proceedable. See [here](#).
- **Allianz & Aviva drop Elbit Systems!** Major insurers have quietly dropped Israel's largest weapons manufacturer as their client, following an intense campaign initiated by Palestine Action in 2024.
- [PhD student gets into UK](#) to study.
- Israel 's appeal against International Criminal Court rejected. Watch [Owen Jones](#) and read [here](#)
- Ireland [converts former Israeli embassy into Palestine centre](#).

If you like Palestinian food please see and buy [this ecookery book](#) created by my Palestinian contact in Malaysia, Hazem Abu Hamda, who is hoping to use the profits to support his family in Gaza as an alternative to fundraising. I've been helping his family for over two years.

## Up and Coming

- 31st Dec 2025 8pm [Protest at HMP Pentonville](#) for hunger strikers. Bring your voices, your fury, your flags
- **31<sup>st</sup> December 6pm-7pm.** GMT PEACE & JUSTICE PROJECT End of Year Gathering with Jeremy Corbyn sign up here [REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM here](#)
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> January Catford, South London. Arts and Crafts for Palestine stall selling bakes, cards, stickers and other merch. Pre-order form [here](#) and phone number for more information.
- 5<sup>th</sup> January Tony Greenstein on trial for exercising his right to free speech on Palestine. Demonstration outside Kingston Crown Court 9am on. Information [here](#)
- 11<sup>th</sup> January 6.30- 8.30pm 📍 Upper Norwood Library Hub, 39 Westow Hill, SE19 1TQ, Crystal Palace Friends of Palestine (CPFP) screening of 'Living Despite Them', followed by a Director Q&A with Alaa Hathleen. Free. Book [here](#). This is a 20-minute documentary offering an intimate portrayal of daily life under occupation in Umm-al-Khair through resilience and quiet resistance. Following the killing of his cousin, peace activist Awdeh Hathleen, Alaa continues his legacy by sharing lived experience from Masafer Yatta – a community facing displacement under illegal occupation. Palestinian food (£10.00) and stalls with Palestinian crafts and goods, and local solidarity groups. 7pm: Film screening and Q&A with local activist, Donna Bella. Places are limited, so booking essential. Tickets are free for the event itself, £10 for Palestinian food.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm [International Armoured Vehicle Arms Fair Farnborough Hampshire](#)

## ANNEX 1 Articles on Christians in Palestine

- A brilliant summary of the history of Christianity in Palestine [here](#)
- Christmas in Bethlehem [here](#). Arrest of [Santa Claus](#).
- Other information – Church at the Crossroads, in [Middle East Eye](#)
- Sabeel Kairos call in the Palestinian Christian Ecumenical Initiative, issued the Kairos Palestine Document in 2009 — *A word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering*:

“The Heads of Churches in Jerusalem heard this cry, welcomed it, and offered their support. Likewise, the document resonated widely, both locally and internationally. Then, as now, we gathered — women and men, clergy and laity — from across the different church families in Palestine. After prayer and reflection on the suffering of our people under occupation, we released that cry of hope in the absence of hope, affirming our faith in God and our love for our homeland, convinced that our struggle is ultimately about human life and dignity”.

“We live now in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement unfolding before the eyes of the world. This moment — a moment of truth — demands from us a new stand unlike any before it. It is both a decisive moment and. Today, we renew our stand for truth and our commitment to fundamental religious, theological and moral principles. We look at our reality and take a renewed stand, responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit deep within us, listening to the call of faith in this time of genocide. We renew our message of faith, hope, and love — offering a faith-inspired vision for the time after genocide”.

- **For an explanation of evangelical Zionist leaning Christian perspective, see [here in Middle East Eye](#).** Dispensationalism - a concept largely popularised at the start of the 20th century, denoting that God had different dealings with humanity in different eras or "dispensations". Dispensationalists believe that the church and Israel are two distinct entities. In that vein, they believe that God has not yet fulfilled his plan for Israel, which will materialise in the end times upon the second coming of Jesus Christ, who is expected to rule the world from the Temple Mount - also known as the al-Aqsa compound - in Jerusalem. Sue reminded us that this is a messianic, violent colonialist mission which actively seeks the destruction of Palestine and Jerusalem as necessary to the Second Coming. Compare to Pastor Isaac – we don't wait for the Kingdom, God has only our hands to act with.
- Tucker Carlson, right wing media commentator is a strong defender of Palestinian Christians. [Watch here](#).
- Peter Osborne – numerous informative articles and interviews, see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## Annex 2

Write to your local bishop. Check their stance. So far, only *The Archbishop of York, together with the Bishops of Southwark, Gloucester, Chelmsford and Norwich* have actively spoken out. Use the information available in the links provided above and a variation on the following:

I am – one of your parishoners/a resident concerned about the Established Church's condoning of genocide/ a member of the Anglican/(other church or faith group)

I am looking to the Church to take a moral lead on standing up for the rights of all Palestinians and to call out the persecution of Christians in the Holy Land and the destruction of Christian churches. It seems to me that the Church of England only cares about a fantasy Holy Land, not the reality where Christian presence is vast disappearing and the sites, for so long ably and responsibly curated by both Arab and Christian Palestinians will be deserted by regular worshippers and become a kind of Disneyland for tourists alone – if indeed they survive at all..

I urge you to speak out at Synod (9-13<sup>th</sup> February) and adopt firstly the Carlisle Diocesan Synod motion on Palestine, and secondly to take up the call by Sabeel Kairos for action. Furthermore, such a call to action and repentance should feature in every church in every parish in the country, led by yourselves, but put into practice by local church pastors and leaders...

### Emails for Bishops – CHECK THESE ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITES

|              |                 |                                 |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Bath & Wells | Michael Beasley | bishop@bathwells.anglican.org   |
| Birmingham   | Michael Volland | bishopsadmin@cofebirmingham.com |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Blackburn<br>Burnley<br>Bradford<br>Lancaster | PhilipNorth<br>Joe Kennedy<br>Toby Howarth<br>Jill Duff          | bishop@bishopofblackburn.org.uk<br>bishop.burnley@blackburn.anglican.org<br><a href="mailto:bishop.toby@leeds.anglican.org">bishop.toby@leeds.anglican.org</a><br>bishop.lancaster@blackburn.anglican.org  |
| Bristol                                       | Vivienne Faull   | PA <a href="mailto:maria.quantock@bristoldiocese.org">maria.quantock@bristoldiocese.org</a><br>Sarah.simpson@bristoldiocese.org  |
| Canterbury<br>Dover                           | Vacant: contact<br>Bishop Rose Hudson Wilkin                     | BishopofDover@bishcant.org   |
| Carlisle                                      | Vacant   | contact one of the Deans or main office  |
| Chelmsford                                    | Guli Francis-Dehqani   | Rev Rachel Pennant,chaplain@chelmsford.anglican.org  |
| Chester                                       | Mark Tanner<br>Sam Corley, Stockport<br>Birkenhead Julie Conalty | <a href="mailto:bpchester@chester.anglican.org">bpchester@chester.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:@Northern_Bishop">@Northern_Bishop</a><br><a href="mailto:bpstockport@chester.anglican.org">bpstockport@chester.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:@SamCorley10">@SamCorley10</a><br><a href="mailto:bpbirkenhead@chester.anglican.org">bpbirkenhead@chester.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:@BirkenheadBish">@BirkenheadBish</a> |
| Chichester                                    | Martin Warner  | bishop@chichester.anglican.org   |
| Coventry<br>Warwick                           | Sophie Jelley<br>Warwick is vacant                               | bishop@bishop-coventry.org   |
| Derby<br>Repton                               | Libby Lane<br>Malcolm McNaughton                                 | <a href="mailto:bishop@bishopofderby.org">bishop@bishopofderby.org</a><br><a href="mailto:malcolm.macnaughton@derby.anglican.org">malcolm.macnaughton@derby.anglican.org</a>   |
| Durham  | Vacant   | contact one of the Deans or main office  |
| Ely<br>Huntingdon                             | Vacant<br>Dagmar Winter acting for Ely                           | Bishop.huntingdon@elydiocese.org   |
| Exeter  | Mike Harrison  | bishop.of.exeter@exeter.anglican.org   |
| Gloucester                                    | RachelTreweek  | bgloucester@glosdioc.org.uk<br>@BishGloucester   |
| Guildford<br>Dorking                          | Andrew Watson<br>Paul Davies                                     | <a href="mailto:bishop.andrew@cofeguildford.org.uk">bishop.andrew@cofeguildford.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:bishop.paul@cofeguildford.org.uk">bishop.paul@cofeguildford.org.uk</a>   |
| Hereford                                      | Richard Jackson  | PA <a href="mailto:r.kirkwood@@hereford.anglican.org">r.kirkwood@@hereford.anglican.org</a>  |
| Leicester<br>Loughborough                     | Martyn Snow<br>Saju Muthalaly                                    | <a href="mailto:Bishop.Leicester@LeicesterCofE.org">Bishop.Leicester@LeicesterCofE.org</a><br>Bishop.Loughborough@LeicesterCofE.org  |
| Lichfield<br>Wolverhampton                    | Michael Ipgrave<br>Tim Wambumya                                  | <a href="mailto:bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org">bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org</a><br>bishop.wolverhampton@lichfield.anglican.org  |
| Lincoln<br>Grimsby<br>Grantham                | Stephen Conway<br>David Court<br>Nicholas Chamberlain            | <a href="mailto:bishop.lincoln@lincoln.anglican.org">bishop.lincoln@lincoln.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:bishop.grimsby@lincoln.anglican.org">bishop.grimsby@lincoln.anglican.org</a><br>bishop.grantham@lincoln.anglican.org   |
| Liverpool<br>Warrington                       | John Perumbalath<br>Beverley Mason                               | <a href="mailto:bishopslodge@liverpool.anglican.org">bishopslodge@liverpool.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:PAWarrington@liverpool.anglican.org">PAWarrington@liverpool.anglican.org</a>   |
| London  | Sarah Mullally   | <a href="mailto:bishop.london.correspondence@london.anglican.org">bishop.london.correspondence@london.anglican.org</a>   |
| Manchester                                    | David Walker   | bishop@manchester.anglican.org   |
| Newcastle<br>Berwick                          | Helen-Ann Hartley<br>Mark Wroe                                   | <a href="mailto:d.botha@newcastle.anglican.org">d.botha@newcastle.anglican.org</a> PA<br><a href="mailto:elenarose.crawford@newcastle.anglican.org">elenarose.crawford@newcastle.anglican.org</a> PA   |
| Norwich<br>Thetford<br>Lynn                   | Graham Usher<br>Ian Bishop<br>Jane Steen                         | <a href="mailto:bishop@dioceseofnorwich.org">bishop@dioceseofnorwich.org</a><br><a href="mailto:bishop.thetford@dioceseofnorwich.org">bishop.thetford@dioceseofnorwich.org</a><br><a href="mailto:bishop.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org">bishop.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org</a>   |
| Oxford  | Steven Croft   | bishop.oxford@oxford.anglican.org  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
| Peterborough                             | Deborah Sellin   | bishop@peterborough-diocese.org.uk   |
| Portsmouth                               | Jonathan Frost   | bishop@portsmouth.anglican.org   |
| Rochester                                | Jonathan Gibbs   | Bishop.Rochester@rochester.anglican.org  |
| St Albans<br>Hertford<br>Bedford         | Alan Smith<br>Jane Mainwearing<br>Richard Atkinson     | <a href="mailto:bishop@stalbans.anglican.org">bishop@stalbans.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:bishophertford@stalbans.anglican.org">bishophertford@stalbans.anglican.org</a><br><a href="mailto:BishopBedford@stalbans.anglican.org">BishopBedford@stalbans.anglican.org</a> |
| St Edmundsbury & Ipswich                 | Martin Seeley  | bishop.martin@cofesuffolk.org  |
| Salisbury                                | Stephen Lake   | <a href="mailto:bishop.salisbury@salisbury.anglican.org">bishop.salisbury@salisbury.anglican.org</a>   |
| Sheffield                                | Pete Wilcox  | pa@bishopofsheffield.org.uk  |
| Sodor and Man                            | Patricia Hillas  | bishop@sodorandman.im  |
| Southwark                                | Christopher Chessun                                    | <a href="mailto:trinity@southwark.anglican.org">trinity@southwark.anglican.org</a> mark FOA:   |
| Southwell & Nottingham                   | Paul Williams  | bishop@southwell.anglican.org  |
| Truro                                    | David Williams (designate)                             | <a href="mailto:info@truro.anglican.org">info@truro.anglican.org</a> FAO David Williams  |
| Wakefield                                | Nick Baines  | bishop.nick@leeds.anglican.org   |
| Winchester<br>Basingstoke<br>Southampton | Philip Mounstephen<br>David Williams<br>Rhiannon balme | <a href="mailto:lynda.mumford@winchester.anglican.org">lynda.mumford@winchester.anglican.org</a><br>FAO Bishop Philip, Bishop David<br><a href="mailto:rhiannon.balme@winchester.anglican.org">rhiannon.balme@winchester.anglican.org</a>  |
| Worcester                                | Vacant   | contact one of the Deans or main office  |
| York                                     | Stephen Cottrell                                       | <a href="mailto:office@archbishopofyork.org">office@archbishopofyork.org</a> FAO Archbishop Stephen  |