

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second edition of News and Views for 2022.

Firstly, I want to say a big 'thank-you' to those who were able to respond so generously to our Spring Appeal. The Spring Appeal letter outlines some of the CMJ ministry plans, both in the short and medium term. Often articles in News and Views feature how such plans have become a reality and how the ministry is maintaining key work and developing new projects. The current Spring Appeal is still open and you can make a donation via our Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cmj-uk4

Secondly, let me share with you that CMJ UK has a new staff member. Lisa Boot is our new Finance Manager, and she will be replacing Alan Bowell (see News and Views, 2021, issue

4) who served in this role for 12 years. John Brooks, Canon Phil Harris, and I interviewed Lisa and we are confident that Lisa will do a great job. We are thankful for the skills and gifting she will bring to the CMJ staff team.

Thirdly, in this edition we have a number of articles and reports, including news of a student who plans to spend her 'Gap Year' serving in Israel plus the regular Thinking Aloud column. The main centre page is dedicated to the 'repentance' event hosted at Christ-Church Cathedral, Oxford. I hope there will be something in this edition which will encourage and inspire you.

With thanks for your interest and on-going support for CMJ

Shalom

Alex

New Publication by Kelvin Crombie - Dutch Jewish Christians during the Holocaust



Following years of research, still on-going. Kelvin Crombie has unearthed stories from the Holocaust. These stories from the Netherlands are tragic, challenging and sometimes miraculous. Come and join us as we hear Kelvin unpack the past and show how Jewish Christians died because they were Jewish.

An abridged version of his book is available via the CMJ UK Online Shop www.cmj.org.uk/shop or by calling the Office on 01623 883960.

You can read an update written by Kelvin on the CMJ USA website www.cmj-usa.org/blog/jewish-christians-netherlands-during-holocaust

Jane Moxon will be touring the UK with Kelvin in June – perhaps they are at a meeting near you? Please see our website for details www.cmj.org.uk/events-calendar

Following the tour Kelvin will be joining us at the CMJ UK Conference in Yarnfield, 8th – 10th July.

A GAP YEAR SERVING THE LORD



Greetings! My name is Eleanor, and I am in my last year of sixth form. I am hoping to serve the Lord in Israel next year on a gap year volunteering with CMJ Israel. I think this will give me an opportunity to spend time with

the Lord and other Christians and make sure my life is focused on Him before I go to uni.

I am very passionate about music. I sing, play piano, bassoon, and organ. Although this combination is unusual, it enables me to make music with others in many different settings. A highlight for me recently was being in a position to contribute to a concert my church put together to raise money for Ukraine. I would be grateful for your prayers that I am able to listen and feel sure about our Lords plan for me. Thank you in advance!

Eleanor

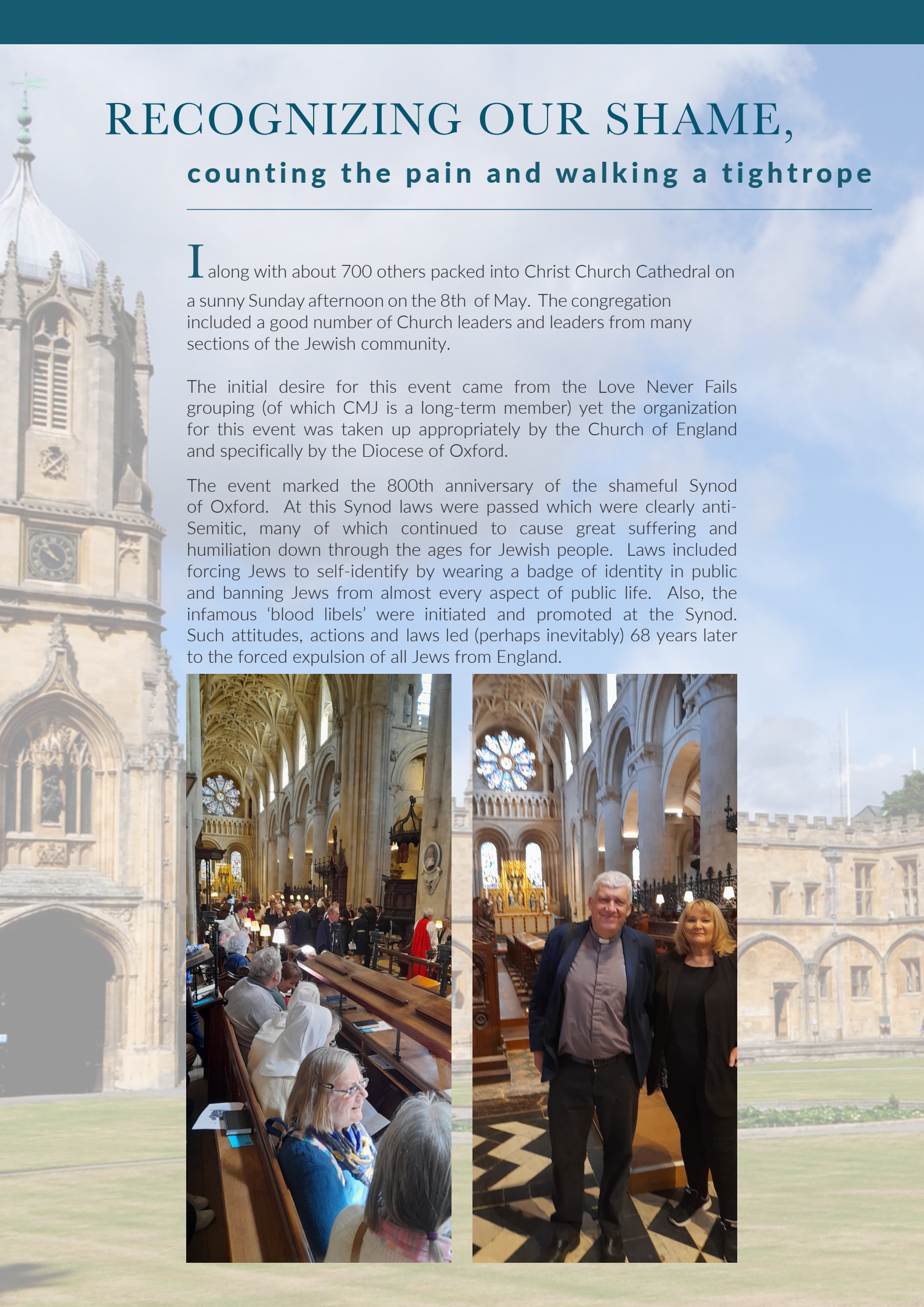


RECOGNIZING OUR SHAME, counting the pain and walking a tightrope

Lalong with about 700 others packed into Christ Church Cathedral on a sunny Sunday afternoon on the 8th of May. The congregation included a good number of Church leaders and leaders from many sections of the Jewish community.

The initial desire for this event came from the Love Never Fails grouping (of which CMJ is a long-term member) yet the organization for this event was taken up appropriately by the Church of England and specifically by the Diocese of Oxford.

The event marked the 800th anniversary of the shameful Synod of Oxford. At this Synod laws were passed which were clearly anti-Semitic, many of which continued to cause great suffering and humiliation down through the ages for Jewish people. Laws included forcing Jews to self-identify by wearing a badge of identity in public and banning Jews from almost every aspect of public life. Also, the infamous 'blood libels' were initiated and promoted at the Synod. Such attitudes, actions and laws led (perhaps inevitably) 68 years later to the forced expulsion of all Jews from England.



The service was very moving, with the Psalm read in Hebrew and some wonderful reflective music. The Rt Rev William Kenney led us in an act of penitence and the Bishop of Lichfield, Rt Rev Dr. Michael Ipgrave preached powerfully and described the events of the 1222 Synod as part of our *"...painful and shameful history, which shaped the entire Church in medieval Europe along a path of contempt for Jews."* He also added the challenge for today, namely that there is much for us to remember and repent for, and much we must do to rebuild our relations with Jewish people.

As we drifted out from the Cathedral into the spring sunshine and the grandeur of the Christ College quad the horrors initiated in 1222 seemed at one level to belong to a different time, perhaps even a different world. Yet we know today of the on-going horrors of anti-Semitism, and I am sure that many present at the service will re-double their efforts to stand with Jewish people and to resolutely refute all forms of anti-Semitism.

As I reflected on this event with colleagues, I read again the 2019, Faith and Order commission (of the Church of England) report on Christian-Jewish Relations - God's Unfailing Word. Alongside this I also read the CMJ study guide/response to this report. I would encourage you to do the same. Yet my own reflection was taken to a new and more urgent level, as I was invited to an interview on Radio 4 to address that concern expressed by many from within the rabbinical Jewish world that CMJ perpetuates such contempt for Jews via our commitment to Jewish evangelism. I was interviewed by BBC presenter Edward Stourton along with Rabbi Debbie Young-Summers.

The concern that CMJ perpetuates contempt for Jews (which in turn may lead to anti-Semitic actions) is expressed powerfully in the 'afterword' to God's Unfailing Word written by the Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis who writes: "I must convey a substantial misgiving I have with this document, despite the progress it undeniably represents and articulates. Namely, that it does not reject the efforts of those Christians, however many they may number, who as part of their faithful mission, dedicate themselves to the purposeful and specific targeting of Jews for conversion to Christianity".

In the light of the event in Oxford (and the many challenging conversations which flowed from it), along with preparing for the major Radio interview, I became acutely aware once again, of the theological and pastoral 'tightrope' we within CMJ (and others) are seeking to walk along. We seek to make progress by resolutely standing against anti-Semitism, affirming the validity of Jewish Believers in Jesus (a ludicrous anathema for many within the secular and rabbinical Jewish world), affirming the role of Israel within God's redemptive purposes, teaching the Church about her Biblical Jewish roots, and sensitively sharing the Gospel with Jewish people. This sharing of the Gospel, this hope of salvation, this hope rooted in Jesus is part of the 'DNA' of authentic discipleship. Such discipleship demands we resolutely do what we do with a deep dependency upon the Holy Spirit, mixed with gentleness, wisdom, humility, vulnerability, and courage.

Maybe the modern context of our society and the many misunderstandings and divisions within the Church makes this tightrope much more slippery; yet I believe it also makes our attempt to 'maintain our balance' and to move forward especially vital.

Alex Jacob



THINKING ALOUD

Well, the final ball has been kicked in the Cambridge United Football season (2021-2022), the final whistle blown, and my season ticket has expired. Yet much continues 'behind the scenes' and 'beyond the pitch' of every football club.

One such key activity which is watched carefully by avid supporters is the publishing of the 'player retention list'. This list shows which players will be staying with the club for the next season, either since they have an existing contract or are being offered new contracts. Most club contracts are between 1 to 3 years. Better and more important players are generally offered longer and more generous contracts to avoid such players being lured away by other rival clubs.

Yet also this list brings the bad news for many players, (especially younger academy members)

that they are being released by their club. Being released by a club does not necessarily mean the end of a playing career, but it does for some.

As Christians we can be pleased that no such annual retention or released list exists. As Scripture teaches us our names were written in the book of life before the foundation of the world (see Revelation 13:8, 21:28, Hebrews 12:22-23, Ephesians 1:4-5, Philippians 4:3 etc.). I hope this assurance will not lead us to complacency or arrogance, but to renewed trust as we seek to live out our faith as fully as we can and play our part within the Church.

Happy playing,
Alex

Reps Conference Report

Opening the door from the restaurant I was greeted by four brilliant white ducks quacking loudly. Other guests followed, I said, 'they've come for the Meal Deal!' to which came the reply, 'they are the Meal Deal.'

This idyllic setting, at Brickets Wood Premier Inn alongside the M25, has lost none of its charm. The CMJ Reps Conference is held in a different place each year and every year we deal with a different topic and include a half-day 'practical.'

Daryl Fenton, Director of CMJ Israel flew to London just to speak at the conference. Alex Jacob gave a theme related Bible Study and I did a talk and a Passover workshop, where we shared our insights.

Friday evening we visited The Jerusalem Experience, where ex-CMJ staff member, Howard Roberts' incredible model of the Temple resides. A large Noah's Ark is parked in another room and built to scale making the animals and people look minute.

Saturday, our practical, was a morning of two sessions by Daryl in Holy Trinity Frogmore and this was well attended and well received. Our grateful thanks to Rev Nick Weir, vicar of the church, who also attended the event. The conference ended with a visit to a display, *Arriving and Belonging* about the Jewish community of St Albans.

Our newest rep, Beatriz Brooks from Chile thought the conference was brilliant - so look out all Spanish speaking churches in Britain!

Jane Moxon

If you are interested in being a CMJ rep please email janem@cmj.org.uk



Rev Nick Weir, CMJ UK's Jane Moxon and Director of CMJ Israel, Canon Daryl Fenton.



Obituaries

A moment for thanks and reflection

Jenny Yohannes (nee Bennett), who died recently, worked with CMJ in Ethiopia as a nurse/midwife from 1967 to 1975 (having previously worked at the Nazareth hospital). Initially she worked in the Jenda clinic, then in the new Macha clinic when it was set up in an area where many Beit Israel lived.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of the redoubtable **Joan Crooks** on 13th October 2021. Her funeral was in Durham Cathedral where she settled when she retired to the UK from Jerusalem.

A more detailed obituary for both Jenny and Joan is available on the CMJ UK Blog www.cmj.org.uk/blog