

From CMJ UK Evangelist, Tania
Based in London

A common misconception among Christians is that Jewish people know the Old Testament well and have little exposure to the New Testament and Christianity. However, this is not usually the case.

Many Jewish people have grown up in secular homes with little or no exposure to the Bible. Others have attended church schools and been exposed more to Christianity than to Judaism. There are older Jewish people who remember with great fondness a variety of Christian hymns from their schooldays. Some of the older ladies I know were convent educated and can recite the Lord's Prayer. An appreciation of English or British culture may be at the heart of this, or simply nostalgia for younger days. One lady told me that if she could, she would love to live in an English village and go to a little parish church, a bit like Miss Marple!

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GAP YEAR UPDATE FROM **ELEANOR GAME** BASED AT CHRIST CHURCH, JERUSALEM

I have really enjoyed living in Israel and feel very much at home here. I arrived in early September, but it feels like much longer as there is always so much going on. Working on the compound can be chaotic and requires a lot of spontaneity which means it is not easy to describe a typical day, but I will have a go. The schedule for the following week is usually given a couple of days in advance and varies each week. This means I do not have the same days off each week or the same shifts. If I am working a breakfast shift, I usually wake up at 6am and set up for breakfast as we serve a buffet to the guests. We then have staff and volunteer devotions. I then clear the breakfast and either prepare the food for the next day or spend the time in the dish room. I finish at 2.30 and then often come home and take a nap!

In the evenings I sometimes spend time with friends, either in a coffee shop or on the compound.

Although I don't usually manage to make it every week, joining a messianic congregation has been a great way for me to meet people. I have joined a choir which I am so happy about. It is connected to the Lutheran Redeemer Church nearby and is in German but fortunately singing together doesn't require so much talking!

Jerusalem is a great place to live as there is so much going on and I feel very safe here. However, traveling to other parts of Israel has really been a highlight for me. I went with another volunteer and good friend to Haifa for a weekend. We enjoyed seeing another side to Israel and taking in the atmosphere. I spent some time with friends from the congregation in Masada. We took the bus after I finished my shift one evening and then found a place to lay down and sleep under the stars. Just recently, the volunteers all went together to spend the day in the Galilee. We had a great time, and my highlight was walking up Mount Arbel.

Although the work and living in community can sometimes pose a challenge, it is far outweighed by having so many new experiences, learning so much and meeting so many great people and that makes me very much appreciate this year so far.

Eleanor Game



Eleanor (third from left) and friends enjoy a meal together.



Passover 2023

Each year CMJ UK Staff, Volunteers, Reps and Trustees visit churches and study groups up and down the UK to present Seder Meals as part of celebrating Yeshua in the Passover. Here are some reports from 2023:

Sally-Anne's first ever Passover sharing took place at **Riverside Church, Sleaford** who host the Keswick Bible Ministry Events she has been attending. If you know Sally-Anne you will know how excited she was to be sharing about Jesus through 'The Passover in the Bible'. Her talk brought to life the lighting of the candles, the Kiddush cups, the Seder Plate, the Matzah and Psalm of Praise. Praise God, new connections were made, new understanding and insight was received and seven people signed up for the CMJ UK Weekly News Update. Their feedback has kept the excitement flowing:

"All reports I'm getting are how good it was. Your information was well appreciated. Thank you. You made the evening special".
Jack Marris

During Holy Week Paul and Janey Hames were involved in two Passover events. We were hosting Chaim and Deanna Malespin and their three children. Chaim was involved in the event held at **Mansfield Baptist Church**; the culmination of a series of CMJ related teaching events. We also travelled to **St Stephen's at Norwich**. After a Bible Comes To Life Exhibition and Alex Jacob preaching the Passover was final celebrated. Chaim was warmly received as he contributed a messianic Jewish slant on the evening and shared about his own ministry work in the Galilee. The next day was Maundy Thursday and we found us at our home church **Hope Community Church, Leicester**. Again Chaim and his family brought a unique angle to the celebration and teaching. It is still wonderful to see and hear both new and long-standing Christians see new connections between the old and new covenants, and recognise the integral part Jesus plays as the Passover celebration develops. Although Passover season was officially over on the 11th April we went to **Longton Elim Church** (one of our regular deputation visits) to do a talk on the Feasts of The Lord - including Passover!

Paul & Janey Hames
Photo: Chaim Malespin & Paul Hames



Jane & Chris Moxon

For several years, **Christ Church, Worksop** has a Passover meal every year and every year people tell me they have learn something else new. Thirty-two people attended the meal. The group included three people from Brazil and two people from Hong Kong.

Those from Hong Kong were already on board with Jewish roots teaching but do not know CMJ Hong Kong's Peter Wong, surprisingly! There is a large community from Hong Kong in Worksop and many more wanted to come, The need for a good translator prevented them - but next year!

When we came to say the blessings, our grandson, Benjamin, sang them in Hebrew.

We had a lot of fun and as usual, when we explained about the 4th cup and also Jesus last words from the cross relating to Psalm 22, you could have heard a pin drop. The word of God is powerful and never fails to make an impact!

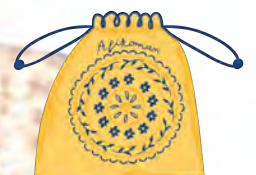
Jane Moxon



The Passover Meal at Christ Church, Worksop



Over 500 people reached (bitter herbs were dipped over 1,000 times!)



17 churches visited (17 afikomen found!)

From Wendy Scott, CMJ UK Chair of Trustees

The communal Passover this year for **Beit haGefen Messianic Fellowship** took place on April 8th. Twenty attendees met for a full 3-course meal and celebrated God's redemption and freedom from slavery – both physical and spiritual. We enjoyed fellowship, food and of course, fun, (always a great combination!) as we hunted for the afikomen, redeemed that which was lost, and opened the door for Elijah. Our Seder is held at our local church, who have hosted the fellowship meetings for more than 25 years. One year there really was someone at the door when it was opened – the vicar!



Passover at Beit haGefen Messianic Fellowship

Beit haGefen is now over 40 years old, (the oldest in the UK!), having been founded in 1982 by Henry Knight, on his return from working for CMJ in Israel. It was then taken on by Joy Sims, who you will remember as a Trustee with CMJ until last she stepped down last year. And now it's lead by Mike and Wendy Scott! There's nothing like keeping it in the CMJ family!!



Robin & Sue Aldridge at Mansfield Pentecostal Church

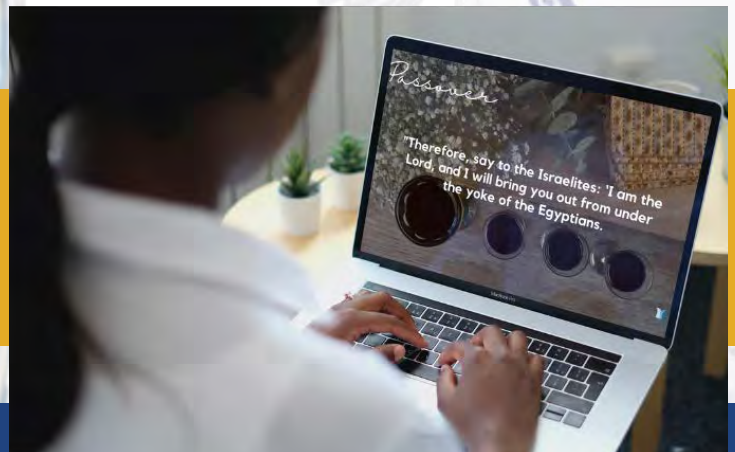
From Sally-Anne Morgan, CMJ UK Events Manager

John Brooks and I visited **Mansfield Pentecostal Church** in February 2022 introducing CMJ UK. This led to the Pastor Matthew McGlade requiring about Jewish Roots teaching on the Feasts and Festivals. So on Friday 7th March 2023, Robin and Sue Aldridge delivered a Passover meal. What an incredible evening! 65+ people attended this evening, many unsure of what to expect and how the Passover in the Bible connects to the Easter that is celebrated today.

Robin and Sue used the Haggadah as we celebrated the evening, Robin's teaching was very clear and at times you could have heard a pin drop! Sue acted out the story in Egypt, this sent tingles down my spine! A delicious meal was served, after this the young people hunted for the middle matzah. I am still in awe of the relevance that this shows to Jesus and this is probably my favorite part of the evening. As the evening was concluding we celebrated with Hebraic dance a praise. The evening was informative and enjoyed by all.

Our original short Passover video was viewed by well over 1,000 people on all our social media channels.

If you missed it, it's available here on our YouTube channel:
<https://bit.ly/CMJUKPassover2023>



6 new churches
(lots of new
contacts made!)



Over 500
Matzah eaten!

If you are interested in booking a Passover for your church or if you would like to find out more about booking a speaker, please get in touch! Office@cmj.org.uk

A fond farewell to long-serving colleagues - Alex Jacob

If I were to describe Alex to someone who doesn't know him I would say he is an oracle on the life and work of Bob Dylan, a devoted Cambridge United fan, a great MC at conference, (a man of great comedic timing: quips coming fast and furious!), and a man who cared deeply about the ministry and calling of CMJ.

My first encounter with Alex was in my second foray into what was then known as CMJ council, back in 2008, and Alex was at that time Director of Advocacy. After Robin stepped down from a 3-year stint as CEO, Alex stepped up and took the reins in 2011. During that time, he has authored an extraordinary catalogue of publications - leaflets, books, responses to world events, anti-Semitism, interviews on Radio 4 and most recently a YouTube interview with our Vice President, J. John. He has written an evangelism training course, the most recent version of which was developed with input from our community-based evangelists (CBEs.) In fact, our CBE development was an idea that Alex brought to us some years ago, and this has helped to build our team of three, with a view to further expansion.

There is much that Alex has accomplished and as he steps down as CEO at the end of May, it means we won't see him at Conference this year, to give him the 'send-off' that is his due. However, we take this opportunity to wish him, Mandy and all the family, every blessing for the future, with grateful thanks for his 16 years of service to CMJ UK.

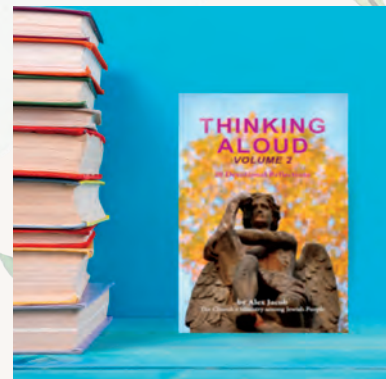
Wendy Scott
Chair of Trustees



J. John interviews Alex as part of his 'Facing the Canon' Series.



Alex preaching at Christ Church, Jerusalem.



Alex's latest book with CMJ UK - *Thinking Aloud Volume 2*. Available in the CMJ UK Online Shop www.cmj.org.uk/shop

A fond farewell to long-serving colleagues - Paul & Janey Hames

It's hard to fit almost 23 years of joint ministry with CMJ into a few words. We were involved in ministry in our local Jewish community in Leicester from the 1980s onwards, as well as teaching in churches and leading tours to Israel. In 2000 an opportunity to continue our outreach and teaching came up within CMJ. The Regional Advisor's job was officially Paul's, but as Janey had to be interviewed too we felt it was a joint calling. Paul's interview presentation on cheese is part of CMJ folklore! During that three years, we were joint leaders of a fledgling Messianic Jewish congregation in Leicester, ran a large Jewish roots Bible Study in Nottingham, and did regular deputation work which often included supporting the Bible Come To Life Exhibition.

In 2005 an out-of-the-blue phone call from the CMJ General Director in Jerusalem led to us spending five years managing the CMJ's Christ Church guest house. During that incredible period, we responded to the Second Lebanon War in 2006 with Operation Respite, where we used the empty Guest House to host 200 Arab and Jewish war refugees from the North of Israel at no cost. We contributed to the first Gafcon Conference in 2008 when we fed and watered several hundred Anglican Bishops and their wives on a visit to the Church and Heritage Centre.

We had the privilege of visiting Moscow with our chef Sasha who is also a Messianic worship leader. The highlight of the trip was giving our testimony in a live one-hour radio interview on a Moscow radio station. We only found out afterwards that there were more than 5 million listeners! In May 2010 as we prepared to leave Israel Janey along with others organised the first Jerusalem Spring Fair. This event raises money for the Christ Church Mercy Fund and brings people from the Old City's many communities together and has lots of opportunities for conversations about Jesus and our faith. We'll continue to raise a Spring Fair volunteer Team GB even after our time with CMJ finishes. Arriving back in the UK in 2010 we began a new round of deputation work, this time across the whole country. One memorable Sunday afternoon took us to Carlisle and back to talk to half a dozen elderly ladies whose vicar had forgotten to tell them we were coming! A far cry from our Moscow audience but equally valuable!

In 2013 the famous CMJ Temple Model was returned, followed by lots of other artifacts. This enabled us to relaunch the Bible Comes To Life Exhibition in 2016. Most churches love the opportunity to invite thousands of school children and the local community into their building. Our visitors' book tells its own story of the many who have been moved, challenged, encouraged and revived by the exhibition.

The culmination of our work with the exhibition was taking it to Warsaw in 2022 to join with CMJ Israel and Jews For Jesus in a citywide outreach. This was the first time there had been a CMJ presence in Poland since 1939 and it felt both significant and weighty. We pray it will be part of a new start for CMJ in Poland. As we come to the end of our time with CMJ we are grateful for this wonderful ministry that has enabled us to lead such a varied and fulfilling life. We look back on an enormously fun, challenging, exhilarating and stretching time and look forward to new challenges and new doors opening. We'll still be involved in Jewish ministry, our calling hasn't been rescinded, but we'll be working in a new context. Thank you all for your support, prayers, your friendship, and your fellowship!

Paul & Janey



Paul & Janey Hames



Spring Fair
volunteers in 2022



The Bible Comes to
Life Exhibition

... Continued from front page

In the Orthodox community, the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament is viewed through the prism of the Talmud. Men study the Talmud and other rabbinic works, some of which are almost unknown to Christians, such as the Tanya, a foundational work of Hasidic philosophy, and the Zohar, the “bible” of kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). However, this level of study is encouraged among men only. Women are advised to focus on the Psalms.

Many secular Jewish people, as Christians might expect, have had very little exposure to the Bible. One elderly Jewish lady asked me, “Who came first, Jesus or Moses?” Most would know the answer to that question but, when studying the New Testament with Jewish people, it is important to demonstrate

how Jesus is the messianic figure of Deuteronomy 18:15, the “prophet like me” that Moses promised to whom Jewish people should listen. We must show how Yeshua fits into the narrative of Jewish history and scripture and make clear that the New Testament is also Jewish scripture, being written by Jews mainly, about a Jew (Yeshua), for Jews! After all, Jesus was not bringing a new religion for Gentiles, but a renewal and continuation of Jewish faith in the God of Israel in a new covenant which has its origin in Jeremiah 31 – a renewed covenant with the house of Israel, whose “lost sheep” Jesus came to rescue (Matthew 15:24).

Tania, CMJ UK Evangelist based in London

A RECENT SCOTTISH TOUR TO ISRAEL INSPIRES A CONFERENCE TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS SEPTEMBER!

By Sharon Arthurson

We were a slightly disparate bunch, gathered round the check in desk at 5am, Edinburgh airport. Friendships not yet forged and some wondering aloud why they were going on a study tour of Israel at all – other than in support of a spouse. The brochure had promised much more than just Falafels, Fun and Friends – which is the tag line by which the group has been known ever since – but that was all still ahead.

After a long journey, we were greeted by Scott, Kira, our guide and Boulous our driver – and as we exited Ben Gurion, we were also greeted by the extreme heat, even at 11pm. Welcome to Israel.

No rest for the wicked and not much at all for the fearless bunch of Scottish tourists – we soon discovered that Kira’s motto (other than “please try” in relation to loo stops) was Up, Breakfast and GO!!

And from this point onwards, I think it can be said that people stopped wondering why they were there and began asking why it had taken them so long to visit this amazing land.

As we travelled up the coastal plain, around Galilee, the Golan and down to the Dead Sea, Kira opened up the Biblical text, testing our knowledge (a test which we often failed) and truly, eyes were opened to the wonderful truths and covenantal faithfulness of our amazing God.



When we came up to Christchurch in Jerusalem, our hearts were full, and we felt so blessed to join in worship there. When approached by Ben Pileggi about the possibility of hosting a Scottish conference to introduce others to the teaching we had experienced, it was a unanimous yes.

September in Edinburgh will be very different from September in Israel, but our prayer is that people here will have open hearts and minds and like our group, will never read their Bibles in quite the same way again. And who knows – they may even sign up for the Scottish tour 2024!

And in case you are wondering - the tourist who wondered why he was even going? Afterwards, he declared it possibly the best holiday he had ever been on.

Please be praying for all our organisational efforts – we all have day jobs but are excited about all that God has in store for the church here in Scotland and we pray that He will bring the people He wants to Conference 2023.

If you'd like to find out more about the Scotland Conference in September or register for the Event, please go to <https://bit.ly/3KZ60XA>