

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of **News and Views for 2021.**

As we begin a new-year let me remind you of the CMJ membership verse for 2021- *"Keep yourselves in the love of God, eagerly waiting for the mercy of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah that leads to eternal life."* (Judah (Jude) :21).

As we all look back and reflect upon 2020 we will all know something of the loss, sadness, frustration and challenges which this year has brought, as so much of this year has been dominated by the reality of the covid pandemic. However, we also see many opportunities for on-going

ministry as one of our Community Based Evangelists recently reported: "The pandemic has brought unprecedented opportunities to show the love of God and to explain our hope in the midst of fear."

In this edition I hope you will see a number of clear signs of how we at CMJ UK have discerned and responded to these 'unprecedented opportunities'. I thank you for your prayers, your ongoing interest and your faithful support.

Shalom,

*Alex Jacob*

### NEW STAFF MEMBER - WELCOME PHILIPPA HULETT

Hi, I'm Philippa; I'm CMJ's newest recruit working in the Office at Farnsfield and I'm delighted to be joining the team. Working as Communications Manager, I'll be keeping the website up to date, informing you of all things CMJ via social media and the Weekly News Update and designing much of our promotional material. I'm married to Ian who has his own business and we have a daughter, Evangeline who's 9. Our home church is the Salvation Army. In my spare time I like to play the piano and go to

music concerts and gigs - something I'm hoping to be able to do again later this year!

Over the past few years in particular, through study and the Holy Spirit, I've come to understand much more about God's purposes for Israel, prophecy and His plans for His people. Thankfully, he's not finished with me yet either.



### CMJ UK ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME KURPA PATEL AS ONE OF OUR NEW TRUSTEES!

I was brought up in an Indian family and therefore everything I learnt about God was new to my ears, and I took the Bible literally.



When I was young, I would watch Big Ben chime on the 10 O'clock news and would always dream of living in London. I moved to London and that is where I met Jesus. When I became a Christian, I used to read the Bible and imagine the streets of Israel. God made that dream a reality by leading me to volunteer through CMJ in Israel. I realised through these dreams and imaginations that God is the one that gives us the desire to desire His will.

A few years ago, I asked God for a new heart and I expected love, joy, peace, etc. and to my surprise He gave me a heart for Israel and I realised this was the new heart that I'd asked for. I also asked God to teach me about the Old Testament and I believe He answered both of these prayers whilst I was living in Israel.

I believe God has not finished with Israel and I realised that God has not finished with me concerning Israel. Therefore it is a great privilege and an honour to see what God will do now that I have joined CMJ UK.

**Find out more about all of our Trustees on our website**  
[www.cmj.org.uk/board-trustees](http://www.cmj.org.uk/board-trustees)

## JOIN US AT THE AGM - FRIDAY 16 JULY

The AGM of the Vincent Society (the legal name of the charity known as CMJ) will be on **Friday 16th July 2021 at 9.00pm** at the **Main Conference Hall, The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU**. All members are very welcome to attend and vote - in particular to vote on the election of trustees. Nominations for new trustees must be received by 31st May 2021 - for more details of how to make a nomination see our website [www.cmj.org.uk](http://www.cmj.org.uk) or call **01623 883960** if you do not have internet access.

# A REPORT ON CMJ UK HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE 2021

by CMJ Rep Edith Powney



*Dr. Susanna Kokkonen*

**Rev. Ray Lockhart led the meeting which opened with the music of a violin and among the accompanying slides was a picture of the bronze sculpture by Rick Wienecke showing a child's arm reaching through a replica of the door of the crematorium at Auschwitz. The fingers touch a handful of earth, calling to mind the land of Israel. A butterfly hovers nearby.**

Anti-Semitism in the Church, the 'elephant in the room' of Holocaust Memorials was the subject of Dr Susanna Kokkonen's talk. She began by showing from Scripture the threefold identity of the children of Israel: land, nation and faith.

Her overview of church history in relation to the Jewish people began with the church in Rome, described in Acts 18, where the seeds of replacement theology were sown, seeds that grew with the Council of Nicea and were enshrined in canonical law laid down in the 6th century, Christian theology that grew and led to persecution of the Jews down through the centuries and finally fed into the Holocaust. Susanna went on to say that many churches denounced anti-Semitism after the Holocaust but with the establishment of the State of Israel, hatred of the Jews took on a new persona, presenting itself as anti-Israel. Two opposing trends appeared in the Church, the seeking out of the Hebraic roots of the faith and the anti-Israel movement, hence the Divided Church.

Prayers of repentance followed the lighting of six candles in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

This was followed by "In the Silence", a song that Ruth Fazal has dedicated to all who have survived the Holocaust - a song written to comfort survivors. The Hebrew words are spoken by Gil Pentzac, an orthodox Jew in Israel.

After the backdrop of images of Auschwitz, we saw, one by one, photos of survivors whose lined faces bear the memories of their suffering.

The Butterfly is a poem that was written by Pavel Friedman, a boy who spent two years in Terezin before perishing in Auschwitz. This was the poem that inspired Rick Wienecke's sculpture and one of the poems that inspired Ruth to write the Oratorio Terezin. Pavel's poem was read here by Matthew Butterfield, a student from Wimborne and was followed by a song from the Vilna ghetto, The Lonely Child, sung by Reuben Apostol, a schoolboy from Worksop in Nottinghamshire

Kelvin Crombie brought to light the untold story of the suffering of Jewish followers of Jesus in Europe during the Holocaust. Their Christian faith counted for nothing in the eyes of the Gestapo who only saw their Jewish identity. Kelvin outlined the unfolding suffering of the Jocz family and told how the hundred strong congregation of Hebrew Christians in Warsaw was wiped out by the Nazis. The whole of Hebrew Christian community in Europe was lost along with their fellow Jews in the Shoah. A clip from Jakob Jocz, himself, speaking about his parents, tells of an extraordinary moment where, after her husband's execution, Jesus appears to Anna and strengthens her.

A Slide presentation on the Covenant Keeping God showed how He is fulfilling His word. Verses from Jeremiah 31: 1-9 tell how He has brought back the Jewish people to their Homeland and how the Land would be restored.

Ray Lockhart summed up the service and before closing with a prayer continued from Jeremiah 31 with verses 16-17

**This is what the LORD says:**

**'Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded' declares the LORD. 'They will return from the land of the enemy. So, there is hope for your future' declares the LORD, 'Your children will return to their own land.'**



*Rev. Ray Lockhart*

# THE VIRTUAL TOUR

Jane Moxon

**There's an incredible flexibility in doing Virtual Tours, you can go anywhere and somehow it has the sense of flying in to take the meeting. Those who similarly join the meeting from outside the locale seem to have driven there or flown in with the speaker and me. At the end of a week, in some way, I actually feel as if I've been to these places and in some way, I have!**

Since starting back from furlough, I've held 18 meetings, a CMJ Reps Conference and the Holocaust Memorial Service. The Reps Conference was a Feast of all the aims of CMJ. Reps joined in and shared what they have been doing and David Pileggi, Daryl Fenton, Alex Jacob and Benjamin Pileggi joined me in delivering a great conference.

The Holocaust Memorial Service was such a wonderful event to be able to organise and Dr Susanna Kokkonen delivered a talk on Anti-Semitism in the Church. The more I looked for pictures to use and put together for the Service, the more I found it impacting me, once again, with the unspeakable sorrow and pain of these dear people and their children. To look into a child's face you know was slaughtered not long after is a heaviness and grief that is beyond expression.

Rev David Pileggi and Dr Susanna Kokkonen spoke during the 18 tour meetings with complementary titles; Hanukkah, The Kingdom of God, Has the Church Lost Her Identity, Anti-Semitism in the Church and The Divided Church. I feel sure I should now have passed some module in a Theological College with distinction and am ready armed to tackle questions on these subjects!

Our society is confused on so many levels and the Church, which should challenge this and stand as a witness, all too often absorbs the current culture instead. Such loss of identity causes the confusion. In the Church there has been, said David Pileggi, a loss of confidence in the Gospel, the power of the Gospel. We have bought into the personal thinking of me and myself. Traditionally and in Jewish community, the thinking is plural. It's about we, us and ours. The Jewish people have a clear identity. We are grafted in and join the commonwealth of Israel, we along with the Jewish people can regain our corporate identity and when we are challenged our response will not be the weaker statement, 'This is my Truth ...' but rather the stronger statement of, 'This is our Truth!' The Truth we've had for 2000 years, and which has not changed, is far stronger than something the world would simply throw back at us as being merely our personal view, equal only to everyone else's personal views. The Church must regain her identity, claim back the power of the Gospel and see that we stand,



not alone, but in a commonwealth that stretches back through the ages.

The above was just a thought provoking snippet I picked up from one of David Pileggi's talks. I could give the same and more from all the other talks, so interesting and stimulating were they.

I hope you will join me in one of the Virtual Tours of the next few months. There's Rosemary Saunders, Director of the AISJ - The Blessings of Obedience; Robert Sakr - The Cost of Following the Jewish Messiah and the Coming Harvest; Kelvin Crombie - A Clash of Two Conflicting World Views, in which Kelvin will take an issue from his recent research. All the details of these tours will be online or please email the office: [office@cmj.org.uk](mailto:office@cmj.org.uk) or [janem@cmj.org.uk](mailto:janem@cmj.org.uk)

Alison and I presented the work of CMJ in the UK and in Israel and some of the things God is doing in Israel today. The group were surprised and glad to have good news from Israel to tell others.

All the Feasts were covered by Alison's gentle and quiet delivery, with all her references to her life in Israel and her explanations of why things are done and what they mean gave her audience time to absorb and reflect on what they heard. After a final session on Covenant we took communion – together but with our own individual glass and piece of matza. It was a lovely ending to the teaching week. People were extremely touched by the week and thanked Alison profusely.

Alison gave everyone a 'piece of fruit' to remind them of the Feasts. God's Faithfulness was so obvious through the teachings. There had been such a sense of the Holy Spirit being with us. The unity between us was amazing. It almost seemed we had been hand-picked!

*Jane Moxon*

*You are very welcome to be part of Jane's upcoming online tours!*

*See see our Events Calendar for details on how to join [www.cmj.org.uk/events-calendar](http://www.cmj.org.uk/events-calendar)*

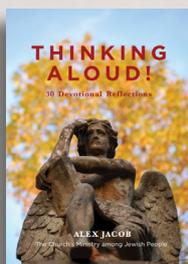
*You can listen to previous talks on YouTube [www.youtube.com/c/CMJUK](http://www.youtube.com/c/CMJUK)*



## DON'T DELAY BUY TODAY!

New CMJ Book

**Rev Alex Jacob (CEO CMJ UK) has written a new book - Thinking Aloud!**



This book is a collection of 30 of Alex's Thinking Aloud! articles which have been previously published in News and Views between 2011 and 2020.

The book was produced with the help of our new permanent CMJ UK staff member Philippa Hulett. Philippa provided a number of illustrations/graphics and prepared the layout.

This 'mini' book is full of Biblical insight and personal reflections. There is also following each reflection a suggestion for further study or a 'follow-on' action the reader may want to consider. Some readers may want to use the book as part of a daily study pattern or simply dip into the book as and when they wish. This new book could also provide useful material for 'home-groups' or as part of a 'retreat' or 'sabbatical' reading programme.

This book is Alex's 8th book produced while working with CMJ and in many ways it compliments his three most recent publications - 100 Days with Luke (2018, 100 Days with Acts (2019 and 60 Days with Romans (2020. To purchase your copies please go to the CMJ UK website [www.cmj.org.uk/shop](http://www.cmj.org.uk/shop) or phone the CMJ office on **01623 883960**.

As with all Alex's books and with his wider teaching and advocacy ministry he is always pleased to receive comments, questions etc. from readers. You can do this via email at [alexj@cmj.org.uk](mailto:alexj@cmj.org.uk)

## 2022 CALENDAR COMPETITION!

In 2020 we really missed meeting together. We also missed organising tours and holidays to Israel so we thought we'd create a Wall Calendar full of photos of previous trips to Israel and we'd love you to be involved! Maybe you've taken a lovely scenic photo or a busy market scene? Perhaps your photos are a bit more arty or abstract? Whatever the style, we'd love to use your photos of Israel in our 2022 Calendar. **To submit your digital photos, please send them to [philippah@cmj.org.uk](mailto:philippah@cmj.org.uk) before the 30th April 2021.** The 12 chosen photographs will be used to create a 2022 wall calendar and winners will receive a free copy! Having a wall calendar full of photos will be a great way to pray for Israel and remember CMJ UK everyday in 2022!

## THINKING ALOUD by Alex Jacob

During the restrictions of 'lockdown' one advantage for some of us has been time to catch up with some reading. Many of you will like me have a list of books you want to (or feel you should) read. I used some of this time to begin a major reading project into Hasidism (a 'revival' movement within Orthodox Judaism) and some of this reading I have shared via book reviews within my monthly Romans 15:8 blogs. Most of this reading is somewhat 'specialised' and requires some significant investment. However, I have also read some more 'accessible' books- one of these is the excellent biography of C.S. Lewis by Alister McGrath (Hodder & Stoughton, 2013).

Some of you may be familiar with McGrath's writing via his well-known engagement with the views of Richard Dawkins. McGrath responds extremely well to Dawkins book - The God Delusion via his book The Dawkins Delusion (SPCK, 2007). This book on C.S. Lewis was described by N.T. Wright as "...a penetrating and illuminating study" and A.N. Wilson wrote: "There has been plenty of biographies of Lewis... but I do not think there has been a better one than Alister McGrath's." I am inclined to agree with these commendations.

As you read this biography you will realise that McGrath writes not to praise or condemn Lewis, but to understand him. As you read on, many insights are given about Lewis, his ideas, his upbringing, his writings and his relationships. In all of this I found the account of the 'timing' of Lewis' conversion (and how this links to his brothers (Warnie) conversion) heart-warming and faith building! (See chapter 6).

I also found the section (see chapter 10) dealing with Lewis' doubts about his role as an apologist very insightful and moving. For most evangelical Christians, Lewis is the best known and most highly respected Christian apologist of the Twentieth Century, yet to hear of his own struggles and insecurities is extremely poignant.

In Thinking Aloud! about some of this I felt three things. Firstly, I should renew my prayer support for all those Christians in the 'public eye' and those on the 'front-line of Christian teaching and preaching'. The tendency is to place such people on a 'pedestal' but what is needed is to stand with them within an affirming, supporting and accountable Christian community. Secondly, I should re-read some of Lewis' apologetical writings along with his fiction. And thirdly, at the 'end of the day' perhaps all we really want is not to be praised or condemned, but to be understood.

Happy reading and understanding!



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Layout Design: Good News Design