

- Open letter to College Principals/Dean of Studies/Synod training directors etc.

God's Unfailing Word

I am writing to you in my capacity as CEO of The Church's Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ)¹ and to all Anglican Theological Colleges and to a number of other Bible Colleges and ministry training institutions, including clergy fraternals and study groups.

In November 2019 the Church of England produced a long awaited report on Christian-Jewish Relations, overseen by the Faith and Order Commission, chaired by the Rt Revd Dr Christopher Cocksworth. The report is a major piece of theological writing and has many practical implications for ministry and mission. The report is titled ***God's Unfailing Word*** and there is a foreword by the Archbishop of Canterbury and an afterword by the Chief Rabbi. This report was probably going to be discussed at the General Synod (York), yet due to the current situation this did not take place.

I am sure that this report will shape the thinking of many within the Church for generations to come regarding Christian-Jewish Relations. I am also sure a presentation of this report and a subsequent discussion will be of interest to many of your students, colleagues and your wider community. I would therefore be delighted to come and visit you (or to explore on-line options) in order to make such a presentation from a CMJ perspective². This could take a number of formats and I would be happy to fit in with whatever method (seminar, discussion, sermon, debate, lecture, Q&A etc.) you would deem to be most appropriate to your situation.

There would be no charge for this, as it will be regarded as part of our charitable educational and advocacy work of CMJ. I would hope however to bring a table of CMJ resources and books which will be available to purchase.

I do hope such an event will be arranged in the coming academic year. If you wish to know more about the ministry of CMJ please visit the CMJ UK website and if you want to explore booking a date for this event please phone me on 01223-894996 or email me at - alexj@cmj.org.uk

Archbishop Justin wrote in his foreword to ***God's Unfailing Word***, - "*Understanding the relationship between Christianity and Judaism is not an optional extra, but a vital component of Christian formation and discipleship.*" I hope that a future presentation and critique of the report from a CMJ perspective may be a helpful contribution to this vital work of Christian formation and discipleship among your ordination students, colleagues and other community members.

With warm greetings in these testing times!

Shalom

Alex

Rev Alex Jacob (The Church's Ministry among Jewish People)

1 CMJ is an official mission agency of the Church of England. The work of CMJ began back in 1809, and continues today, throughout the world, and especially in Israel.

2 CMJ will be producing a brief discussion document based on engaging with the report and also some on-line teaching sessions led by Alex Jacob.