

## EDITORIAL

### Welcome to the first News and Views of 2023.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and your interest and support for the work of CMJ will be stirred. In this edition we have alongside some regular articles a report on a recent Holocaust Memorial service, an article about the disciplinary process relating to Rev Dr Stephen Sizer and an introduction to our newest

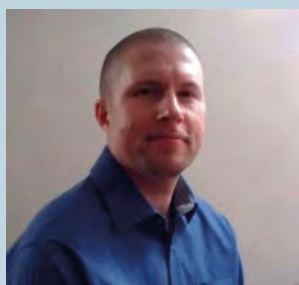
staff member - Simon Terry. Simon began his ministry as a Community Based Evangelist with us early in February. It is great to welcome Simon to the CMJ UK team!

Shalom

*Alex*

### We'd like to introduce and welcome our new Community Based Evangelist, Simon Terry.

Simon Terry was converted at the age of 18 after being challenged through reading some Christian literature he received from a gospel meeting in Norwood, Kent. After four years studying teaching in South Wales and graduating from the University of Wales College Newport, in the year 2000 he joined the London City Mission. Here he worked in community outreach across two housing estates. Alongside his district visitation he helped run a table ministry in Covent Garden eaching out to those who hold to the New Age philosophy. He also attended big festival events with a larger literature stall which was designed primarily to reach out to the Jewish community. From 2007 Simon left London for the Midlands to join Answers in Genesis UK/Europe as a speaker for the ministry, travelling the country teaching on biblical creation. In



2009 he started work as an evangelist working across four areas concentrating his time on door to door evangelism and manning a monthly literature table in his local town. Alongside this work he has written a book entitled 'The Big Questions of Life Answered' which he hopes to have printed this summer.

From 2020 Simon invested his time and energies in Christian Education in the running of a Christian school which he had been teaching at part time while working as an evangelist. The opportunity to work with CMJ arose after seeking further opportunities to return to community evangelism towards the end of 2022. Simon feels very privileged to take up this particular work amongst Jewish people. Do pray for him - for many opportunities to engage the lost of Israel and that God would richly bless his ministry, praying for wisdom and protection for him and his family. He hopes to update you all in the coming months as to how his labours are unfolding. Simon lives in Leicester and is married to Yvonne, with two children Judah and Seren.

## SIZER SAGA

### Church tribunal relating to Rev Dr. Stephen Sizer

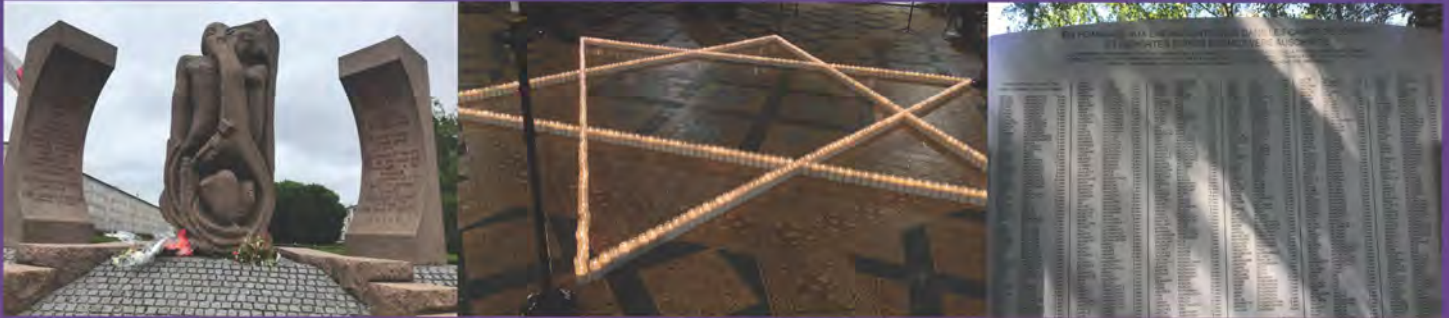
Rev Dr Stephen Sizer was vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water in Surrey. He was born in 1953 and trained at Oak Hill. He had a far ranging teaching and writing ministry. His views on Zionism and anti-Semitism were widely known. In 2022 a Church of England tribunal found that his conduct had been "unbecoming to the office and work of a clerk in Holy Orders in that he provoked and offended the Jewish community." His license to minister was revoked until 2030. The Church's ministry among Jewish People (CMJ) has had a strong record and long-term calling in terms of resisting anti-Semitism. For this reason we have engaged with Stephen Sizer, Church authorities, the Jewish Board of Deputies and others and have repeatedly called Stephen Sizer to account for his

actions. This has been a long term process and we clearly now welcome the recent verdict of the Bishop's disciplinary tribunal and the sentence given to Stephen Sizer. CMJ was first aware of serious concerns about Stephen Sizer in 2003. In 2006 CMJ produced an Olive Press Research Paper - Worthless Promise - An Initial Response to Stephen Sizer's new book - "Zion Christian Soldiers". Following on from this CMJ was active in encouraging Church authorities to take note of the actions of Stephen Sizer and to discipline him accordingly.

We will continue to pray for all involved in this process and for Stephen Sizer. We are thankful for his apology and pray that the sentence he received may help him to reflect and repent at a deep level.

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

At CMJ UK we oppose anti-Semitism in all its forms and stand with Jewish people in our communities and around the world. We were privileged to take part in and attend Holocaust Memorial Services around the UK at the end of January. In addition, this year we offered a PowerPoint resource to all our supporters to share awareness of the day and to pray for Jewish people at this time. Our social media coverage reached thousands of people the week of Holocaust Memorial Day and attracted new followers. Here are four reports from the church services.



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE WIMBORNE MINSTER 22ND JANUARY 2023

### *Remembering the Children*

Remembering the Children was the focus of the Holocaust Memorial in Wimborne Minster this year. After the service was opened by the rector, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' was sung in Hebrew and English by soloist Alex Cook. A video from the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem was followed by a video of the story of Janusz Korczak, a doctor who went to the gas chambers with 200 children from the orphanage he had founded. Jane Moxon spoke of the Jewish children in wartime France, of those who were murdered and those who were saved. Photos of the memorial at Pithiviers and of children separated from their parents being herded onto trains to their death were shown. The hitherto unknown story was told of Barenton in Normandy, where villagers hid Jewish children in their homes. At the end of her talk, with the words, 'The God we serve does not break Covenant', pictures were shown of Jewish children then and now with over eighty years separating them, whilst violinist Emma-Marie Kabanova played Oyfyn Pripetchik.

Local schoolchildren read passages from 'I never saw another butterfly', the book containing poems and drawings made by children in Terezin, the ghetto near Prague through which 15,000 children passed and fewer than 100 survived. The closing scene of Brundibar the children's opera filmed in Terezin in 1944 showed the starved faces and bodies of children singing, so many of whom were sent to Auschwitz.

Franta Bass, born in Brno 4 September 1930, deported to Terezin in December 1941, and died in Auschwitz 28 October 1944, wrote the poem, 'The Garden' which translates as:

*A little garden, fragrant, full of roses.  
The path is narrow, and a little boy walks along it,  
A little boy, a sweet boy. Like the growing blossom, when  
the blossom comes to bloom the little boy will be no  
more.*

Following these glimpses of the lives of children in Terezin, Liron Velleman spoke of his grandfather Alec Ward, who went through 2 ghettos, 3 slave labour camps and 2 further ghettos. His call to hope not to hate, is carried on by his grandson in these days.

The prayer of the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks was read by Alistair Scott before the lighting of six candles, one lit by Holocaust survivor Henry Schachter, while Schindler's List was played. He who keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps was sung by soloist and congregation. Ralph Goldenberg spoke of the larger meaning of Zachor, the Hebrew word to remember. Ralph spoke of the children of the Holocaust, of those who escaped, those who were murdered and those who were hidden.

The service ended with the video of Joshua Aaron, seen with his son, and other musicians singing the Aaronic Blessing from Jerusalem. The programme came together through the prayers of many and the speakers and musicians who were called to zachor.

*Edith Powney (CMJ Rep in Wimborne)*

## Ralph Goldenberg, CMJ Rep and former Trustee spoke at the Wimborne Holocaust Memorial Day Service by Jane Moxon

**ZACHOR** is a Hebrew word meaning remember in such a way as to almost feel it and in a way which causes a response. In the Bible, when God remembered - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob it led to action. In Psalm 77:9, 'Has God forgotten to be gracious?' No, God hasn't forgotten, He just has not done anything yet. When the Children of Israel, in slavery in Egypt, cried to God from their heart, God remembered them. He had not forgotten them but this remembering, Zachor, led Him to action and God rescued His people. Ralph posed the question, what does Zachor, in the history of the Holocaust, mean? He spoke of three groups of children during the Holocaust, those murdered, those rescued and those who had been hidden.

One and a half million children were murdered during the Holocaust, many, especially twins, having been experimented on by the notorious Dr Mengele. In Yad Vashem's Children Memorial there is a permanent voice recording of the name and age of every single child who was put to death. Ralph recalled a time when he visited this memorial and heard, 'Goldenberg'. Ralph fell to the ground and wept. Other children were rescued. Ralph told the story of Irena Sendler, who learnt to become a plumber to gain entrance to the Warsaw ghetto and rescue children. She and her group of women 'plumbers' saved 2,500 children. Ralph told the story of a young couple, one of them wanted to give their baby to Irena and the other could not do it. He spoke also of the Kindertransport organised by Nicholas Winton. Ralph spoke of the hidden children and the story of Father Gregor Pawlowski, a Jewish man whose family were murdered, had a miraculous escape aged eight. Christians took him as theirs. Gregor became a priest and served the Polish Jewish Christian community of Jaffa, Israel for 50 years, after which he was buried in Poland where his mother and sister were murdered.

Ralph ended his talk with a challenge to us. What should it mean to us, to have heard these stories?

To stand against anti-Semitism, anti-whatever, any discrimination of any kind, against all hostility and to love each other. Ralph had suffered first hand as a boy in Kartoum, Sudan with name-calling. We need to treat everyone with respect and dignity, he said, and quoted the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' last book, *Morality*, 'At university I discovered the universe was a place where you listen, respecting views radically different from your own in the knowledge others would listen respectfully to yours. Here I learned integrity.' We are to remember, Zachor, with feeling which leads to action.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE – Sally-Anne Morgan Monday 30th January 2023

**I WAS** delighted to be invited by Jennifer Nevill to attend the Holocaust event at Longton Elim Church. The Memorial service started by Rev. Paul Dunne opening in prayer. Jennifer shared the importance of remembering the Holocaust event and praying for the survivors. This was followed by a video from Christian



Jennifer Nevill

Friends for Israel. The video shared a group of young boys from three premier league football teams being taught about the Holocaust and visiting Germany. The young boys gave moving tributes linked to their experience of being there.

Jennifer Nevill adds: What Martin Morris, president of our local synagogue said, was very moving especially when he described how losing 30 members of his family during the Holocaust impacted his own immediate family and caused his grandfather and father to make a new life in the United Kingdom after the war. It took them 3 years to walk across Europe to the United Kingdom when, his grandfather opened a tailors shop in Stoke on Trent. It was also moving to hear from a couple of Holocaust survivors (on video) who have made their home in Jerusalem and to learn the how they had suffered in the Holocaust.

## YORK MINSTER HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Jane Moxon

**THE ANNUAL** Holocaust Memorial Day hour long service was held on Wednesday 25th January. The event was held in the Chapter House at the Minster. We sat encircling a huge star of David made of 600 candles. At each point stood a large candle on a stand, one each for the 6 million Jewish people murdered in The Holocaust and at the same time remembering the millions who have died in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Minster clergy led the service. A reading, a beautiful acappella song performed by the Ebor singers, a story and silence whilst a candle was lit marked the rhythm for the hour as the six large candles were lit one by one. It was beautifully done but low on input from The Holocaust with a contribution leading to the lighting of the last candle. At the end a member of the Jewish community recited the Kaddish.

# THINKING ALOUD by Alex Jacob

## *Be Encouraged and Be an Encourager*

The infants school which my children attended (many years ago!) had as its school motto the saying; “If you can’t say something nice, say nothing at all.” I am not sure how this motto would be worked out in the wider world. I certainly have known some people for whom the outworking of this motto would have equated to a permanent vow of silence! Over many years of Church ministry and leadership I have kept a file of letters and cards I have received which I have found to be encouraging. I have not surprisingly (and without any imagination) named this my “Encouragement File”. From time to time I dip into this file and as I read some of the contents I often feel ‘lifted’ and reenergized. I encourage you to have such a file. Some of the letters and cards relate to particular events, actions or conversations. In this sense there is a link between saying ‘Thank-You’ and bringing encouragement.

However, some of the correspondence, as far as I can see, relate to no particular event, action or conversation I was aware of. I am convinced that appropriate encouragement is a great driver of future behaviour. There is also clear biblical instructions to be an encourager. We see this clearly in Romans 15:5, Colossians 2:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and Hebrews 10:25. We also see this encouraging being put into practice in many contexts within the Bible, for example Judges 20:22, 2 Chronicles 35:2 and Acts 27:36. If we don’t practice encouragement we can quickly slip into fostering a critical and condemnatory attitude or spirit.

Such an attitude or spirit can also bring about unrealistic expectations of others, which in turn undermines ministry and relationships. Being encouraged and being an encourager can make all the difference in some situations.



However, I was intrigued by what Eugene Peterson wrote; “What most pastors need more than anything else is not encouragement but discernment. Most of what parishioners would consider encouragement is just encouragement to do the wrong thing, the things that make them feel good.” Clearly discernment is a great gift and I think Peterson is right that in most cases discernment is far more important than encouragement (especially if this is a false or shallow encouragement) yet for me I have always found it is far more likely to gain true discernment when you are encouraged rather than when you are downcast. Peterson himself knew of the power of appropriate encouragement which transformed his studies. When he was a newly ordained minister it was a conversation with the a local pastor and Bible scholar Iain Wilson in which Wilson spoke of Karl Barth as a “pastor’s theologian” and encouraged Eugene to go deeper with Barth. This encouraging conversation launched Eugene on a lifelong journey of studying Barth’s writings.

## THE BIBLE COMES TO LIFE EXHIBITION IN HOLY TRINITY EXMOUTH

450 primary school children and Deaf Academy students visited the exhibition over three days. 300 visitors came over two evenings and a Friday morning. Many public visitors were school children who had come back with their families!

*“...thank you and the team for the amazing experience which is the Bible Comes to Life Exhibition! It deeply moved and inspired so many children and adults who came to see it during the week....it has opened up so many spiritual conversations, particularly with our local primary schools. The exhibition is without doubt a national treasure and a blessing wherever it goes...”*  
Holy Trinity Rector

## AGM

**The Annual General Meeting of the Vincent Society** (the legal name of the charity known as CMJ) will be on Saturday 8th July 2023 at 12:30pm at Yarnfield Conference Centre, Yarnfield Park, Yarnfield, Stone ST15 0NL. 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 2023 - 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.

We give thanks for those who have remembered CMJ in their wills during 2022, this has generously provided over £94,000 to support the ongoing ministry.



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