

Editorial:

Welcome to the second News and Views of 2019. This edition is slightly different to previous editions. We are focusing on one key issue – namely the rise of anti-Semitism and how we can combat this.

This focus on anti-Semitism was requested by our Israel colleague Linda Cohen who has recently become very aware of the rise of anti-Semitism and she has encouraged all parts of the CMJ network to respond to this rise with courage, wisdom and hard work.

I hope that the series of articles submitted by a number of different CMJ staff and members will help you reflect upon the rise of anti-Semitism and to know what action you should take.

On a separate note this will be the final News and Views before the annual CMJ Conference. Can I therefore take this opportunity



to promote this Conference which is taking place at the **Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick from 12th to 14th July.**

As part of the planning team I know that the programme taking shape looks excellent, both in the youth stream and the adult stream with a range of gifted speakers and workshop leaders. A few spaces remain so please don't miss out and book in!

www.cmj.org.uk/conference/

Shalom,

Alex Jacob

CMJ's Chair shares the experiences of a Jew in Birmingham and a national context

My experience of anti-Semitism comes from being married to a Jewish believer. Mike no longer wears his yarmulke outside the house or synagogue, for fear of attack. He doesn't feel safe even wearing it openly to synagogue on Shabbat: it's always covered by another hat.

Generally speaking, the Jewish community have good relations with other faith communities here in Birmingham, and although things can be tense in the city from time to time, there is open dialogue. Ethnic communities come together quickly to try to resolve concerns when tensions rise. About 18 months ago I realised just how bad things are when I watched a young man at our shul who is part of the community security team taking off his emblazoned and fluorescent CST jacket at the end of the evening. It was only then I realised he wore a stab vest underneath it. He was probably mid-twenties, possibly a university student, and he put his life on the line so that we could meet in safety. I felt sad and shocked in equal measure that stab vests are now the norm for these security teams.

Here are some stats that show the recent increase in security measures taken by the CST:

Security Measures Installed	During 2017	Since 2008
CCTV Cameras	582	5228
CCTV Monitors	70	829
Digital Video Recorders	59	624
Perimeter Fencing	715 m	9,960 m
Pedestrian Gates	15	233
Vehicle Gates	16	184
Access Control Systems	38	261
Security Grilles	9	382
Intruder Alarm Systems	20	186
Fire Alarm Systems	4	46
External Lighting Systems	9	72
Perimeter Protection Systems	1	9
Security Doors	14	166
Security Cabins	1	18
Anti-Ram Bollards	0	110

Anti-Semitism and the Labour Party by Alex Jacob

Anti-Semitism is like a virus which can flourish in many different contexts, perhaps traditionally in the UK context anti-Semitism has been linked with the 'political right' but recently especially under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn the focus has been upon the connection with the Labour Party. For me as a life-long supporter of the Labour Party

and a one-time party candidate, I am shocked and ashamed by this connection. I felt strongly that I should write directly to Jeremy Corbyn and this I did on a number of occasions - outlined below is a composite letter which hopefully reflects helpfully upon the letters and e-mails I have sent. Sadly I have yet to receive any reply or any acknowledgement.

Dear Jeremy,

I am sure you have received lots of correspondence relating to the pressing issue of anti-Semitism within the Labour Party. I do not apologise for adding to this, as I hope my position and comments may be of some help to you as you reflect upon this pressing issue.

Firstly my own context is that of a life-long supporter of the Labour Party, so my concern to expose and uproot anti-Semitism within the Labour Party is not fueled by any anti-Labour sentiment or wider political agenda. I am a Christian and I believe my concern on this issue comes in part from my Christian faith and from my experience. I am a strong supporter of Israel and have visited Israel on 40 occasions stretching back to 1980, when I worked for a while on a Kibbutz in Galilee. Currently I work as the UK's CEO of The Church's Ministry among Jewish People (CMJ). CMJ is a well-established Anglican Church Mission Agency and charity which has a long history of work in Israel and among a vast range of Jewish People. At the heart of our work is the message of the Gospel and a strong emphasis on reconciliation, justice and peace. While clearly I am informed and shaped by my current professional position I am writing to you in a purely personal capacity.

Some of my work colleagues and other contacts are surprised (to put it politely!) to know that I am a Labour Party supporter, and many times I have been challenged about this. This challenge has intensified in the light of the current anti-Semitism issue. I have tended to respond to these challenges by trying to explain the following points:

- Firstly, Labour has traditionally been a great supporter of Israel. Many of the early pioneering Zionists were strong socialists and alongside this the struggle for the full emancipation of Jewish People was often linked to members of the emerging Labour and Trade Union movements, who saw this struggle for Jewish emancipation as a foundational issue of social justice. On this issue I have just read the biography of the great Labour philosopher and Jewish advocate Harold Laski by Isaac Kramnick and Barry Sheerman. (I think this biography should be on the 'reading list' of all Labour politicians and activists!)
- Secondly, Labour has always had many Jewish members and is served today by some outstandingly diligent Jewish M.P.'s and councillors.
- Thirdly, Labour has a strong and respected record of fighting fascism and all forms of racism and social exclusion.
- Fourthly, Labour has a commitment to a just settlement for the Israel/Palestinian conflict - one in which Israel can flourish within secure borders.

Often these points seem to have little if any effect and in part I am not surprised as such points are pushed out by images of many Labour party supporters and conference attendees waving Palestinian flags and singing songs which tell of a desire to see the total annihilation of Israel. I think Emily Thornberry MP spoke wisely and bravely at the recent conference when she stated; "...there are sickening individuals on the fringe of our movement who use the legitimate support for Palestine as a cloak and a cover for their desperate hatred of Jewish people and their desire to see Israel destroyed."

Clearly I would argue that such individuals must be identified and after due process must be expelled from the Labour movement. This must be a priority for you, time is running out for you to act decisively and expose and uproot such anti-Semitic individuals. I am sure that your leadership and the future success of the Labour Party rest upon this issue!

I fully realize that you walk a 'tightrope' within the complex world of identity politics. I agree that criticizing Israel is not the same as being anti-Semitic, but when this criticism is inappropriate, disproportionate and fueled by stereotypes and anti-Jewish sentiments then a line is crossed.

In conclusion, anti-Semitism is an evil which has many different manifestations and cultural sources - be it from the fascist right, the socialist secular left; from an Islamic inspired narrative or even from my own Christian faith which at times has been seduced by misplaced theology and poor pastoral practice. The key issue is from whatever context anti-Semitism arises and whatever manifestation it takes it is vital that all wise political, civil and religious leaders and communities unite to expose it, oppose it and uproot it.

I hope some of what I have written may be of some help? I would be very pleased to meet with you (and others) and to explore issues robustly and in confidence with you. I think my position as a Christian 'Zionist', Labour supporter and as a mission practitioner working within the complex worlds of Jewish-Christian relations/theology may provide some useful insight.

Yours sincerely

Alex Jacob (Rev)

'For Such a Time as This!'

The church has remained silent on Israel for too long

by Charles Gardner

As Jews the world over recently marked a feast they have celebrated annually for the past 2,500 years, it presents a perfect opportunity for the church to step into the breach on behalf of God's chosen people.

The feast of Purim recalls the time when a beautiful young orphan queen known as Esther saved her people from annihilation in ancient Persia.

Her identity as a Jew was a secret at the time of her accession to the throne as the potential for anti-Semitism was so great that the Bible's account of her heroics only mentions God in code.

But when her guardian, Mordecai, alerted her to Haman's genocidal plot against all the Jews in an empire stretching from India to Egypt, he challenged her with these words: *"If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4.14)

She knew it would be dangerous to approach the king without being summoned but, just as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego risked the fiery furnace rather than compromise their faith, Esther too bit the bullet, defiantly declaring: *"If I perish, I perish."* (Esther 4.16)

Is it not time for the church to stand up for the Jews as Esther did? The church in Germany were, for the most part, silent as they watched Hitler's anti-Semitic cancer spread.

Thankfully, para-church organisations like Christian Friends of Israel, representing thousands of individual Christians, have until now played the part of Mordecai in their

attempt to alert the church to the dangers.

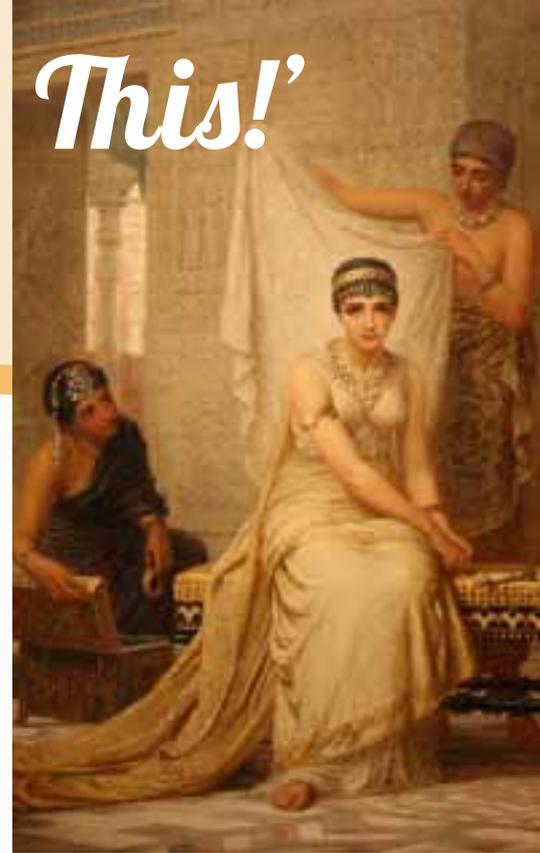
One of them, Christians United for Israel, has actually launched a campaign called Operation Mordecai, warning of the danger posed by Iran (modern-day Persia) to Israel and the West, and is encouraging churches to nail their colours to the mast by showing corporate support for Israel rather than leaving it to individual believers.

Israel's existence – and by extension that of the Jewish people – is threatened once again. First Pharaoh tried to obliterate them, then Haman, followed by Herod and Hitler. Now the likes of Hamas are inflicting their murder and mayhem on Israel's southern borders while, in the north, Hezbollah have some 120,000 missiles hidden among Lebanon's civilian population.

At the same time, a harrowing new wave of anti-Semitism is sweeping across Europe and America, while in Britain we are witnessing an unholy alliance between hard-left Labour and far-right Islamists viciously persecuting innocent Jews.

The Tory government has made a start in repenting of past sins committed against the Jews. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has apologised for blocking those trying to escape the Nazi butchers and for holding others in detention camps like Atlit, near Haifa. And Home Secretary Sajid Javid has finally pronounced a full ban on Hezbollah.

But the church in Britain – as a whole – has badly neglected the Jews. We are not only responsible for the scourge of social engineering now blighting our beloved country, but also for the disgraceful scandal of anti-Semitism within the Labour Party.



Queen Esther (Edwin Long, 1878)

Where were the strong voices of support for Israel over the years?

Do we really think God has reneged on his promise of everlasting love for the Jews (Jeremiah 31.3)?

It's time to make amends for our indifference by taking on the role of Esther – intervening on behalf of an endangered people, both in prayer and action.

In modern Persia, the ayatollahs are determined to wipe Israel off the map, using nuclear weapons if necessary. But the tables were turned on the anti-Semites of ancient Persia. Haman literally made a rope on which to hang himself and the evil scheme he had devised came back on his own head. Those who dare to stand against the Jews or their Messiah will surely come to ruin!

Indeed, the tables were turned on Germany, and it all came back on their own heads as their cities were reduced to rubble – Darmstadt, for instance, had its own 9/11 when, on September 11th 1944, the city was destroyed, leaving 12,000 dead and many more homeless.

Similar devastation awaits those who touch the apple of God's eye today (Zechariah 2.8).

Thinking Aloud by Alex Jacob

A few weeks ago I attended the meeting of the Church of England Evangelism and Discipleship Task Group. This meeting took place in Church House, London. While part of me is somewhat underwhelmed and perhaps cynical of the effectiveness of such task groups and committees, I was nevertheless encouraged by the vision, faith and creativity of those sharing in the discussions. Along with this the Church Commissioners have made a very significant financial commitment to funding new initiatives arising from the work of this task group.

The key thrust of the task group is the desire to motivate the Church to prioritise and engage with evangelism. The vision is that every person is equipped to be a witness in every part of their life and that every Church community is equipped to become a welcoming and witnessing community.

As I travelled back home from the meeting and was thinking about how we try and share our faith and make known the Gospel, I felt that there are two realities which we need to be aware of in most forms of personal evangelism. Firstly, most people (and communities) we try and share with will have 'barriers' to hearing and responding to the Gospel - we must try and understand, explore and wherever possible gently help to dismantle such barriers. Secondly, most people (and communities) will have 'bridges' which will help them in their initial encountering of, and response to the Gospel. Our task is to discern and dismantle these barriers and to discover and strengthen these bridges.

Happy dismantling and bridge-building!

Alex

Tour Guides Needed!

We are keen to recruit more tour leaders for Shoresh Study Tours. You may feel underqualified, but no experience is needed! Shoresh will plan your itinerary, book everything for you in Israel and provide you with a highly trained guide who will take care of your every need. However, if you have had past experience of Israel, you are welcome to make your own suggestions.

Before the tour, I provide brochures, process all your bookings, and help you recruit for your group from your Church etc. that want to go; I can do a presentation evening, write articles for you and your tour will be listed on the MIB TRAVEL website. You only need a minimum of 15 to make a group.

You have nothing to lose. Lots of experience or no experience, Shoresh is the way to go, providing tours that actually help people to understand the significance of Israel and the Jewish people and make real links between the land, the people and Scripture.

Mark K Madeley - Shoresh UK / MIB Travel
01934 620156 • mark@mibtravel.co.uk

Spring Fair 2019

Team GB have all shared their experiences of being at the Spring Fair, Jerusalem in the blog on our website:
www.cmj.org.uk/blog/post?s=spring-fair-2019

Let the Office know if you would like a printed copy.

Other resources on the theme of Anti-Semitism:

Working Definition of Antisemitism:

www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism

'The Longest Hatred - Why anti-Semitism Persists' by Thomas Fretwell:

www.calvarychapel.com/posts/the-longest-hatred-why-antisemitism-persists

David Pileggi's message 'Holocaust: Predictable, avoidable, repeatable':

www.soundcloud.com/christchurchjerusalem/holocaust-predictable-avoidable-repeatable

See also a blog shared by David on this subject (*let the Office know if you would like printed version*)

www.cmj.org.uk/blog/post?s=david-pileggi-on-the-recent-surge-of-anti-semitism

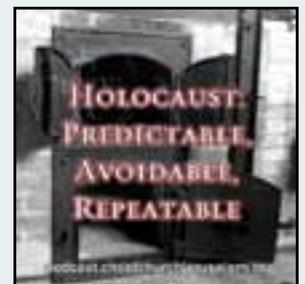
Anti-Semitism: Old and New by Dr. Theresa Newell

In his seminal book *The Anguish of the Jews: Twenty-three Centuries of Antisemitism* by Edward H. Flannery (a revised edition was published by Paulist Press in 1985), Flannery notes that even in the Greco-Roman world which predated the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth there were anti-Jewish realities in the Mediterranean world based on culture and politics.

And while Jesus, his apostles, disciples and the early Church were thoroughly Jewish and seen as a sect of Judaism, once Christianity began to spread to gentiles across the Roman world a new kind of theological anti-Semitism sprang up. This stand against the Jews began as early as the 2nd century AD by people like Marcion who claimed that the God of the Jews, Yahweh, was not the Father of the Lord Jesus! He said that those who worshiped the Old Testament God (i.e. Jews) were idol worshipers.

➔ Download the full article from CMJ USA's website:

www.cmj-usa.org/sites/default/files/Newell_Anti-Semitism-CMJ-HC-2014NOV.pdf



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Layout Design: Thirteen Four Design Ltd.

What next?

The previous article ended by saying that Christians are pushing back against distortions and misinformation about Israel from the media and pro-Palestinian organisations.

Here's some reasons why many of us think we ought to do so:

- Israel remains the sole democracy in the Middle East, with a vibrant multi-ethnic, multi-faith society. In a region where the Christian presence is under threat, Israel's Christian community is the only one that's growing fast.
- While some criticism of Israel is made in good faith, too much cloaks a desire to see Israel, as the Jewish homeland, destroyed and replaced with a Palestinian state.
- Too much criticism of Israel goes beyond the reasonable and rational and tips into antisemitism. Former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks noted, antisemitism is a virus that mutates and its latest form is *"I don't hate Jews, just their nation state."*
- When 'Zionism' and 'Zionists' is demonised, 'Zionists' becomes a hate target. UK Jews report experiencing antisemitic hatred because of their support for Israel's existence.
- There are Biblical and historical precedents for believers speaking truth to power in the public arena - from Samuel to Lord Shaftesbury, from Esther to Elizabeth Fry, from Jesus to John Wesley.

So what can Christians do? We can sow our words, like seeds, and see them bear fruit in the political ground and in our local Churches. The recent proscription of Hezbollah was achieved, in part, by thousands of Christians writing to their local MPs asking them to pass their concerns to the Home Secretary.

- Step 1. Become informed. There are plenty of organisations that can help. CUFU UK (Christians United for Israel) exists to inform and enable Christians to support Israel and UK Jews from a specifically Christian perspective. Their weekly email newsletter gives helpful highlights of the week. Stand With Us and We Believe in Israel also both have information-packed websites and launch relevant petitions attracting signatures in the thousands.
- Step 2. Write to MPs or local representatives, if relevant. The Israel Britain Alliance can send you pre-drafted letters to send to your MP at the click of a button. You can edit and personalise the letters as well. I do the same for a group of local activists.
- Step 3. Most people you'll write to won't recognise the authority of Scripture. So use arguments that non-Christians can relate to. Refer to Human Rights, Justice and Peace - rather than proof texts from the Bible. As Israel has all those on her side, we are on solid ground. If in doubt, go to the Israel Britain Alliance for ideas.
- Step 4. Always refer to the impact the New Antisemitism has on UK Jews. Leaders of pro-Palestinian marches routinely make antisemitic statements - for example, that 'Zionists' were responsible for the Grenfell Tower disaster. Hamas, which rules Gaza, has a charter that calls for the world's Jews to be martyred. When politicians, trade union leaders and journalists sneer at Israel, Zionism and Zionists, they're referring to 90% of UK Jews.
- Find and join a local Friends of Israel group, usually comprised of local Christians and Jews. They're springing up nationwide from South West Friends of Israel to Highlands Friends of Israel.

Whatever you do, prayerfully consider doing something. Most of us hope we'd have had the courage to stand firm against antisemitism if we'd lived in Nazi-dominated Germany. Thank heavens we're not there, but as John Stuart Mill once said "Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing."

What will you do?

This is the last of Fran's articles. We are grateful for the insight she has shared with us all and thank her for the time researching and developing these Advocacy Articles.

Articles do not necessarily portray CMJ's standpoint on a particular issue but are published on the premise that they allow a pertinent understanding to be added to any particular debate.

Pyramid of Prayer



Let us pray...



For our engagement with many churches in 2019



For good numbers at our conference and for Wayne & Ann Hilsden



For our Community Based Evangelists



For financial support in this period of uncertainty



For new contacts



For new Trustees



For our relationships within the UK and internationally



For wisdom in addressing antisemitism



For the health of our staff and volunteers

