



Ambassadors for Christ

EVENTS

- **Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St. George's Cathedral**
- 1st October 2017 - 10.30am
- **Richard LeSueur begins his Ministry as Interim Dean of St. George's College, Jerusalem**
- 1st October 2017
- **Archbishop attends Anglican Communion Primate Meeting in Canada** - October 2017
- **Special Christmas Services at The Church of the Nativity, Shepherds Field, and St Georges Cathedral (see p.5 for details and travel)**
- 24th & 25th December 2017

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Welcome from the Archbishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
The theme of our Majma this year was "the love of God encompasses all". God's love surrounds us, and holds us together. It is our knowledge of the power of this love, that gives us the confidence to be Christians in this world. When we consider Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25.14-30), we see that it is the lack of confidence in the love of God that leads to the harsh words to the individual who has not used his talents. 'Talent' in our reading is about a currency. In fact one talent is a huge amount of money (maybe several years work). Yet a talent in common English is about one's gifts. We have Talent shows. Who is the best singer, the best writer, the best dancer?

I wonder – what is your talent and how do you use it? We, as Christians are called to be Christ's Ambassadors. And with this carries responsibilities as to how we act your life.

Here in the Middle East and throughout the world, people look to the Church to see how the Christians act. Are we proud? Are we boastful? Are we arrogant? Or are we humble? Are we serving? Are we responding to the needs we have around us? I hope and pray we are the latter category – humble, serving, responding. This is what Christ has taught us to be.

And what about our talents, our gifts? What has God given in love to you for the world? It is a gift that is formed and shaped through God's love to you. It is something that God in Christ has crafted for you to use. For a gift of God is ultimately a gift of love, and is revealed uniquely in your person. Our gifts are a reflection of Christ's presence within each one of us.

Jesus was angry because the great gifts that God had given to his slaves had not been used. Jesus wants us – urges us - to use the gifts we have. We do not use our gifts for our own glory – for our egos – we use our gifts for the glory of God.

Jesus gives us in the Gospels that wonderful image of not hiding our light under a bushel but putting it on a lampstand. We must be confident that God wants us to use our talents and are gifts for his purposes in the world. For they are the light of Christ.

When I addressed the Majma in November, I spoke of the deep love of God for us all, I urged those gathered, as I urge you today not to be fearful of what is before you, for God has equipped you with all spiritual gifts, as you are holy and treasured in his sight.

I know that the Middle East is full of uncertainty, conflict, and great challenges. There is concern over the future. There is much to bear, with the influx of refugees, and a deteriorating natural environment. Yet I want you to remember three things:

- That you all have the light of Christ within you;
- That you must honour this light of Christ in each other – you must love each other, care for each other;
- And that you must let this light of Christ shine to the world, through the wonderful gifts and talents you bring.

May God be with you all and your families and those whom you love,

+ Suheil Dawani



**The Most Revd Suheil S. Dawani, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East**

*This is adapted from Archbishop Suheil's sermon on 19th November at a service of Confirmation at All Saints church, Beirut

ORDINATIONS IN THE DIOCESE

**26th of September 2017:
Ordination of Wadie Far at
the Redeemer Church, Jabal
Amman**

Rev. Wadie Far is a Deacon serving in The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, where the Archbishop has appointed him to the parishes of St. Philip's, Nablus, and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rafidia. He graduated from the Virginia theological Seminary class of 2017 with a M.Div. The seminary awarded him the Ford Virginia Seminary chair in recognition of his overall contribution and strong commitment to the community life and the mission of the seminary. Wadie started his ministry back in 2007 at his sending parish, the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, serving the Sunday school and the youth groups. He



also served with the Diocesan Youth camps in Jordan. While he was at VTS, Wadie was part of the Sacristan team. He also was the president of the international students group at VTS during his senior year. To relax, Wadie enjoys scuba diving, and is a gamer at heart. Before discerning his call to ordained ministry, Wadie received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering/ Power and Control from the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Then he worked as an electrical design engineer for two and a half years before leaving to go to seminary. Wadie believes that people, who are still outside of God's fold, are longing to be invited back into the loving care of God's family. Therefore he looks forward to serving God and all God's people through the sacraments and through helping people find their own calling to be part of God's mission, by helping them figure out what God is calling them to be. He especially feels a calling to visit and care for people who have distanced themselves from God, or have been distance from God by false understanding of who God is. You can reach Wadie at wadiefar@hotmail.com or on Facebook at Wadie N. Far.

5th of November 2017: Ordination of Hatim Jiryis at St. John and St. Luke's Church, Haifa



Hatim Jiryis was ordained at St. John's Church in Haifa by Archbishop Suheil on the 5th November.

The Rev'd Hatim Jiryis was born into the Arab Christian village of Rama in Israel as the youngest child of eight children. His family background is in the Greek Orthodox Church.



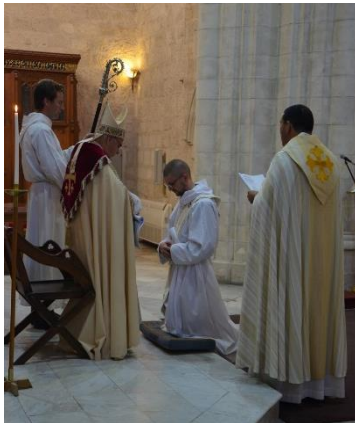
Hatim studied at an Evangelical bible college in Switzerland for four years from the age of 23. In 1994 he was married to Renate, a German from a Protestant Church background. They have three children, Talita (21), Immanuel (20) and Johannes (15) and they are currently live in Rama. For five years they ministered in Akka in a small Evangelical Church. In 2000 they moved back to Germany and Hatim studied for a Master's degree in exegesis at the "Academy of World Mission" (AWM-Korntal). Back in Israel he was teaching church history in a bible college in Northern Israel and ministering in Rama Evangelical Church until 2014. He began ministry in Tarshiha in 2002.

In 2015 Hatim studied at the "Israel College for the bible" (Netanya) for a further Master's degree. During these different ministries in Israel he was also

involved in several Christian Media television programs about the Holy Land and people of the bible. For the past few years Hatim has also been active in the ecumenism aspirations of the different denominations in the Galilee.

Rev'd Jiryis will initially serve in Haifa, being supported in his development by Rev'd Hatem Shehadeh, and will also undertake a placement at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem.

30th of September 2017: Ordination of Hector Patmore (Director of Studies at St. George's College) at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem



Rev. Hector Patmore is the director of studies at St. George's College. Before coming to St. George's College Hector taught in the Theology Department at Cardiff University. He trained for ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon in Oxford and was ordained Deacon in the Anglican Church in Wales in June 2016. Hector took up his current

post at the College in January 2017. His former training incumbent, Rev'd Chris Burr, travelled all the way from Wales to share in the laying on of hands. The service itself was cause for a double celebration, because the Archbishop also baptised in the same service Hector and Lydia's second son, Dyfrig, who was born in Jerusalem in June this year!

ARCHBISHOP SUHEIL INSTALLS NEW CANONS IN JERUSALEM DURING ANGLICAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

On 27th June 2017, during Evensong at St George the Martyr Cathedral, Jerusalem, Archbishop Suheil installed The Most Reverend Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion as an Episcopal Canon in the seat of Anglican Communion and The Most Reverend Paul Kwong, Archbishop of



Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island. The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas, was made an Honorary Episcopal Canon; and the Reverend Peter Koon, Diocese of Hong Kong Island, was made an Honorary Canon. Archbishop Josiah preached.

CEDARS OF PEACE

The Rev'd David Roche, (who serves at All Saints church in Beirut), along with his wife Amy, have joined together with the British Embassy, the British Council and the Al Shouf Cedar Biosphere Reserve in the Chouf District of Lebanon, to create and run a project that encourages school children to consider a future where Lebanon can be ecologically sustainable.



The project, which had the backing of Lebanese Education Minister, involved an essay writing competition across 110 schools from different faith communities. Each student was asked to imagine the future of an ecologically sustainable Lebanon and the winners were invited to Al Shouf Cedar Biosphere Reserve for a day of activities including the ceremonial planting of new trees. Over 300 pupils attended the day which concluded with a celebration at the nearby Druze palace.



Rev'd David explained how the day, which took place at the weekend, panned out. "After the children arrived at the reserve they were joined by the Lebanese Minister for Education, Marwan Hamade, Hugo Shorter, the UK's Ambassador to Lebanon, and Suheil Dawani, Anglican Archbishop from the Diocese of Jerusalem. Awards were given for the best entries from Grades Six, Seven and Eight, and the winners presented their essays to Marwan Hamade, the Minister for Education.

Following the presentation of awards the children had the opportunity to walk the Queen Elizabeth II Trail and take part in an interactive workshop led by staff from the Cedar Reserve Staff, before planting trees themselves, to represent new life and a better future.

Rev'd David added: "The Lebanese national curriculum does not currently include a component to do with caring for the environment, but the team at the Biosphere Reserve were so excited by this new initiative, they are planning to turn this eco-project into an annual event."

The above article is a paraphrase of an article that appeared in a CMS news article.

JOEL KELLING APPOINTED PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East are pleased to welcome Joel Kelling its new Provincial Administrator. In this new role, Joel will also work as the Regional Facilitator for the Anglican Alliance, covering the Dioceses of Cyprus & the Gulf, Egypt and North Africa, Iran, and Jerusalem.

Through these roles Joel will seek to build the capacity of the churches of the Province in regard to development, relief and advocacy, and create greater sustainability within the institutions of the Province, whilst supporting the work of the four Dioceses and Provincial functions, including the upcoming Provincial Clergy Conference.



Joel originally qualified as an architect in the UK, gaining an interest in the issues of International Development and Humanitarian Relief, going on to study for an MA in Development and Emergency Practice at Oxford Brookes University, where he met his wife, Fiona.

“I am looking forward to continuing to support and uphold the

Christians of the Middle East”

Fiona and Joel have been in Jerusalem since 2015, worshipping together at St. George’s Cathedral. Joel moved into serving in the Church as Executive Assistant to Dean Hosam Naoum. He was instrumental in the organisation and coordination of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby’s visit to the Holy Land earlier in 2017, assisting in the life of the Cathedral Close, and has been involved in facilitating both Ecumenical and Inter-faith work in Jerusalem.

Joel will initially be based in Jerusalem, and is planning to move to Amman, Jordan in 2018. He says “I am looking forward to continuing to support and uphold the Christians of the Middle East, promote a ministry of reconciliation, and helping to support greater cooperation and coordination across the Province.”

Rev Andy Bowerman, Co-Executive Director at the Anglican Alliance said “We are delighted to welcome Joel after a careful process of consultation, prayer and discernment with the Province. His appointment comes at a crucial moment in the story of the region and we ask others around the communion to join with us in praying for him as he seeks to fulfil these two demanding roles”

Archbishop Suheil said, “I believe the Province will be blessed by this appointment, an initiative that has carefully be thought through with the Anglican Alliance. As we face the many challenges in this region, it is imperative not only that we have clear communication and understanding about the different ministries the church provides, but that we also continue to listen, as our Lord did, to the needs of those we serve. Please do pray for Joel and his wife Fiona as they commence this important ministry within the Province.”

AL-AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL UPDATE

On 29th August The Diocesan Office was pleased to welcome Ms Suhaila Tarazi , Dr Maher Ayyad and Ms Samira Farah for a board meeting for the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 24th December:

Service in Shepherd's Field, Beit Sahour— **4.00.pm.**

Service at The Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem— **9.00.pm.**

Midnight Service at St. George's Cathedral— **11.30.pm.**

Monday 25th December:

Christmas Eucharist at St. George's Cathedral – 11.00.am.

Joining the coach to the service at The Church of the Nativity:

Coaches leave from St. George's Cathedral at 8.00.pm for the service at The Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. If you would like a seat on the coach please contact Pauline Collier at email – bishop@j-diocese.org after 1st December but before the 23rd December 2017. Emails must be headed – '**Church of the Nativity 24-12-17**'. The cost for the coach is **60NIS**.

You are warmly invited to join any of these services. Book a seat on the coach in advance for the Church of the Nativity.

ARCHEOLOGY RESEARCH

Interview with Ghassan Najajra from Nanterre University in Paris by Susan Lukens

During the months of July, August and September, Ghassan Najajra, a Ph.D. student from Nanterre University in Paris came to study the artifacts from the Dothan Tel housed in the Benshoof Museum at St. George's College. The museum preserves and exhibits an array of ceramic items from the excavations at Tel Dothan. Dr Joseph P. Free undertook those excavations between 1953 and 1964, and a large number of pottery vessels from three excavated tombs are on display in the cistern museum. Dothan was strategically situated along an ancient highway connecting the hill country of Manasseh with the Jezreel valley. Some of the ruins date to the Middle Bronze Period (2300–1550 BCE), which would correspond to the time of Joseph. As Ghassan was preparing to return to Paris after his research here, we meet together to discuss his work.



Susan: Why did you choose to come study here at the college as opposed to the Dothan artifacts that are currently at the Rockefeller Museum?

Below, Dr. Andrew McGowan, Dean of Berkeley Divinity School, discusses early Bronze Age pottery with Archeologist Ghassan Najajra.

Ghassan: I knew that I wanted to come here because you have everything well labeled and showcased. There are a few of the artifacts at the Rockefeller down the street, and there are artifacts in boxes at Wheaton college in Illinois. But here in the Benshoof Museum you have the most complete collection from the archeological findings at Tel Dothan. The perfect situation for me to study!

Susan: Amazing. I did not know this. Which tomb are you looking at?

Ghassan: My specialty is studying ceramics. The bones from the tel have already been studied. But the ceramics you have here at the college are mostly from Tomb 1- and some are in almost perfect condition. You don't find such complete vessels everyday- beautiful and well preserved from the 12th to 14th century B.C.E.

Susan: What will be the conclusion of your study?

Ghassan: I want to look at the different vessels and see what changes are apparent and conversely, what are patterns that never change. For example, look at the ancient oil lamp and we can see how over time the opening has significantly changed. Are there similar motifs that I can observe in these artifacts housed in the collection at Benshoof museum? One of my tasks is to date the ceramics from the Tel Dothan relative to other excavations. There are clearly five levels in the tomb and this lets me see if there is a pattern of similarity or change in history.

"Here in the Benshoof Museum you have the most complete collection from the archeological findings at Tel Dothan. The perfect situation for me to study!"

Ghassan, however is not done with his work at the college; plans are already in conversation for a return in February. Ghassan's work will culminate in his doctoral thesis but also be a unique research on Tel Dothan. Ghassan is a Palestinian from Bethlehem and being an archeologist from this land makes his work serve as a model for others who call Palestine their home.

The Benshoof Cistern Museum was made possible by a generous gift from Edward and Barbara Benshoof. The Benshoof museum at St. George's College is open during business hours. You can view the exhibit by registering with the security officer at the college.

The Rev. Dr. Susan Lukens is the Associate Dean of St. George's College

SUMMER PLACEMENT STUDENT IN THE DIOCESE

Joe Moore, UK Ordinand, reflects on his placement in Jerusalem



I have recently returned from a two week placement at St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. I am an Anglican ordinand, training for ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham. This was a great opportunity to see ministry in another part of the Anglican Communion as well as experience the mother city of the Christian faith and the surrounding area.

Seeing the Anglican community in Jerusalem worshipping and getting a sense of the joys and challenges of being a Christian in

this place was exciting and challenging. I'm very grateful to have met a number of people affiliated with St George's and the ministry that stems from it.

I was particularly moved when visiting Gethsemane and St Anne's Church in the Old City. Amidst the busy sites of Jerusalem these places have a quiet serenity which allows for prayer and reflection on the life, death and resurrection of Christ and the gem that is Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

It was great to meet those who were on the Women in the Bible course at St George's College, hearing about what visiting the sacred land of the Bible meant for them. The sense of wonder and excitement at being at the places we read about in scripture was overwhelming in my own experience, as well as being evident in the experiences of those with whom I spoke.

It was a joy to see a number of the well known places featured in the Bible including Bethlehem, Nazareth the Sea of Galilee and others. It was fascinating to explore these places, enabling a better grasp of location in key biblical narratives.

I will treasure the opportunity to have visited Jerusalem and I am grateful to Dean Hosam and the staff at St George's for their kindness and hospitality. I shall definitely return!



Grotto at St Anne's Church

PRIMATES MEETING

PRIMATES 2017

From the 2nd-6th of October, Archbishop Suheil met with other primates in Canterbury. Archbishop Justin Welby's vision for the meeting was to provide an opportunity for relaxed fellowship and mutual consultation, acknowledging the pressures under which those represented live. In their communiqué, they said that "we experienced many signs of God's presence amongst us. The sense of common purpose underpinned by God's love in Christ and expressed through mutual fellowship was profound." Those in attendance left refreshed and renewed, having enjoyed the discussion and diversity of the communion.



From the 2nd-6th of October, Archbishop Suheil met with Primates of the Anglican Communion in Canterbury.



INTRODUCING ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE'S NEW DEAN: THE REV'D CANON RICHARD LESUEUR

Richard has served for 38 years as an Anglican priest in Western and Central Canada, and in the Diocese of Jerusalem. In the early 1990's Richard served on the staff of St. George's College, Jerusalem as the Course Director and Director of the Desert Program. Since 1983 he has facilitated more than 40 excursions for clergy and laity into the biblical lands. He is adjunct faculty with Trinity Divinity College in Toronto and is the Middle East Liaison for the Anglican Church of Canada. He is married to Rhonde, a retired social



worker and lecturer in disability studies. They have two grown sons. We are excited to welcome Richard into his new role as Dean of the College.

OCTOBER PLACEMENT STUDENT IN THE DIOCESE

Leah Thompson, a pastoral assistant at Lighthouse (a fresh expression church gathering those with multiple and complex needs e.g. addiction, mental health issues, homelessness) in Leeds (UK) reflects on her placement in Jerusalem



I have been the Sacristan and Dean's assistant for 3 weeks here at St. George's Cathedral. I am not from an Anglo-Catholic tradition and have loved learning about the different ways people engage in Worship. I have especially loved partaking in early-morning Holy Eucharist services. Jerusalem is such an incredibly vibrant and diverse city, and it has been a joy and privilege to see the Anglican community here embedded within the city by providing services both to local residents and pilgrims. I have also managed to visit some other cities whilst here such as Bethlehem and Nazareth. My grandparents were missionaries in Nazareth and so it was special for me to visit the hospital there where my Dad was born. I am so

grateful to Dean Hosam and the rest of the staff here for making me feel so at home.

PRAYER – as we leave Ordinary Time and enter the season of preparation in Advent, we celebrate Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King; keep your Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM A diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which is part of the Anglican Communion, in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, covers 5 countries: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. The Diocese consists of 27 parishes and over 30 institutions, with its Cathedral, St. George the Martyr, situated in Jerusalem. The Diocesan institutions include hospitals, clinics, schools, and vocational training programs.

Through its institutions and parishes, the Diocese serves the community by caring not just for the able-bodied but also for those with special needs, including the deaf, the disabled, and the elderly. It is through serving the poorest and most marginalized in the community that the Diocese seeks to convey Christ's message of love, peace, and justice for all regardless of their identity. The Diocese greatly appreciates your support and prayers.

If you would like to support the work of the Diocese, please contact info@j-diocese.org.

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