

# Jennifer and Kevin Cable

Link Letter no. 4 | January 2022

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*The call in action*

Dear friends,

As before, we begin with news of a move. We have been living in an apartment in Jaffa since 1 September and are now preparing to move on 1 February as this contract will come to an end. We have settled very well into life in Jaffa. Our current landlords have become friends and we have enjoyed talking with them on Zoom and sharing our experiences of Jaffa. After praying for the Lord to provide us with a new apartment, we felt called to change our prayers, instead thanking God that he already had an apartment just right for us and trusting him to reveal it in his timing. Two days later we were told about an apartment that would become vacant at the end of January in the same block we are living in now. It is smaller than the one we have now but for the same rent, as we were only being charged half the usual rent for the current one out of the generosity of the landlords in supporting the mission here. We are really pleased to be able to stay in the location where we have made some friends and are building relationships with the shopkeepers, municipality and community.

Last year, initial work was started to clear the outside of the church, to install some wiring and to repair the office area inside the building. As the renovations began, it was discovered that further work and surveys were required to assess some of the previous materials used in the building. We have had to postpone working at St Peter's while we wait for these reports and any remedial work required to be carried out. Although this is a setback, we are encouraged that many local people are eager to come and help at the church, as well as two of our supporting churches offering to come with a working party once travel allows.

As we get used to life in Jaffa, we have been invited into one of the local schools for assemblies and to talk to the children in their classes. We have enjoyed their nativity shows and celebrating Christmas with the children here. We hope that there may be opportunities for Jen to get involved with helping more in this school. She continues to help at Beit Immanuel Christian guesthouse, and with meeting with ladies in our congregation, Beit Immanuel staff, and neighbours. Jen's time spent volunteering may well increase, as the guesthouse has some long-standing volunteers leaving soon.

Being visible in the community is important and so Kevin, in keeping with other clergy here from the other denominations, wears his full cassock regularly. This makes him very visible and leads to interesting conversations with shopkeepers and neighbours, who are fascinated with the restoration work of St Peter's and the mission here. People here are used to seeing the clergy dressed in their robes most of the time, and with clergy from the Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Russian Orthodox,



**Name:** Jennifer and Kevin Cable

**Location:** Israel

**Our call:** To re-open the historic Anglican Church in Jaffa, Israel, and strengthen the presence of Christ in the Middle East.

**Our role:** Serving the people of Jaffa and the expatriate community in the Tel Aviv area by reaching out to all our neighbours.



*Kevin tests dyeing his beard to play Santa*

*Continued over the page*

Armenian and Catholic Church all very visible, Kevin is in good company. More importantly, it is an important witness to the Christian presence here to see the church leaders out and about.

As well as our Saturday evening services held at Beit Immanuel, our Bible study group continues to meet in our home, where people are enjoying learning together and asking deep questions about living the Christian life. We are bonding as a group, and this has allowed us to also provide pastoral care for our members, as we are able to share more openly with each other and pray together. This is important, as life here is difficult for everyone, and we have been able to support each other.

Organised by the local Christians with the municipality, the local community of Jaffa turned on the Christmas lights on 5 December and all the local clergy were invited to help with the lighting ceremony. A few days later a Christmas market was held for two days, and Kevin and other local clergy were invited to speak at the opening ceremony, each praying in their native language for the people living here. Hearing prayers in Arabic, English, Greek and Hebrew was very moving and a symbol of Christian unity. We enjoyed meeting many people at these events who we have built connections with since being here, and felt a great sense of community and of starting to settle as we saw these now familiar faces. Although Christmas felt very different here, we held a traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Beit Immanuel, and on Christmas Eve we celebrated Midnight Mass at the Lutheran church opposite Beit Immanuel. Christmas does not end here until 20 January, as the other Christian denominations celebrate Christmas on different dates, with the last being the Armenian Christmas on 19 January. On 6 January Kevin will be playing Santa Claus in the large Greek Catholic Christmas parade around Jaffa, with his beard dyed white for the event!

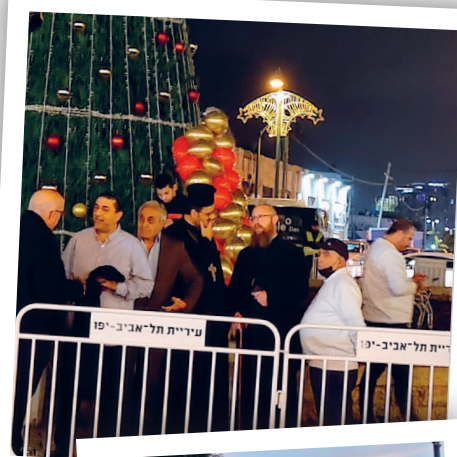
Living and learning in this new community is teaching us to be flexible and to listen to what is going on around us. In the New Year we will be reviewing the day and time of our weekly service, as more of our members can now attend a Sunday service, and perhaps this time change may attract more people. Although Sunday is a workday for many, we have learned there are also many expats and Christians who don't work Sundays, and a Sunday service may suit them. We are also in discussions about hiring a nearby church building, which we pray will also increase the appeal of the worship. Kevin is holding morning prayer each weekday on Zoom, and has a faithful member of the congregation joining him every day. If you would like to join us one morning, please let us know!

#### Please pray with us:

- Giving thanks for our current apartment and the new one becoming available.
- Giving thanks for friendships, relationships and contacts that have helped us to settle in Jaffa, and for our ministries developing here.
- For the continued project to restore St Peter's, and for an opening up of the Mission to Seafarers work once COVID restrictions have eased.

With every blessing,

Jen and Kevin



*Photos from top to bottom: Clergy gather for the lighting of the Christmas tree; the Christmas market in Jaffa; all the local clergy, mayor, and city council representatives gather together on Christmas Day in an act of unity*

## GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

Did you know that CMS offers free mission resources to help you put your call into action? Videos, audio interviews, prayer materials, articles exploring mission, church resources and more are all available at [churchmissionsociety.org/resources](https://churchmissionsociety.org/resources)

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400

You can give to Jennifer and Kevin at:  
[churchmissionsociety.org/cable](https://churchmissionsociety.org/cable)

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