

# **Jennifer and Kevin Cable**

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### Location: Israel/Palestine

What we do: Working to re-open the historic Anglican church in Jaffa and strengthen the presence of Christ in the Middle East.

Dear friends,

Thank you for your prayers and kind messages over the last few weeks as we have faced different challenges while Kevin has been in Jaffa and Jen has been in the UK spending time with her family, leading up to and after her father's passing. We are very thankful that Kevin has been allowed some time to spend with Jen on her return, to rest, relax and catch up on news together.

We give thanks to the Lord for his great provision. At the beginning of April, we had our first family visitors from the UK and enjoyed time with some of the children. We have continued to worship in Immanuel Lutheran Church, which we hire for our Sunday services, and we shared some Easter services with their congregation and also joined some of the Easter services of the Roman Catholic Church in Jaffa, which was a wonderful testimony of local Christians coming together. We have enjoyed having many visitors at our services from all over the world who found us through our website (stpetersjaffa. com), and a good number of locals stopped and joined us as we lit the Easter candle from the Easter fire and processed into church



Making palm crosses

on Holy Saturday. It was a huge blessing and encouragement to us and a sign once again of new life and a new start coming from our fledgling congregation. Easter lasted two weeks here, as we also joined the celebrations of the Greek Orthodox Church and Armenian Church who celebrate Easter a week after, participating in the many processions and gatherings with other faith leaders. It was also fascinating to experience Passover in Israel, with many of the shelves in the shops covered up for at least a week so that products with leaven (raising agents such as yeast) could not be bought. It is not unheard of for non-Jewish members of the community to stock their freezer with bread beforehand, as it cannot be bought during Passover week.

We are excited to tell you that at St Peter's, the grounds have finally been professionally cleared, with all hazardous materials removed. Also, the diocese is in the process of putting out to tender for the work on the church tower, which is currently in need of major structural renovation and must be completed before any of the other work can take place. We are maintaining the grounds ourselves at the moment but are hoping to employ a local gardener to keep on top of this. The estimate for the cost of the tower repair is understandably very high, and at the moment we have close to that amount raised towards the whole project. We are very grateful for your generous donations towards this work. Please will you pray with us as we seek the Lord's will on the way forward.

With Jesus With each other To the edges



We are also very grateful for the hard work of some volunteers from the USA, who came for a day as part of their visit to Israel, to help us start to clear one of our cemeteries. A group of 10 young people carefully and lovingly restored parts of the cemetery that had become heavily overgrown over the years. Again, we are looking into the possibility of someone taking this on regularly to continue their good work and keep it well maintained once we have cleared up the remaining two thirds of this cemetery, before starting work on our other cemetery in Jaffa.

This clearing up has been well received by the local community, and a good witness, given the importance local people place on these places of rest.

In other news, Mission to Seafarers has a new regional director for the Middle East. He arrives in the region in August and will take on responsibility for all the

projects in the area, including potential ministry in Ashdod Port. Please pray for us and for him as we seek the Lord's will for ministry to Seafarers in Ashdod.

We are enjoying the warmer weather, a big contrast for Jen after the UK, and are hoping to enjoy a break together in Galilee in July where we can rest, reflect, give thanks and pray, and ask for guidance as we continue to seek the Lord's will. Thank you for your prayers and support during this recent difficult time. We know that we can only go forward in the Lord's strength. We trust that as he has called, he will equip.

#### Please join us in giving thanks:

- for safe travels to the UK, for Jen to have spent time with her father before he died and to have attended the funeral;
- for protection for Kevin while continuing the work in Jaffa;
- for Easter services and parades and the chance to share with the community;
- for the grounds being cleared and for starting work on clearing one of the cemeteries;
- for our hiring contract at Immanuel being extended to October.

#### And praying for wisdom regarding:

- opportunities to minister to the community through our actions we are exploring supporting the work of a soup kitchen in Tel Aviv which helps those with difficult lives and those on the margins;
  - people to maintain the church grounds and cemetery;
  - rest during our short break in July.

With every blessing, Jen and Kevin





Photos from top to bottom: Shops covered up for Pesach; Easter fire; grounds have been cleared.



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