

Communique of the Tenth meeting of the Anglican Jewish Commission.

The Tenth Meeting of the Anglican Jewish Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury was held in Manchester from the 26th-28th of March 2019, 19-21 Adar II 5779.

The purpose of this Commission remains in keeping with the declaration made between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbis at Lambeth Palace on the 6th September 2006.

This year's Meeting began with a welcome dinner hosted by The Right Reverend Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton, at the JS Restaurant in Prestwich. A range of local guests including rabbis, priests, council representatives, government officials and grassroots practitioners of Christian-Jewish relations welcomed the members of the Anglican Jewish Commission.

The theme for this meeting was '*remembering the past, committing to the future*'. During the first session, the Anglican delegation presented a range of papers on this theme: Dr Clare Amos shared on '*remembering the future*'; The Most Reverend Michael Jackson on remembering and the role of the Eucharist in the Christian tradition and The Right Reverend Michael Ipgrave on remembering the dead. Reflections on the current situation in Jerusalem were provided by The Most Reverend Suheil Dawani, the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, who called for increased efforts for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land. Contributions were also made by Dr Jane Clements and Kat Brealey.

Rabbi Eliezer Weisz presented on behalf of the Chief Rabbinate's delegation with reflections on the theme. Weisz expounded on the concept of memory in the Jewish tradition emphasising that its purpose is to internalise and express the ethical messages born out of the people's collective experience. In particular he elaborated on the six types of memory mentioned in the Pentateuch which are summarized in the daily prayer book after the morning service. He added to these the memory of Jerusalem and the Temple after their destruction, central to having guaranteed the future renewal of Jewish life in the people's ancestral homeland.

The Commission also visited The John Rylands Library, where they were afforded a special viewing of significant manuscripts relating to Christian and Jewish heritage by Professor Philip Alexander (former Co-Director of the University of Manchester Centre for Jewish Studies). In line with the theme of inter faith co-operation, members of the Commission were shown a range of manuscripts in Hebrew where the illustrators were probably Christian.

Particularly significant was the meeting between the Commission members and a group of local young people involved in 'The Forum for the Discussion of Israel and Palestine' (FODIP). These students shared their experiences of partaking in innovative educational programmes that had equipped them with the language and tools to engage in fruitful conversations over contentious matters related to the Holy Land, as well as to address issues raised about the Holy Land in their own local communities. The Commission were impressed by the maturity and impact of these students.

On the final morning, the Commission members heard from David Arnold MBE, co-chair of the Manchester Council of Christians and Jews co-chair, speaking from his own work and the shared with and his co-chair, the Reverend Canon Steve Williams. David shared about the local context of Christians Jewish relations in Manchester.

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The meeting concluded with a declared intention to meet again in Jerusalem in 2020 and the hope of holding sessions at St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, at the invitation of Archbishop Suheil Dawani.

The Most Reverend Michael Jackson
Archbishop of Dublin
Co-Chair

Rabbi Dr Rasson Aroussi
Member of the Chief Rabbinate Council
Co-Chair

The following are Members of the Commission:

Delegation of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel:

Rabbi Dr Rasson Arousi

Rabbi David Rosen CBE, KSG

Rabbi Eliezer Weisz

Rabbi Professor Avraham Steinberg

Rabbi Moshe Dagan

Mr Oded Wiener

Delegation of the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Reverend Archbishop Michael Jackson

The Most Reverend Archbishop Suheil Dawani

The Right Reverend Michael Ipgrave, OBE

Dr Clare Amos

Dr Jane Clements

Kat Brealey