



Diocesan Synod

Paper Reference	7 – Motion for debate: engaging with Israel/Palestine
Meeting and Date	15 th March 2025
Paper Submitted by	Dean Nick

The Dean to move that:

In the light of the long-running conflict in Israel/Palestine, and in the immediate context of the need to restore Gaza after its devastating loss of life and the destruction of its infrastructure, **this Synod invites the people of our Diocese to commit to four dimensions of engagement:**

- **Prayer:** to pray regularly for all the peoples of Israel and Palestine: for Christians, Muslims and Jews, that they will find a pathway to lasting peace with justice.
- **Presence:** to strengthen the presence of the Christian community in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel by supporting the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and organizations which seek to counter the harmful effects of Israel's occupation, and which seek to build a future founded on the equality of all people living in these lands.*
- **Pilgrimage:** at the earliest opportunity, to return to pilgrimage in the Land of the Holy One, to give financial and moral support to local people. The Christian community is especially dependent on the pilgrim and tourist economy and has suffered terribly since the beginning of the war in 2023. Pilgrimage must engage not only with the holy sites but with the peoples of Palestine and Israel, to learn of the contemporary realities of their lives, and to show solidarity with the indigenous Christian community.
- **Persuasion:** to learn as much as possible about the long-running Israel/Palestine conflict and its present reality, in order to offer informed and effective persuasion of UK politicians and other decision makers. The goal must be to ensure that the UK, which has a long history of involvement in Israel/Palestine, plays its vital part in addressing the underlying root causes of the conflict and promotes the justified aspirations of Palestinian people, which have been tragically overlooked, to enable everyone to live together in freedom and equality with security. In this work of advocacy, it is vital that Christians avoid the words and works of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia so that *what* we advocate is exemplified in the *way* we advocate.

Nicholas Papadopoulos
January 2025

*there are several ways to give financial support: The Joint Archbishops Appeal for Israel, Palestine and Gaza goes directly to the Diocese of Jerusalem <https://www.jmecca.org.uk/get-involved/donate/current-appeals-0/archbishops-joint-appeal-diocese-jerusalem>

There are other trusted organisations who can be recommended including Embrace, Christian Aid, Tearfund and Friends of the Holy Land.