

160 years of the Nazareth Trust

Thomas Baldwin highlights the works of a charity behind a major hospital in the hometown of Jesus which is using a milestone anniversary for a special appeal.

THE Christian charity running a major hospital in the hometown of Jesus is celebrating a major landmark with a new appeal to help it expand its emergency room.

The Nazareth Trust runs the Nazareth Hospital EMMS, one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East and the largest in Nazareth. Tracing its roots back to 1861, today it is a general hospital with Nazareth's main emergency room, intensive care, surgical units and other services helping tens of thousands of patients every year.

Now the Trust is hoping to mark its 160th anniversary by beginning a major development of its emergency room (ER). Already approved by the Israeli Ministry of Health, the project will provide a fortified state-of-the-art ER, with more than triple the existing number of stations (rising from 21 to 70) and improved emergency vehicle access.

Phase one involves relocating the chapel, which will free up the space for the new ER, and creating a new uniquely-designed chapel reflecting on the charity's 160 years of Christian ministry in the hometown of Jesus.

To fund the development, the charity has launched an appeal to find 160 people willing to give £100 a month for 60 months. This would raise enough to enable the rebuilding of the chapel. They have also begun a new appeal urging people to leave money to the Trust in their will.

Richard Mayhew, CEO of the Nazareth



Trust, said: "As we celebrate our 160th anniversary, I've been looking back on the past, and I see the faces of those who laid the foundation of our Christian ministry and those who helped it grow. Now I wonder, what legacy are we going to leave for the future generations of Nazareth? Specifically, the Emergency Room appeal will have a great impact on that legacy. Expanding our ER to 70 beds will allow us to provide vastly improved care for our thousands of patients. I cannot wait to see what the future holds. I invite all those who can, to join us so we can build it up together."

The Trust is one of the legacy charities of the work of Dr Pacradooni Kaloost Vartan, trained by the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS), who in 1861 established a dispensary in Nazareth. Six years later that became an eight-bed hospital. In 1904, EMMS funded the purchase of 25 acres of land for the building of a new hospital, which opened in 1912. The building and the services

offered there expanded throughout the 20th century.

In 2001 EMMS split into two charities, with EMMS Nazareth running the Nazareth operation. In 2010, it began operating under the name the Nazareth Trust. (The other charity, EMMS International, provides health services in several countries in Africa and Asia.)

In addition to the hospital, the Trust runs a school of nursing, itself nearly 100 years old, the volunteer scheme SERVE Nazareth, and Nazareth Village, an authentic first century farm and archaeologically accurate recreation of the hometown of Jesus.

The former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev Colin Sinclair, and his wife Ruth are longstanding supporters of the Trust. They said: "Our desire to support the Nazareth Trust is the recognition of it as a beacon of light and hope in a troubled part of the world." ■

For more information visit nazarethtrust.org

‘We love our neighbour – and we demand change’

Rachel Walker highlights a global Day of Action on climate change during COP26.

THE Prophetic Activist Scheme run by Christian Aid is now in its second year. The scheme, designed to inspire, engage and equip young Christians, provides workshops, training, conferences and to put their faith into action.

The aim of the Prophetic Activist Scheme is to support young people to co-create a climate justice campaign. It's a great opportunity to meet, learn from and campaign alongside inspiring young Christians working towards a common goal.

During 2020, the Prophetic Activists led an award-winning campaign which called on the government to stop funding fossil fuels and to end fossil fuel extraction. With the arrival of COP26 to Glasgow this year, it is vital we all use our voices to strive for a more just world. As Christians, it is not just our responsibility to treat people well because that is the nice thing to do. But the commandments given to Moses and the rules Jesus laid out for his followers throughout the gospels inspire us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

The poorest 3.5 billion people are responsible for just ten percent of world emissions. But these people – predominantly located in the global south – are already facing the worst impacts of climate change. In 2016, world hunger increased for the first time in more than a decade. Now, in 2020, more than 41 million people are teetering on the brink of famine caused by conflict and climate change. Yet,

as Christians we are called to look after the poorest people in our communities, and in the world.

As world leaders come together at COP26 in Glasgow to discuss and agree actions to be taken for climate justice, we see chaos all around. Global temperatures are soaring, unusual weather and droughts are affecting hundreds of thousands of people across the globe and compounding the devastation being felt by those hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our world is at a crisis point.

We love our neighbour – and we demand change.

On November 6, Prophetic Activists, Christian Aid supporters, faith leaders and campaigners will gather for a global Day of Action. Marches are planned for Glasgow and around the world as we raise our voices for climate justice.

We are also raising our voices in the Project Climate Finance campaign.

Project Climate Finance strives to make all climate finance pledges legally binding figures, with a clear actionable repercussion system if figures are not met. Climate Finance is money used to reduce emissions and to support communities and businesses as they adjust to the adverse effects of a changing climate. The money can be provided on a local, national, or transnational level and can come from public, private, or alternative sources of finance. We are calling on the UK government to provide a legal guarantee

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for their promised £100 billion, or larger sum should the funding increase, with actionable repercussions if not provided.

There are lots of ways you might be able to get involved in the campaign for Climate Justice, for example write to your elected representative or join Church of Scotland's Prayer for the World. You can sign the Prophetic Activists Project Climate Finance petition, join Christian Aid's campaign to make a prayer boat to send to COP26 at christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain, supporting Tearfund's Reboot campaign at <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/reboot-campaign> and continue to ask your community to do their bit (and help them out along the way!). ■

If you are under 30 and connected with the Church of Scotland and would like to contribute to the Life and Work youth page, please contact us on magazine@lifeandwork.org