



# NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

February 2011

*Salaam, Peace to you in the name of the Lord*

*Greetings from Bishop Dawani*

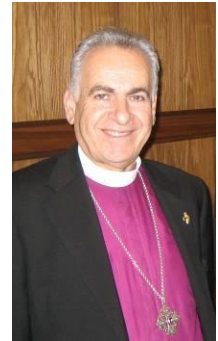
*Dear Friends,*

*Maintaining the theme of last month's newsletter, we continue to highlight projects taking place across the Diocese and in this issue focus on the plans for the Husn Kindergarten and the Baptismal site in Jordan.*

*Work continues on the two healthcare projects in the West Bank, the Anglican Diabetes Clinic and the Birzeit Elderly People's Home, and we are very grateful for the funding support we have received so far.*

*As part of the Diocese's mission to put our faith in action we continue to strive to serve the needs of the most needy in our communities and thank you all for your faithful support of the Diocese and its work.*

*+ Suheil Dawani*



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## Kindergarten in Husn, Jordan



January 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 was an important date for the people of Husn church. Bishop Suheil travelled to Husn to visit the Church and more importantly to see the site and the future plans for the new Kindergarten and vicarage. These plans have for some time been considered as part of the development of the work of the church. It will meet a need in the local community and will eventually grow to support children from Kindergarten age through to Secondary education.

The Bishop met with the Pastoral Committee of the Church Council led by Rev. George Kireh and considered the results of a feasibility study. The Bishop blessed the land thus beginning the process of development of the site in readiness for the new school.

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Page 1

## Annual Pilgrimage to Jordan



On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Bishop Suheil conducted a service of Baptism at Bethany by the Jordan. This traditional site was the scene for a service attended by over 750 people from across the Anglican Churches in Jordan.

They came together to celebrate the annual pilgrimage to the Jordan river and to witness the baptism of a young girl. During this annual service, the Bishop spoke of the need for unity amongst us and used the scene of the baptism of our Lord as a model of unity with our heavenly father.

On this very warm day, clergy and lay alike had the opportunity to worship at this significant site and to participate in a service during which a choir from the HLID (Holy Land Institute for the Deaf) under the guidance of Brother Andrew, led the worship as communion was served.

Alongside the traditional site of the Baptism of Jesus, there is land set aside for the building of the Great Church of St. John the Baptist. This was dedicated by Archbishop Rowan in Feb. 2010 and will be built in the shape of the Jerusalem Cross. It will include a conference centre, a vicarage, a gift shop and an area for meditation. Fundraising is underway and it is hoped construction will begin in the coming year.



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## Clergy Meeting, Jerusalem



Bishop Suheil led the Clergy meeting of Anglican Priests from Israel and Palestine earlier this month. They met in Jerusalem and spent a day of prayerful discussion and fellowship.

The meeting was drawn to a close with the celebration of Eucharist in the St Michael and All Angels Chapel in the Cathedral Church of St George the Martyr.

Fellowship and discussion continued over lunch.

## Birzeit Elderly People's Home



The Birzeit Elderly People's home has been under construction for the last year. The home is in Birzeit, next to St Peter's Church, and is being built to offer secure and safe housing to elderly members of the community who can no longer look after themselves.

The need for such a centre is great in the West Bank, as those who can, emigrate for the better prospects of the west leaving family members behind. The Christian population has shrunk heavily over the last few years and those left need help and support in the later years of their lives. The Diocese of Jerusalem, through the construction of the Birzeit home, seeks to offer a lifeline

to these people.

Father Hanna Daley is the Priest of St. Peter's Church and spends time visiting the families and hearing their stories. Access to employment is difficult for many and poverty is high. His congregation reached 300 in 1967, but due to the political situation more than 50% of the Church members have since emigrated.

The Birzeit home will offer beds for up to sixteen elderly people and a secure and safe environment in which to live. The Diocese of Jerusalem continues to seek support and funding to complete this home and is very grateful for funds already received.

By so doing it will strive to keep the hope of the community alive through this 'faith in action.'



## A new face for St George's Pilgrim Guesthouse

Under manager Jeries Arbeed, St George's Pilgrim Guesthouse has undergone a programme of redecoration and rejuvenation. The Breakfast and dining areas are now decorated with traditional handiwork from the Bedouin and Palestinian communities and new soft furnishings make for a cosy and welcoming feel.

The Guesthouse cellars have yielded many treasures which have been polished and cleaned and given a new lease of life. The result is a warm and welcoming ambience. The Guesthouse looks forward to welcoming you!

## Anglican Diabetes Clinic, Ramallah



Service to those in need is an essential focus of the healthcare ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its hospitals in Gaza and Nablus, its outpatient clinic in Zebabdeh and a variety of rehabilitation centres sponsored throughout the region. The Diocesan healthcare department has identified the area of diabetes as the most pressing need in combatting the healthcare issues of the local population, and the opening of a new clinic in Ramallah is a priority for this year. The Anglican Diabetes Clinic is situated above the church hall of St Andrew's Church in Ramallah. Building for the Clinic is now complete and it is hoped the site will open this year.

The Anglican Clinic will be an outpatient clinic focussed on treating the complications of diabetes among the Palestinian population. A diabetic foot programme and an extensive emphasis on cardio-vascular health will be a further focus. There is a higher incidence of diabetes within the Palestinian community than in the general population of the region. It is estimated that 15% of Palestinian women suffer from the condition. With rates of obesity rising, the need for this service in the West Bank is acute.

It is hoped that this clinic will not only provide much needed medical care for diabetic patients in the Ramallah area of the West Bank, but will also enhance the witness of the Anglican Communion in Ramallah with its connections to the church of St Andrew. It will also help to bolster the Anglican Communion within the ever-expanding city of Ramallah.

The Diocese offers these services to all making no distinction between religion and race. These ministries serve to sustain and strengthen our Christian presence as we teach respect and concern for all people.

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More stories and information are available at: [www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org) Email enquiries to: [info@j-diocese.org](mailto:info@j-diocese.org)  
Donations may be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem, 91191



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.

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