

Welcome to our January 2024 Newsletter which gives you.

This edition gives you updates about JAEP students and New Year greetings from Al Quds University and Ibdaa Community Centre in Dheisheh Palestinian Refugee Camp. There are also details about the church services to mark the 20th anniversary of John's death, and suggestions about how you can help.

News from JAEP students and our partners in the area

As we begin a New Year the news from the area continues to be deeply concerning.

Checkpoints in The West Bank are still closed, so students continue to be at home and learning remotely. Studying in cramped living conditions, with unreliable electricity and water, and sharing a laptop with siblings is very challenging. The weather is cold and wet, and houses are made of breeze blocks with no insulation or heat.

We heard news from our partners in Ibdaa Community Centre in Dheisheh that one of the team has been detained with no charge by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) At the time of writing his whereabouts is still unknown.

In spite of all the horrors we read about, our partners at **Al Quds University** sent us this uplifting New Year message which we share with you:

Dear Donors and Friends

On behalf of Al-Quds University, we would like to extend our warmest wishes for a New Year filled with peace, hope, and prosperity despite the current crises that deprived so many of us of their basic human rights.

As we bid farewell to the challenges of the past year, let us embrace the promise of new beginnings that lie ahead. It is through your unwavering support and dedication that we are able to continue our mission of helping the students who lack the financial ability and support them in pursuing their education.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing partnership. Your belief in our mission inspires us every day as we work towards shaping a brighter future for our students in Palestine. May this New Year bring renewed hope and reaffirm our collective determination to build a world where education knows no boundaries.

Once again, from all of us at Al-Quds University, we wish you a Happy New Year filled with peace and hope.

Warmest regards from Palestine

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Eveen Graduated with a degree in Midwifery from Al Quds University in July 2023

We spent a lot of time with Eveen in February, including joining her for a midwifery class.

We maintain contact with our students via Messenger or Whatsapp. Eveen who graduated with a degree in Midwifery from Al Quds University in July 2023 sent us this message on 9 January 2024. *'For the last four months I have been working as a midwife with the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Hebron. Thank you for enabling my sister Nadeen to receive a scholarship, my parents are very happy.'* Nadeen is studying Nursing at Bethlehem University. The scholarship is for two years and has been funded by [Unipal](#).

Our partners in **Ibdaa Community Centre in Dheisheh** have sent us this New Year message and plans to remember John on 25 January :

Firstly, allow us to extend our warmest greetings for the festive season and the beginning of the new year, hoping for its return and peace among the nations of the world.

We wish to emphasise the depth of the human relationship between us and take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your tireless efforts in assisting our students to pursue their higher education.

In the midst of these extremely challenging circumstances faced by our Palestinian people, especially the severe economic conditions that have paralysed economic life for the past four months, leading to increased poverty and dire need for assistance, we acknowledge and appreciate your support.

Amidst these difficult circumstances, we will not forget our friend John, who taught us the art of giving and loving people regardless of their color, religion, or nationality. John taught us that absence is not the end, and that giving transcends physical presence. Through his giving and your commitment towards our youth, John remains present among us. Therefore, on January 25th, we will hold a special day dedicated to John under the title "John: Continuous Giving Despite Departure." This event will include a lecture with creative youth where we will speak about John's life, his philanthropy, and your role in educating the youth of Palestine, accompanied by a photo presentation.

We extend our best wishes for your success and continued generosity.

*Warm regards,
All at Ibdaa*

20th anniversary of John's death

The JAEP team thought it would be helpful to send again details of the events to be held at the beginning of 2024. We will be there for all four church services and look forward to welcoming you.

Services in the churches John served at:

28th January 5pm Evensong at Mancroft to be followed by Middle Eastern light refreshments and presentation from the JAEP team. Anne (Chair) will speak during the service and Liz (Secretary) lead the intercessions. The 28 January is the nearest Sunday to the 20th Anniversary of John's death on 25/01/2004. John was a curate at Mancroft from 1979 -1982.

4th February 10.30 am Mass at St. Giles. Anne will speak during the service. John's body was brought into St. Giles on 5/02/2004. He was their Priest in Charge from September 1999 until his death.

6th February 5.30pm Evensong at Norwich Cathedral. The Dean, The Very Revd Dr. Andrew Braddock will preach and The Precentor, Canon Aidan Platten will lead the intercessions. Both of whom knew John well. John's funeral was here on 06/02/2004. The service will be followed by wine or soft drinks and nibbles.

17th March 10am Eucharist at St. Mary's Attleborough followed by All Saints Besthorpe at 11.30am. Anne will speak during the service. A Memorial Service was held in St. Mary's on 27/03/2004. John was Rector from 1982 – 1999.

In addition to the services, JAEP has a [number of talks booked](#).

Suggestions as to how you can help.

We remain hugely appreciative of the support we receive from you all. For example each month we receive donations from over 50 standing orders. Standing orders generate over one third of our annual income.

Currently there are no tourists, no pilgrims, visiting the Holy Land which impacts on the employment of Palestinians in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem. All work in Israel by Palestinians has been stopped, many local government employees haven't been paid for almost two months, all of which has resulted in no or very little income for many families. So JAEP is budgeting for increased levels of student debt in July 2024. Students can graduate but do not receive their certificates until all debt has been cleared which means they cannot seek employment. Since the pandemic, when incomes also plummeted JAEP has paid some of this debt. Many friends and supporters in the UK ask us what can we do. We have two suggestions, please consider starting a standing order or increasing your current standing order.

Finally thank you very much to all who bought JAEP Christmas cards. Sales were fantastic, four of the new Christmas designs sold out. We estimate sales for April 2023 - March 2024 will be over £4000 a record! Enough to fund two and a half

students for one academic year.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for your continued support for the work of JAEP. We look forward to welcoming you to one of the services or talks in 2024.

With our partners we wish you a Happy New Year filled with peace and hope.

The JAEP team.