



The Church in Wales Jubilee Fund

Spring 2009 Newsletter

Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic safe – but Church’s Family Health Centre destroyed

The day (12 January) Archbishop Barry launched an appeal for money to help the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) give frontline medical service in Gaza through its three Family Health Clinics, Archdeacon Philip Morris, co-ordinator of the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund, received news that one of the clinics had been destroyed by Israeli missile fire.



Shija'ia Family Health Centre, January 2004

The Shija'ia Family Health Centre provided essential free primary health care to 70,000 people in one of the poorest areas of Gaza City, including mother and child clinics, ante and post-natal care, family planning and a pharmacy. It was at this clinic that the mobile dental clinic, completely funded by the Church in Wales, was garaged and based.

The NECC received a telephone warning to evacuate the building on 10th January within 15 minutes. The building was evacuated quickly, a warning shot was fired and then received a direct hit from missiles fired by an Israeli airforce jet. This completely destroyed the building and its contents, including hundreds of thousands of pounds of medical and dental equipment. There were no injuries in the attack, nor was any reason for it given.

Archbishop Barry wrote immediately to the Israeli Ambassador in London demanding an explanation; and Archdeacon Philip liaised with Anna



Shija'ia Family Health Centre, January 2009

Morrell, the Archbishop's Press Officer to ensure maximum media and press coverage. Philip was in constant touch with the NECC and Christian Aid for news and developments, and offered financial support through the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund to help in the rebuilding and restocking of the Family Health Centre.

Concern was expressed for the safety of the mobile dental clinic. Philip discovered that as it was a weekend, it had been moved to the NECC's compound in the centre of Gaza City for maintenance. However, this compound is next to the UNRWA (United Nations) building hit by phosphorous shells. But assurance was given that the dental clinic was safe, and would resume work as soon as possible. The two remaining NECC Family Health Clinics at Daraj in Gaza City and at Rafah in the south soon reopened, and reported a large number of patients coming with injuries, many to see a doctor for the first time since they received them.

Director's shock at clinic attack



'There was a heap of rubble and some papers from files blowing about in the wind. That was all, nothing survived.'

Constantine Dabbagh, executive director for the Near East Council of Churches, had prepared himself for the worst when he visited the ruins of the Shija'ia Family Health Centre. Nonetheless, the scale of devastation shocked him.



'We thought there might have been something we could keep as a memento of 40 years work serving the community,' said Mr Dabbagh. 'But everything had been obliterated.' 'I cannot express how I felt. I didn't cry but my heart was aching. For humans to have caused this made it especially shocking.'

The attack destroyed thousands of dollars worth of equipment and medicine.

'So much has to be replaced. We had a laboratory fully equipped for blood tests and ultrasound, and we had only just put in computers with a management information system. 'There was a six-week stock of medicine and water purification equipment, as well as milk and nutritional biscuits for the malnutrition programme.'

After visiting the ruins, Mr Dabbagh said a clinic operating out of borrowed premises would be up and running within days.

'The community is very anxious that we continue, so we will be replacing what we can and starting from scratch,' he said.

Immediate support for Health Clinic

Parishes and individuals throughout Wales have responded generously to Archbishop Barry's appeal. Money will be transferred directly to the NECC's Health Clinic account as soon as it is possible to do so, though in the meantime Christian Aid has been able to get medical supplies into Gaza. The Church in Wales Jubilee Fund will be working with Christian Aid, ACT (Action for Churches Together) and the EU Humanitarian Aid to rebuild the Shija'ia Clinic.

Parishes are invited to take part in "Wales biggest coffee morning" on the first weekend on May to raise money for the Dental and Family Health Clinic. Make it a three-day event – choose Friday 1st for your office/work/school coffee morning, Saturday 2nd May for a parish coffee morning in your church hall, and Sunday 3rd May for a special church collection.

Young Muslims raise funds for Church Gaza appeal

A group of young Muslims are backing the Church in Wales appeal for humanitarian aid in Gaza. Members of the Young Muslim Community Organisation in Newport held a bazaar raising £1000 following the appeal by Archbishop Barry for urgent aid for the work of the NECC clinics.

Iftihir Ahmed, chair of the YMCO, said the group was pleased to support a Welsh appeal for humanitarian aid.

He said, "We read about the destruction of the family clinic and the invaluable service the mobile dental clinic provides for so many people in the strip. We felt that some of the money we raised had to go to this very noble cause.

"The response and support we've had from the people of Newport has been strong. They felt the call for funds was going out to everyone in Wales, not just the parishioners of the Church in Wales, and as Welsh citizens we felt a duty to support a Welsh appeal.

"It's important that the people in Wales work together when we are trying to help the victims of man-made or natural disasters so that the recipients of the aid realise it's from the people of one nation to another, not just from charities,

The Shija'ia Family Health Clinic—some facts and figures

- 33,793 children were registered
- 20,137 mothers were registered
- 5609 mothers were receiving antenatal care
- This was the only pharmacy serving a population of 70,000
- A new activity for 2009 was to have been emergency nutrition and health response for vulnerable children, helping to identify and treat malnourished and anaemic cases, and the promotion of health awareness in the community.



even though charities are the front end of providing the relief." More than 300 people attended the bazaar on January 18 at Pill Millennium Centre. Activities included an auction, stalls, hot food and children's games.

Jewish music for Gaza

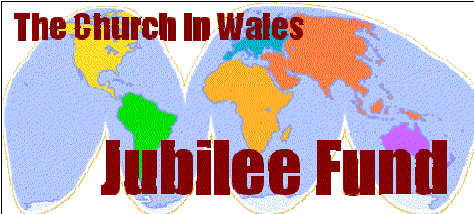


A Welsh band entertained shoppers in Llanidloes on 31st January with Arab tunes in a Jewish style to raise funds for the Jubilee Fund.

A 9-piece klezmer band, the Klezmonauts, brought the celebratory sounds of traditional Jewish music to this mid-Wales market town.

Band member Matt Watson said, "We're as concerned as everybody else about the situation in Gaza, and we felt that we ought to try and highlight the good work that people are doing out there at this frightening time, and do something practical to help."

"We're a Welsh band playing Arab tunes in a Jewish style to raise funds for a Christian charity working in Palestine."



The Jubilee Fund was established by the Governing Body of the Church in Wales in April 2000, with the aim of:

- marking the Millennium by creating a Church in Wales Fund attracting new money for funding overseas projects supported by their local churches;
- responding to the 1998 Lambeth Conference resolutions concerning economic justice and the funding of international development programmes.

The Fund has raised over £250,000 and supported 11 projects worldwide. At present it completely funds the Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic, and is assisting the Near East Council of Churches in restocking and rebuilding the Shija'ia Family Health Clinic.

Church in Wales Jubilee Fund

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Cheques should be made payable to **Church in Wales Jubilee Fund** and sent to the Treasurer. Donations from individuals should if possible be gift-aided—gift aid envelopes are available from the Treasurer.

Take part in

Wales' Biggest Coffee Morning



in aid of the Mobile Dental Clinic and the Shija'ia Family Health Clinic

Make it a three day event:

Friday 1st May
*in your offices, schools,
places of work...*

Saturday 2nd May
in your church or village hall...

Sunday 3rd May
following your church services...



Bring a smile to the people of Gaza