



The Church of Scotland

THE OLIVE GROVE CHAPEL

Creating a sacred space for worship

**SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN
CHRISTIAN PRESENCE AT
THE TENT OF NATIONS,
BETHLEHEM.**

“WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES”

Olive Grove Chapel at the Tent of Nations, Bethlehem

“We refuse to be enemies” is the ethos of the Tent of Nations, a farm owned by the Palestinian Christian Nassar family just outside Bethlehem. The farm is surrounded on all sides by illegal Israeli settlements and is under constant threat of demolition, with the family under threat of eviction. The Nassar family work the land and live by that ethos - written on a stone as you enter the farm. Through continuing to grow olives, grapes, almonds, and various other fruit, as well as hosting work parties, groups, and children’s summer camps, the family non-violently resist the moves by settler organisations to remove them from the land which has been owned and farmed by the family for generations.

The General Assembly in May 2019, instructed the World Mission Council “to assist the Tent of Nations in creating a sacred space for worship amongst the threatened olive groves and invite other agencies and congregations to help and identify with this project” (9b). Work is now underway, and as a sign of commitment to justice and peace in the land of Christ’s birth - as well as a mark of support for the Palestinian Christian community - as many congregations as possible are invited to become involved with the establishment of this special sanctuary.

Will your congregation help to support this Palestinian Christian presence by supporting the vital witness of the Nassar family through sponsoring the work on the farm?

Funds raised will be used to develop the Chapel and surrounding area by planting olive trees, grape vines, and other fruiting trees, as well as providing irrigation systems and other infrastructure and ongoing work. You can support the Olive Grove Chapel project and the Tent of Nations by contacting World Mission at the Church Offices, 121 George Street or emailing world@churchofscotland.org.uk

John McCulloch,
Mission Partner, St Andrews, Jerusalem.



Daoud Nassar and John McCulloch survey the structure for the vines to grow around to form living walls, and the surrounding land where the olive trees will be planted.

A Prayer for peace

God of compassion, who came into our world in the frailty of human form, breathe your hope and grace over the troubled landscape of Israel and Palestine.

You came into our world to heal and restore, and you keep coming again and again, bringing the promise of renewal and hope. Help us to hear your voice calling us back to your heart of love. Open our eyes, that we may see your world and each other as you see us.

We thank you that you are a God who is acquainted with suffering, who knows what it is like to sit under the olive trees, as the moon rises over the silvery darkness of night. In the final hours before you climbed the hill of suffering for our salvation, you prayed amidst the olive trees. In the places threatened by violence and darkness, the power of your love broke through, bringing forgiveness and new life.

Make all of us who live in the Holy Land hungry and thirsty for justice. Help us to see the other as made in your image. Break down the walls of fear and separation, and plant seeds of hope and rebirth in the places of despair; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GET INVOLVED



PRAY

Join us in praying for peace in the Middle East and for the Nassar family as they work to create a safe space for worship.

WATCH

Visit the Church of Scotland Community channel on YouTube to watch a video about the project: The Olive Grove Chapel - Tent of Nations, Bethlehem.

DONATE

Funds raised will be used to develop the Chapel and surrounding area by planting olive trees, grape vines, and other fruiting trees, as well as providing irrigation systems and other infrastructure and ongoing work.

FOLLOW

Keep up-to-date on the progress – stay in touch, join the World Mission Facebook page to see updates.

Send donations to Church of Scotland.

Cheques should be made payable to the 'Church of Scotland' with an accompanying note indicating the donation is for the Olive Grove Chapel.

For bank transfer details email wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk

World Mission Council,
Church of Scotland,
121 George Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

Tel: 0131 225 5722