

THE HOLY LAND

**Following in the Footsteps of Jesus
A 10 day Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine**

Led by

**Revd Prebendary Alastair Wheeler
& The Revd Christopher Durrant**

16th - 26th April, 2018



The Sea of Galilee from the Mount of Beatitudes

**LIGHTLINE
PILGRIMAGES**

- The official and preferred Pilgrimage partner for the Diocese of Jerusalem -

Coopersale Hall Farm, Epping, CM16 7PE

Tel: 01992 576 065 Email: info@lightline.org.uk Web: www.lightline.org.uk

In Jesus' Footsteps

Come and join us, and see your faith, and our world, with new insight. We invite you to share in experiencing some of the places where God has worked for the benefit of all humankind, and anchor your understanding of Jesus and the Bible in the layout and geography of the land we call Holy!

This is a small area of the world, combining three faiths, with all their sub divisions and denominations, and two ethnicities with their overlapping hopes and histories. We will be experiencing just a little of the hopes and fears of those who live in the present, especially our Christian brothers and sisters, as we try to imagine the events of the past that have changed the world for ever.

Alastair writes: "It's not a holiday – but we hope it will be hugely enjoyable, stimulating, thought and prayer provoking as you look back and reflect. Many people have told me how, ever afterwards, they hear the Bible stories with new understanding, and even experience God in new ways. You will be travelling with a varied group from a wide range of backgrounds – do come and join us ..."

This will be my sixth group experience of Israel and Palestine from an inclusive Christian perspective. I'm going to be sharing in leadership with The Revd Christopher Durrant (my son-in law, a Curate in Exeter on his third visit). And I am excited to be working again with one of the best and most experienced Christian Palestinian guides around, and arranging it all with Lightline Pilgrimages, whom I know and trust, and who are the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem's preferred partners.

We look forward to welcoming you on this moving journey.



Alastair



Christopher

Our Itinerary

Day 1, Monday 16 April

We gather at London Heathrow Airport for our afternoon flight to Tel Aviv. Meal served in-flight. We will be met on arrival and transferred to our pilgrim guest house on the shores of the Sea of Galilee for the first of three nights stay here. Overnight stay by the Sea of Galilee.



Day 2, Tuesday 17 April

We begin our pilgrimage by driving across the green and fertile plains of Jezreel (the biblical scene of Armageddon) to visit the basilica on the summit of Mount Tabor, claimed to be the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus before Peter, James and John. On descending Mount Tabor we visit Nazareth, the town associated with the beginning of the gospel message, to see how the Good News is both remembered and lived out today. We will visit the site of the only spring in town, where Jesus' mother will have drawn water, the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Synagogue Church. After a break for lunch we will visit Cana, the site of Jesus' first sign, before continuing to the excavations of Sepphoris. Some biblical scholars believe Joseph and Jesus may have helped in the city's reconstruction as it is just an hour's walk from Nazareth. We finally return to our guest house. Dinner and overnight by the Sea of Galilee.



Day 3, Wednesday 18 April

Today will be devoted to a leisurely exploration of the area that was the base for Jesus' ministry by the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. We will visit sites associated with the call of the first disciples, the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount where we will celebrate the Eucharist. We then



proceed to the ancient fishing village of Capernaum, before sailing on a modern-day version of the kind of boat used for fishing at the time of Jesus and we will end our day with a visit to the exciting excavations at Magdala, the home town of Jesus close friend and follower, Mary Magdalene (Mary of Magdala). It was a major first-century port and specialised in salted and smoked fish and exported its products all over the Mediterranean and southern Europe. The excavations to date have unearthed sections of the port walls, a market, several homes shops and most importantly a first century synagogue that was probably destroyed by

Day 3 continued



the Romans around 67CE. There is a high probability that Jesus preached in this synagogue as it was the only town on the Western shores of the lake and situated on the Stella Maris, the ancient trade route that ran from Egypt along the Mediterranean, up along the western shores of the lake and then up in to Syria and beyond. Return to our hotel in good time for dinner and overnight stay.



Day 4, Thursday 19 April

We leave Galilee after breakfast and head south through the heart of the West Bank, noting as we drive some of the 'facts on the ground' about the Occupation as we come to the city of Nablus. Here we will visit Jacob's Well, where the Fourth Gospel tells us of Jesus' encounter with the woman drawing water. We also hope to visit the Anglican parish in the city and see its heart-warming work with young children in its kindergarten. After lunch we journey down to the banks of the River Jordan to the site believed to be close to where Jesus was



baptized by John, where we will have an opportunity to renew our baptism vows. We will stop briefly for a view of the Mount of Temptation before driving up through the hills of the Judean wilderness towards Jerusalem. En-route we will visit Bethany where Jesus enjoyed hospitality with his close friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus and where he raised Lazarus from the dead. After visiting the Church and the partition wall we will continue to Jerusalem and check-in to our hotel within the Old Walled City. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.

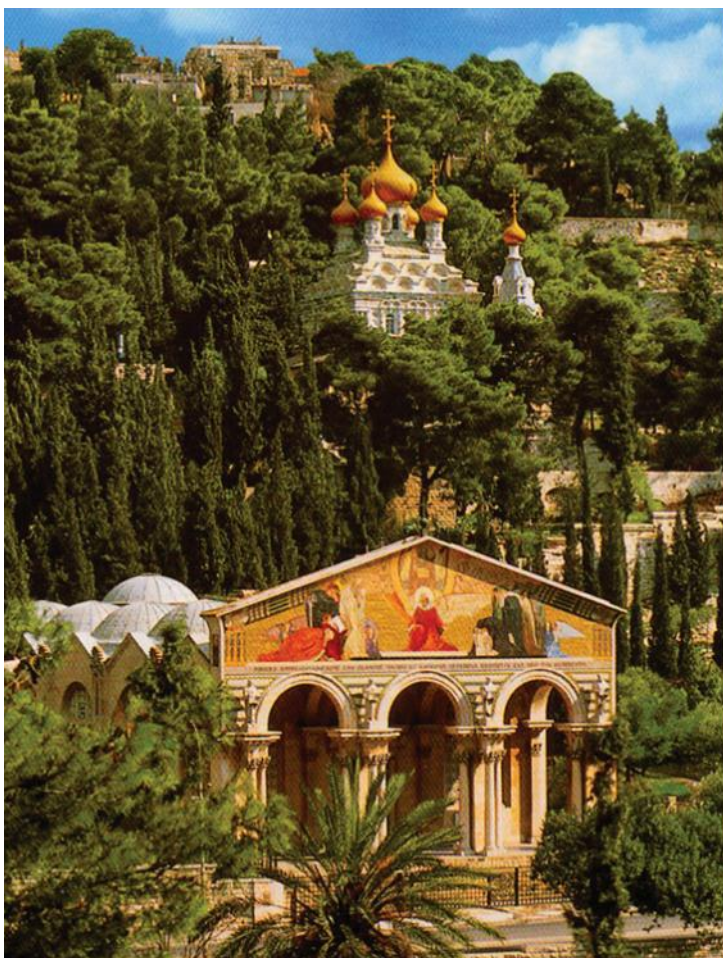


Day 5, Friday 20 April

This morning we leave Jerusalem and drive to the town of Bethlehem passing through the check-point in the partition wall. The day will be devoted to discovering more about Incarnation and the gift of life in all its abundance. We will visit the Shepherds' Fields where we will celebrate the Eucharist and the Church of the Nativity, the oldest complete church in Christendom as well as some remarkable institutions run by the Christian community of the 'little town',

Day 5 continued

including the Holy Family Hospital (which provides western standard neo-natal care only a short walk from where Jesus was born) and the cultural centre and college created by Mitri Raheb, the Lutheran pastor of Bethlehem. If time permits we will also visit one of the refugee camps some of which date back to the 1948 Israeli/Arab war. Return to Jerusalem in good time for Dinner and overnight stay. After dinner we will have an opportunity to explore the Old City and the Western Wall at the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath. Overnight stay in Jerusalem.



Day 6, Saturday 21 April

We leave after breakfast and drive to the Israel Museum to visit the Shrine of the Book and the model of Jerusalem based around the time of Jesus. We then drive to the summit of the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the Old Walled city and its magnificent medieval walls. We then trace Jesus' Palm Sunday journey from Bethphage down the mountain. We will stop at two churches on the way before reaching the Garden of Gethsemane and the



profoundly moving Church of the Agony. After a break for lunch we ascend Mount Zion to visit sites associated with the Last Supper, the Day of Pentecost, and the falling asleep of Mary, before finishing our day at the church of St Peter in Gallicantu and recalling Peter's betrayal of Jesus. Return to our hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.



Day 7, Sunday 22 April

On this, the first day of the week, we will attend the Eucharist at the mother church of Anglicanism in the Holy Land, St George's Cathedral in East Jerusalem. Late morning we will visit the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism and if permitted we will ascend the Temple Mount to view the Dome of the Rock and mosque of Al Aqsa. After a break for lunch we will proceed to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum and Park. Return to our hotel in good time to relax before dinner.



Day 8, Monday 23 April

This morning we walk the Way of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa through the narrow streets of the Old City of Jerusalem culminating in the extraordinary Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed to be built over the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection. The afternoon will be free to allow time to revisit favourite sites or looking for bargains in the souks of the Old City. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.



Day 9, Tuesday 24 April

We leave Jerusalem after an early breakfast and drive down to the Dead Sea stopping briefly in Wadi Qelt for a view of St George's Monastery which clings precariously to the cliff face of the valley. We will drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to Mount Masada which we ascend by cable car to visit Herod's stepped Palace complex. It was on this flat-topped mountain that the Jewish Partisans committed mass suicide during the Jewish revolt against Rome. Afterwards we will have the opportunity to bathe in the unique mineral laden waters of the Dead



Sea, before returning towards Jerusalem. We will stop in Qumran enroute, the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered and which led to the excavations of the nearby Essene Monastery from where the scrolls probably originated. We will celebrate our final Eucharist in the Holy Land on the rooftop of our hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.



Day 10, Wednesday 25 April

After packing our bags we will head west towards the Mediterranean and the airport, stopping at the town of Abu Ghosh, one of the possible sites of Emmaus before heading on to the airport for our journey home, to tell all those whom we meet about what has happened to us on the road...

Please note this touring programme may be subject to minor local amendments

INCLUSIVE HOLY LAND TOUR COST - £1995

All Lightline tours are carefully calculated to include all items necessary to complete your tour at the advertised price.

- ✓ **Scheduled flights on EL AL Israel Airlines from London Heathrow Airport**
London Heathrow / Tel Aviv LY 316 14:15 / 21:45
Tel Aviv / London Heathrow LY 317 16:45 / 20:05
Please note the above flights and time are approximate and subject to change
- ✓ **All airport departure & passenger taxes (UK & Israel)**
- ✓ **Accommodation at the following selected guest houses & hotels:**
All rooms have ensuite facilities and are fully air-conditioned.
Galilee - Pilgerhaus (Benedictine guest house by the Sea of Galilee)
Jerusalem - Gloria Hotel (within the walls of the Old City, Jaffa Gate)
- ✓ **Full board basis throughout (breakfast, snack lunch & dinner)**
- ✓ **All entrance fees and local government taxes**
- ✓ **Qualified English speaking guide throughout the tour**
- ✓ **All touring in modern air-conditioned tourist coaches**

The only items not included in the price are:

Single room (*limited availability*) £546, Travel insurance, Gratuities (£8 a day) and any items of a personal nature (*laundry & drinks etc*).

TRAVELLING ON YOUR OWN

A large proportion of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive "single room" supplements. Please indicate this on your booking form (share twin-bedded room) and we will accommodate you with a person of the same sex also travelling alone and would also like to share a room. If we are unable to accommodate you in a shared twin, we will place you in single room at only half the cost (50%) of the usual single supplement. If you require Single accommodation (if available) you should request this when booking and the appropriate supplement will apply.

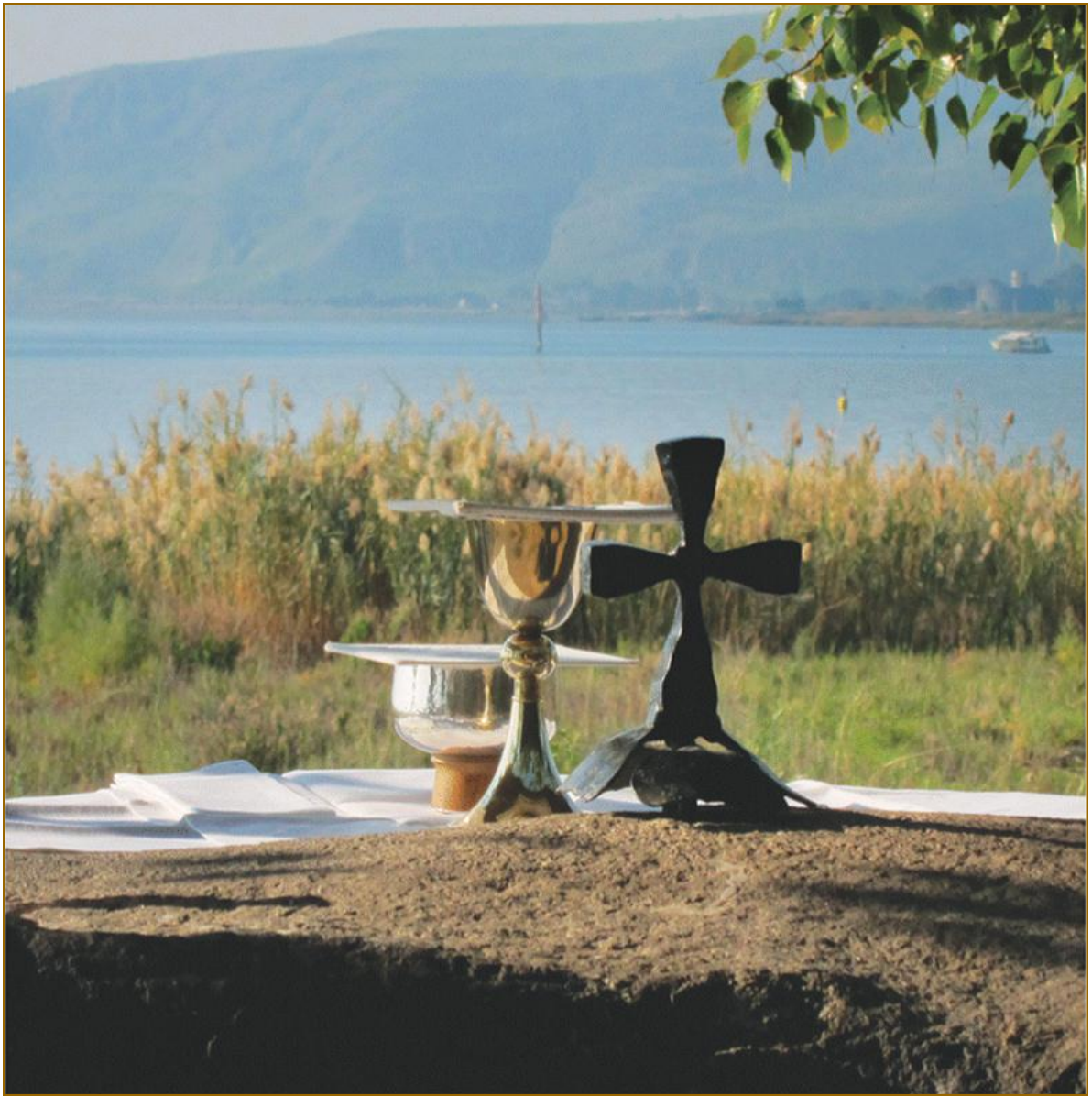
PASSPORTS, VISAS & HEALTH

A full valid 10 year passport is necessary for all our tours. Please check **NOW** that it is valid for the duration of your tour and validity runs for a further 6 months after your return to the UK. British passport holders will be issued a visa free of charge on arrival in the Holy Land. Holders of other passports please contact Lightline Pilgrimages on 01992 576065 for advice. No inoculations are required, however we advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

Please read the booking conditions and complete the enclosed booking form and send it, with a deposit of £250 and insurance premium (if required) per person to:

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