

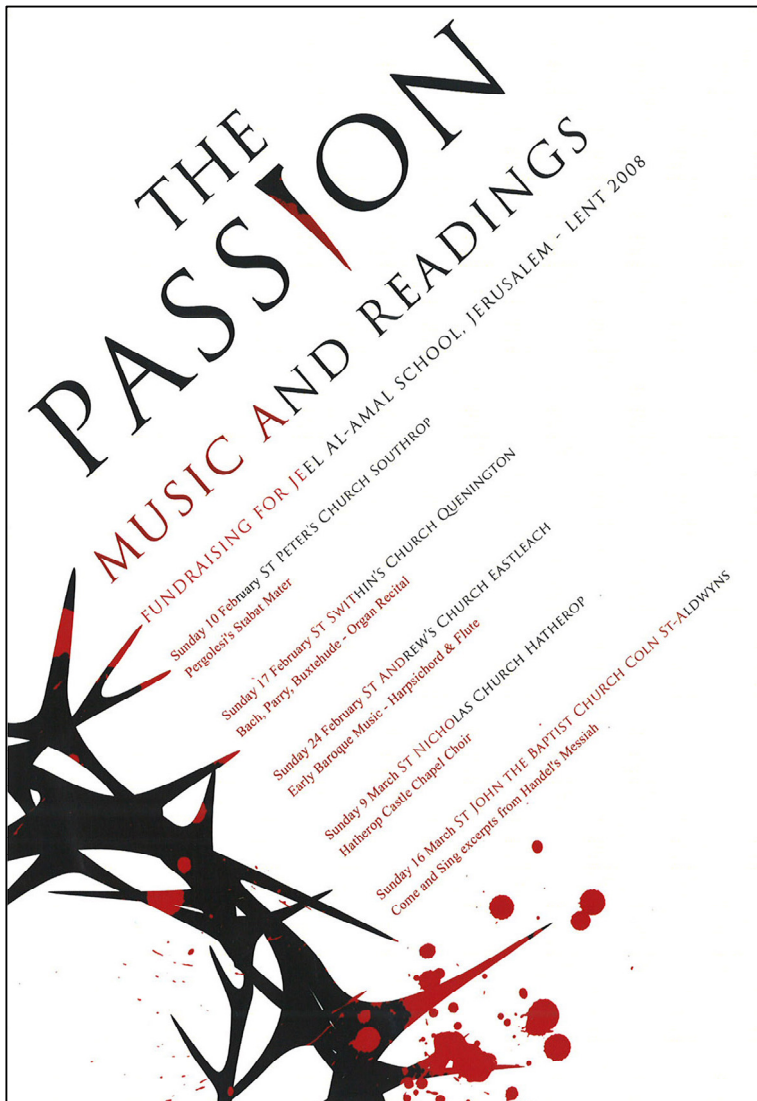
The McCabe Educational Trust

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2008

We are grateful to all the supporters of McCabe who helped us distribute £130,000 to very worthwhile ventures in the last year.

A special **Thank You** to McCabe pilgrims who helped us raise **£14,278** during March - a total of **£59,828** so far this year!

With your help, we will continue helping those in need we encounter on our travels.



Concerts for Jeel al Amal

“We thank the parishioners and friends of Canon Tony Ross of Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop, Eastleach, Quenington and Southrop in the Diocese of Gloucester, who have contributed so much to Jeel al-Amal over a period of some 11 years.

The local parishes are blessed with a number of talented musicians so the idea blossomed of telling the Passion story through the Gospels in a number of concert performances.

Tony first travelled out to the Holy Land – and visited Jeel al-Amal - in January 1997, on a McCabe educational trip for tour leaders. He subsequently led two groups from his benefice in 1998 and 2000. As a result of these visits, encouraged by Tony, word of the work of Alice and the school grew throughout the parishes, and locals have really taken the orphanage to their hearts.

Money has been raised, for example, through Lent, Harvest and Christmas appeals and up to this year the total raised was the fantastic amount of £30,000.

Now due for retirement, Tony wanted to have one last major fundraising effort on behalf of Jeel, and these concerts were his initiative.

From tickets sold and donations offered, over £8,000 was raised. The concerts were very popular and well-supported. This was a truly wonderful effort and the amount raised will make a real difference to Jeel. We wish Tony well in his retirement and thank him, the concert performers, and so many from the area who have all contributed so generously.”

Jeel al-Amal

Jeel al-Amal (Generation of Hope) School and Boys Home was founded in 1972 by two Christian Palestinians, Alice and her husband Basil Sahhar in the village of Bethany to the east of Jerusalem. The home is still managed by Alice. (Her daughter, Samar, looks after the Lazarus Home for Girls, next door) There are more than 600 children in the primary school and 80 boys living in the Boys Home.

Many of the boys are orphans or have endured terrible domestic problems but under the loving care of Alice and her staff the transformations are often remarkable.

The boys come from Jerusalem and from towns and villages in the West Bank.



Life is difficult and trying in Bethany with many restrictions on what we would consider a 'normal' way of living. Once a short hop from the Old City, Bethany is now a lengthy detour around the new Israeli security wall. The staff are concerned that when the wall is finished they may no longer have access to Jerusalem.

[Will pilgrims still be able to visit them?](#) Already it is a longer journey and we are grateful to all those groups from McCabes who continue to make the trip.

While there is little material wealth, the love and devotion of the staff are reflected in the perfect manners and sunny dispositions of the children.

Some older boys go on to further education at secondary schools and get jobs which would have been impossible without the help of Jeel. Many have gone on to help their families financially. This can be vital set against the dire economic situation that prevails in the West Bank and Gaza today. Jeel al Amal changes lives and many are the pilgrims who over the years have been moved and amazed by its work.

The McCabe Educational Trust supports the running costs of Jeel with a monthly remittance and, with your help, we are now embarking on a programme of capital improvements beginning with much needed new bathrooms in the dormitories.

JEEL AL AMAL relies almost totally on voluntary donations. Please remember Jeel in your thoughts and prayers. Your contributions to this wonderful place ARE appreciated and are enormously beneficial.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please subscribe by visiting our newly updated website at: www.mccabe-travel.co.uk



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