Sabeel-Kairos
Christian Action for Palestine

Sabeel-Kairos Annual Report, 2025-26

Forward by Charlotte Marshall, Director.



I'm delighted to bring you this annual report covering our work from 2025-2026, which attests to the dedication, commitment and passion of our staff, trustees, volunteers, members and supporters. Without many of you, our work in challenging, informing and resourcing the UK Churches would not be possible, so I hope this report is read as a reflection of the success of all of our combined efforts as we seek to stand in costly solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters. Thank you for your part in that!

As our AGM takes place in October, our annual report each year runs from September – September. This year we have so many highlights to report on that it is difficult to fit them all in! We had a hugely successful UK Conference and advocacy tour with Revd Ashraf Tannous and Sahar Francis in October, followed by the launch of the Kairos II document – *Faith in a Time of Genocide* in November in Bethlehem, which has now become a central part of our advocacy work (more on that below). In Advent/Christmas, we ran our own service on Palestine for the first time and then launched our Christmas Appeal which raised over £20,000 for projects in Palestine.

The aggressive US war on Iran stopped all travel plans for the first half of 2026, and partners were dealing with even more restrictions on their movement and threats to their lives from the consequences of yet another war they found themselves trapped in the middle of. For us, we focused on making as many of their voices available online as possible, running a very successful Lent series on the Kairos II document, and a number of webinars for general synod members, with the Kairos Palestine Carlisle motion finally on the agenda for July. This was an intense period of preparation, leading to a fantastic result at General Synod with a large majority voting in favour of the motion, including 25 out of 30 Bishops! We are indebted to Father Fadi for his dedication to helping us achieve this result, and his humble and kind attitude to all those at Synod that he met.

At the same time as all of this was taking place, we were also at the forefront of bringing together a new coalition of Christian agencies, churches and networks working for justice and peace for all in the Holy Land. The Just Peace Coalition launched in June, with its first campaign, "Time to Act". We are delighted to be joining with others with a united voice for justice, accountability and dignity for all. And then in August, many of you joined us at Greenbelt, which continues to be a highlight of the year!

The situation in Palestine is a sharp contrast to the positivity above. Gaza is still being starved and bombed, and the West Bank has seen an unprecedented rise in settler violence, displacing thousands in the first few months of the year. The UK Government's decision to ban trade and services with settlements, whilst long overdue, must give us hope that our combined campaigning and advocacy efforts are worthwhile, and the encouragement to keep going. We look forward to joining together with you in 2027 to achieve even more in the pursuit of justice.

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Key moments

Church of England General Synod



The focus of our work in the churches this year has very much been on the Church of England, with the much-awaited Carlisle Diocesan Synod Motion on Kairos Palestine finally being scheduled for the July 2026 General Synod in York. After 4 years of waiting, this was expected to cause some controversy and challenge, so we wanted to give as many synod members as possible chance to hear from Palestinian Christians and be equipped to speak in the debate.

Our work began in earnest in February, when we took Dalia Qumsieh, a Palestinian lawyer and Sabeel-Kairos trustee, to speak at a fringe event at the February general synod in London. We were delighted to have a full house, including several bishops and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, who welcomed Dalia. Following February's synod, we began a series of webinars with Palestinian speakers covering a variety of topics including both theological and practical. We hosted two webinars specifically for Bishops to come and ask questions about the motion, and we worked alongside the National Investing Bodies to promote their webinar on their investment policy to all general synod members. The Kairos Palestine support group within General Synod grew throughout this time, giving us plenty of people who were equipped to speak during the debate, and to counter any negative responses to the motion. This proved vitally important, and we are so grateful to all those that contributed so significantly in the debate.

General Synod itself was a whirlwind of events! There was a concentrated effort to derail the motion before it was even debated, with prominent members of Jewish establishments raising their voices against the motion in the press and with the Church of England itself. We are hugely grateful to Revd Richard Sewell of St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem who wrote to all Synod members encouraging them not to be silenced. Despite all the negative press and pressure, the debate did go ahead, and the arguments against the motion fell significantly short of all the positive speeches in favour, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York, both of whom backed the motion with minor amendments. At the end of the debate the votes were as follows:

Bishops	**Lay**	**Clergy**
For: 25	For: 113	For: 115
Against: 0	Against: 27	Against: 20
Abstained: 5	Abstained: 35	Abstained: 30

The success of this motion was a huge moment for all of us involved – Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe who presented the motion, Bishop Rachel Treweek who extended every support she could, Valerie Hallard whose early deanery synod motion set the whole thing in motion all those years ago, and the partners that we worked with, Christian Aid and Embrace, and of course, our Palestinian colleagues and friends represented by Father Fadi who joined us at Synod. We wish to extend our deepest thanks to all of those listed above, and the many others that contributed behind the scenes. Our Palestinian brothers and sisters described it as a *'moment of hope in the darkness'* and that is a perfect description of what costly solidarity is all about. You can read the final text of the motion here: Kairos Palestine (GS 2451A and GS 2451B)

Methodist Conference



Although our staff time this year has been taken up by support for the Carlisle motion, our supporters and campaigners in the Methodist Church were busy passing their own resolutions at Conference! We were delighted to see them both receive, and commit to study the Kairos II document, and also host Father Fadi who gave an inspiring speech in the main conference. Prominent Methodists including the Conference president, Mark Slaney, also supported the launch of the Time to Act campaign. We are grateful to our methodist members who attended conference, handed out resources, and who continue to raise Palestine at all levels of the Methodist Church.

Time to Act



The creation of the Just Peace coalition and the Time to Act campaign is a response to the call from our Palestinian brothers and sisters that the Church needs to wake up and take urgent action if they want the Christian presence in the Holy Land to remain there.

A group of agencies, including Sabeel-Kairos UK, have worked tirelessly over the last 6 months to bring together this coalition – now with over 20 organisations and churches as partners – and to launch the Time to Act campaign,



which calls on the Churches to campaign in four key policy areas. It also equips and mobilises Christians to respond to the calls from Palestinians through the framework of Listen, Learn, Live and Act.

After launching in June, we have already hosted several events, both online and in person, bringing together Christians across all denominations to campaign for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home. We recently organized a Walk of Witness between the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and the Anglican Cathedral, culminating in an event where Daoud Nassar spoke about the Tent of Nations as an example of the injustices that Palestinian landowners are up against. We then held another event with Daoud in London at St John's Waterloo where we showed a powerful film about the encroaching Israeli settlements in Beit Sahour threatening the lives of the largest population of Palestinian Christians in the West Bank. You can view that film here, and please share it with your church!

If you have not already signed up to be part of the Time to Act campaign, we would really encourage you to do so. Our combined voice is a powerful one, and the unified message can reach areas of the Church that individually are hard to be heard in. You can get involved by visiting the Just Peace Coalition website: Home - Just Peace Coalition.

Greenbelt



We were able to expand our profile and reach at Greenbelt this year as we ran and collaborated on a number of workshops over the course of the weekend which were well attended. We were also delighted to have the Sabeel Wave of Prayer included in the Communion service, and to have Revd Munther Isaac join us for the launch of the Time to Act campaign. It was great to know that we were amplifying Palestinian voices and equipping people to be able to take action for Palestine. Here are Claire's reflections on the experience this year:

*"I couldn't have done it without the most AWESOME team of volunteers. An absolute privilege to work with **Sabeel-Kairos: Seeking a just peace for Palestine** sharing resources, chatting with festival goers about actions they can take to stand in costly solidarity with Palestinians, we ran workshops that were so well attended, and were able to give away 1200 copies of the Kairos II booklet which will be going back to churches all around the country. Absolutely exhausted and in need of a shower but wouldn't want it any other way"*

Amplifying Palestinian Voices

October 2025 Conference and advocacy tour



It's hard to put into words what a wonderful day we had meeting together for our Conference. It was such an honour to hear from our Palestinian speakers who had given up their precious time when things really are so dire; to come and share with us. I think we were all collectively horrified by some of the things they told us, challenged to keep using our voices, our agency and our actions to not give up until Palestine is free, and inspired too by their sumud. We had some wonderful exhibitors who also gave up their time to share their creativity with us, highlighting and amplifying the power of art to bring change to a broken world. We ate Palestinian treats baked with love by the most beautiful Palestinian women who send all their profits to Gaza. And in the afternoon we welcomed Sangita Myska and Owen Jones to chair and join our panel and they were brilliant. To conclude our conference we gathered on the street in the centre of Waterloo to remember innocent Gazan children; killed by Israel over the last two years, as an act of public witness. Many people stopped to listen as they were passing by.



As well as the UK Conference, we also hosted our two Palestinian speakers for a whole week of events. Revd Ashraf Tannous and Sahar Francis took part in a variety of events across a week, including a packed event in Leeds Minster, a demonstration in Southport, a theological discussion in the URC, an evening at Cambridge University, and a reception in the House of Lords hosted by Baroness Helena Kennedy. And we made sure they had time for some sightseeing too!

Father Fadi's UK Tour

Father Fadi joined us in July primarily for general synod, but whilst he was here, we also had the wonderful opportunity to take him to speak at St Albans Cathedral.

Joined by the Very Revd Nicholas Papadopulos, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, together through conversation they explored the many challenges facing Palestinian Christians in Fadi's parish in Birzeit, Ramallah. The event attracted over 150 people and was the first of its kind in the Cathedral.



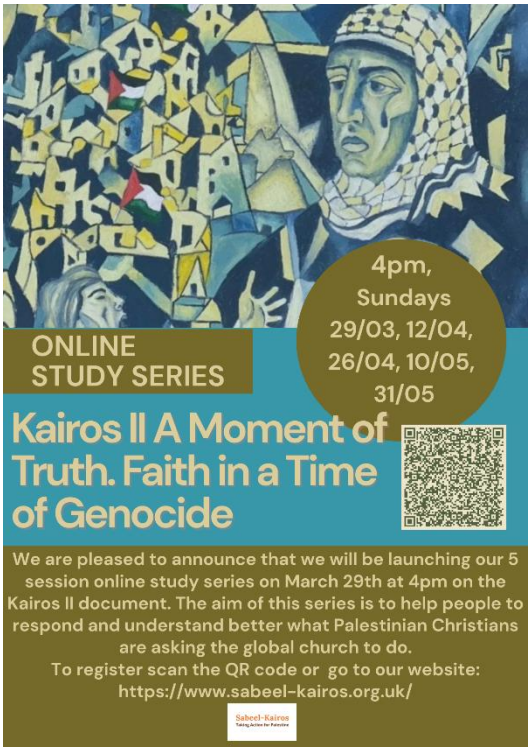
Father Fadi continued his tour after general synod with events in Warrington and at Beverley Minster which were also very successful and well attended.

John Munayer Book Launch – the Cross and the Olive Tree

We were delighted to work with John in September to host two events where he spoke about his new book, The Cross and the Olive Tree. Our theology lead Professor Esther McIntosh joined John in these events, speaking in person in Leeds about her experience in the West Bank, and online through York St John University. We hope to build on this and bring John back soon for a full book tour in person!

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Kairos II Online Study Series



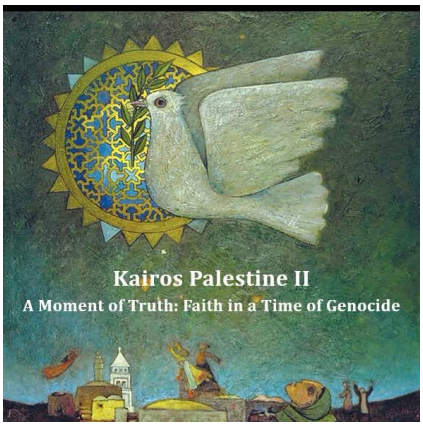
In March we launched the online study series for the Kairos II Document;

The study was an in-depth dive into the document, looking at its themes and calls to stand in costly solidarity with Palestinians. Led by members of the Events and Campaigns team, the 5-week course was such a success that we are hoping to develop training for our members to deliver a study with their own congregations and communities, as well as looking at running another study next year.

Rifat Kassis opened the series with a compelling call to the Church to engage with and listen to the witness of Palestinian Christians as expressed in the document.

All of the talks have now been made into short videos for you to use in your own church, for example in small groups. You can find them all here: Sabeel-Kairos YouTube Channel

New resource: Kairos II Booklets



Earlier in the year one of our amazing members, Linda Rose caught the vision to get the KII document printed in the UK, to get it into the hands of people who wouldn't necessarily read it otherwise. Being a creative herself, Linda envisaged a beautiful little booklet that could easily be tucked into a pocket or a handbag, and she has not disappointed! Renowned Palestinian artist Sliman Mansour, who sadly passed away in the summer agreed to the use of his artworks for the project, and with the help of Linda's husband Dave who organised all of the design elements, and fundraising herself for the entire first print run, the project launched.There has been a huge demand for the booklets, and we have now just taken delivery of the third print run. 16,000 booklets have been distributed to churches and individuals all over the country. We are so grateful to Linda and her vision for this project, all of the hard work that has gone into it by herself and her husband plus her team of volunteers posting out the booklets.

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If you would like to order free copies of the booklet, please go to sabeel-kairos-uk.sumupstore.com. If you would like to contribute to the crowdfunder for printing the booklets please go to Kairos II, a Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide

Communications and Media



It has been really encouraging to have increased our follower numbers on our social media platforms by a large amount this year with 1300 new followers on both Facebook and Instagram.

There have been a few occasions during the year where our posts have had increased engagement and have been shared widely promoting the work we do.

We shared a number of posts during the advent period where we challenged the perceptions of Bethlehem and Palestine at Christmas. These received hundreds of likes and many people shared them over the month of December.

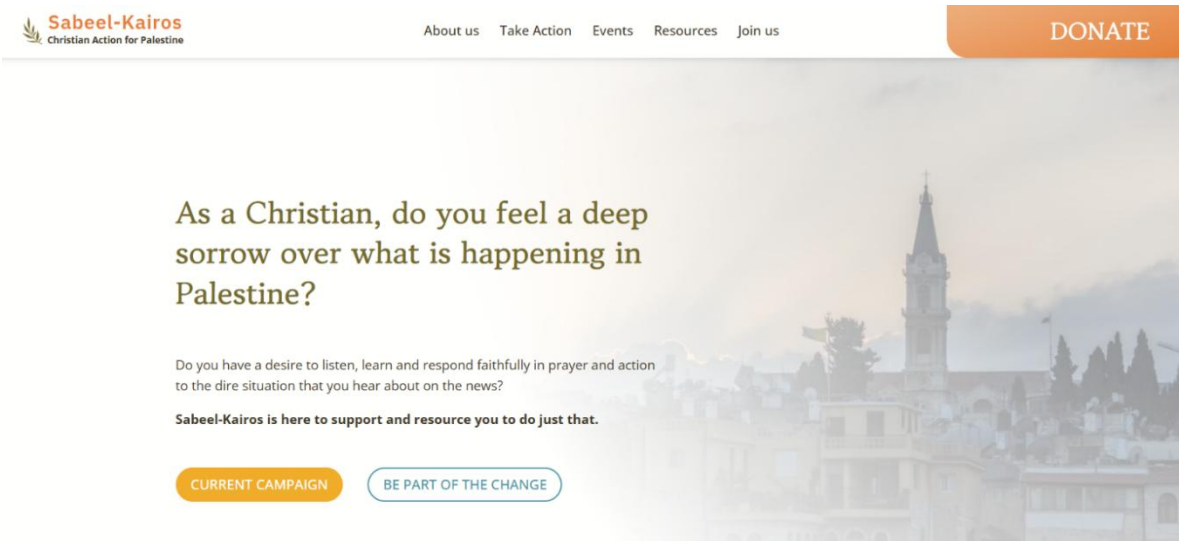


Our coverage of the General Synod debate on social media drew a surprisingly large audience and you could say we went viral! One post had 1700 likes and our video of the results of the debate had 38K views!

New website!

This year we have also worked with a website developer to launch a new look and feel to our website!

Designed to draw people immediately into ways that they can get involved in our work, as well as inspiring them with the wealth of resources and events we offer, this has been a steep learning curve for us, but we are delighted with the outcome! Please visit Sabeel-Kairos | Taking Action for Palestine to see our new look.



Press

Following the general synod debate there was substantial interest from both faith based and secular media of the event – including the reactions from Palestinian Christians to the vote. Charlotte was interviewed by The New Arab, and featured in UK Column News Daily live show as well as being quoted in the Church Times and other faith-based press alongside Father Fadi. We were delighted to see Munther Isaac's opinion piece feature in Aljazeera - The Church of England has taken a long-overdue step on Palestine | Opinions | Al Jazeera and other articles popped up for several weeks after the synod!

Fundraising and Membership

Christmas Appeal 2025

For the first time, we ran our Christmas Appeal through the national ***Big Give*** match-funding platform. Although we were not allocated match funding from ***Big Give*** donors, Sabeel-Kairos members generously pledged £5,100 in match funding, setting an initial total fundraising target of £10,200.



Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our members and supporters, we far exceeded this target, raising **a record-breaking £20,540, including Gift Aid**. This was our most successful Christmas Appeal to date and a testament to the commitment and generosity of our members and supporters. The funds raised supported two vital projects in Palestine:

Sabeel Needy Families Fund – providing food and energy grants to Palestinian families facing hardship.

EJ-YMCA (in partnership with Kairos Palestine)– funded an activity day for 400 displaced children aged 8–15 in Zababdeh, offering opportunities for recreation, connection and positive experiences amid the great challenges they face.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this remarkable achievement, helping us provide practical support and solidarity to Palestinian families and children.

Join Us in June



In early 2026, the Membership and Fundraising Officer, Ruth Thomas, undertook a series of coaching sessions with fundraising consultant Sian Wrangles. These sessions informed the development of a fundraising plan, which included the ***Join Us in June*** campaign.

The campaign aimed to grow membership and, in particular, increase the stability and predictability of income by encouraging supporters to make regular monthly or annual membership contributions, rather than relying on one-off annual donations. Once again Sabeel-Kairos members match funded this campaign by pledging money that would be used to double regular giving over 12 months.

£6,590.70 was pledged, and we raised a total **of £13,181.40 in regular income for the charity.**

During the month of June:

- 32 new members signed up to give monthly, 18 of these giving £10 or more a month
- 20 existing members increased their monthly giving

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Thank you to all of you who made this possible! If you are interested in contributing to a match fund for future Christmas or membership campaigns, please get in touch with Ruth info@sabeel-kairos.org.uk

Membership Overall: Total Members – **568**. Since January 2026 we have welcomed **62 new members, most of whom are giving monthly between £2.50 and £50 a month.**

Increasing the proportion of regular contributions will help Sabeel-Kairos forecast income more reliably and plan ahead with greater confidence. It will also reduce administrative costs by minimising the need to issue renewal reminders, while growing our movement by encouraging more people to become involved in and support our work.

Kairos II Booklets: Thank you also to everyone who has contributed to the cost of printing Kairos II booklets that have been distributed widely over the past few months.

This year we would also like to say a special thank you to Chas and Nicola who have started a Sabeel-Kairos prayer group online that meets every 6 weeks. Members who come have commented on how helpful they find it to come together and pray for the work of Sabeel-Kairos and an encouragement in these difficult times for Palestine. We are also grateful to Chas and Nicola for meeting with us as a staff team and praying for us and encouraging us so much. Thank you!

Thank you for reading our annual report, and we look forward to the year ahead, working alongside all of our members, campaigners and volunteers as we live out the call to costly solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Palestine.

With thanks and gratitude,

Charlotte, Ruth, Claire and the Sabeel-Kairos Board of Trustees.

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