**WORDS OF HOPE #8**

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**PALMISTE MARATHON — MARCH 2020**

**RUN IN THE SHADOW OF THE WALL**

MONDAY 23 — SATURDAY 28 MARCH
Join Team Amos and run the eighth annual Palestine full or half marathon in Bethlehem. The marathon was set up to raise awareness of the fact that you can’t run 26 miles in the ‘Little Town’ without going through a checkpoint or literally hitting the Wall. Full details can be found at amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2020

GREENBELT FESTIVAL — a weekend hosting Palestinian cooking demonstrations, then a dash down to Bordeaux to cycle to Santiago. The line-up for once in a lifetime, our Climate Justice summit had fallen into place just before I left, so I headed off with its themes running through my head. I found myself on empty roads in the midst of the most staggering scenery, in awe of the wonder of creation that was opening up in front of me. I could find no words to express my deep gratitude for all this reckless beauty and was so aware of our mad charge to cast it all away.

Young people’s participation in the Climate summit was the high point. The Friday before, we had accepted their invitation to join the climate strikes and their challenge to the summit was just as strong. The summit had many special moments, Dámaris and Gilberto from Nicaragua, the women’s panel, the call to act locally, the reminder that there are so many different ways we can respond and that we all have to be involved. It finished with a time to be quiet in Cambridge’s Botanic Gardens and I was once again soaking up and being fed by our planet’s beauty.

AMOS DAY and the film ‘Gaza’ — throughout history Gaza has been described as a beautiful garden, full of orchards with the sea on one side and the plains of Palestine (Israel today), on the other. Now, it is one of the most over-populated places on earth, teetering on the edge of becoming uninhabitable. Extinction Rebellion protests that shut down large areas of Westminster — I had never been to such a protest before where so many people were prepared to get arrested. It was an inspirational demonstration of the power of non-violence. Yet even as I walked through the crowds, I couldn’t help but think of the non-violent protests happening every week in Gaza in which over 10,000 young people have been shot.

CHRISTMAS, PEACE ON EARTH — I am reminded that the Christmas call for peace is not a festive wish, rather it’s the most ludicrous gamble — as ludicrous as hoping that a tiny, powerless baby, born in an occupied town, will be able to turn the world upside-down. And I know that’s the sort of peace I long for this Christmas.
As the situation is so difficult (over 60% of young people and 70% of women, are unemployed), NECC now provides micro-loans, mentoring and a variety of pathways into employment.

“In Gaza we live a tragedy, desperately trying to survive. We try to live, grow up, work and travel, but we are in a prison. But we do not give up.”

As the title rolled at the start of the film ‘Gaza’ at Amos Day in London a few weeks ago, I could feel an unbearable sadness welling up in me. It’s a sadness so acute that I could barely watch the film. It’s a sadness that I feel every time I plan to visit Gaza. I felt it when I started writing this article — checking the numbers killed and the latest restrictions imposed on 2 million people trying to survive in this 25-mile long strip of land.

But my sadness is only the faintest shadow of the unbearable sadness that every day constrains my friend Ahmed’s chest and seems to get tighter and tighter. As Ahmed’s chest and seems to get tighter and tighter. It’s a sadness that is consistently one of the highpoints of each visit. As I start to write this article, I am confronted with the reality that without work or a home they will be unable to get married or raise a family. It is not surprising that so many young people do not have hope in their future.

Yet meeting the young people in the NECC courses is one of the highpoints of each visit. They are the reason that this support would soon end. Lead, that had decimated Gaza and led to so much loss of life. All the students on the course received their GED (General Educational Development) certificates, which travel undoubtedly is, or the privilege of being able to get up (we are very fortunate to get infrequent visas), but the privilege of meeting our partners and friends in Gaza. The privilege of gaining an insight into their lives and how they get up each morning in order to give hope to the young people that they work with.

Over the next months you will meet a number of these people through our Ahlan Gaza campaign. You will meet young people that Luma sat and laughed with, women Jane chatted with on the beach and a whole lead of other people striving to live a normal life in Gaza. You will also meet members of the NECC team. NECC now a wide range of programmes with families, children and young people. We seek to raise awareness of the challenges that these people through our Ahlan Gaza campaign. You will meet young people that they work with.

As the situation is so difficult (over 60% of young people and 70% of women, are unemployed), they now provide micro-loans, mentoring and a variety of pathways into employment.

Amos Director CHRIS ROSE writes about the ‘privilege’ of being able to visit our friends in Gaza and why supporting our partner NECC is as important now as it ever was.
Karin Joseph shares a story from Umthombo’s girls’ outreach team in Durban.

**Sibongile has big dreams about her life... although she realises some of the opportunities which have passed her by, she has confidence and is self-driven to try all over again.” — Hloniphile, Lead Girls’ Outreach Worker**

Umthombo is not only the patience and time invested in the young people and that ability to journey with them through all the changing circumstances of their lives but also the sense of family that comes along with that. When Sibongile left the streets in March 2019, two boys in Umthombo’s post-off program helped her to pack and move her belongings from the abandoned building where she was living and helped her to build her shack. Umthombo staff were touched by the solidarity they witnessed in these moments.

Yet, as with any of our lives, the unexpected can be just around the corner. In April this year, Durban was hit by unprecedented flooding from storms linked to Cyclone Idai which devastated Mozambique and Umthombo further north. Sibongile’s newly-built shack was among the homes ruined by these floods, and she had to move back to the abandoned building she had been living in on the streets.

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Umthombo has managed to help create a foundation with Sibongile, upon which she can build a future. Whilst no-one knows what lies ahead, the team will stay in contact with her and continue to support her on this journey.

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Yesterday I phoned Croydon Council and asked if they’d declared a climate emergency. “Oh sorry,” said the frontline receptionist, “I’m not sure who you would need to speak to about that.” Whether Croydon Council declares a climate emergency or not, the facts are inescapable. In September 2018, the UN Secretary General warned us that humanity and life on Earth now face a “direct existential threat.” We were told that the world must act swiftly and robustly to stop global warming under 1.5°C and try to avoid utterly catastrophic impacts to life on Earth. Furthermore, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that we only had 12 years left to prevent irreversible damage from the impact of climate change. In response to this growing urgency, on 23-24 September, Amos Trust, in partnership with A Rocha UK, held its first ever Climate Justice summit in Cambridge — bringing together over 100 activists, artists, faith groups, it was a chance to see what others were doing and share strategies for hope and resilience to what can sometimes seem like a never-ending struggle.

Vital to the summit were voices from the global south — reports from those for whom the effects of climate change are already all too obvious. Dálmais E. Albuquerque from Amos partner CEPIA in Nicaragua shared how water shortages where she lives now mean that water is only available every 48 hours — “so people are learning to be resourceful,” she says. But Dálmais says she is lucky. “I know others who can only get water once a week.” Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere and has been affected by political instability and, according to the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index, it is the fourth most at risk nation in the world due to changing climates. But Dálmais says she is lucky: “I know others who can only get water once a week.” Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and has been affected by political instability and, according to the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index, it is the fourth most at risk nation in the world due to changing climates.

While the global north has huge responsibilities as the main contributor of emissions, it must get its own house in order rather than prescribing solutions for those facing the immediate consequences of climate change. Dálmais continues. “We have a saying, which is that only the person who walks in the shoe, knows how the shoe feels. We at CEPIA believe in supporting local communities in Nicaragua to identify and prioritise their own needs.” Environmental and gender justice writer Susan Buckingham told the conference how women in the global south are bearing the brunt of climate change through natural disasters which exacerbate existing inequalities such as domestic and sexual violence and forced migration. However, women are frequently the ones in local communities who can bring a voice from the edge, unite people and lead quiet but effective movements for change. When asked to name prominent female environmental champions, writer, broadcaster and Christian feminist Elaine Stone replied: “It’s hard to single out particular names because as women, that is not how we operate. We work together in sisterhoods, finding solidarity across faith groups.”

One of the most memorable sessions was when the stage was occupied by a group of young people. Passionate about the future of our planet, they shared their motivations. Sienna Sexton from Just Love, an absolute love for the world and the people in it. “It is easy to get overwhelmed by the forces of the vested interests in the fossil fuel economy, the inner forces of weariness and doubt can plunge our spirits into hopelessness.” He explained how faith and spirituality can be the wellsprings of hope that we need to keep going. As Jenny Rosenberg, Head of Campaign Activism at Friends of the Earth said, “We need movement generosity.” Our best hope of fixing climate change is in the time left to build a huge and diverse group of people-powered action strong enough to force the hands of governments. The planet is facing its biggest crisis ever and with so much that needs to be done we can feel overwhelmed especially when we feel so responsible.

However, we mustn’t confuse being culpable with being responsible. Most of us have not set the investment strategies of pension funds, or decided to maximise the extraction of fossil fuels or been responsible for promoting the misinformation of the climate change deniers. So where does that leave us? Please visit amostrust.org/climate-actions to see some of the wide-range of actions you can take.

We have to act and we need to start small and build from there. As we act we must also remind ourselves why we are doing it. We act out of a deep love for creation, in recognition of our interconnectedness and for the sake of our children. Without a personal spirituality, activists become burnt out and may not sustain their involvement.

As Jenny Rosenberg, Head of Campaign Activism at Friends of the Earth said, “We need movement generosity.” Our best hope of fixing climate change is in the time left to build a huge and diverse group of people-powered action strong enough to force the hands of governments. The planet is facing its biggest crisis ever and with so much that needs to be done we can feel overwhelmed especially when we feel so responsible.

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Footnote:

“As it happens — they did. On 8 July 2019, a ‘Climate Emergency’ was declared and ambitious targets were set to make Croydon the most sustainable London borough. To find out more about Amos Trust’s Climate Justice work, please visit amostrust.org/climatejustice and to watch our short film from the summit, please visit vimeo.com/amostrust/hope.”
CLIMATE JUSTICE

REFLECTION

Climate Emergency: Women and children first
A poem by Robin Message

Robin Message is an Amos trustee. He wrote a poem in response to our ‘Once In A Lifetime’ Climate Justice summit which took place in Cambridge in September. He was responding particularly to the powerful panel discussions on how the climate crisis falls strongly on women and children, but also on how often women and children are the first to respond effectively to the crisis.

To read the poem in full, please visit amostrust.org/climate-emergency-poem

Climate Emergency: Women and children first

We are organising this special trip to see the progress that has been made, to understand the difficulties and challenges that cePad has overcome and to see what the future holds.

Part of this trip will be assisting us in our evaluation of this work and looking at how we can build support for a new five-year programme in the region.

You will spend time in each of the seven communities and also visit the neighbouring area of San Jose de los Remates to see the ongoing impact of cePad’s previous work.

You will visit some of the communities that have applied to join the next five year programme to learn about the issues cePad faces and their ideas for combating the destructive cycle of long periods of drought followed by catastrophic floods.

In addition, you will learn more about what the call for climate justice means from a Nicaraguan perspective and how it cannot be separated from the political events in this troubled country.

You will be staying in Teustepe — in a unique hotel that boasts a number of thermal pools and also in Managua, and will spend a mid-trip break on the volcanic Island of Ometepe on Lake Nicaragua.

While on Ometepe you will have the chance to climb the volcanoes, swim in the lake and visit the neighbouring islands.

Finally, you will visit the Avocado School in La Concepción, which Amos has been involved with since its inception, to hear about how the community is working together to make the school prosper.

For more information about this trip, please visit amostrust.org/nicaragua-2020

Nicaragua is one of the most beautiful, yet poorest, countries in the Western Hemisphere experiencing the onslaught of climate change and uncertainty about its future.

For the last five years Amos has been supporting our partner, cePad, as they work with seven, small rural villages around the town of Teustepe in the Boaco region of Nicaragua, equipping them to respond to the impact of climate change. This programme comes to a close at the end of 2019.

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24 FEBRUARY — 8 MARCH
NICARAGUA ADVENTURE
2020

NICARAGUA ADVENTURE
2020

"We are organising this special trip to see the progress that has been made, to understand the difficulties and challenges that cePad has overcome and to see what the future holds."
Participants at the first Once In A Lifetime Climate Justice summit share their hopes for the future — at St Paul’s Centre, Cambridge — 23rd & 24th September 2019
**AMOS MERCHANDISE**

**PERFECT GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS**

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**AMOS TRUST SHOPPER BAG** — perfect for popping to the shops or simply to roll up for when you really need it! These natural cotton shopper bags are a great alternative to a plastic carrier bag. Buy yours now! And maybe another one for a friend! only £4.99!

amostrust.org/shopper-bags

**“HOPE TASTES LIKE” COTTON APRONS**

Our new “Hope Tastes Like” aprons are now available. Made from a thick natural cotton, the aprons are strong, practical, machine washable and have a handy pocket on the front. Roy. Please note that please to quote an order line number when ordering available.

amostrust.org/aprons

**“PEACE ON EARTH” CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Please show your support for Palestine by buying our new Peace On Earth Christmas cards. Proceeds from each pack will ultimately go towards our Christmas appeal supporting our work in the West Bank and Gaza.

amostrust.org/christmas-cards-2019

**ADVENT CANDLES FROM BETHLEHEM**

Produced and imported directly from the “Little Town”, these beeswax candles smell lovely and will provide light for all the family this Christmas. They make a wonderful gift to support our work in Palestine.

amostrust.org/advent-candles

**For full details of all Amos Trust merchandise and gifts, please visit amostrust.org/shop**

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**PHOTOGRAPHY:** © Amos Trust/Mark Stewart
Writing a charity into your will can be a daunting process. Amos’ Katie Hagley says it doesn’t have to be that way.

“Confession time – I’m not afraid to ask for money. I’m a fundraiser, it’s in my DNA and passionately believing in the work Amos does makes it a whole lot easier. Yet sometimes it feels hard to ask supporters to think about leaving a legacy. It shouldn’t. I know leaving a legacy is one of the best ways to support Amos — indeed it is the one thing I was certain of when I sorted out my own will 17 years ago, when I was pregnant. For many, the idea of making a will is not easy to talk or think about and this was the one for Debbie. She told us, ‘The idea of leaving a legacy seems to belong to another century or to people far richer than myself. Logically, it makes facing mortality — for me, saying ‘one day I will die’, was hard. For years, I put my head in the sand relying on an out-of-date will that left my children with a guardian in the event of my demise. But last year I bit the bullet, found a solicitor and faced the existential dread.

It wasn’t complicated and what was interesting was thinking about leaving money to a charity. I’d been involved with Amos long enough to know that its work matters, and I wanted to acknowledge this. But how much? General funds or a particular project? Would my little amount make any difference?

She told us, ‘The idea of leaving a legacy seems to belong to another century or to people far richer than myself. Logically, it makes facing mortality — for me, saying ‘one day I will die’, was hard. For years, I put my head in the sand relying on an out-of-date will that left my children with a guardian in the event of my demise. But last year I bit the bullet, found a solicitor and faced the existential dread.

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I decided to talk with staff at Amos — asking how they see legacy giving and what will work for them, and me. When I looked at what Amos does the decision was clear. I felt a renewed impetus to give what I can NOW, re-consider regular giving and to allocate money that whilst I won’t know its impact, it will be there because of people who give during and after life.”

“I decided to talk with staff at Amos — asking how they see legacy giving and what will work for them, and me. When I looked at what Amos does the decision was clear.”

Six, another Amos supporter and committed giver told us: “We saw the work of Amos Trust whilst in Nicaragua and wanted to make sure our commitment would continue whether we were around or not. It was a simple and natural thing to make sure we left enough money on our wills to ensure this happened.”

After you’ve provided for your loved ones, leaving a legacy to Amos Trust in your will allows us to continue to find creative new ways to challenge injustice, build hope and create change.

Please consider leaving Amos Trust a legacy in your will, so that the forgotten may live with hope and carry on being in the places where it’s needed and it will be there because of people who give during and after life.”

“Amos has the most incredible partners. I met so many people and went to places I could never have gone to on my own on a ‘regular’ pilgrimage.”

*JUDITH, ALTERNATIVE PILGRIMAGE*

Our Alternative Pilgrimage to Palestine will be based in Bethlehem and Nazareth with time in Jerusalem, on the shores of Lake Galilee and in the Judean Wilderness. You will meet local people and enjoy incredible Palestinian hospitality; explore, shop and wander around streets of Bethlehem and Nazareth and spend time in the Judean desert and on the shores of Lake Galilee. You’ll have time to reflect on how the biblical stories feed into the current situation and catch a glimpse of the Lent and Easter stories as you visit the historic sights.

You will also meet Amos’ inspirational partners and hear from the young people at the Aborowad Cultural Centre in Aida Refugee camp and how they are engaging with ‘Beautiful, non-violent Resistance’. You will join the women’s group at Wi’am Reconciliation Centre and listen to the issues that affect them and enjoy a BBQ on their roof, in the shadow of the Separation Wall. At Holy Land Trust you will hear from Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers and there will also be the opportunity to visit Banksy’s Walled Off Hotel in Bethlehem and one of the homes that Amos Trust has rebuilt.

Our Alternative Pilgrimage to Palestine will be full board and includes return flights from London to Tel Aviv. You will spend 1 night in Jerusalem, 3 nights in Bethlehem, followed by 1 night in Nablus and finish with 3 nights in Nazareth.

Prices are based on two people sharing. Single rooms are available upon payment of a supplementary fee. The trip will be led by local guides and a member of Amos Trust’s highly experienced team.

Please join us in creating a better future by remembering Amos Trust in your will. Simply visit amostrust.org/legacy for more details.
HOPE TASTES LIKE... DIJAJ MAHSHI

Rice, meat and nut-stuffed chicken

WORDS & RECIPES Phoebe Rison and ‘Mama’ Nadia
PHOTOGRAPHY Mark Emmett

Phoebe Rison and her ‘Mama’ Nadia are Palestinians from Jerusalem. For more traditional recipes from Phoebe and her family, please visit her website at thelivetreekitchen.com

I remember all the family coming over on Christmas Eve and gathering around a small fire in the middle of the room, my uncles roasting apples, nuts and eggs on the open flames and my mother, grandmother and aunts telling us lies the story of the nativity and giving us chocolates’. mama beams as she recalls the Christmases of her childhood in the old city of Jerusalem in Palestine.

We didn’t have presents, just new clothes to wear for church and lots of delicious food: everything you could imagine and at the centre a glorious stuffed chicken filled with meat, spices, rice and nuts.

I listen to these stories of my family and squeeze my eyes shut trying to imagine Christmas in Jerusalem, a dream stolen from me and my family during the Nakba in 1946 and the occupation of 1967. For so long, we hoped that things would get better and we might go back, but that hope is now stale and corrosive in our hearts — more painful than comforting.

The truth is that we are tired of hope. And yet we rely on it to keep us going. As my mother and I stand in my kitchen stuffing our chicken, looking forward to our tasty supper, I ask her how she copes with the disappointment.

“Well, they can’t occupy our memories... or our kitchen,” giggles Mama. And I suppose that is where we take our hope from.

DIJAJ MAHSHI — RECIPE

INGREDIENTS
1 large chicken, 8 shallots, peeled and halved, 1 white onion, peeled and quartered, 2 red onions, peeled and quartered.

CHICKEN MARINADE
1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, 1 tbsp mixed spice, 1 tbsp paprika, salt and pepper to taste.

HASHWE (THE STUFFING)
1/2 tsp nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste.

SERVE WITH
Jewelled rice, fasoolya bandour and minty garlic yoghurt.

METHOD
Pat the chicken dry and then in a large bowl add the chicken, olive oil and spices and rub into the chicken, olive oil and spices and pack it tightly.

Add the cooked rice and toasted nuts to the beef mixture and combine. Preheat the oven to 190C.

Using your hands or a spoon scoop the rice, meat and nut Hashwe into the chicken and pack it tightly. Use a needle and thread or a toothpick to stitch the chicken shut.

Place the onions in an oven-proof dish and sit the chicken on top of them. Put the chicken in the middle of the oven for 1-3 hours.

Serve with jewelled rice, fasoolya bandour and minty garlic yoghurt.

25 JULY - 3 AUGUST
TANZANIA ADVENTURE 2020

WORDS Karin Joseph
PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion

Join Amos Trust for our first ever supporter trip to Tanzania. Full details can be found at amostrust.org/tanzania-2020

Join Amos Trust for our first ever supporter trip to Mwanza, Tanzania, where you’ll spend a week with our partners Cheka Sana as they support children and young people living and working on the streets.

This unique trip will consist of 7 nights in Mwanza where you will join Cheka Sana’s team on the streets, visit their day centre and accommodation, and experience their long term family reintegration work.

Cheka Sana will explain their model of work with young people, you’ll get to know their staff team, and gain an understanding of the realities and challenges children face on the streets. We will also take a day-trip to experience some of the incredible national parks which sit right on Mwanza’s doorstep.

During your stay you will join Cheka Sana’s outreach teams on home visits in local communities as part of their family reintegration work and join Cheka Sana’s association groups with young women. You will be able to get involved in their self defence training sessions (for females only) and join in with their sports and arts activities.

Our aim for this trip is to support groups of young women, and girls in particular, whose lives on the streets are extremely challenging. Cheka Sana’s vital work helps them unlock their potential, and overcome the barriers they face which can seem overwhelming and immovable. Our visit will include 7 nights full board accommodation in a comfortable tourist hotel in Mwanza, a 1-day National Park visit with a local guide and all local transportation once you arrive in Mwanza. This trip is full board and includes all meals. Prices are based on two people sharing.

July and August are some of the best months of the year for a safari in the Serengeti. It is also the perfect time of year to visit the island of Zanzibar which is only a few hours away, so it’s a great opportunity to add time on to your trip and make the most of beautiful Tanzania.

To find out more, please visit amostrust.org/tanzania-2020
AMOS LISTINGS
2019/20

AMOS TRUST events and trips are open to everyone. Join us as we challenge injustice, build hope and create positive change. Full details can be found on our website at amostrust.org

November/December 2019
WOMEN4WOMEN GAZA FUNDRAISER
amostrust.org/women4women-gaza
We're asking women around the UK to do something they love doing to raise awareness and vital funds for the women of Gaza.

November/December 2019
AMOS NICARAGUA ADVENTURE
amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure
One of the most beautiful, yet poorest countries in the world. Join us next year on our Nicaragua Adventure.

20 – 28 March 2020
AMOS ROAD CLUB TOUR OF PALESTINE
amostrust.org/road-club-tour-of-palestine-2020
Solidarity begins on a bike. Freedom of movement is a right that Palestinians are denied. Join us on our Tour of Palestine.

23 – 28 March 2020
PALESTINE FULL AND HALF MARATHON
amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2020
Join Team Amos and run the eighth annual Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem in the shadow of the Wall.

25 March – 3 April 2020
EASTER PALESTINE EXPERIENCE
amostrust.org/easter-experience-2020
Our Easter Palestine Experience will be based in Bethlehem and Nazareth with time in Jerusalem, Hebron, Nablus and Galilee.

30 – 28 March 2020
AMOS TANZANIA ADVENTURE
amostrust.org/tanzania-adventure
Join Amos Trust for our first ever supporter trip to Tanzania on the shores of Lake Victoria where you’ll spend a week with our partner Chaka Sana.

AMOS TRUST BETHLEHEM CAROL SERVICE TOUR DECEMBER 2019

JOIN US ACROSS THE COUNTRY DURING ADVENT
This December, AMOS TRUST’s Bethlehem Christmas carol service tour starts in CHELTENHAM and moves onto LONDON, CANTERBURY, BRISTOL, WEST YORKSHIRE, MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM, before finishing in LEICESTER.

We’ll be joined by our friend Sami Awad from HOLY LAND TRUST in BETHLEHEM (above) plus special guest performers. PLEASE JOIN US.

Proceeds from all the services will go towards Amos Trust’s Christmas appeal supporting our work in the West Bank and Gaza. For full details, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-appeal

For full details of the tour, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-2019

#justiceandhope
If you want to be a peace builder, a peace constructor, get up and do something, don’t be a peace contemplator, a peace talker.  

ELIAS CHACOUR

This Christmas we want to give practical support to those working for peace in Gaza and the West Bank. We want to invest in the young people of Gaza by funding courses in graphic design and metalwork and by supporting their mental wellbeing. We want to back those who put themselves on the line to rebuild family homes demolished on the West Bank.

£36 will pay for 120 concrete blocks — each rebuilt home needs 4,600

£85 will pay for the materials for a metalwork course for a teenager in Gaza who was unable to complete school

£120 will pay for a water tank for a rebuilt home as water supplies are often cut off

£140 will pay for vital mental wellbeing support for a young person in Gaza

£460 will pay for one local builder to lead on a home rebuild

£1,140 will fund the graphic design course to create fresh opportunities for young women in Gaza

Please donate now — simply visit amostrust.org/christmas-appeal today or use the form to the right.

Thank you.

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Amos Trust Home Rebuild Lead NIVE HALL writes about why we continue to support the peace builders of Palestine each Christmas.

Words Nive Hall Photography Peter Woolsell

“Once you’ve had the privilege of visiting Palestine, Christmas is never the same. Once the places in the carols are real and the people of the Holy Land are made of flesh and blood and are counted among your closest friends, everything is different. This is why we ask you to support our work in Palestine each Christmas.

It is indeed a bleak Midwinter in the struggle for equality, justice and peace for Palestine. Chris’s heartfelt article on p.4 — reflecting on the situation in Gaza and the incredible work of our partner nceec in the face of the relentless siege and the staggering indifference of the rest of the world is a clarion call for us to offer our support.

Likewise, it is an honour to have partnered with Holy Land Trust rebuilding five demolished homes in the West Bank. The policy of home demolitions along with the pernicious systems surrounding it affect many of the most vulnerable Palestinians and place almost insurmountable barriers to ‘normal’ family life and the hopes and dreams to which we all aspire. We can only rebuild a few homes, but each one is a beacon of hope and tangible solidarity.

In the big picture, these are small things. It often feels like the struggle is hopeless. We sometimes need to look back to keep our hope in sight. Thomas Paine, the great 18th century activist and human rights advocate wrote, “Though at times the flame of liberty feels like the struggle is hopeless. We sometimes need to look back to keep our hope in sight. Thomas Paine, the great 18th century activist and human rights advocate wrote, “Though at times the flame of liberty will cease to shine, the ember will never expire.”

“THOUGH AT TIMES THE FLAME OF LIBERTY SEEMS LIKE THE STRUGGLE IS HOPELESS. WE SOMETIMES NEED TO LOOK BACK TO KEEP OUR HOPE IN SIGHT. THOMAS PAINE, THE GREAT 18TH CENTURY ACTIVIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE WROTE, “THOUGH AT TIMES THE FLAME OF LIBERTY WILL CEASE TO SHINE, THE EMBER WILL NEVER EXPIRE.”

“OUR HOUSE WAS DEMOLISHED ON THE 4TH SEPTEMBER 2018. IT WAS NOT JUST A DEMOLITION OF A HOUSE BUILT WITH STONES, BUT THE DEMOLITION OF THE HOPES AND DREAMS INSIDE EVERY STONE. LIGHT WAS FAR AWAY FROM US BUT NOW IT HAS COME CLOSE AND WE HOPE TO RETURN TO OUR PREVIOUS LIFE OR AN EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL LIFE — INNABAH.”

LULU — OWNER OF A DEMOLISHED PALESTINIAN HOME THAT HAS NOW BEEN REBUILT BY AMOS TRUST AND HOLY LAND TRUST

Please support the Peace Builders of Palestine this Christmas. To make your donation, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-appeal

Please support the Peace Builders of Palestine this Christmas. To make your donation, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-appeal

To give a regular gift, please complete the standing order form above or visit amostrust.org/water-for-life — either online or by phone.

We need your support — please help

Please make your donation now, in any way that suits you.

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I would like to give regularly to Amos Trust and have completed the standing order form

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THANK YOU